

Welcome to 2022!

Here's hoping this year goes a lot better than the past two...

And that you had a wonderful holiday season, and are looking forward to improving your photography in 2022. We will have a good lineup of Programs and 4 Mentor Meetings this year to help you along the way, along with challenging competition subjects.

Get the full year's list of subjects as [a single PDF on our website](#).

President's Messages

Bringing back an old tradition...letters from the outgoing and incoming presidents.

A big **Thank You** goes out to Oz and Victoria for volunteering their time and expertise.

[Read 'em here...](#)

Teach your kids photography



And they'll never have enough money to buy drugs

Credit: [Imgur](#)

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Focus Camera Club Officers and Committee Chairs

Officers
 President: Victoria Ashby
 Vice President: Gwen Paton
 Treasurer: Ron Schaller
 Secretary: Bill Williams

Committee Chairs

Executive: Victoria Ashby, Gwen Paton, Ron Schaller, Bill Williams and the Committee chairs listed below
 Competitions: Cliff Stockdill
 Programs: ? & Terry Hanford
 Membership: Todd Lytle
 Newsletter/Website: Karl Peschel

Our Mission

The purpose of the Focus Camera Club is to further its members' enjoyment, knowledge and mastery of photographic skills through cooperative efforts and fellowship.

Focus Camera Club Monthly Meetings

Meetings are held the Second & Fourth Wednesday of each month. Our meeting place is online via Zoom until further notice. Meetings start promptly at 6:30 PM and normally end by 9:00 PM.

President's Messages

We have not done this in a few years – time to bring back the tradition. Messages from our outgoing and incoming Presidents. We'll start with Oz, who served the club for nearly 2 years.

As you know, Victoria Ashby will be your new president this year. During the past two years, we experienced the global pandemic and have been unable to meet in-person. We've adjusted by having Zoom meetings for competitions and for program presentations. Zoom meetings brought challenges as we learned how to use this “new” technology, but it also allowed us to record our meetings for viewing at a later time. This allowed prospective new members to learn more about our club. Another advantage was being able to have presenters and judges from outside the Denver area, as well as having out of town members participating in our Zoom meetings. The big drawback is that we missed the camaraderie of the in-person meetings, a major reason for belonging to the Focus Camera Club.

During the pandemic, many of us were limited in being able to get out to shoot photos. Travel was curtailed and postponed. We've had physical limitations in what we could do. After speaking with some people, I think this has also affected our mental well-being. Being creative, needed for taking pictures, requires a feeling of well-being. This has been difficult to maintain and so, many people have not been very enthusiastic to pursue photography. My hope for the new year is for all of us to regain our enthusiasm and creativity. This pandemic hasn't been good for body or soul.

Many club members were involved in keeping the club operating during the pandemic. I was the “conductor” and the “orchestra” played beautifully. It is through Dick York that we are able to use the meeting room at the Lone Tree Civic Center at no cost. He has arranged the second and fourth Wednesdays as our meeting times in 2022, whenever we can again meet in person. Of course, personal health is the top priority and the Executive board will meet in March to discuss the possibility of in-person meetings.

Shawn Slade brought us outstanding programs that we all enjoyed. Butch Mazzuca contacted his very experienced photographer friends and other experienced judges to critique our images and, together with Cliff Stockdill, chose our competition topics and definitions. Dave Hull stepped up to record and edit our Zoom meetings, a considerable undertaking. He, Shawn, Butch and Cliff ran the meetings. Bob Bartlett had to learn all about showing our competition images for Zoom meetings; not an easy task. Bill Williams and Bob made sure our scores were properly recorded, and Bill presented the scores for us throughout the year. Bob and Karl accepted our digital submissions and organized them for projection and online galleries. Larry Hartlaub was our membership chair. Gwen Paton was my backup in case I couldn't cope with being president. And finally, Karl Peschel is the glue that kept everything functioning including presenting us an outstanding newsletter every month, working with Bob on the digital entries, reminding us of the Zoom meetings, being backup for all aspects of the Zoom meetings, being our technical adviser and more. There are many unmentioned tasks these people have taken care of to keep this club operating and I appreciate everyone and their time and energy.

Many thanks to everyone for being a member, as without all of you, there would be no club.

May 2022 be a successful year. And with that, I turn over the presidency to Victoria Ashby.

– Oz Pfenninger

Now let's hear from Victoria Ashby, our 2022 club President.

Dear Focus Family,

Welcome to 2022! I want to thank Oz Pfenninger, past President, the Executive Committee and the Committee Chairs for a job well done in 2021. In the face of many challenges, they managed to have a productive and successful year. Thank you all for your hard work and perseverance.

Lucius and I have been members of FCC for five years. We continue to be amazed at the amount of growth we have experienced as members of FCC. Where else can novice photographers get the opportunity to watch programs delivered by Professional Photographers? Or, have their photographs critiqued by professionals in a way that allows them to improve as photographers? Competitions also provide a way to see the works of photographers at all levels and acts as an incentive to improve one's skill level. And the best part is all this is provided for only \$50 a year. FCC is a fantastic camera club for those who are serious about growing their skill level and improving as photographers.

I am honored to serve as the President of FCC in 2022. We still face challenges in the coming year, but I am fully confident that we can find new opportunities and uncover novel ways to keep FCC operating at maximum effectiveness. To accomplish this will take all of us. I remain open to new ideas, suggestions and creative solutions from each of you. Communication is key so don't hesitate to be open and share ideas.

