

Cal Wong



Photo of Cal Wong taken by Kathleen Swendiman

Cal Wong's first photo project was a collection of botanical slides for his college minor in Botany at the City College of New York. His first film single lens reflex (SLR) camera was a college graduation gift from his father, an avid gardener and flower show devotee. So, it was natural for Cal to photograph flowers and gardens to share with his father. When his father upgraded his camera, he gave his older Nikon film SLR to Cal entrenching him in the Nikon system for the next three decades after which he gradually transitioned to Canon film and then digital cameras.

From the mid-'60s Cal was a resident of Chapel Hill enjoying and photographing its long gardening seasons. He was a volunteer photographer for the Sarah P. Duke Gardens and shot frequently at the Gene Strowd Community Rose Garden, UNC Arboretum and NC Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill. Throughout, his specialization in botanical subjects, especially close-ups of flowers, was influenced by his training in Botany and MA in Entomology, both ecologically oriented fields.

Cal's photographic development has benefited significantly from 30 years membership in the Chapel Hill Camera Club where he has been a program presenter, competition judge and officer. He has also been a member, program presenter and competition judge at three other Triangle camera clubs

Professionally, he has taught ceramic art at Meredith College, been a lecturer in Zoology at UNC-Chapel Hill and, until retirement, a research assistant and administrative assistant in the UNC-CH Schools of Medicine and Dentistry.