



Urban Wildlife Photo Club

February 2020 Newsletter

Next Meeting: Monday February 10th

6:45 PM to 8:45 PM

Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St.

Denver, CO 80220

McCollom Room on the first floor

Club Contact Information

Address: COUWPC

PO Box 270501

Louisville, CO 80027-0501

Email: uwpc@comcast.net Website <http://www.couwpc.com>

See page 4 for detailed directions to the meeting!

February Program

Long Time UWPC member Terry Mieger will present a program on "How to Make a Winning Image." Although UWPC is a noncompetitive club, many of our members participate in the annual Glennie Contest, Audubon Share the View or local camera club monthly or yearly contests. Even if contests are not your "thing" Terry's ideas will help you to make better images for your own personal satisfaction or for marketing to the world.

Annual UWPC Member Dues

It's getting near that time of the year when dues are due! As I mentioned before, our new meeting venue is more expensive than the Museum (by quite a bit). Annual dues are \$20 per person, couple or family and run from March to March. They are therefore due in March of 2020. **Thanks** to all the folks that have already paid. Bring dues to the February or March meeting or send to the PO box shown above.

If you are not renewing, PLEASE let me know so I don't have to continue to ask.



MEMBER MONTHLY IMAGE SUBMISSION

Members and first-time guests are encouraged to submit images for a gentle critique. We are not a competitive club, but we do strive to help our members learn and improve their photographic skills. Guidelines are below.

We have both open and theme image categories:

February images due by February 3rd AT THE LATEST!

Send to: uwpcimages@comcast.net

February Theme - Tranquility or Serenity

March Theme - Ice

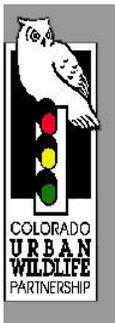
**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS FOR IMAGE LABELING,
ESPECIALLY THE USE OF SPECIAL CHARACTERS (NO @) AND NAMING NEEDS.**

PLEASE TRY TO ADHERE TO THE DATE & SIZE REQUESTED -1MB or less

Two categories at each meeting - THEMED AND OPEN

- Maximum of 4 images total and no more than one themed image
- Email files one week before the scheduled meeting to uwpcimages@comcast.net
Please use this one!
- Send themed category images in an email titled 'themed images'
- Send open category images in an email titled 'critique images'
- If your image is selected to appear on the club website, the website caption will be derived from the file name. Be sure that your name and the image title as you would like them to appear on the website are included in the file name. Use only letters (a-z and A-Z), numerals (0-9), dashes (-), underscores (_), and the single dot before ".jpg" in file names. Avoid using blanks. Use dashes (-) underscores (_) and capitalization to indicate word boundaries (e.g. Bob_Dean-Trees_In_Snow.jpg or BobDean-TreesInSnow.jpg). It is acceptable to include other information that identifies the image in file names, but you risk the possibility that this information will be misinterpreted by the webmaster. Although it's unlikely, the image BobDean_TreesInSnow_27583.jpg might end up on the website with the title "Trees in Snow 27853."

MEMBER IMAGE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES



OPTIONAL Descriptive information for each *critique image* should be as follows: Exposure data should, for example, include f/stop, shutter speed, ISO, any exposure compensation, and any filter information. Post processing enhancements should include only those things beyond simply cropping, sharpening, noise reduction, etc. such as HDR, panorama work, color enhancements, exposure changes, etc. If you can put the image data (if you choose to include it) **as text** in the body of the email as opposed to an attached word or excel file, it would be appreciated! Makes life easier if everyone does the same thing.

IMAGE	IMAGE TITLE	SPECIES	LOCATION	CAMERA	LENS	EXPOSURE DATA	POST PROCESSING ENHANCEMENTS
Critique 1							
Critique 2							
Critique 3							

Please don't use an @ in the exposure information as when I copy it into the slide presentation, the computer sees it as an email address, and I need to retype rather than copy.



Club Meeting Place for 2020

Starting in January 2020 we are meeting at the Montview Presbyterian Church on the southeast corner of Montview and Dahlia, in the McCollom Room on the first floor.

Please remember to enter by way of the glass doors, north of the Sanctuary doors, on the Dahlia St. side, take an immediate left just past the wheelchair lift. Go through the small door, make a right, then a left and you'll see the McCollom Room.

Please remember that the main doors through which you entered are locked at 7 PM (the meetings are starting at 6:45 remember). If by some chance you arrive after 7, someone will need to open another door to let you in. You can text me at (303) 807-7678 or Nadine at (303) 589-5414 and we'll help you as soon as we can.

