

IN FOCUS



SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Editor: Alison Earl, communications@sandhillsphtoclub.org



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Our very own **Lana Rebert** is sharing her recently learned way to make an ICE BUBBLE, and, in this case, TEACH all of US how to make the magic happen.

I can tell you from experience in South Carolina it wasn't cold enough to get one to not pop in 2 seconds, although probably wrong recipe.

Thank you, Lana!
Alison

Saw this on the senior shutterbug site.

The solution recipe is: 1 cup warm water, 2.5 tbsp corn syrup, 2 tbsp sugar, and 2.5 tbsp dish soap

Maybe one of you might like to try it if it's not too windy.



LANA REBERT

As I sit here today writing this, half of my mind is hoping and praying that the ice won't accumulate too much, and the other half is thinking of the beautiful scenes the ice on trees produces and the best way to capture those scenes if they come to pass. I am not generally a fan of cold weather, but I do appreciate the beauty of snow and icescapes, nevertheless.



Phil Lewis

The topic today is **shooting RAW vs. shooting JPEG**. This is a topic that is sometimes a bit confusing and can spark spirited debate. What are RAW camera files and why would we as photographers care? It may be useful to review how digital images are recorded in order to understand the difference between the two formats.

CMOS (Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor) image sensors dominate the modern digital camera landscape. CCD (Charged Couple Device) image sensors were the first sensors developed in the 70s but are primarily used in specialized scientific applications, medical imaging and astrophotography due to better low light performance and decreased noise. Both sensors are composed of an array of photosensitive elements covered by a microlens that generate an electrical charge when exposed to light. The charge is proportional to the intensity of the light (i.e. the number of photons) hitting the photosensitive element. One of the primary differences is that CCD sensors have one digital to analog converter/amplifier and read the values sequentially from each sensor element while CMOS sensor elements each have an individual A/D converter amplifier and thus produce image readouts much faster than CCD sensors. Color sensors have alternating rows of red, green and blue filters over the photosensitive elements to make each sensitive to different wavelengths of light which are combined to form a color image whereas monochrome sensors produce a grayscale image by sensing white light equally across all elements. The purpose of the A/D converter is to take the continuous analog signal from light stimulation and break it into discrete segments (called bits) so that they can be manipulated by mathematical models. Nikon, Canon and Sony all produce RAW image files that record the light responses of each sensor element into 12- or 14-bit segments depending on how fast the responses are needed. At higher capture rates the responses are recorded in 12-bits to provide less information at a faster rate. 14-bit recording provides the most information to work with but take longer to record. Many articles will say that the difference between taking images in RAW format and JPEG format is the compression applied to the image. That is an oversimplification that downplays the advantages RAW recording has in manipulating images. RAW image recording can also involve compression, but compressed RAW images still offer significant advantages to JPEG image manipulation. To understand why we need to explore the way each pixel in the image is produced.

Most modern sensors use a Bayer filter pattern where image pixels are grouped into four sensor elements covered by one blue, one red and 2 green filters. These are combined to produce one image pixel of a specific color. Information recorded in 12 bits can record 4,096 discrete colors while 14 bits produces 16,384 discrete colors. If an image program understands the underlying method the camera uses to produce that one image pixel, and the information for each image

Continued



sensor is still available, the program can change the way the underlying photosensor information is manipulated to produce the image pixel rather than simply changing the color or intensity of the image pixel already produced. That is why whenever a new camera is produced it often takes a little while for imaging programs to be able to open and manipulate the RAW files it produces while the program can immediately load and manipulate the JPEG images it produces. Adobe has developed a standard specification for RAW files DNG or digital negative, but none of the major camera manufacturers have signed on to use it and to date produce proprietary RAW files. After a file is “developed” the image program is no longer manipulating the underlying data, it is simply adjusting the color and intensity of each image pixel produced from the underlying data. Sometimes the development process occurs in a separate program before the image is loaded into image software. Sometimes the development process is combined into the image software. For instance, in Luminar Neo whenever a RAW image is loaded, the development tab is labeled “Develop RAW” and color, brightness, contrast and sharpness of the image can be adjusted using all of the underlying photosensitive element data. Once you apply any other change, the image is “developed” and from that point forward you are simply manipulating the color and intensity of the image pixel produced by the development process. That is the difference in a nutshell- manipulating the underlying data vs. manipulating the image pixel produced by the underlying data. It makes a difference when you are trying to bring detail out of an improperly exposed area or capture the full dynamic range of the scene before you. The more data available to the program, the more nuanced and finer the adjustments to the image can be.