The following are my top three goals for 2022:

- Increase membership: by finding ways to bring back previous members and to obtain new ones.
- Continue to provide high quality programs: by contacting those presenters who have provided quality programs in the past and finding new program presenters.
- Provide an opportunity for in-person outings: by scheduling quarterly outdoor photo shoots and matching up new photographers with professional photographers. This will be a great learning opportunity for new members and give all of us something to look forward to. Places and dates to be determined.

Knowing that our goal is to help all photographers become better at what they love, I would like very much to establish a way for us to get feedback from our members on a regular basis. I believe that it is important to hear what is working and what may not be working as it relates to our members. This will be very helpful to the Executive Committee as we move through 2022.

I am sure there are some additional ideas out there and I look forward to hearing about them. It is going to be a pleasure working with each of you to keep FCC Denver Metro's most professional and diverse digital photography club. Here is to yet another fun, productive and creative year.

Sincerely,

Victoria Ashby
President

Program & Competition Meetings

Program Schedule		Competition Schedule	
01/12/22	Program – Compelling Travel Portraiture by Ron Cooper	01/26/22	Subject – Open
02/09/22	Program – Creating Nostalgic Looking Images by Ken Smith	02/23/22	Subject – Winter
03/09/22	Program – TBA by Travis Broxton	03/23/22	Subject – Patterns / Repetition
03/30/22	Mentor Meeting		

January 12 Program with Ron Cooper

We've all seen Ron's stunning images in competitions through the years...now we get to hear from him how he creates these wonderful images.

Here is a high level outline of the presentation:

- My approach to travel portraiture
- Portrait techniques, choosing subjects, background, posing, lighting
- Equipment
- Workflow
- Trip planning
- Compensating subjects – yes? no? pros/cons
- Photographing the Dani people (a sample trip)

The presentation is approximately 50 minutes plus whatever time is added for Q&A.

This Month's Competition is Open

The official definition - *"The Open category allows photographers to submit images of any subject matter. Members are encouraged to explore photographic techniques and subjects outside their usual style."*

As we've done for many years, we'll be starting off with an Open Competition in January.

I don't know about you, but I'm ready to go out and shoot new images all this year. And that's the spirit of the Open category – a chance to try new things, new genres, new techniques, new gear.

Don't just grab something from your archive. Go and create new art for this competition.

Judge will be **Eli Vega**

(And remember, we are limiting to 2 images per person for all Competitions done via Zoom.)

Awards & Promotions

Here are the final results for the POTY and Media awards, along with members advancing to the next level of competition.

Our congratulations go out to each and every one of the members listed here. Be proud of all your excellent images throughout the year.

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR WINNER	COLOR CATEGORY WINNER	MONOCHROME CATEGORY WINNER
F5.6 Bill Williams 9.00	Bill Williams 9.11	(no winner)
f8 Steve Wilton 8.56	Steve Wilton 8.93	Phil Rodgers 8.14
f11 Lucius Ashby 9.08	Lucius Ashby 8.93	Cliff Stockdill 9.17
f16 Joe Bonita 9.67	Joe Bonita 9.89	Danny Lam 9.17

MEMBER PROMOTIONS

Photographers advancing to the next level:

f5.6 to f8: Laura Blake (8.31), Terry Hanford (8.65), Bill Williams (9.00)

f8 to f11: Steve Wilton (8.56)

f11 to f16: Victoria Ashby (9.11, 8.80), Shawn Slade (8.76, 8.94)

The criteria for the awards listed above and for member promotions is all detailed in the [Competition Rules PDF](#) on our website.

All US National Parks are free to enter on the following days in 2022

January 17: Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. *April 16:* First day of National Park Week

August 4: Anniversary of the Great American Outdoors Act

September 24: National Public Lands Day

November 11: Veterans Day

<https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/fee-free-parks.htm>

And speaking of the National Parks, [here is a great article](#) about planning a photo trip and making sure you're prepared for the weather, the terrain, animal encounters, etc.

Photo Contests

The Chelsea International Photography Competition

Deadline: February 15, 2022

The competition does not impose any restrictions in terms of the subject of the submitted photographs. The images may investigate any topic, from regional cultures and travel photography to commercial work and photojournalism.

Please note that all submitted images must be available for sale.

[Visit the Competition website](#) for rules, guidelines, cost info and to submit entries.

Local Photo Opps & Events

Orchid Showcase at DBG

Jan. 13, 2022 - Feb. 21, 2022

See hundreds of exotic blooms, including rare orchids from the Gardens' collection. And it's all indoors so you'll be nice and warm.

Plus, they are having a photo contest. "Visitors can enter up to three photos taken at the Gardens' 2022 Orchid Showcase. Three winners will receive an orchid from the display and a gift card from the contest sponsor, Mike's Camera."

Get all the details, ticket info, and contest instructions at the [Denver Botanic Gardens website](#).

Frame #37

A collection of extra tidbits discovered during the past few weeks.

– It's too late to sign up for notifications, but Matt Kloskowski is running his "Fresh Start" series again this year. He's posting on Monday and Thursday and [all the content will be on this page](#) on his site.

– If you're considering a PhotoADay project for 2022 then maybe read this first: [Pros And Cons Of A Photo-A-Day](#) over at the AyearWithMyCamera website. (See the [December 2021 newsletter](#) for info about 52 week projects or other "photo prompt" lists and websites that are available.)

Consulting the rules of composition before taking a photograph is like consulting the laws of gravity before going for a walk.

– Edward Weston