



Southwestern Michigan Council of Camera Clubs – SWMCCC 2020 Session Descriptions

"Mad Scientist" – Don Komarechka

Photography is a weave of art and science. The deeper you weave these two sides together, the more impressive the results. This talk aims to explore the use of science - much of which can be explored at home - to create beautiful artwork. Everything from using water droplets like tiny crystal balls to pushing the absolute limits of light itself. You'll be amazed at how approachable some of these subjects are, but you've never considered before.

Abstracts with Impact – Molly Isaacs

Abstracts are the poetry of photography. They are artistic representations of what is all around us every day. Learn how to use shape, form, line, and color to create impressive abstract images. You will see Before and After images of the original scene, and then the resulting abstract image that was found in the scene. This program will tap into your creative self and allow you to discover the beauty and power of abstract photography.

Adobe Photoshop for Photographers – David Marx

Great photographs require beautiful light, a compelling composition, and postprocessing precision. In this lecture, David Marx will demonstrate three essential tools that you need to make your landscape photographs pop using Adobe Photoshop- layers, layer masks, and smart objects.

Mastering these Photoshop concepts will help you to bring out the color, the contrast, and the subtle details within your images in a whole new way. If you're ready to take your post-processing skills to the next level then this lecture will show you how to get started with Adobe Photoshop.

An Artistic Photographer Lies in All of Us – Lisa Langell

Photographers want to be more innovative and creative, but often mental barriers "prevent" the creative process from happening. One of the biggest mental blocks is simply believing, "I'm not a very creative person."

This session breaks down those barriers in a really fun and logical way! You'll learn how to apply the creative process and develop patterns that will bring more joy, innovation, success, creativity and happiness to your photography!

Learn how even those who feel they "are not artistic" can actually BE artistic and creative

- Understand "imaginative skill" and how it develops
- Learn about the "Mash up" formula
- Debunk the myths about artistry and creativity
- Learn a few tips and tricks for post processing
- Exercise your creativity through real-world examples and activities we will complete during the session
- Inspirations to take with you

Art & Commerce – Art Becker

During class the students will learn how to see light and composition. And how to capture truly unique images that will open up their artistic vision. And help them to grow in their creativity and knowledge and photographically. Then how to promote those same images

Birds of Prey: Field Trip – John Dykstra & Ed Post

We will travel by bus to a local preserve to photograph birds of prey including red-tailed hawk, great horned owl, peregrine falcon, and more. The birds are controlled by a handler and will be posed outside in natural settings in an open field. Leaders will instruct on proper camera settings, technique, composition, and finding the right light. Bring tripod and a long lens.



Southwestern Michigan Council of Camera Clubs – SWMCCC 2020 Session Descriptions

Building a Bulletproof Backup for Photographers – Robert Vanelli

How much are your photos worth? That's a hard question to answer until you have a major hard drive failure and you lose them all! Then you realize your photos, especially family photos, were priceless. In this class, "Building a Bulletproof Backup for Photographers," Vanelli teaches the 3-2-1 Backup concept that will ensure you will never lose a single photo again. He will also teach best practices for file structure for photographers and how to build a Good, Better, Best backup system.

DIY Lighting, Part One: Introduction – Kevin Huver

Want create dramatic and interesting portraits without breaking the bank? This session will break down the items that we will use to illuminate the portraits we create.

DIY Lighting, Part Two: Shaping Light – Kevin Huver

This session explores the use of simple lighting equipment to creatively shape light to create mood through the creation of shadow.

DIY Lighting, Part Three: Hands-on Shooting – Kevin Huver

This session will give those who attend an opportunity to use the concepts taught in the two sections to create their own portraits.

Dramatic Lighting for Everyday People – Robert Vanelli

Learn how to create a dramatic portrait with one, two and three lights that will make anyone look amazing. In this class, Vanelli demonstrates what's needed to create a dramatic portrait using a few simple light tricks and how to communicate with the subject to get the emotions needed for the dramatic look. This class will also cover how to quickly set up lights and achieve proper exposure using a light meter and what lighting tools are needed.

Dramatic Post-Processing Secrets – Chris Smith

I'll show you my "secrets" for processing dramatic images in Lightroom and Photoshop. Add these simple ideas to your bag of post-processing tricks to turn blah photos into something special. I'll show you the techniques I use to draw the eye, minimize distractions and add immediate impact to any image.

Dusk to Dawn: Landscape Photography at Night – David Marx

Just because the sun goes down doesn't mean that you have to put your camera away. In this lecture David Marx will teach you the essentials of night photography for the landscape photographer.

From composition to focus to exposure, you'll learn everything that you need to know to create stunning nighttime images. Night photography is something that anyone with a dslr or mirrorless camera can do and this lecture will give you the skills that you need to get started!

