

INFOCUS



SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Editor: Alison Earl, communications@sandhillsphotoclub.org



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www.sandhillsphotoclub.org

OCTOBER 2026

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Holiday Dinner Information on Pages 8 and 9 – HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!!

Be sure to check out the scarecrows this month at the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens. The 19 entries will all be installed by Friday. Patriotic theme this year!



Be sure to check out our own SALLY MASON's (and her teams's)

**PATRIOTIC
EAGLE!!!**

Hello and Happy Fall to all of the Sandhills Photography Club members. It is nice to feel a bit of relief from the heat, and I am looking forward to the fall foliage changes. There will be no technical discussions this month. Instead, I would like to ask everyone to consider what kind of contributions you can make to the club. Foremost on my mind is the slate of officers to be nominated for next year's duties. We have some vacancies and I am asking anyone who wants to make a contribution to the club to consider putting your name forward to fill these positions. We will need at minimum a Vice President candidate and there may be other vacancies that need to be filled. Any one of you can put your name forward for any position, but the one that will definitely need to be filled is Vice President. These officer positions require a modest time commitment, but they are a great way to get more involved in the club and a good way to know the members of the club and have a lot of fun at the same time. The more involved members become, the more vibrant and meaningful the club activities become. And, as the old saying goes, "many hands make light work".



Phil Lewis

In addition to the officer positions, the club has several committees, listed on the club's website (and on the last page of every newsletter). If any of these committees is of particular interest to you, or if you have any skills that pertain to these committee activities, please contact me or any of the other officers to let that interest be known. It's time to think about next year and ensure that the club remains vibrant and meaningful to the membership.

Phil



SHHHHHHHHHHHH,

Don't tell Phil that I stole 2 of his
images for this article! He'll never
know!!!!



Alison



BRUNCH BUNCH: Thursday, October 1ST & 15TH at 10am

Panera Bread

10862 US 15-501 Hwy

Southern Pines

We meet at 10am until about 11:30. Food, beverage and good conversation with other photo club members.



Susan Bailey

OCTOBER HIGHLAND GAMES

When: Saturday, October 3rd – events start at 8:30am

Website and Address: <http://www.carolina-highlandgames.com>

James L. Morgan Recreation Complex

1206 Turnpike Road, Laurinburg, NC 28352

Free parking with trolley ride to games

Lunch: available at the event

RSVP: susanbaileyphoto@gmail.com

Please RSVP so I can share emails of who is going so we can coordinate. It will be a busy day there and it would be nice to connect ahead to make plans.

JUST IN from SUSAN:

I had several people say they were interested but already had other plans.

Two people indicated they might go, but with a weather forecast of 91% rain, I am cancelling this group activity. Many of you are going on the Southport field trip soon but we might do something else local later in the month.

AutumnFest is this Saturday in Southern Pines and many other events for fun photos.



SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB'S WEBSITE

WWW.SANDHILLSPHOTOCLUB.ORG



Website Notes for October 2026:

This month's featured member's website is by [Phil Lewis](#). Click his name to view his gallery/website or the link to his gallery/website is on our website homepage.

Club Directory

You may view the club directory at: [Club Directory](#). If you would like to have your photo added to the directory, or change the one in the gallery, just send a favorite to me at [John German](#). I will add it to the gallery. If you need the password, please email me and I will provide it. It is included in Alison's Upcoming Events announcement sent along with the club newsletter. The Club Directory and the Member's Only page passwords are the same.

Member Galleries

Members who would like a personal gallery should let me know at website@sandhillsphotoclub.org, and I will send an upload link for their use.

*See the website "Member Galleries" page for instructions on sizing, etc. **This link will continue to work but if you wish to change images, I must delete the old ones. You can upload at will. If you have lost your link, just let me know and I will resend it to you.***

Member Websites

If you have a personal website, please let me know and I can provide a link on the "Member's Galleries" page for you. Please view the members' websites & galleries on this tab on the club website.

PS: Please email any errors that you may notice on the website. I will correct them as soon as possible. website@sandhillsphotoclub.org

November 9th Meeting: Emilie Talpin: “Fun with Water Drops”

Emilie Talpin is an OM SYSTEM Ambassador and 3 Legged Thing Pro Team.



