

ViewFinder

Newsletter of the Syosset Camera Club — May, 2025

Letter from the SCC President, Bonnie Forman- Franco

Just a short note to welcome our new editor of the ViewFinder-Lee Goldstein. The club's newsletter was sorely missed when Barry decided to step down after many years of providing interesting and stimulating articles for our club. Barry put in many years of hard work and dedication and it was time for him to retire from at least one club activity. We all truly appreciated his investment in this newsletter. However, I for one am thrilled the talented and artistic Lee Goldstein has stepped up to take his place. The newsletter will be a great forum for Lee to demonstrate her artistic and creative talents. Thank you Lee from all of us for taking this on.

The club calendar year is now coming to an end. However, we do intend to offer some excursions over the summer, so please check your emails for dates and times. As usual, if you see something unusual or interesting happening, please let the other club members know either utilizing google group email or on our Facebook page. It will be nice to keep in touch year round.

I look forward to seeing you all soon, whether on zoom or out in the field.
— Bonnie



©Bonnie Forman-Franco

IN THIS ISSUE...

Club Excursion to Gleason's Gym

The History Of...Planting Fields Arboretum

How I Got the Shot

May Club Excursions

May Events, Critiques and Completion Dates

Club Excursion to Gleason's Gym March 12, 2025

Review by Jessie McGuire

Sugar Ray Robinson, Mohammed Ali, Jake LaMota. And Roberto Duran... all boxers among the many notables who trained at the iconic Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn. Even the actress Hilary Swank recently had (still has?) a membership. It's been around since the thirties, always in Brooklyn, but presently at a new location in Brooklyn, but not a lot has changed. There are no modern treadmills, electronic speedbags or the like. Would-be boxing champs still punch hanging leather bags, work out with their trainers, skip ropes, or spar in the ring. It's as authentically Sylvester Stallone as they get, and we were invited to spend a morning photographing the action. Quite an experience, which we followed by checking out that iconic view of the Brooklyn Bridge from Washington Street in Dumbo before capping our day with lunch at the new food market created by the upscale Time Out NY Magazine. Delicious! And lunch came with access to that incredible 5th floor rooftop-with-a-view in the old Domino Sugar factory overlooking Manhattan, the East River and both the Manhattan and Brooklyn Bridges. We all enjoyed this great day!



©Paul Kelly

Participation in exciting field trips such as this one, photo critiques and competitions and attendance at our varied educational presentations is open to all SCC members. New members always welcome.

Thanks to Bonnie and Laurie for scouting this location. We have many more SCC trips planned for the future!

A History Of... **Planting Fields Arboretum** *by Jessie McGuire*

From the 1890's to the 1930's, our country prospered. People lived, worked and played in ever-expanding cities. The wealthy sought more breathing room, fresh air, room for a show garden, room for their children to play outside, ride horses, learn to swim, and generally to be free. They wanted a place not only to live comfortably, but also to demonstrate their opulence. Long Island offered that opportunity. Large properties could be acquired, tamed and groomed into elegant living areas capable of raising families and entertaining lavishly. The so-called Gold Coast Mansions of Long Island were born as many of the US's wealthiest families migrated to the Island.

Many of these mansions have since become museums, parks and conservancies — Old Westbury Gardens, The Nassau County Art Museum, Bayard Cutting Arboretum, Planting Fields Arboretum, and Sagamore Hill just to mention a few. They are



©Ellen Dunn

all great fodder for club photo outings. A regular Mecca for photographers and garden enthusiasts is the Planting Fields Arboretum in Oyster Bay, former home to the Coe family. William Coe made his fortune in marine insurance.

Like many of the Gold Coasters, he was maritally a mess (3 divorces) but philanthropically inclined and funded schools of American Studies in several universities across the US. Planting Fields was bequeathed to NY State upon his death with the requirement that it serve as a center of horticultural studies. It houses one of the largest collection of camellias in North America, as well as a rose garden, lily garden, greenhouse and much more. Have you ever heard of a synoptic garden? In our case, it's one designed to showcase every plant that grows natively on Long Island. There are 1000 plants, all labeled and planted in alphabetical order! Planting Fields is still one of the best horticultural studies gardens in our nation and it's right next door. It's a treasure trove for us photographers.



©Jessie McGuire

There's not a season when it doesn't offer stellar photo ops. Bring a lawn chair (and maybe a glass of wine?) and enjoy one of their delightful summer afternoon concerts or ethnic festivals on the back lawn. Wander through the gardens. Take a tour through the mansion, which is elaborately furnished in the style of the original Coe family. Great photo opportunities.