From Ordinary to Extraordinary – Molly Isaacs

This program is packed with information on how to take your images to a higher level. Using Before and After examples, it takes you through highly effective but simple ways to improve the look of your images quickly and easily. It covers several important areas of photography including - how to see light more clearly, how to employ simple technical camera controls to improve creativity, and how to use post-processing techniques to your best advantage. Ultimately it shows you how to set yourself free and allow your photography to soar.

I Have A Business Now What – Lori & Jerry Keefer

Lori's background in Systems Analysis and Design, Computer Programming and growing up in and working for the US Air Force make her a perfect person to explain how Systems, Workflows & Processes (or lack thereof) affect our businesses.



Southwestern Michigan Council of Camera Clubs – SWMCCC 2020 Session Descriptions

Infrared and Ultraviolet Photography – Don Komarechka

As human beings, we are limited in what we can see. Normally, cameras also have that same limitation by design, so photographs look like the world we know and understand. Cameras can push beyond the limitations of human vision, and the ethereal results can often appear magical and otherworldly. This talk describes how you can push beyond the limits of human vision into the infrared for surreal landscapes, and into the ultraviolet to see hidden patterns and to make things "glow". Simple and inexpensive ingredients can go a long way to help you explore the unseen.

Infrared Photography: Landscape in BW – Melvin Guante

Landscape photography is the type of photography that draws people to it. The allure of magically transporting your viewers to that magical place and letting them feel what you felt as you click the shutter. That ability is what is so appealing to Landscape photography.

Before, in order to take a great image. Lots of very heavy equipment and expensive camera was needed. Now our smart phone is capable of great capture.

In order to stand out from the crowd I use IR to capture my Landscape images. You still need to consider the other elements in a photograph such as composition, lighting, and storytelling to take it from snapshot to gallery.

IR Photography is mysterious as it is awe inspiring. It elicits such a wide-ranging response as spooky and eerie to ethereal and surreal. It gives you as much creative liberty as you desire. When done well, you will produce images that will take your breath away.

We will discuss briefly about what is IR, from definition to history to application. Next, we will cover how I use it for my BW Landscape. We will go over the different nm, and the expected results of each to help your creative process.

Finally, we will go over the Post Processing. We will discuss step by step the different software and particular use for each to make your stunning breath-taking masterpiece.

Come join us for this magical ride!

Infrared Portrait Photography – Melvin Guante

Just like leaves and vegetation, the skin tends to glow when capture with Infrared light. The results are somewhat predictable and very pleasing as in glamour style look you get with fashion. But it can also have an unwanted effect with a ghoulish greenish look to skin that emphasis superficial veins as well as dark lifeless eyes.

As a portrait photographer I use everything in my toolbox to give my client a unique experience and image. Lighting, composition, background, in studio and location setting and props as well. I have added to my toolbox, IR Photography.

IR was use in wedding and became a unique style of photograph that only a few could do. I used IR for the venue, the ceremony, bridal party and even the bridal portrait.

We will see how IR light effect the skin and learn how to predict and previsualize the desire results and incorporate into your portrait session toolbox.



Southwestern Michigan Council of Camera Clubs – SWMCCC 2020 Session Descriptions

Keynote: Photography is a Journey – Lisa Langell

Are you ready for your perception of photography to permanently change? Is it time for your thinking to be challenged?

We will start with the simple word, “Photograph.” Together, we will then embark on a very audience-interactive, sensory, emotional and intellectual journey. This is a truly shared experience -- one where you will be surprised, enlightened, touched, and inspired. We will include your voice—along with 100s of photographers internationally—in this very unique session to highlight what photography is really about. You will reinvent your connection with how you create memory-worthy images and stories through your experiences, style, perspectives, and views about both the world--and yourself.

This isn’t just about taking pictures. This is about so much more.

Leading Lines Lecture – David Culp

How to identify leading lines and incorporate them into our photographs to dramatically improve the compelling nature of the composition.

Leading Lines Photo Walk – David Culp

A hands-on photography shoot that ties in with the Leading Lines presentation.

Light Painting Process & Sales – Lori & Jerry Keefer

Light Painting is an art form that can attract high end clients and/or increase sales for photographers. Jerry & Lori will explain how they have used this unique form of photography to attract clients around the globe. They will discuss the steps of creation, the process, the gear, and how they use it all to create the ultimate client experience.

Lightroom Unleashed – Molly Isaacs

Lightroom is the most powerful post-processing software available. It is simple to use and easy to learn, BUT often photographers find it complicated or confusing. This program will clear up many misconceptions and show you how easy, fast, and foolproof using Lightroom can be. If you have tried Lightroom but found it difficult or time-consuming, OR if you have been reluctant to use it because you thought it would be hard to learn OR if you erroneously thought you would have to change your entire image filing and storage system (which you do not) this program will help give you more confidence and better skills.