She grew up in Chalon-sur-Saône, France, the birthplace of Nicéphore Niépce and the first photograph. Despite this background, she got into photography very late, and in 2018 joined a local camera club where she met a group of talented photographers and was inspired to dive deeper into the art of capturing moments in time.



Jean Antholzner

Emilie Talpin has been published and featured in Petapixel Magazine, the Phoblographers, Sciences et Vie Junior, The Weather Channel, B & H, Adorama, Hunt's Photo and Video, OM SYSTEM, and 3 Legged Thing. She also has her own YouTube channel, where she publishes educational videos every Sunday.

Fun with Water Drops – The Art of Capturing Refraction

Description: In this program, OM SYSTEM ambassador Emilie Talpin will immerse you in the world of water drop photography, also known as refraction. If you are not familiar with this term, refraction is when the light passes from one medium and into another, affecting the direction of the light. In macro photography, the capture of a background subject into a foreground water drop is a good illustration of refraction. We will learn how to capture such images and go over the equipment needed as well as techniques and tips to make a successful photo.





Michael Sassano

PHOTO CONTEST *Bugs*

SHOWCASE THE BEAUTY AND
DIVERSITY OF THE INSECT WORLD.



Look for colorful butterflies,
buzzing bees, or intricate
spider webs.



Consider photographing
insects in their **natural**
habitats, interacting with
flowers or other insects.



Try to capture their
unique features and
behaviors.



*Get outside.
Look closer.
Capture wonder.*



Entries Open

11/07/2026

Entries Close

11/14/2026

Results Event

12/14/2026

Results Event 12/14/2026 (SPC Holiday Party)

WORKSHOPS – CAL RICE

Workshop: Saturday, November 14, at 9:00, in our usual Ball Center meeting room, Using the Internet, will be our final workshop for the year. **John German** will cover our website, and **Josh Simpson** will address some of the online photo resources.

John German: For a short time on November 14th, we will explore the mysteries of your Sandhills Photography Club website, www.sandhillsphtoclub.org. The website has a large base of knowledge of the club, its history, and its activities. You are able to see a collection of zoom meetings, competition galleries, and membership information as well as the monthly schedule. If you are good with the internet and searching websites, this may not be for you since it will be a simple discussion of how the site can help a member join in club activities. I will cover the basics of the information available and how it is set up for your use. Questions are welcome and I will endeavor to show why we can't do certain things which will include my own limitations.

Josh Simpson: After John has given you a tour of the club website, I will be sharing my favorite online educational resources. Not only will you get introduced to some of my favorite YouTube Channels, but I will also be showing you how to get free access to multiple issues of several dozen photography magazines.

Cal Rice
SPC Workshop Chairman



Cal Rice

Tip of the Month – Neva Scheve

The **October Tip of the Month** comes from **Josh Simpson**, just in time for the Bugs Competition! (Neva's 'bug shot'):



I'm you've been out trying to get a bug photo for December's competition topic, you have probably realized how challenging they can be to photograph. With their small size and quick speed, they often make for a difficult target. Fortunately, October brings a unique opportunity to grab that winnin photo before next month's submission deadline. With the cooler mornings, our cold blooded subjects will be slow and sluggish. That dragonfly that has been taunting you all summer is now a sitting duck, unable to fly until the sun has warmed it back up! As an added bonus, there should also be plenty of dew and rich fall colors to give your photo that extra sparkle. So, bundle up and get out early before it's too late!

