

Photography – A Passion for Life



Presented at Newtown High School - April 26, 2022

Chane & Rhonda Cullens

Cullens Photography - CCullens.com – Info@CCullens.com

Topics



- Our Photography Story
- Additional Opportunities to Learn
- What Can I Photograph Around Here?

Ask Questions at Any Time

Photography Can Be a Lifelong Passion!

Rhonda got her first camera when she was 6 years old!



Chane got his first Canon camera while dating Rhonda.

Every photo has a story!



Why We Like Photography

- Preserve memories of our lives and those around us
- Create photos for others to enjoy
- Help the community – Promote events, report the news, support charities and businesses...
- Learn and practice new skills, then teach others
- Develop friendships with fellow photographers and others



Wedding Photos for Our Friends



Photos of Our Boys and Their Friends Growing Up



Photos of Our Boys Playing Sports



Team Photos



Mickey F. Dana R. Joe C. Nick K. Ethan C. Ivan K. Matt Y. Ryan G. Matt W.
Ryan G. Chuck B. Norris H. Alex B. Cody C. Nick R. Ryan H. Steven M. Chris P.



Photos of **All Players** on the Team



Photos for **The Newtown Bee** and the End of Season Banquets



Topics



- Our Photography Story
- Additional Opportunities to Learn
- What Can I Photograph Around Here?

Ask Questions at Any Time

Joined Flagpole Photographers Camera Club



FlagpolePhotographers.com

Flagpole Photographers Camera Club

Our First 1st Place Photos in Photography Competitions

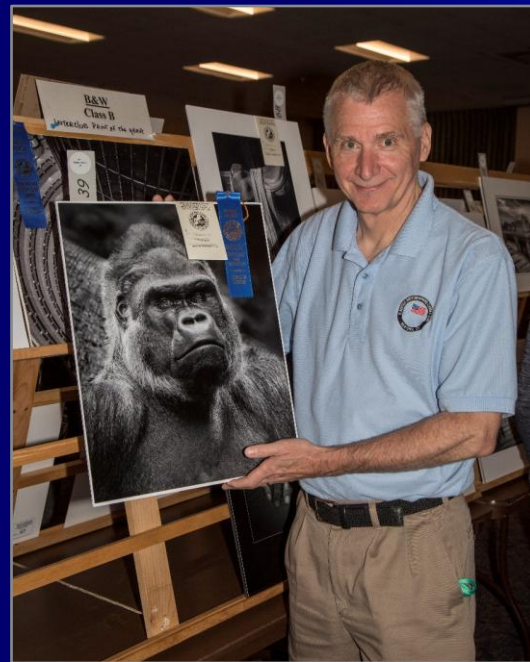


"I've Got My Eye on You" by Rhonda



"Blowing in the Wind" by Chane

New England Camera Club Council Print Competition



2017 Best Portrait Print for "I Can See You Too"

NECCCPHOTOConference.org

New England Camera Club Council Digital Competition



2019 Best Landscape Digital Pictorial Image for “*Sedona Reflections*”

NECCCPHotoConference.org

New England Camera Club Council Conference

July 15-17, 2022 UMass Amherst Campus



NECCPhotoConference.org

Flagpole Photographers “Newtown & Beyond Exhibit” Started Exhibiting and Selling Our Photos



Newtown Municipal Center

Our Own Exhibit - "Capturing Newtown and Our World"



Over 300 Photos at the Newtown Municipal Center - CCullens.com/Newtown

Advantages of Joining a Camera Club




- Learn from Experienced Photographers
- Build Your Portfolio
- Exposure Through Exhibits and Competitions
- Sales Opportunities
- Share Your Expertise
- College Scholarships Available!

FlagpolePhotographers.com

Newtown's Flagpole Photographers Camera Club

APRIL 2022



**Competition with
"Shadows or Silhouettes"
Assigned Subject and
Monthly Challenge
"Flowers"**

Visitors are welcome to attend this free meeting. Flagpole Photographers membership ...


VIEW DETAIL

THURSDAY, APR 28

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Both Virtual and In-Person Choices

MAY 2022



**Interclub Competition
Against Greater
Bridgeport and Milford
Camera Clubs**

Visitors are welcome to attend this free meeting. Flagpole Photographers membership ...

VIEW DETAIL

TUESDAY, MAY 3

7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Virtual

Mentor Night

Please ask questions at any time!

Mentor Night – May 2022


Visitors are welcome to attend this free learning program. Agenda 7:30 – ...