As previously mentioned, a camera can produce an uncompressed RAW image which will have all of the information recorded available. It can also produce a compressed RAW image which will have most of the underlying image information but discards some of it to achieve a smaller file size. Sony cameras can also produce RAW files compressed with a special “lossless compression” algorithm which (Sony claims) retains all of the information of an uncompressed file in a smaller file size. The “lossless large” file maintains full sensor resolution while the “lossless medium” and “lossless small” algorithm achieve a smaller file size by producing an image of a lower resolution than full sensor resolution.

So, what’s the deal with JPEG images? It’s apparent from what I said above that they are “developed” before we ever see them. Who developed them? The camera. When you record JPEG images, the camera uses all of the underlying data to produce a developed image using the factory algorithms and settings, compresses that image to the level specified by the user, then discards all of the information except the dots of various colors and intensities that make up the JPEG image. You cede the ability to manipulate the photosensor data to the camera and retain only the ability to manipulate the dots that the camera produces. The compression is only part of the compromise made- even if the camera produced a full resolution TIFF image without compression, you would still be manipulating the image dot and not the underlying information that produced that dot.

What does this mean in real world applications? As I previously stated, shooting in RAW vs shooting in JPEG can make a noticeable difference when the image is over or underexposed and when there is a wide dynamic range of color, contrast and brightness in a scene. Night



photography and astrophotography are two areas that can benefit significantly from shooting in RAW. Shooting in JPEG yields smaller files which are easier to store and transfer, and in some cases is the only way to capture in certain high frame rate applications. The bottom line is that if you are always satisfied with the appearance of the JPEG files your camera produces and feel no need to change them significantly then shooting in JPEG is a good choice. But, if you routinely make big changes to your images with extensive post-production manipulation, you will see big benefits in shooting RAW

Phil Lewis

COMPETITIONS – MIKE SASSANO

Doorknobs Competition Results Event

February 9, 2026

DOORKNOBS – Explore the unique and often overlooked details of doorknobs, revealing their historical and cultural significance. Consider photographing doorknobs in different styles, materials, or locations. Experiment with different angles and perspectives to capture the unique features of doorknobs. Try using a macro lens to get close-ups of intricate details. The image could include hardware that is designed to open the door like a doorknob like a lever or latch.

OUR JUDGE: Vickie is a professional photographer with The Professional Photography Group (PPG) based in Charlotte, North Carolina where she also resides. She has been part of the PPG Group for the last 13 years. Vickie has been taking photos since she turned seven years old with her first Kodak camera. Vickie bought her first Canon DSLR after graduating from Nursing School at UNC Charlotte in the 80's. Vickie is the lead sports coordinator for PPG for the Charlotte Independence Professional Soccer team and a lead shooter for many sporting and other events for PPG each year. Vickie also assists in teaching Bootcamp for The Photo Classroom (the other part of PPG).

Vickie loves all types of photography, but especially sports, wildlife and landscapes. She was the lead photographer for Lipscomb University and Trevecca Nazarene University, shooting multiple sports for them and was credentialed by the NCAA for sports events and NCAA tournaments. Vickie is a Canon shooter and shoots all mirrorless now since she retired from her corporate job one year ago.



Mike Sassano



Judge: Vickie Monteith

OUTINGS - SUSAN BAILEY

Painted Ponies will be announced in future

Hounds on the Grounds, Weymouth Center¶

When: **Saturday, February 28, 8:30am¶**

Meet: 8:30 in front of the Weymouth Center¶

Address: 555 East Connecticut Avenue, Southern Pines

Brunch: Betsy's Crepes, 127 SW Broad Street,
Southern Pines <https://betsys-crepes.club/>

Description: This is such a fun annual event when riders in their red jackets and many hounds

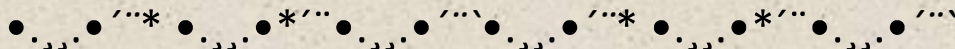


arrive at the Weymouth Center and mingle in the yard where you can take lots of photos. They are scheduled to come up the dirt road to the left of the house at 9am, but they have been early so I suggest you be ready by 8:30am. Anyone who wants brunch can go to Betsy's crepes when the horses leave, usually around 10am.