Neva



Neva Scheve



Please Join Us
For
Sandhills Photography Club's
Holiday Dinner



Monday, December 14th

Longleaf Golf Club

10 N Knoll Road

Cocktail Hour 6:00 pm

Crudit  and Cheese Display

Dinner 7:00 pm

Grilled Salmon Beef Tenderloin

Potato au Gratin, Fresh Green Beans and Caesar Salad

Lemon Cake or Chocolate Mousse Cake

Iced Tea and Soft Drinks

\$45 per person



Holiday Dinner Meeting

During Dinner we will have:

- Our BUG Competition Results
- Stoffel Awards Presented
- Installation of 2026 Officers

To RSVP for this SPC Holiday Dinner for Members and Guests:

- Please use our website link for instantaneous acceptance:
<https://www.sandhillsphotoclub.org/pay-for-holiday-dinner>
\$45 per person and email membership@sandhillsphotoclub.org
with your guest's name

OR

- Mail check (\$45.00 per person) with guest's name attending to:
Sandhills Photo Club
PO Box 763
Southern Pines, NC 28388

OR

- Bring a check with guest's name to the SPC meeting on October 13.

We hope to see you there

* You may pay for the Holiday Dinner and Annual Dues with one check (\$45 per person + \$55 individual membership). **Please note purpose on the memo line of the check and include guest's name.**

Note: Your payment must be provided by **November 22** to allow the Treasurer to give Longleaf a final count for ordering food. No names will be accepted without payment.



Mary Bonsall

SPC 2026 Membership	
Individual	80
Honorary Members	3
Family	13
Family +1	15
Student	1
Total Members	112

**Welcome to our newest members, DONNA & DAVID CHALLENGER!!
We hope to see you both at our October meeting!!!!**

It's that time again to pay your SPC dues, now for 2027. The cost has remained the same amount for another year.

Individual \$55

Family \$75

Student \$20 (over 18 and enrolled)

Dues collection will open Oct 1 through December 31 but we encourage you to pay early to avoid those pesky reminders all season. We hope you'll stay on and enjoy SPC for another year.

There are three ways to pay for dues:

- Please use our website link for instantaneous acceptance:
<https://www.sandhillsphtoclub.org/membershipdues>

OR

- Mail check to:
Sandhills Photo Club
PO Box 763
Southern Pines, NC 28388

OR

- Bring a check with you to the SPC meeting on October 13 or November 9.



We hope to see you next year!



October: A Photographer's Dream Month

October may be one of the best months of the year to pick up your camera. The days are still long enough to explore, the light becomes softer and warmer, and everywhere you look there are new colors, textures, and stories waiting to be captured.

For photographers, October offers an incredible variety of opportunities—from brilliant fall landscapes to farmers markets, architecture, wildlife, portraits, and the simple beauty of everyday life.

Fall Colors and Landscapes

Of course, October means **fall color**. As the leaves begin to change, familiar places can look completely different. Look beyond the obvious wide landscape and photograph individual leaves, reflections, winding roads, old fences, and colorful trees against the sky.

Try visiting the same location at different times of day. Early morning can provide mist and gentle light, while late afternoon brings warm, directional light. Overcast days are especially beautiful for capturing the rich colors and details of autumn foliage.

Take Advantage of October Light

The lower angle of the autumn sun creates beautiful opportunities for photographers. Sunrise and sunset arrive at more convenient times than during the summer, making it easier to get out for golden-hour photography.

Look for backlighting through the trees, long shadows, silhouettes, and sunbeams filtering through leaves. October light can turn an ordinary scene into something special.

Festivals, Farms and Fall Events

October is filled with photographic possibilities: pumpkin patches, harvest festivals, hayrides, craft fairs, farmers markets, Halloween displays and community events.

Don't photograph only the main attraction. Look for the details—the hands selecting a pumpkin, a child's expression, an old barn, baskets of produce, colorful signs, or the interaction between people.

These small moments often tell the bigger story.

Wildlife and Nature

Cooler temperatures can make October a wonderful time to photograph wildlife and nature. Birds are active, insects can still be found on warm days, and changing vegetation provides beautiful natural backgrounds.

Try slowing down and looking closely. A single leaf covered with morning dew, an interesting mushroom, spiderwebs, or an insect resting on an autumn flower can make a compelling photograph.

Architecture Takes on a New Look

October is also a wonderful month for architectural photography. Historic buildings, churches, barns and downtown streets can be photographed with the added dimension of fall foliage.

Look for relationships between old and new, straight lines against organic shapes, colorful reflections in windows, and details that might normally go unnoticed.