We are still required to be out before 9 PM so meetings WILL end at 8:45. When exiting, don't use the main doors. Go out of the McCollom room make a right, then another right and go down the short flight of stairs and exit via the door at the bottom of the stairs. That door is locked to outside entry, so you won't be able to re-enter once you leave. If we ever have a person unable to go down the stairs, we'll figure out something if you let me know ahead of time.

Possible Fall Field trip for 2020

We have been looking into possible field trip locations for this coming fall. Right now, We're thinking about going to the La Junta area in mid-September (14-17?). Nadine and I along with Barbara Berryman went this past September and had a great time. As usual this would be a "casual" field trip where you'd be responsible for your own transport, room reservations, etc. We'd have hotel and restaurant suggestions, possibly a group dinner and some "loose" group excursions.

Things we could photograph include:

- The annual tarantula "migration" in the Comanche grasslands.
- Picture and Vogel Canyons (some hiking to the petroglyphs and rock formations).
- Bent's Old Fort.
- The River Walk and some historic buildings in Pueblo.
- Maybe some other things.

Please let me know your interest level in the next few weeks so we can either move ahead or look for something else.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTES

Writer's Wanted

We are ALWAYS looking for material to put in the newsletter. If you want to be "published," feel free to write (and add images if you want) on any subject about which you think the members would like to read. Don't worry about grammar or style, we'll do a bit of editing if you'd like. Send them to uwpc@comcast.net.



The other website!

Contributions to oururbanwildlife.org have been stagnant for a few months. At this point, we don't need any administrative help with the site, but we do need contributions. Here are some of the ways that folks could help:

- Contributing photos
- Contributing blog posts (Curtis *might* edit posts, but only lightly for clarity)
- Soliciting others to write blog posts – any friend, acquaintance, or family member with special interest or knowledge of wildlife would be welcome
- Contributing articles
- Finding articles that we can reprint and getting permission to do so.
- Promoting the site to other clubs. I've found that promoting the site in person has been more effective than other methods.
- Promoting the site on social media. We already have a Facebook page set up for it and could add folks as admins to that page. We can work together to set up Twitter or other social media accounts.
- Contacting "celebrity" photographers for contributions – written or photographic. These folks could be known as photographers – such as John Fielder – or known for other work (journalism, politics, business, etc.) with an interest in photography – such as Tom Green on 9 News.

Please consider doing something to help this project along! If you have questions, contributions or ideas and are not sure what to do, contact me at uwpc@comcast.net or Curtis Johnson at curtis.e.johnson@comcast.net



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTES Cont'd

Thanks to Al Lindeman: Very interesting article on the future of digital cameras including mirrorless and smartphones.

Link: <https://www.cnet.com/news/digital-photography-gets-radical-changes-smartphone-mirrorless-tech/?ftag=CAD-03-10aaj8j>

Thanks to Bob Stocker: Another interesting and thought-provoking article entitled *Taking Photos Makes Your Favorite Activities Less Enjoyable*. Both Bob and I agree that we don't agree, but it is something to ponder!

<https://www.du.edu/news/taking-photos-makes-your-favorite-activities-less-enjoyable-professors-research>



The Camera's Brains:

Our DSLR cameras are really computers with a few mechanical and optical parts. Computers are built around integrated circuits that perform the tasks dictated by software programs, or in the case of dedicated processors, like in cameras, a variation called firmware. The difference is not really important but what is important is that these devices can have problems because of “bugs” or flaws in the firmware code. We all (hopefully) keep our personal computers up to date by installing the updates from our computer hardware and software providers (as well as the security patches from Norton, McAfee or whichever security app you use).

How many of us regularly update our camera firmware? Many of the newer cameras have WiFi capability which leaves them vulnerable to hacking by the unscrupulous folks in the world. The camera companies regularly release firmware upgrades that are pretty easy to install on your camera. The upgrades address both the bugs and security issues. Just recently a security weakness was discovered in the firmware of some Canon DSLRs in the Picture Transfer Protocol (PTP) that could compromise the camera. This issue is not known to have resulted in any serious problems, but Canon quickly released an upgrade to the firmware. The downside is that they don't proactively notify owners of either the problem or the availability of the fix!