VIEW DETAIL

THURSDAY, MAY 5

7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Virtual



**Character Portrait Night –
Superheroes, Police, Fire,
Sports ...**

VIEW DETAIL

THURSDAY, MAY 12

7:15 PM - 9:00 PM

Newtown, CT 084

- Attend a “Mentor Night”
- Attend a “Program Night”
- Attend a “Competition Night”
- Watch recorded programs
- **Students can join for FREE!**

FlagpolePhotographers.com

Delivering Presentations on What We Have Learned



Improving Your Travel Photography



An Excellent Photo is “Not About Gear”



Using the Elements of an Excellent Photo



Camera and Photo Basics, Mode, Aperture, Shutter Speed, Composition



Photographing Birds in Your Yard and Beyond



Five Ways to Avoid Losing Your Photographs



Pretty as a Picture, Moving from OK to Better



How to Judge Camera Club Competitions



Photography Exhibits

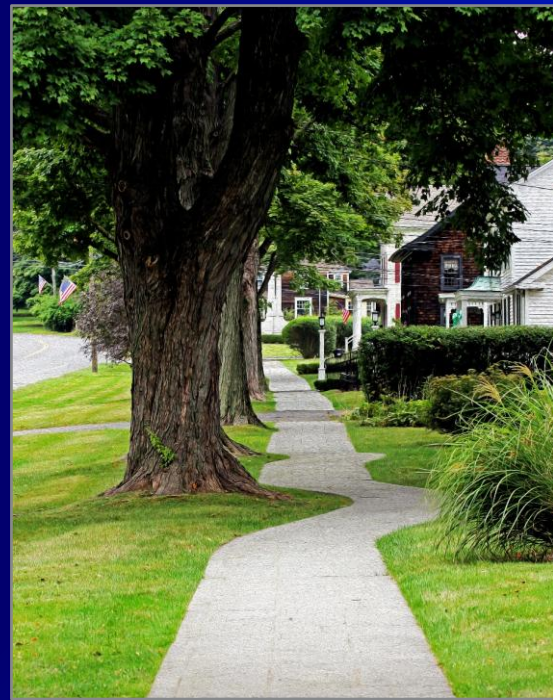
Topics



- Our Photography Story
- Additional Opportunities to Learn
- What Can I Photograph Around Here?

What Can I Photograph Around Here?

New England Charm!



