



NEXT MEETING:

Monday, April 1, 2019

LOCATION:

First United
Congregational Church of
Christ at 1500 9th Ave,
Longmont, CO 80501
(the corner of 9th and
Francis-enter from the
Northwest door).

We meet in the **Fireside
Room.**

TIME: 6:30-9:00 PM

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ST VRAIN PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April 2019

GREETINGS and WELCOME to members, new members, and guests

April is rapidly coming upon us with many opportunities to capture the wonders of spring. Please remember to send in your photos for the monthly photo submission (See p. 4). Appropriately, this month the challenge topic is *Forms in Nature*. Please read more about what we are looking for in the March SVPS newsletter.

At the March meeting we introduced the concept of quick photo tips, letting members present things they found very helpful. Since the cold surprised many of us and it was difficult to make it to the meeting, we will have the sign-up sheet at the back of the room and I would encourage you to sign up and consider sharing useful hints that you use when you take photographs. Cathy Cook demonstrated how a simple lamp shade holder can turn into a useful camera stabilizer. I am sure you have many ideas that will be helpful for others to hear about.

We are considering using the **Visual Pursuits** website to help us with judging our photos. We are looking for members to step up and help us manage it. There are three positions that will need to be assigned - Administrator, Event Manager, and Membership Manager. They do not take much time, but will need someone who can monitor the website and make the necessary changes. The website has a highly rated support system and is used primarily by the members to manage their photo libraries and submit links to their photos for the various events the SVPS will host. More information can be found at <https://www.visualpursuits.com>. The site will not replace our SVPS website managed by Robbie Clayton but will work in coordination with that site.

SVPS has won in every PSA submission so far. As a reminder the honorable mentions we received will be submitted to PSA for the end of year judging.

At our April meeting we will be learning about using back button focus presented by Vicki Braunagel and we will also learn more about analyzing our photographs. This will be an interactive session where you can ask questions about what makes a great photograph. This information will be especially useful as you view and frame your subject before you trip the shutter. The more you make the camera do, the less you have to do on the computer.

Please join us and bring your ideas to the next meeting. I look forward to seeing you.

Martin Bauer, President

Come join us!

*We encourage you to join.
We have a great year
planned with lots of
interesting programs,
some field trips and
workshops, photo tips,
fun, and opportunities
to show your work.*

Join SVPS by filling out the membership form at a meeting or on the website: <https://go-svps.com/membership-join-us>

Dues may be given to Jack Cornils, Treasurer, at the April meeting or mailed to Jack at the address on the *printed* form.

Thanks to all who have already paid their 2019 dues!

Upcoming Meetings:

DATE: May 6

Speaker: Bob Dean

Program: Colorado Mountain Towns

Pre-meeting: Sharp Photos

Special Topic: *Spring Flowers*

Challenge Topic: *Animals in Motion*

*May 6 - Deadline for annual
competition entries,
print & digital*

DATE: June 1, 5-8 pm

Annual Potluck & Competition

First United Congregational
Church of Christ at 1500 9th
Ave., Longmont, CO 80501

April Program:

Pre-meeting – How to Critique (Marion/Vicki)

Photo tip - Back button focus (Vicki)

“Image Analysis”

All photographers consider how their images will be perceived. This applies whether one is showing them to friends and family, printing them for display or entering them in competition. We want our photos to be appreciated and seen at their best. The more one practices critiquing images, the better one can become at seeing their own photos as others may see them. PSA has an entire program on image analysis.

The suggested areas of review are: **technical excellence, composition, lighting, center of interest, color balance, impact, storytelling, creativity, and, if printed, print presentation.**

We will talk about the process they recommend, add any additional ideas from members, and practice on the images which have been submitted for the program. It will be a good opportunity to submit any photos you would particularly like to have analyzed!

Boulder County Fair Open Photography

The 150th Boulder County Fair will be open the first week of August and we are hoping for another great showing from the SVPS members. The photo categories and age groups are the same as last year but the adult are also listed on page 5 above. You can enter one photo each in any six categories.

Be sure to review the full rules and age/skill levels on the Fair website. Here is a link:

<https://www.bouldercountyfair.org/p/exhibitors/open-creative-living> (click on photography link)

Also, please sign up to help by volunteering time at the Fair, here is the link to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60bob4da9ac2dabfdo-boulder>. You can change your sign-ups later if needed.

Thanks!

