



February 2026

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Feb 7	Education Program
Feb 9	Formal Competition Results
Feb 15	Field Trip
Feb 16	Board Meeting
Feb 23	Camera Academy #4 w/Annette Khaled
Feb 23	In-person Meeting w/ Wayne Bennett
Mar 2	Interactive SIG Meeting
Mar 9	Zoom Meeting
Mar 16	Board Meeting
April 6	Interactive SIG Meeting



"The Creative Landscape" by Wayne Bennett

Mon, Feb 23rd 6:30pm

In-person at Marks St. Senior Center

In "The Creative Landscape", Wayne Bennett will cover the principles of creating landscape images with impact. He will talk about various theories and thoughts about what makes an image a memorable image and will reinforce these theories with multiple images to illustrate them.

Wayne Bennett is a dentist by profession (retired in 2014) and has been a professional photographer for the past 25 years, specializing in the area of nature photography.

Wayne taught photography at Disney Institute in Orlando, FL. He has shot stock for Sharpshooters, Corbis, and Alamy Agencies and has been published in a number of publications, including Outdoor Photographer. He continues to teach photography through seminars, tours, and workshops.

A few years ago, Wayne started WMB Productions, a company, which brings the biggest names in photography to the Orlando area for seminars and workshops. He has had photographers such as Bill Fortney, Adam Jones, Bryan Peterson, Rick Sammon, Tony Sweet, RC Concepcion (from NAPP), Tim Grey, Bob Krist and Rob Sheppard (editor of Outdoor Photographer magazine).

Wayne has traveled extensively in the United States and around the world. He has photographed on all continents (42 countries) except Antarctica. Wayne is proud to be a charter member of NANPA (North American Nature Photographers Association) and the Orlando Camera Club. He was the second President of the OCC. The OCC's image of the year (in its annual competition) is named after Wayne, The Wayne Bennett Award.

Wayne has recently had a specialty filter from Singh-Ray Filters named after him, the Singh-Ray Wayne Bennett Smoky Vision Polarizer. Singh-Ray makes the finest photographic filters in the world.

In 2008, nine members of the Orlando Camera Club, including Wayne, submitted a portfolio of 20 images (selected from over 350 submitted) to the Natures Best Magazine Windland Smith Rice International Photo Competition and won! There were 85 camera clubs worldwide that submitted portfolios to the competition. A composite of 9 of the images was hanging in the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC until May 2009.

Wayne had an image selected as Highly Honored in the 2009 Natures Best Contest. That image was displayed at the Smithsonian until May 2010.

A new product and the brainchild of Wayne and good friend Ken Blye is the PUFFIN PAD. The Puffin Pad has just been introduced to the photo marketplace. It is a lightweight alternative to the bean bag.

Wayne's website is www.waynebennettphotography.com

ORLANDO CAMERA CLUB MEETINGS

1st Monday of the month are Special Interest Group meetings.

2nd Monday of the month are In-Person/Zoom meetings or Competition Results.

4th Monday of the month are Guest Speakers typically via Zoom.





Upcoming Meetings

February 23rd, Camera Academy: "Putting It Together" by Annette Khaled

On Monday, February 23, 2026, Annette Khaled will be presenting the fourth of four Camera Academy presentations: Putting It Together. She will present in the ballroom at the Marks Street Senior Center at 5:00 before the OCC's January's general in-person meeting. We hope to see you there.

About Annette: My photographic journey began with film cameras, developing black-and-white pictures in my high school darkroom. My first SLR camera was a Canon T40 with the LA Olympics logo. That camera went everywhere I went—at least until I started college. Fast-forward a few decades of marriage and career building, bringing me to Orlando as a new assistant professor at UCF. While I continued taking pictures, these were the standard people pictures with point-and-shoot cameras. It wasn't until my husband and I made our first trip to Yellowstone in 2011 that photography as an art form returned to my life. We needed a new camera, and because of the tsunami that devastated Japan, only more expensive DSLRs were in stock. I had fond memories of my old Canon, so we bought a Canon 60D with a kit lens and went on our trip. We shot everything in program mode until we handed our camera to a fellow photographer who was taking pictures of Yellowstone Lower Falls. He composed a fantastic shot of us with falls in the background. It was an "aha" moment! The day after returning from Yellowstone, I bought Bryan Peterson's "Understanding Exposure" and joined the Orlando Camera Club. Today, I am a tenured professor at UCF with a few more titles than when I started and a library of photography books. I've had a few awards, such as a 2nd place image of the year. My favorite genre is landscape photography, but I love to challenge myself with infrared and night photography. I'm on my fifth Canon camera and made the switch to mirrorless. While my growth as a photographer continues, I'm proud to say that on my wall at home hangs the iconic picture of the rainbow at Yellowstone Lower Falls that rekindled my love for photography.