Try Something Different

October is a perfect month to challenge yourself. Think about the Scottish Games outing - nearby but feels like a world away.

If you normally photograph landscapes, try street photography. If you love people photography, try architecture. If you're always looking for the big picture, spend an afternoon photographing details.

Give yourself a theme for the month: **"One photograph a day."** Or try **texture, reflections, shadows, color, doors, harvest, or changing seasons.** You may be surprised by what catches your eye when you deliberately look for something different.

And Don't Forget Halloween!

October gives photographers permission to have a little fun. Halloween provides endless opportunities for creative photography—costumes, decorations, dramatic lighting, pumpkins, portraits and spooky still lifes.

Try creating your own Halloween scene rather than simply documenting one. A little imagination, an interesting light source and a few inexpensive props can produce a surprisingly creative image.

Make October Your Photography Month

The best part of October photography isn't necessarily traveling somewhere spectacular. It's learning to see what is already around you in a new way.

Take your camera with you. Explore a familiar place. Look for the unexpected. Chase beautiful light. Stop for the details.

October is changing the landscape every day. Don't miss the opportunity to photograph it.

If you have any questions, concerns or ideas, please share at membership@sandhillsphtoclub.org

Mary



MEMBER

I encountered SPC member **Lana COBLE** last week at the first meeting of the Ad Astra Astronomical Society. She regaled us with fascinating stories of her travels to the Canadian Arctic Circle and shared amazing photos of the Northern Lights and beyond in -63F! She shared the connection of astrology to astronomy, which the group found interesting, and I needed to hear more. This week, she invited me to her home, that was stunning, and that she designed. I hope you'll enjoy her story as I did over a cappuccino!

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She Swam Upstream — and Made Her Own Map

There are people who follow a path that has already been laid out for them.

And then there are people who look at the map, decide it isn't big enough, and draw their own.

Lana Coble

She has always been the second kind. Long before women were commonplace in the commercial construction industry, she was making her way into a field where few women had gone before. With a master's degree in architecture and a determination that seemed to come naturally, she became the **first woman to work in Commercial General Contracting in Houston**, eventually rising to Vice President in just four years and becoming one of the company's top producers at 28.

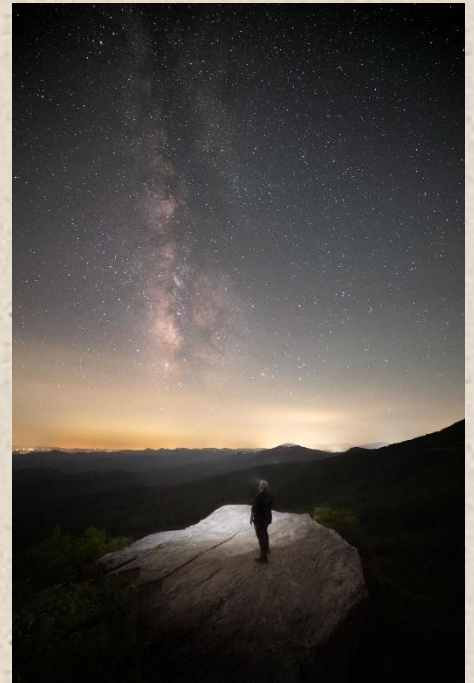
Her career took her from architecture into commercial construction, where she worked on hospitals, schools and other major projects. But for her, construction was never simply about steel, concrete and buildings. "It was about the people." The buildings mattered because of the lives that would happen inside them—and because of the people she worked alongside to make them possible. She also spent 25 years as an adjunct professor teaching construction management, helping students find a practical, viable career and build a life of their own.

Her philosophy could be summed up in one sentence advice from her dad: **Never let anyone tell you what you can't do—and know your limitations.** Perhaps that combination explains so much about her life: the willingness to push forward, tempered by the wisdom to know herself.

A Father Who Said Yes

Some of that confidence began at home. Her father, a Navy veteran of the Korean War, encouraged her curiosity rather than putting limits on it. When she became interested in photography, he didn't dismiss it as a passing hobby. He built her a darkroom. That simple act opened a door.