For **both** events I would like to know who is planning to attend and whether you will be eating afterwards so I can try to make a reservation... [EMAIL SUSAN HERE](#)



Susan Bailey



PROGRAMS – JEAN ANTHOLZNER

March 9th - How Did You Get That Shot?
With Betsy Wilson



Plans are being made to hold **four workshops** this year.

1. The first is **March 7** on the topics:

Focus Shift Photography and Multiple Exposure
led by **Robert D'Ottavio**

2. Later in March, **Jacques Wood** will explore **Pet Photography**



Cal Rice

Still to come will be a **2-part session (Date To Be Announced)**:

3. **Using the internet:**

- **John German** will lead a detailed immersion into our own website
- **Josh Simpson** will help us get started accessing photography education on the web.

4. The fourth workshop is still being finalized.

Cal Rice



Tip of the Month



Neva Scheve

February's Tip of the Month comes from John German

Using Auto ISO in Manual Mode from Simon d'Entremont:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0stv_4o3GbY

Do you have a favorite tip to share? If so, send it to Neva Scheve
at Ombudsman@sandhillsphtoclub.org

Deb Castle
Chair, Field Trips
937-409-1582 cell



Deb Castle

**VIRGINIA BEACH
SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB
SPRING FIELD TRIP
APRIL 27-30, 2026**



**SpringHill Suites by
Marriott Virginia Beach Oceanfront**
901 Atlantic Avenue
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
757-417-3982

*Indoor, Outdoor Pool and Fitness Center
Complimentary Breakfast
All Suites w/Balconies
Restaurant and Bar*

**\$179.00 per night (2 Queens or King)
3 night stay required**

Click on link below to reserve:
[Springhill Suites](#)

*2 more nights may be available at pricing.
Call hotel directly to request extra days.*



Activities include:

VA Beach & Boardwalk
Virginia Aquarium
First Landing State Park
Military Aviation Museum

Norfolk Botanical Garden
Nauticus Museum and
Battleship Wisconsin
Chrysler Museum
and Perry Glass Studios



**RSVP to Deb Castle
at
937-409-1582 text
or email**

Fieldtrips@sandhillsphtoclub.org

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER
3/28/2026**



SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB'S WEBSITE

WWW.SANDHILLSPHOTOCLUB.ORG



John German

Website Notes for February 2026:

*This month's featured member's website is by **John German**. Click his name to view his gallery or the link to his gallery 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 member's 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***

Members In Good Standing for 2026	90
Honorary Members	3
Paid Renewals	85
4 th Qtr New Member	2
Members Not Newed	22
Members Who Have Resigned	
TOTAL	114



Mary Bonsall

LAST MINUTE UPDATE: Mei Kei McDowell has renewed her membership. Now living in Germany with her husband, baby girl, and devoted dog!!!

Our second month of winter has come with a roar ... not too many of us are escaping this swath of cold, freezing rain, and snow. Oh, to be one of our members enjoying summer in the Southern Hemisphere right now; girl can dream!

Due to no internet and sporadic power, I am taking a few shortcuts to make my newsletter article deadline. I am sharing a link to The Photographic Life article on the ‘Complete Guide to Winter Photography’ – I enjoyed it and hope you will too.

<https://photographylife.com/winter-phptgraphy-guide>

In our member highlights, I chose a woman that lights up a room like no other and has more energy to power Southern Pines for a month! I do hope to highlight everyone in our club but if you don’t respond, I move you to the ‘not interested’ group. In the meantime, please reach out to me if you have time to be interviewed...I’d love to have many in reserve so I’m not frantic at month’s end! Yes, I am quite the procrastinator and by the time I begin, and play telephone tag with my victims, I often barely eke out a product. I’ve had many gracious members help me in my time of need.

Also, we need help in the Membership Committee. Since Jean was elevated to Queen VP, we are short at the desk for monthly meetings; greeting members and signing in guests is actually fun. If you’re at most meetings, please reach out to me at membership@sandhillsp Photoclub.org. There’s some letter writing that we could use help with also.