March 2nd, Monday 6:30 pm: Interactive SIG (Special Interest Groups) Meeting

The newly restructured SIGs include the Abstract group and the new Everything But Abstract (EBA) group. Both SIGs are open to all members.

The Abstract SIG covers several types of photography, such as ICM, Multiple Exposures, and, of course, Abstracts.

The EBA (Everything But Abstract) SIG incorporates the Nature and Landscape SIGs. It will be hosted by the members and will include the types of photography subjects that interest them. It includes nature, landscape, street, travel, B&W, infrared, macro—all types of photography except Abstract. January's meeting focus is "Discuss the Formal and Informal Competitions".

We meet on the first Monday of each month, 6:30-8 pm via Zoom.

Register in advance for this meeting on the OCC website.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



Formal Competition

Entries are open for submission 8 March – 3 April:

The Theme is “Landscape”

Entries are due by 11:59 pm on Friday, 3 April 2026.

Competitions are a great way to improve your photography skills! Learn by listening to the judge's critiques as well as seeing the different ideas and styles of photography from fellow members!

Remember only images that are completely the work of the individual photographer may be submitted. For a complete set of the rules, more information and to submit your entries visit the competition area of our website in the Member area.

Please be aware any submissions that do not adhere to the rules or are not consistent with the theme may be disqualified.

Good luck!



Formal Competition Dates and Themes

Date	Theme
Decemeber 2025	All Things Water
February 2026	Open
April 2026	Landscape
June 2026	Flowers
August 2026	Open

February 9th Monday 6:30 pm: General Meeting & Formal Competition Results!

Join us for the Formal Competition images and results to get a glimpse into what other members are doing!

Competitions are a great way to improve your photography skills by listening to the judge's critiques as well as seeing different styles of photography!



Informal Challenges



© Randy Seaman

January Informal Competition Winner
Theme: *“Black and White Minimalism”*

Informal Challenge for March will be “Wavy Things”

Informal Challenges are open to all members regardless of experience. Monthly challenges are great ways to participate in low-pressure competitions. If you are new to competitions, it is a wonderful way to get your "feet wet"!

Informal Challenges are open for submission on the 1st through the 14th day of the month. Voting runs from the 15th through the 22nd. Winners will be announced after the competition closes.

You can enter your images or find more information about our Informal and formal [Competitions](#) on our website.



Informal Challenge Dates and Themes

Date	Theme
January 2026	Black and White Minimalism
March 2026	Wavy Things
May 2026	Eyes
July 2026	The Color Red
September 2026	Windows



Launch of New OCC Education Program

The Board of Directors is trying something different for photography education sessions. We are going to use an Orange County Library Branch on Saturdays when meeting room space is available.

Our **1st meeting** is set for the following:

Saturday, **February 7th** at the **Orange County Library**

Southeast Branch

5575 S Semoran Blvd, Orlando, FL 32822

3:00pm-5:00pm



These sessions are intended to be **in-person, hands-on, and interactive** so **bring your camera** and a laptop computer if you have and use one. A laptop charger and an extension cord with multiple plug inputs could be useful to you and other participants.

Sessions at the Orange County Library System branches are at **no cost to you**, you do not need an Orange County Library System card or be an Orange County resident to participate.

For those participants who are interested, dinner or snacks are available afterward at a location to be determined.

A Google Maps link for the branch location is <https://orlandocameraclub.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=32cf4124817412557f1052cf5&id=d7d217cec3&e=1740d41356>

The room has space for up to 50 people. More details of the room can be found through this link: <https://orlandocameraclub.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=32cf4124817412557f1052cf5&id=a6cd6356db&e=1740d41356>



Field Trip to Lake Nona Art Installations



**Sunday, February 15, 2026 at
4:00pm**

Meetup behind the Wave Hotel at the sculpture garden, free parking in the Wave parking garage.

**6100 Wave Hotel Dr, Orlando, FL
32827**

February Field Trip is your chance to capture subject matter for the "Wavy Things" informal challenge.