The SVPS Fair Committee

SOME HELPFUL LINKS AND INFORMATION

Email:

stvrainphoto@gmail.com

Club Website:

www.go-svps.com

Affiliations:



2019 SVPS Board:

President:

Martin Bauer

mbauer@datawest.net

Vice-President:

Vicki Braunagel

vicki.braunagel@gmail.com

Secretary:

Cathy Cook

cathy.cook2001@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Jack Cornils

Jcc55@frii.com

**DEADLINE for MAY
NEWSLETTER – April 20**

Email news items to:

cathy.cook2001@gmail.com

Boulder County Land through the Lens Exhibit

We are excited to feature fabulous photographs of our prized Boulder County Parks & Open Space lands with our fourth juried photography exhibit.

If you are photographer or if you know someone who is, please visit our county parks and capture images or submit work from your portfolio to be considered for exhibit. Ranger Fowler will lead photography sessions in April, May, and June and we will have a photography session on the normally closed Kenosha Ponds property in May.

Deadline for submissions – Wed., June 19, 2019.

Anyone may submit up to 5 photographs for a \$30 entry fee. Cash prizes will be given to exhibitors with any profits being contributed to the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Foundation (www.PreserveBoulderCounty.org).

**The exhibit opening will be held on Friday,
August 9 at The Great Frame Up – Longmont and
will run through Friday, September 6.**

For **more information, including a map and list of** recommended Boulder County Parks & Open Space properties, please visit

www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/photoshow or

contact Karen Imbierowicz at

kimbierowicz@bouldercounty.org or 303-678-6268.

Karen Imbierowicz

Partnership Coordinator

Boulder County Parks and Open Space

303-678-6268 (office) 720-352-7316 (cell)

kimbierowicz@bouldercounty.org

In the office: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

Sunset Photography Session, Saturday April 6, 6:30-8:30 pm

Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain

Join us to capture the setting sun with your camera and create photographs to submit to the '2019 Land through the Lens - Photography Exhibit featuring Boulder County Parks & Open Space.' Ranger Fowler will accompany photographers to access this property after normal hours. For more information visit:

www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/photoshow

Registration is required.

<https://discover.bouldercountyopenspace.org/ActivityRegistration/2d0126cc-b256-46b8-ad01-02a5ce0bbe24>

April Photo Categories:

Special Topic: *Your Town*

Challenge Topic: *Forms in Nature*

Photo Submission Rules:

No more than a total of **four** digital images may be entered in the following categories:

- Special Topic of the Month (0-1 image)
- Challenge Topic (0-1 image)
- Open category (0-2 images)
- Creative (0-1 image)

New members are encouraged to enter photographs.

Digital image files should be no larger than 2048 in the greater dimension and should be submitted as a .JPG file emailed to stvrainphoto@gmail.com no later than Friday prior to the meeting. Late entries will be considered on a case by case basis, but please try to get your submissions in on time. You should receive confirmation that your photos were received by Saturday evening. If not, please call Lynda Clayton at (720) 468-3085 to confirm that they came through.

No digital entries will be accepted at the club meeting.

Please submit photos each month only after receipt of the newsletter in case there are changes to the category definitions or where to send photos if there is a substitute media person.

File Type: Please submit .JPG files only

Naming Convention:

- Photo title (blank spaces are allowed)
- Photographer's name (blank spaces are allowed)
- Category CODE: (SPEC for Special, CHAL for Challenge, OPEN for Open, and CREA for Creative)

General example: [Title]-[Photographer]-[Category].jpg

Specific example: Bridal Veil Falls-Ansel Adams-OPEN.jpg

Check the March SVPS Newsletter for more information on this month's photo topics -
<https://go-svps.com/>

SVPS 2018-19 Annual Competition

The SVPS 2018-2019 annual competition including awards and potluck will be held on **Saturday, June 1** in the Fellowship Hall at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 9th & Francis Streets in Longmont - beginning at 5:00 pm; brief meeting at 5:30 pm; dinner at 6:00 pm.

You must be a member of SVPS to enter this competition. *NO date restrictions on photo entries.* There will be 3 outside judges. Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and honorable mention, when warranted, in each category and one Best of Show overall. Entries may be *either* color or monochrome, digital or print. We encourage members to submit at least half of their entries in print form, but this is not a requirement.

Deadline for print AND digital entries:

Monday, May 6, 2019 @ SVPS meeting

Members may submit one print or digital photo for any of the following categories for a **total of 6 entries**. Please use the photo categories below and follow the guidelines. All photos submitted in Category #1-11 must be realistic images with no *obvious* processing manipulation. Category #12 is the category for creative images that have been obviously manipulated.