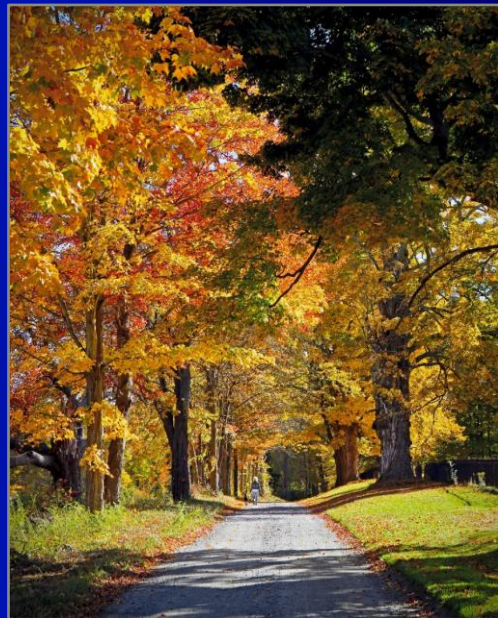
Newtown, CT

Your Own Yard – A Great Place to Start



Newtown, CT

New England Fall Foliage Show



Newtown, CT



New England Winters



Newtown, CT

Different Seasons of the Year

Winter



Spring



Summer



Fall



View from Castle Hill, Newtown, CT

Different Times of the Day

Sunrise



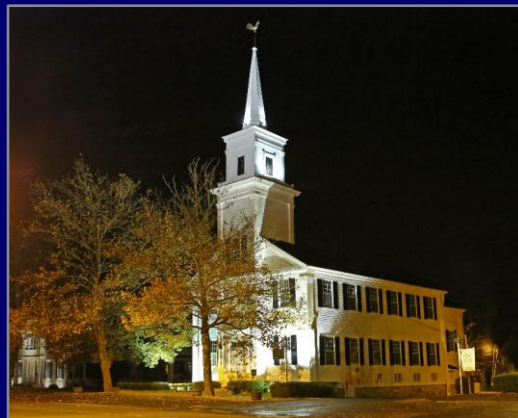
Midday



Sunset

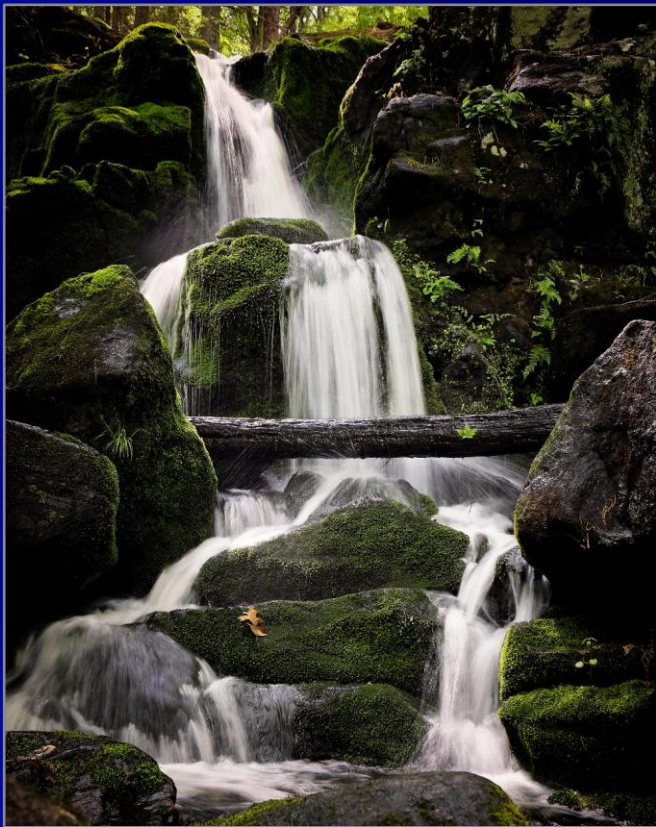


Night

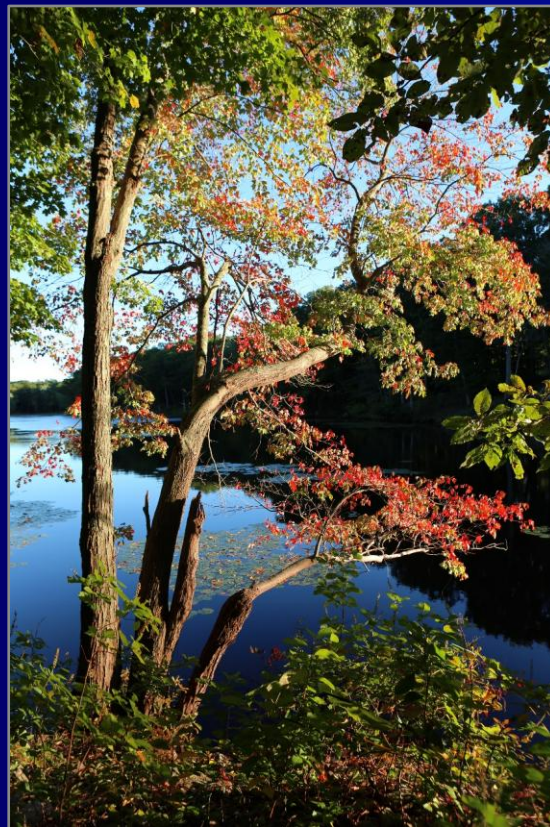


View from Castle Hill, Newtown, CT

Places We Walk to From Our House

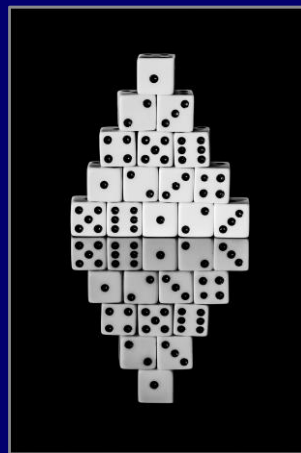
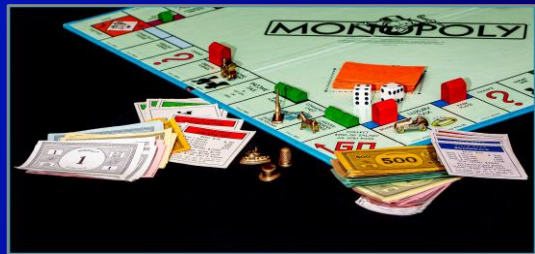


Prydden Falls, Sandy Hook



Warner Pond, Sandy Hook

Items Inside Your Home



Wildlife or Pets Nearby



Landscapes Around Town



Architecture in Newtown



Activities in Newtown



Equipment Tip

The “best” camera is the one you have with you! These were taken on Rhonda’s phone.



2nd Place Photo – Sandy Hook, CT



1st Place Photo - Washington, D.C.

Now What?

Seek out, capture and share the beauty around us!



Thank you!