Please arrive by **3:45pm** to find parking and make your way to the Sculpture Garden. Public parking at **Wave Hotel Garage** (if available) or **Lake Nona Parking Garage**, 5900 Wave Hotel Drive, Orlando, FL 32827.

We will do part of the walk in daylight and sunset. Sunset is at 6:15pm. After dinner we will do the walk again lit up at night.

7:00pm at the Bosphorus restaurant for dinner

Google Maps link for walking tour of Lake Nona art installations:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=13GWhrZWozocf5iA_Sg1syZ2UDNqY1ZU&usp=sharing

Please RSVP and indicate how many people are coming to Rita and Brian at fieldtrips@orlandocameraclub.com by the end of the day Thursday, February 12th so that we can get a head count.



Congratulations Laura Howell

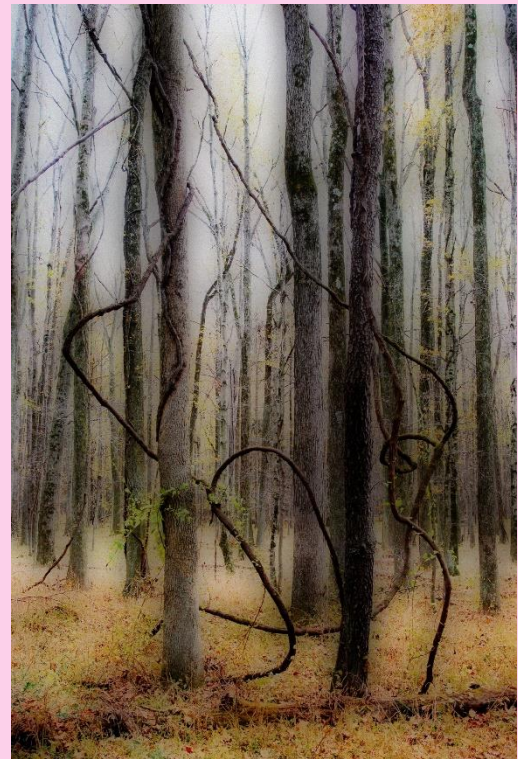
Please help congratulate our member **Laura Howell** on the exciting news of having her images selected for the **Winter Garden Art Association & SOBO Art Gallery** exhibition titled **“Canvas of Dreams.”**

The exhibit will run from January - February, with an opening reception on Thursday, Jan 8, from 5:30-8 p.m. at 127 S. Boyd St, Winter Garden.

The exhibit will show from Jan 8 – Feb 28. Please come out and help show your support!



“Leaf Dreams”



“Enchanted Forest”

More information on future exhibition themes and submission dates can be found on the WG Art Association website: <https://wgart.org/gallery/schedule-of-exhibitions/>



Kimberly George
John Bowen
George Botsford
Katrine Voorhees



Roy Morris from "[My Photo Club](#)" is a new sponsor of OCC!

Each Thursday at 2 pm EST, "My Photo Club" offers talks and masterclasses by leading photographers at a nominal cost. The talks are recorded, and the recordings are available for 14 days after the presentation.

Watch the OCC FB page for the upcoming talks and the link for the OCC members' FREE talk!



VENTURE · OBSERVE · CONNECT™

FCCC

Check out the FREE monthly webinars on the last Tuesday of the month!

Hosted by F3C (the Florida Camera Club Council) in Association with Hunts Photo & Video!

Registration is required ahead of time: Sign up for notifications from F3C by contacting Art Silvergate at 9thexposure@gmail.com.

Competition Schedule for FCCC members:

2025 3rd Triannual – Digital: **19 Oct – 19 Nov**

2025 EOY Delivery – Print: **2 Dec**

2025 EOY Judging – Digital: **14 Dec – 21 Dec**



Online Courses:

<https://edu.huntsphoto.com/>

Gear & Printing Supplies are available!

Hunt's carries over 25,000 different products! Not everything we sell is listed on our website, so please reach out to your Hunt's dedicated sales rep Alan Samiljan at asamiljan@huntsphoto.com or directly at 781.432.2383 with any gear inquiries and special quotes!

Another feature you can use is our Online Chat/Tech Support with Matt Modica!

Matt can be reached by clicking the chat button on the lower right side of our website, which shows an icon of his cat when he's online. He is typically available from 9-5 pm EST on Monday-Friday. Matt is always happy to provide honest, unbiased advice about various camera or photography topics!