Realistic Images:

1. **Landscape/Cityscape/Scenic** - Location may be noted on the front
2. **Birds** – Wild or domestic
3. **Mammals** – Wild or domestic
4. **Reptiles, Amphibians, Insects and other Wildlife**
5. **Nature** - Other than wildlife
6. **Plants** – Wild or domestic
7. **People** – Individual or group
8. **Action/Sports** – Human or otherwise
9. **Seasons** – Nature's cycles, holidays
10. **Open** – Subjects that don't fit into any other category
11. **Your Favorite Place in Colorado**

Creative Images:

12. **Photo Art/Creative**

Obvious creative manipulation. Anything goes, but tell us what you did (on the back).

Restrictions –

1. Entries must not have been previously judged at a SVPS *Annual* Competition.
2. Entries must not consist *entirely* of another photograph, painting or other art.
3. Subject matter of entries must be appropriate for family friendly viewing.
4. Judging is closed to the membership.
5. Each exhibitor's photo entries must be his/her own camera work, and any digital manipulation of images or additions to images must also be his/her original photography.

PRINTS

Entry Size - Print size minimum: 8"x10" print mounted on a firm backing with a mat no smaller than 10"x12." Print size maximum: 14" in the longer dimension, *including* mat.

Mounting – Prints must NOT have any hangers, glass, plastic, or frames. Prints must be mounted on mat board or firm backing, not construction paper.

Exhibitor Information – No exhibitor information is allowed ON THE FRONT of the exhibit. The BACK of each entry must contain the following information: Category # and Name, Exhibitor's Name and Phone No., Title of Print

DIGITAL Photo size - 2048 pixels in the larger dimension. E-mail photos to stvrainphoto@gmail.com

The e-mail message title should include the words 'Annual Competition'.

Naming convention for digital entries is similar to monthly photo submittals as follows:

1. [Title]-[Photographer]-[Category#].jpg
 2. Two digits (01–12) should reflect the photo categories listed above.
- Example: Crested Butte-Cathy Cook-11

Photography Tips and Tricks

Spring Flowers – *May* Special Topic

Go eye to eye with nature using a relatively long lens and a reasonably large aperture, such as f/4, to help separate flowers from busy background details. At close distances, only a small part of the subject will be sharp, so care needs to be taken with focusing. Try different apertures to have more or less of your scene in sharp focus. An odd number of objects typically give more balanced compositions than even numbers so find those groups of odd numbered flowers. Photograph flowers on an overcast day to avoid harsh shadows and bright spots. Experiment with backlit flowers late in the day. Pay attention to wind and adjust to faster shutter speed if necessary or use reflector as a wind block. Use a reflector if the flowers are in the shade to bounce light towards your subject. Change your point of view—try different angles.

Animals in Motion – *May* Challenge Topic

The key to action pictures of wild animals is to set the right camera settings before everything happens. Once the action gets going, you won't have to think about settings and will be able to fully concentrate on what is happening. Keep in mind the exposure triangle, which consists of the following: Aperture, Shutter Speed and ISO. Finding the right combination of these three elements will help you capture action wildlife shots perfectly. For wildlife action photography, shutter speed is probably the most important element out of the exposure triangle. A general rule to avoid camera shake is 1 over the focal length of your lens. For example, a 400mm lens should have a shutter speed of at least 1/400th second to avoid camera blur. However, this rule may not give you a shutter speed fast enough to freeze the subject. Animals often move quickly, so adjust it as required. 1/1000th second or more is a good bet for fast running or flying creatures. Consider removing your camera from the tripod, engage vibration reduction on your lens if you have it, and set a fast shutter speed. Use burst mode to quickly take multiple frames. Switch your camera to continuous focus so you can track focus with a moving subject. Try panning with the moving animal. Try different shutter speeds. Lay in wait. Observe and anticipate behavior. Be patient!

SEE the whole picture!

Really look at the image before you shoot it. Is there a hot spot with too much light? Shadows where you don't want them? Glare on someone's glasses? A branch that looks like it's growing out of the subject's head? Have you cut off an important part of the photo at the edges? Are main objects in the photo touching the edges of the frame? Is the background distracting? Have you looked at the scene in both horizontal and vertical view? Is there some part of the scene that has more interest? If so, take a few shots zooming in to that part of the scene. Are you shooting a low object from a high perspective? Would a different angle result in a more interesting composition? Would it be better to photograph your scene under different lighting conditions, for example, overcast skies, early or late in the day? Slow down and look at the whole picture. Experiment with an abundance of patience and practice! 😊

NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 6, 6:30 pm – Annual Competition deadline for entries.