She learned black-and-white photography and eventually converted her dorm room into a darkroom while she was in college at Trinity University. She became the campus photographer, discovering that



a camera could do something words sometimes couldn't: stop a moment and make someone else feel it. Photography would remain with her throughout her life.

Later, when she married Guusje, who had twin girls, Lana gave her original Yashica camera to one of her daughters. A few years afterward came the digital revolution and a Canon 5D, which led her into bird photography. A trip to Norway introduced her to another genre—landscape photography—and then she began working with a 100–400mm lens.

Eventually, after travel to Norway, she upgraded again, moving to a Canon R5 Mark II and a 600mm prime lens, and 4 other lenses an investment of roughly \$40,000. For someone who sees photography as simply taking pictures, that might seem extraordinary. For her, it makes perfect sense.

The Feeling Inside the Photograph

Her photography is bold because she is bold.

She has never been afraid to swim upstream, and she doesn't make photographs that simply document what is in front of her. She wants the viewer to **feel** something.

Her nickname, Zilla, seems fitting. There is an intensity to the way she approaches life—and to the way she approaches a photograph.

She talks about zooming in, getting close, finding the detail that makes a viewer stop. Thus her photography business is named Zilla Zoom (see link at end of article).

A successful photograph, to her, can communicate the way other art forms do. It can create emotion without saying a word.

Perhaps that is why her favorite photographs are not necessarily the most technically perfect ones. They are the ones that capture **the moment**—a special instant beneath the stars, a bird in an unexpected pose, a landscape that suddenly feels alive.

Photography, for her, is about being present enough to recognize that moment when it arrives.

Looking Beyond the Building

Her professional life taught her to look beneath the surface. A building isn't merely a structure. It represents the people who designed it, built it, worked in it, cared for it and depended upon it. The same idea seems to have followed her into every chapter of her life.

At 28, she already had a master's degree in architecture and was serving as a vice president. It would have been easy to look at that success and say, *This is it. I've arrived.* Instead, she asked herself: **Is that all there is?** That question opened another door.

For 44 years, astrology and metaphysics have been part of her exploration of life and her desire to help other people understand themselves and build better lives.

A fascination with the questions that don't have easy answers eventually led her to Norman Vincent Peale, therapy, Unity Church, metaphysics and a spiritual retreat in West Virginia. At the retreat, she encountered astrology in a deeper way. Someone read her chart and described aspects of her life with such insight that she wanted to understand the process herself.

Back in Houston, she had three readings, followed one particular path with a woman who eventually trained her and became her mentor and friend.

For her, astrology isn't about predicting a predetermined future. She describes it more as a **roadmap to life**—a way of recognizing energetic windows of opportunity and understanding the forces that may be influencing a person.

Her insight into people also became useful professionally. Understanding personalities, motivations and individual strengths helped her work with teams and recognize what people needed. She has an astrology practice in Southern Pines at Crystals & Timber, and it showcases her sense of humor, with it's name Up Up Uranus.

A Life of Many Lives

Now, as she recently turned 70—her birthday is December 31—she says the milestone has opened her eyes in new ways. Looking back, the common thread isn't one profession or one passion. It is curiosity.

Architecture led to construction.

Construction led to teaching.

Photography became a way of seeing.

Astrology became a way of understanding.

And throughout it all was a desire to make a difference in other people's lives.

Even her family story contains contrasts. Her younger sister became a soccer mom raising three boys—a very different path from her own.

And then there are the unexpected chapters: rescuing dogs, including one memorable rescue in Alabama involving a dog, a mishap with her locked car, and even her apparent surprising work as a death doula.

The details may seem unrelated at first. But perhaps they aren't. They all involve the same instinct: **to notice, to understand, and to help.**

Still Looking Through the Lens

There is something wonderfully fitting about a woman who spent her career building hospitals and schools, teaching people how to build careers, studying the maps of people's lives—and then picking up a camera to capture the world as it really feels.

She has spent a lifetime refusing to accept that there is only one way to live.

Her father built her first darkroom.

Her career broke through a door that had largely been closed to women.

Her photographs ask viewers to stop and feel.