Presented by:

Chane Cullens, HonNEC and Rhonda Cullens, MNEC, VPs NECCC



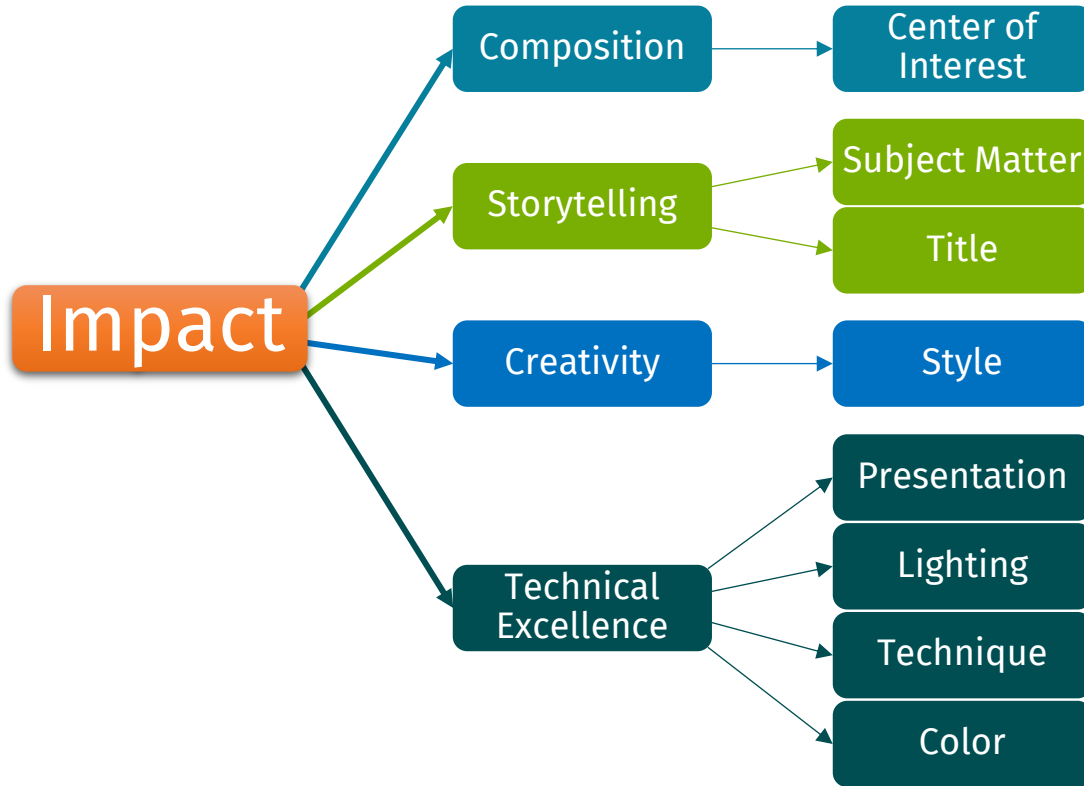
Boston, Massachusetts



Agra, India

CCullens.com - Info@CCullens.com

The 12 Elements of an Excellent Photo



“Any art piece or photograph will reveal some measure of all elements, while a visually superior example will reveal obvious consideration of each one.”

Based on work by the Photographic Exhibition Committee of the Professional Photographer Association (PPA.com) on The 12 Elements of a Merit photo.

“Impact is what you get when all the other elements are working together in concert.”

Creates Impact = Pillars + Attributes

Ideas for Creating a Photo

Sometimes you're at the at the right place at the right time

However, even then you need think to “**create**” a great photo

Here is a 3-step method to help in creating a photo



Vision



Prepare



Achieve

Creating a Vision



UNDERSTAND



VERIFY

- “Wow, it’s beautiful” is not a vision
- Strive for the clearest possible vision in your mind
- Simple, but clear
- With emotional impact
- What are the top three guidelines to use

- Possible subjects - flowers, water, moon, tree, people?
- What subjects work, what subjects don’t work?
- What is the main subject?
- What is the foreground?
- What is the background?
- Audience?
- Why? Why? Why?

- Say it
- Pretend you are explaining your result to an audience
- Evaluate the vision on relevancy to your primary audience
- Get feedback from another person
- Iterate – Try, Learn, Improve

Prepare



Figure out how to
create it, in the
camera and in
post-processing

What weather?
What time of year?
What equipment?

Cost? Time? Effort?
Probability of
success?

Knowledge –
especially digital
darkroom skills
required

Honesty – leverage
consideration of
reality to drive
creativity

Achieve



Time is always a limiting factor

Nature may be a limiting factor

Check & recheck equipment list

Plan alternatives

JUST DO IT.
NIKE