Photographing Nature in “High Key” Style - Lisa Langell

High key photography involves creating images where there is a dominance of white or bright tones. It is a type of photography that goes against most “traditional” styles of nature photography and requires the right circumstances – the right light, subject, and setting—in order for the magic of High Key photography to work. But when it does, the results can be spectacular!

This class will introduce participants to the genre of High Key photography, which can be one of the most artistic forms of nature photography that can be done in-camera.

Participants will learn:

- What lighting conditions are best (and worst) for high-key photography
- The settings that are generally recommended for creating high-key work
- What foregrounds and backgrounds work best for high key photography
- Composition tips for this style of photography
- Post-processing tips to create the final look



Southwestern Michigan Council of Camera Clubs – SWMCCC 2020 Session Descriptions

Preparing to Capture Captivating Images – David Culp

“Preparation is Key” by demonstrating how to select locations, plan the logistics, plan for Mother Nature, allow for fluidity, and work in some fun time.

Raw Image Processing Fundamentals with Adobe Lightroom – David Marx

Learn how to get the most out of your raw files using Adobe Lightroom. In the world of digital photography, your raw file is the score and your postprocessing skills are the performance.

In this lecture, David Marx will cover essential Adobe Lightroom tools that you can use everyday to improve your photographs including exposure adjustments, white balance repairs, lens corrections, and more.

Learn how to use these tools to accentuate the essential details in your pictures and to control the lighting of your images. Take the ordinary and make it extraordinary with these helpful Adobe Lightroom tips and techniques!

The Magic of Black and White Photography – Chris Smith

Learn to see in black and white. Use the power of black and white photography to enhance your photographic creativity, give old images new life and see the world in a new way. We’ll discuss how to shoot for dramatic black and white images and how to process in black and white for stunning results. It’s going to be epic.

The Power of Contrast “Magic in your Hands” – Lisa Langell

- Did you know you can actually manipulate your audience to follow a path in your images in a certain order and sequence?
- Are you aware that contrast plays a critically important role in whether your images are experienced in a pleasing way, or with strain?
- Have you mastered the secret of making an image come to life and “pop?”

Need ideas to improve the “resting place” for your viewer’s eye as they navigate your image?

These critical components of powerful images can all be significantly enhanced by the proper use of contrast. There are special techniques that can be accomplished in-the-field as well as during post-processing that will amaze you. We will explore before-and-after examples and teach you how you can do so with your own images simply and effectively.

Get ready for a game-changer! Whether you are controlling for contrast in your exposures themselves, and/or in post-processing, this fun, informative and interactive session will help you learn the tricks and techniques necessary to make your images go from drab to fab!

Training Your Eye – Art Becker

This is a hands-on class; in it you will learn how to see light and composition. This will help you to capture truly unique images that will open up your artistic vision and will help to grow in your creativity and knowledge and photographically.

Each student will be encouraged to use their power of observation to see the beauty that is everywhere. And seek it out that sense of wonder we all need to make one kind images.

- Seeking Uniqueness
- Look before you click the shutter
- Don’t be afraid to get close
- It’s not about which camera
- Standing out
- Have fun



Southwestern Michigan Council of Camera Clubs – SWMCCC 2020 Session Descriptions

Understanding Your Camera – Mike Mueller

To get started with your camera, we will be looking at the basic camera operations, including the different mode settings such as manual, aperture priority, and shutter priority selections. We will also discuss use of ISO settings, metering modes, how to determine exposure settings, RAW, JPG, and formatting. We will go over lenses and lens selection. Bring camera, lenses and camera manual to the class. There will be time for questions and answers.

Understanding Your Camera Photo: Walk – Mike Mueller

We will be hands on with camera operations. We will be working in the different modes including aperture priority, shutter priority and manual settings. We will also explore use of ISO and metering options and we will discuss how to determine exposure settings. We will discuss images and image cropping. We will look at the use of RAW and JPG and lenses and lens selection. Bring camera and lenses as we will be photographing using the above options. Tripods are optional as we may have settings that require them. We will be out of the classroom on the streets of Holland.

Winter Macro – Don Komarechka

Most macro photographers let their lenses collect dust during the winter months, but there are many subjects worth shooting when the temperature drops below freezing. The enigmatic and ever-unique snowflake can be a technical challenge to capture, but always offers up beautiful features. Take things farther by designing your own scene with freezing soap bubbles, frost, ice, and so much more. Winter becomes much more tolerable when you discover the beauty it contains on a minuscule scale.