Her teaching helped others build lives.

And her spiritual work has given her another language for understanding the people she encounters.

Maybe that is what happens when someone spends a lifetime swimming upstream.

You don't always end up where the river expected you to go.

Sometimes you discover your own direction.

And sometimes, if you're lucky, you have a camera in your hands when you find it.

To learn more about Lana:

<https://zillaszoomphoto.com/>

<https://www.upupuranus.com/>

~~~~~

*Mary*



OUTINGS:

STREET PHOTO

CHALLENGE:

Pinehurst, Southern  
Pines, Aberdeen

out & about

Images by:

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Susan Bailey     | Neva Scheve |
| Susanne Priest   | Diane McKay |
| Gisela Danielson | Dawn Willis |
| Lana Rebert      | Kim Butler  |
| Jameson Everett  | Pam Jensen  |



*Neva Scheve - Pinehurst*



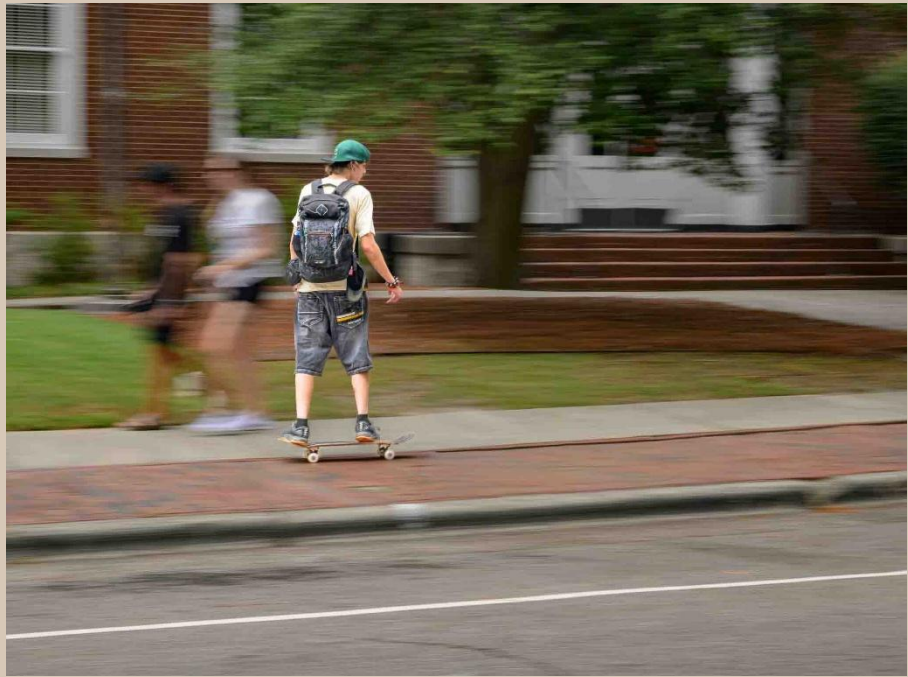
*Susanne Priest – Pinehurst*



*Diane McKay – Pinehurst*



*Jameson Everett – Southern Pines*



*Pam Jensen – Southern Pines*



*Lana Rebert – Southern Pines*

*Dawn Willis – Aberdeen*



*Kim Butler - Aberdeen*



*Gisela Danielson - Aberdeen*



Website: [www.sandhillsphtoclub.org](http://www.sandhillsphtoclub.org)  
Newsletter: [communications@sandhillsphtoclub.org](mailto:communications@sandhillsphtoclub.org)



## 2026 SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB BOARD AND CHAIRS

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| Workshops      | Cal Rice        | <a href="mailto:workshops@sandhillsphtoclub.org">workshops@sandhillsphtoclub.org</a>           |

CONTACT "IN FOCUS"  
EDITOR Alison Earl with  
any questions, concerns,  
ideas, submissions  
(including images), etc. @

[communications@sandhillsphtoclub.org](mailto:communications@sandhillsphtoclub.org)

*Alison Earl*



**Sandhills Photography Club**  
P.O. Box 763, Southern Pines, NC 28388