It is a very good idea to regularly check your camera firmware level against the latest one available on the camera manufacturer website. These websites will allow you to download the most recent firmware and **instructions** how to extract the file and install it on your camera. Follow the instructions exactly because if you do something like power the camera off during a firmware upgrade, be prepared to send the camera in to the service center to get it working again! Here are the websites for Canon, Nikon and Sony. You can find others by searching the internet for firmware upgrades for your particular camera brand.

Canon: <https://www.usa.canon.com/internet/portal/us/home/support>

Nikon: <https://downloadcenter.nikonimglib.com/en/index.html>

Sony: <https://www.sony.com/electronics/support/downloads/W0006774>

To find out your camera's firmware level, check your camera manual for instructions. As an example, for a Canon 5D Mk III:

Turn the camera on

Push the menu button

Scroll over to the tools menu (the wrench symbol) section and go through the menus until you see “Firmware Version.”

I hope this has been a valuable journey into camera brains!

Kudos



If anyone has an image published, places in a contest or gets any kind of recognition for their work, please let us know and we'll get it into the newsletter. Please use **email** to uwpc@comcast.net to alert us. (If you tell me verbally at the meeting or on the phone, I can almost assure you that I'll forget!)

The most recent issue of OUTDOOR magazine (online edition Jan 15, 2020) has an article on *The 25 Best Accessible Trails in America*. As part of this article there is a credit and a link to member Cecelia Travis' website "Accessible Nature". The two links are:

OUTDOOR online: <https://www.outsideonline.com/2406797/best-accessible-trails-america>

Accessible Nature: <https://www.accessiblenature.info/>

To the folks who placed in the Share the View contest, if you'd like we can put your images in the next newsletter, just let me know and send the images!

PHOTO CONTESTS



Some thoughts on Photo Contests:

Whenever you think about entering a photo contest you should very carefully read the Ts and Cs. I know that the legalese can be daunting but there are a lot of contests out there that are a “rights grab.” Make sure that the ones you enter specifically lay out the image ownership agreement. Whenever you send in images to a contest you are entering into a contract. You really should consider only those contests that have very limited usage of your photos and state in their rules that YOU retain full ownership of the image. When you read the fine print on image usage, watch out for those contests that demand the right to use all your entries for their own purposes, not just the winners.

Ongoing Contest

BBC Wildlife Magazine Monthly Photo Contest

Information at:

<http://www.discoverwildlife.com/your-photos/photo-contest>

Contest Information Website;

If you'd like a resource that has just about all of the contests out there, take a look at [Photo Contest Insider](https://www.photocontestinsider.com/contest/all-themes/) at <https://www.photocontestinsider.com/contest/all-themes/>

When considering a contest, heed the warnings in the “Some thoughts..” box above.



Another Upcoming Contest:



Glennie Contest

Each year the Merrimack Valley Camera Club sponsors a photo contest for camera clubs worldwide. Even though we are a noncompetitive club, over the past few years we have participated in this contest just for fun and lo and behold we have done quite well! Again, this year, Terry Mieger has agreed to be the point person. Here are the contest rules and categories:

The Glennie is a club competition, with no individual entries allowed. Each participating organization may submit 10 images, with no more than 2 by each maker. Images that have received awards in previous Glennie Salons are ineligible.

Makers who belong to two or more clubs must coordinate with the respective clubs to ensure that no more than 2 of their images are submitted in total. In the event more than 2 images, or duplicate images, are submitted from the same maker, the earliest submissions will be judged, and the other submissions will be ineligible.

Categories:

- Animals (consists of the following categories)
 - a. Birds
 - b. Invertebrates - Insects, Mollusks (snails etc.), Arachnids, Annelids (worms), Crustaceans
 - c. Reptiles
 - d. Amphibians
 - e. Mammals
 - f. Marine and Freshwater Life - Fish, Marine Crustaceans/Mammals, Starfish, Corals etc.
- Botany
- Landscape

Each digital image may have a maximum width of 1400 pixels and a maximum height of 1050 pixels. The image must be submitted in JPEG (.jpg) format, and the size is limited to no more than 2 Megabyte (MB). It is suggested that the image resolution be no greater the 100 pixels per inch (ppi) and that the color space be sRGB.

Each image should be titled. Titles should be 50 characters or less including characters a-z, A-Z, 0-9, space and underscore. **No other characters are allowed**

If you wish to participate please email your images to Terry at (silver45@me.com). The deadline for submissions is FEBRUARY 29th but Terry needs time to select and package the entries so please submit them to him NO LATER than FEBRUARY 7th.