Sally Mason & Friend

Our member highlight this month is also our Hospitality Chair, **Sally Mason**. Sally is a delightful whirlwind of energy who gathers, feeds and entertains our in-person attending members every month. She learned years ago while living in Sweden, how to not overburden herself but instead do what ‘brings her joy’. We are very grateful to Sally for bringing us joy in the form of food and fellowship.

Born and raised in Indiana, she attended Indiana University Dental School and became a dental hygienist, which was her career for 47 years! That’s a lot of plaque! (Yes, she even gloated a bit at brunch bunch about IU’s big win over Miami last week). She met her husband Stu while she was in dental school in Indianapolis and he was in Engineering school in

Michigan. It didn't take long for them to realize they were meant for each other and they married pretty quickly while he was home from school. She relayed a funny story about a cash wedding gift they had received and as they were deciding what to spend it on, she asked him "do you like photography", he said yes, and they invested in a Canon AE-1. Turns out, he didn't like photography but knew she did and it was one of many selfless things Stu did for his new bride.

Sally and Stu raised their family in Indiana and only moved to Whispering Pines when her daughter, who lived here, had her first grandchild. In fact, she moved that EXACT day. Four years later, her other daughter, still in Indiana, added to their grandchildren so she finds herself traveling back often and loves spending time with six grandchildren.

Asked about her photographic journey, Sally admitted to always loving her Polaroid 'Swinger' during Girl Scouts. This was the first inexpensive instant camera that was a hit in the youth market with a cute Meeting the Swinger jingle. Another instant camera followed before her plunge into marriage and the AE1 which she was thrilled over. She immediately took a photo class and then quickly WON a photo competition that she entered; she claims most likely due to her creativity. While she says she isn't passionate about photography I can't help but disagree. She has so many "loves" that she doesn't have time to delve deeper into photography. What a myriad of talent she has including quilting, painting, jewelry making, welding, soldering, and more design crafts too ... remember her creative award-winning peacock scarecrow at the gardens last fall?

An early passion in college was singing. She had been playing piano and a local guitarist asked her to jam and that was the beginning of paying gigs. In fact, Sally met her husband Stu at a church while she was singing in a show where she asked for prayers that God guide her singing mission. Stu prayed for her and thus began their lifelong partnership. Sally also became a part-time promoter of Christian concerts and is happy she was able to attend concerts free for over 30 years!

Sally and Stu lived in Sweden for several years while he was employed by SAAB working on aircraft engine design and were fortunate to travel all over from there. They even purchased a tandem bike and toured with a tandem biking group through Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Lichtenstein and France. Can you imagine! Recent travels included Morocco and this April they're headed to Ireland.

Sally's favorite genre is the outdoors; landscape and flowers and she's focused on MACRO now. In SPC, Sally loves the friendships and love of 'beauty' that we share in our quest to capture it through the lens. She encourages new members to "Just Do it" – take the shot you like, use an iPhone or camera, break the rules and enjoy!

As a former Welcome Wagon President, we are grateful to have Sally providing a warm welcome to all of us at our monthly member's meeting!