Then come again for autumn foliage. If you miss the gorgeous gnarled dwarf red maple on the side lawn of the mansion, you'll have to return. Talk about a photo op! If you venture out in winter, the snow cover usually stays pristine well into the afternoon. The greenhouse is open year-round. Carefully manicured gardens with colorful flowers dot the grounds, and established woodland trails offer a panoply of different textures and tones. It's definitely a treasure to be explored again and again. See you there!



HOW I GOT THE SHOT

I had a wedding to go to in Asheville, North Carolina. I love Asheville, ringed, as it is, by the Smokey Mountains on one side and the Blue Ridge Mountains on the other. I had booked a morning photo trip with an Asheville company for a Blue Ridge Highway sunrise photography shoot. It turned out to be just the couple and me, so I went in their car. We stopped along the way at their favorite overlooks and I got wonderful shots of the morning fog lifting from the Mountains. Happy from the morning's shootings, we were snaking back to Asheville along the Highway,



©Lee Goldstein

when we saw a couple of people and their two dogs playing near a waterfall. I asked if we could stop, and we did. The people we saw, a husband and wife, were throwing a tennis ball into the water, again and again, and the dogs, old Golden Retrievers, were bounding into the water and coming back with the ball. The couple I'd booked the tour with took the opportunity to photograph the waterfall, but I was hooked on these dogs. I was there for about an hour, at the shoreline, shooting and shooting. After a while, when the dogs got used to me, they'd retrieve the ball, and bound over to me, for a pat and a good word, so I was either shooting, or holding my camera above my head to protect it from their happy galumphing. And I got this shot.
Specs: 1/320, F6.3.



Have YOU got a shot you want to share? Share how you got it, and what made the shot memorable...

was it an unexpected or a bucket-list destination? Was it that you lived to talk about it? Or did you take it with a new camera or perhaps a revisit to an older camera. Was it the people or the landscape in the shot? Let's hear and see how YOU got the shot. Please send your shot (250 d.p.i. and 3" on the longer side) to leegdesign@gmail.com, and please also text me that you've sent it. Share with the Club how YOU GOT THE SHOT!

Syosset Camera Club Excursions

MAY

Prepared by Laurie Ellis

Next up is our field trip to Soul Shine Ranch in Coram for **Barrel Racing** on Saturday, May 10. Gates open at 9, practice starts at 10 and races begin at noon. Starting in Texas in the 1920's, Barrel Racing times the rider and horse as they maneuver around 3 barrels without knocking over the barrels. The link is on our website.

On Sunday, May 18th we will be at the Bayport Aerodrome for **Vintage Wings and Wheels** where vintage cars and biplanes will be on view. You may even win a raffle for a ride in a vintage biplane! Link on our website.

As with all of our field trips, please RSVP if you are coming so that we know to expect you.
Hope to see you at both events!

If you go to either of these May events listed above, could you share your experience, write a review of the event and include a photo you took at the event? One to three paragraphs, sent in an email to leegdesign@gmail.com with the title of the event, please. If possible, the photo should be 250 d.p.i and around 3" on the longer dimension. Thank you!

MAY EVENTS, CRITIQUES AND COMPLETION DATES

from the Syosset Camera Club website

<https://syossetcc.org>

May 1 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm EDT: Zoom

Enhanced Portrait Retouching – Beth Glorioso

Beth Glorioso will demonstrate advanced post processing techniques in Adobe software designed to improve and enhance the end results when processing our portraits, which may even include adjusting the subject's makeup to present a more pleasing final picture.

SCC Competition

May 8 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm EDT. on Zoom

The judge scheduled for this competition is Jared Plante.

SCC Excursion – Barrel Racing in Coram

May 10 @ 9:00 am - 3:00 pm EDT

SCC Presentation

May 15 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm EDT

Attracting and Photographing Hummingbirds – Joe Willmore

Join us as Joe Willmore discusses how to set up a hummingbird feeder in your backyard, where to place it for optimal photos, what to look for in a feeder, how to create the ideal nectar to attract them, where to position your camera, and what settings to use to get optimal photos.

SCC Excursion – Bayport Aerodrome Vintage Wings and Wheels

May 18

SCC End of Year Competition

May 22 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm EDT

There will be 3 judges for the end of year competition. The judges will be:

John Bruno

Butch Mazzuca

Andy Silver

SCC End of Year Party

June 5 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm EDT

ViewFinder: The Newsletter of the Syosset Camera Club

Editorial, Design and Production by Lee Goldstein