Mary

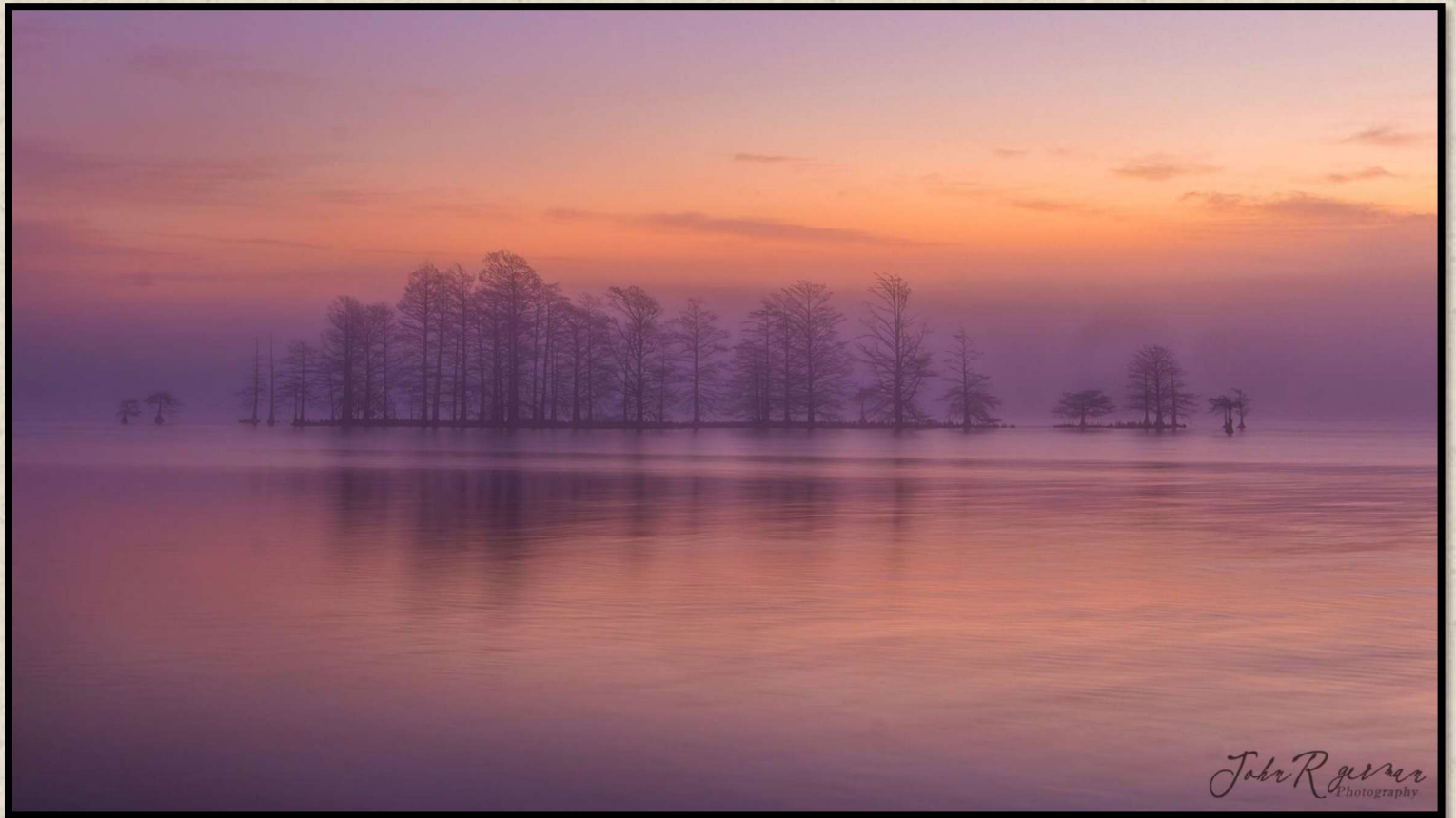


What's your BEST CAPTION for this picture from Pungo Lake & Lake Mattamuskeet Field Trip?

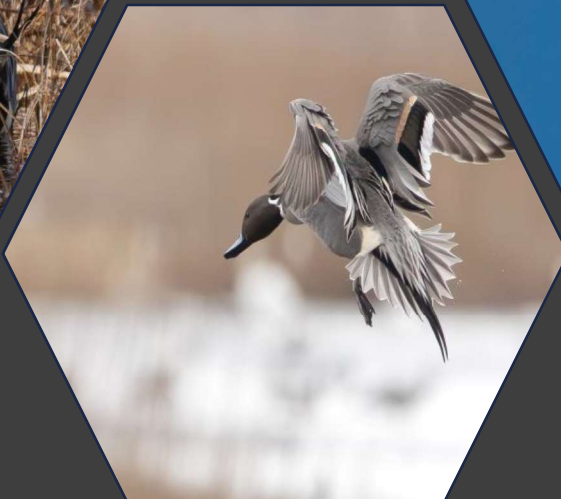
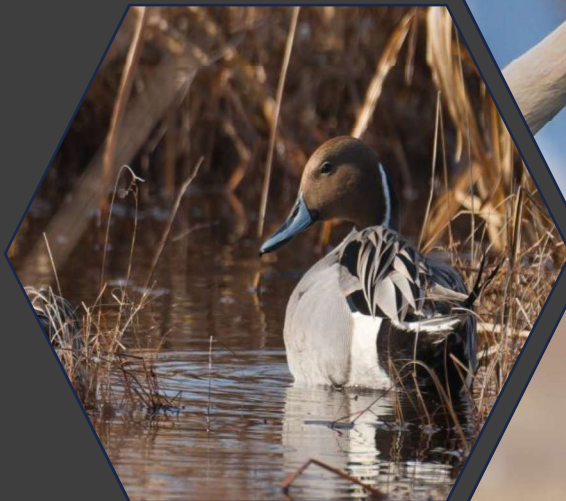
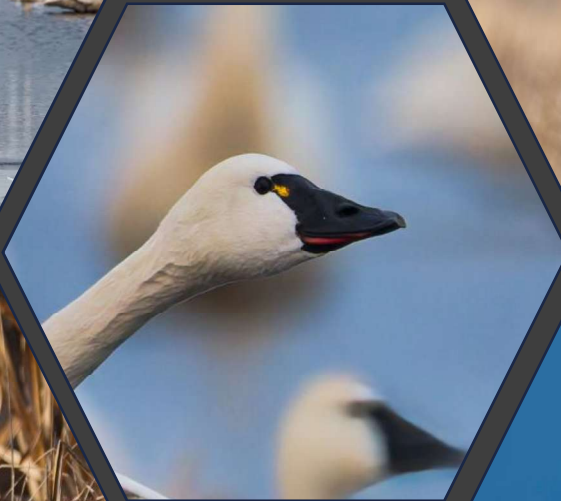
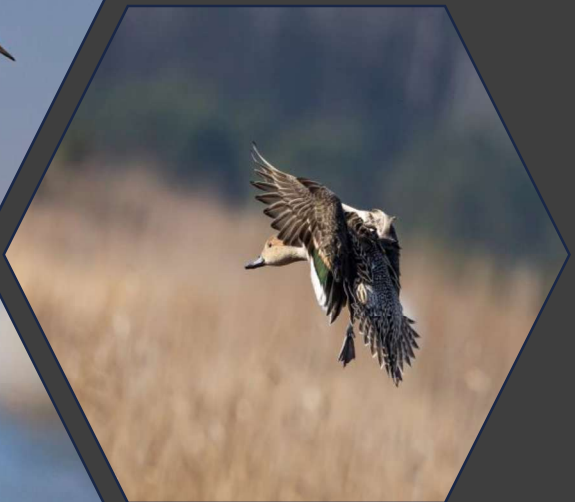
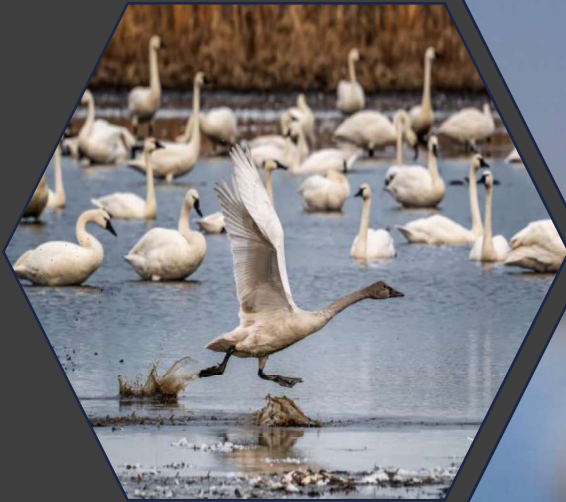
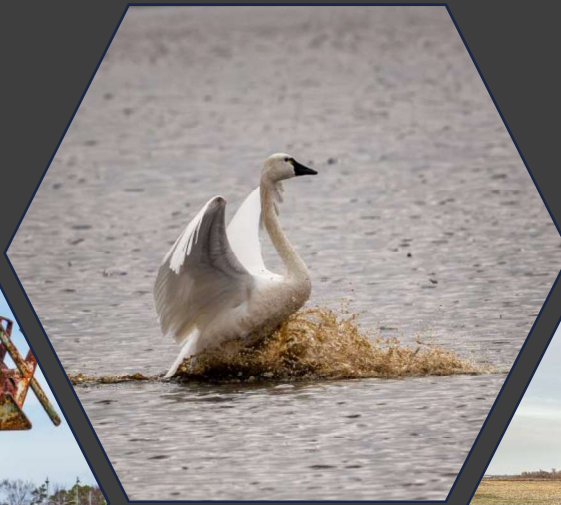


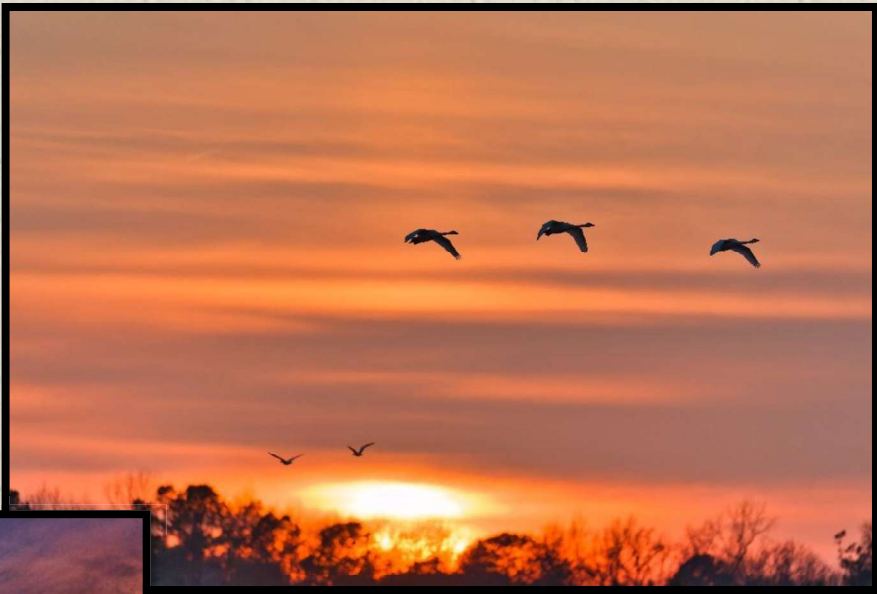
Send your creative titles/captions to:
Alison Earl: communication@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Winner announced in next month's InFocus!



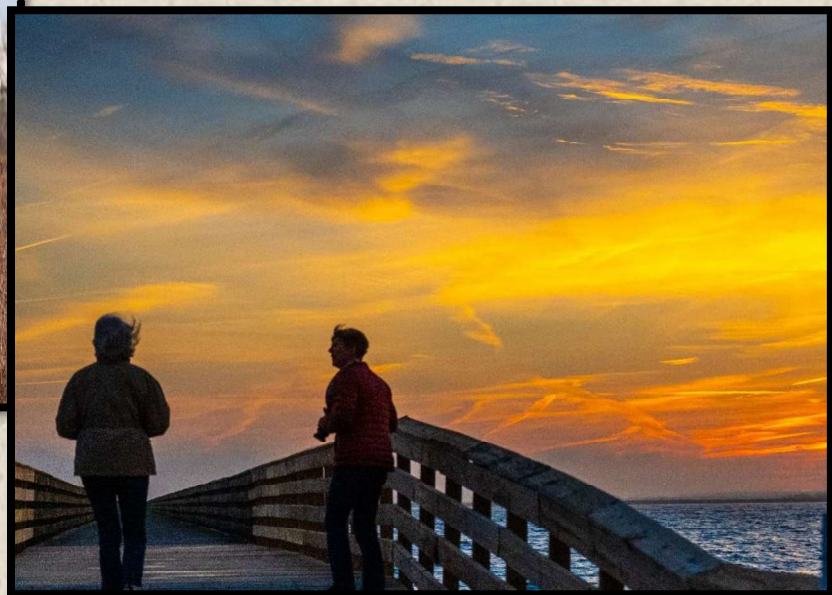




















Website: www.sandhillsphtoclub.org
Newsletter: communications@sandhillsphtoclub.org

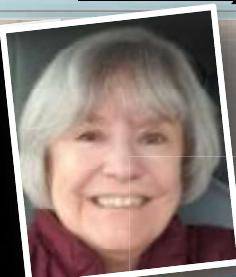


2025 SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB BOARD AND CHAIRS

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