

IN FOCUS



SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Editor: Alison Earl, communications@sandhillsphotoclub.org



VOL XXXX1, NUMBER 12

www.sandhillsphotoclub.org

December 2025

PRESIDENT – CAL RICE

Thank you, one and all, for your participation in the club this very successful year. I feel good about turning over leadership of the club to **Phil Lewis** and his team. The finances are in good shape, members actively participate in competition, programs, field trips and the many other activities that are available. May you have a wonderful holiday season and be rejuvenated for the doorknobs competition as the first challenge of 2026.

Cal



Cal Rice



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HOLIDAY DINNER - JACQUES WOOD, VICE PRESIDENT

Looking forward to seeing you at the SPC Holiday Dinner at the Longleaf Golf Club. Longleaf is located at 10 N. Knoll Road, Southern Pines. Knoll Road can be accessed off either Midland Road or Airport Road. Longleaf has two levels of parking. Suggest that members and guests with mobility issues park on the upper level where there is a ramp to the entrance.



Jacques Wood

SPC Officers & Board Members



Please Join Us
For
Sandhills Photography Club's

Holiday Dinner
Monday, December 8th
Longleaf Golf Club
10 N. Knoll Rd, Southern Pines

Cocktail Hour 6:00 pm
Cash Bar
Crudit  and Cheese Display

Dinner 7:00 pm
Grilled Salmon Beef Tenderloin
Potato au Gratin and Fresh Green Beans

Lemon Cake and Chocolate Mousse Cake

Iced Tea and Soft Drinks





\$40 per person



Note Address for GPS

SPC 2026 OFFICERS TO BE SWORN IN AT HOLIDAY DINNER:

President: Phil Lewis

Vice-President: Jean Antholzner

Secretary: Robert Mobsby

Treasurer: Steve Bonsall



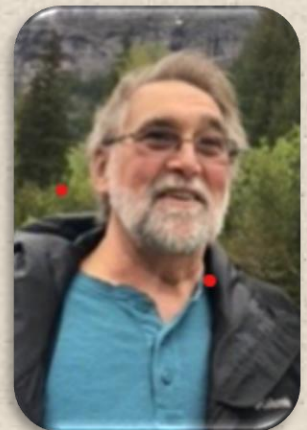
Phil Lewis
President



Jean Antholzner
Vice President



Robert Mobsby (Bob)
Secretary



Steve Bonsall
Treasurer

We THANK THEM
for volunteering!!!!

The **1st and 3rd Thursday** of every month we get together at Panera Bread at **10am** to spend casual time together. We talk about the club, photography in general, share some photos, etc. Dates for December will be the **4th and the 18th!!**



Susan Bailey

Many people get brunch and/or coffee, but you don't have to buy anything. We stay until 11:30 or after but you can come and go as you please.

It's a great way to get to know others without a structured schedule. No need to RSVP.

If you have any questions, send me an email at susanbaileyphoto@gmail.com



*Happy Holidays & a Very
Happy New Year to all*



*From the SPC Board
and all the Committee Chairs*



Member News



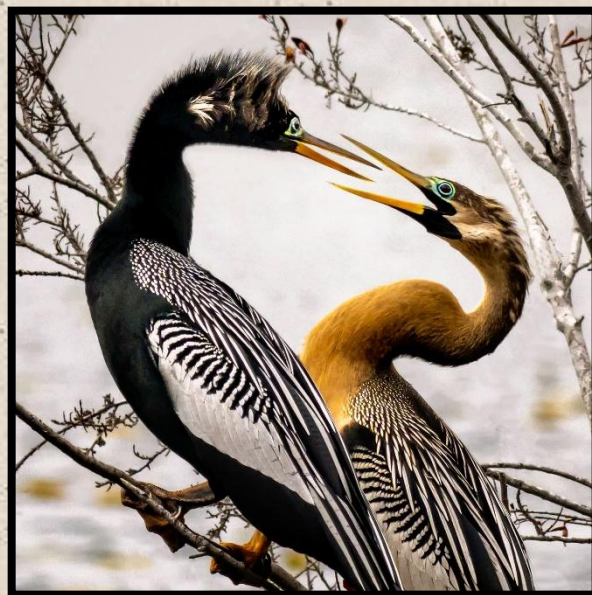
Our Winners!

The Capital City Club Competition was full of amazing images, 174 in total. Four of our members were among the 21 finalists.

- Dawn Willis took Best in Show with **Four Steeples** from Iceland.
- Neva Scheve received First Place Color for her **Courting Anhingas**, taken in South Carolina.
- Pat Anderson was a finalist with her taken during a performance of **Romeo and Juliet** by the Laura Alonso Dance Center in Cuba.
- Cathy Maready is a new member and was a finalist with **Earth Paints the Soul** taken in southern Ethiopia in the Omo Valley. The young lady is a member of the Suri Tribe.



Dawn Willis: Four Steeples from Iceland



Neva Scheve: Courting Anhingas



Pat Anderson: Romeo and Juliet



**Cathy Maready:
Earth Paints the Soul**



Deb Castle

**SAVE THE DATE!
WINTER FIELD TRIP
PLYMOUTH, NC
JANUARY 9 - 11, 2026**



**TWO GROUP DINNERS
GROUP BIRD PHOTO TRIPS**

**DOWNTOWN PLYMOUTH
ROANOKE RIVER MARITIME MUSEUM
PORT o'PLYMOUTH MUSEUM
BEAR-OLOGY MUSEUM
RED WOLF CENTER
DOWNTOWN BELHAVEN
SWAN QUARTER MARINAS**

**COMPLETE AGENDA EMAILED TO
ATTENDEES BY 12/15**

**HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
840 US-64
PLYMOUTH, NC
(252) 793-4700**

**NO ROOM BLOCK NEEDED
BEST TO BOOK ONLINE**

[Holiday Inn](#)



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

fieldtrips@sandhillsphtoclub.org

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER
12/27/2025**

EXHIBITS – SHARI DUTTON

Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered and attended the exhibition opening night at the Campbell House. It was a great evening and a wonderful display of the talent of our organization. For photos of the evening, please see our website.

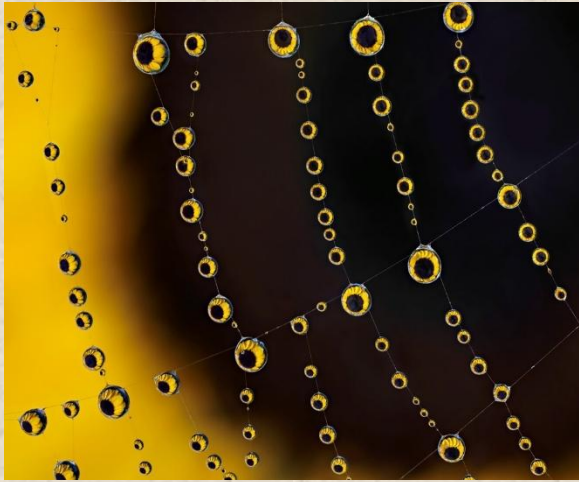
Laura Gingerich of Laura L. Gingerich Photography presented five Judge's Choice awards at the opening reception. The recipients were:

- Donna Ford - Sundrops
- Steve Sorsch – NC Art Museum
- Neve Scheve – Play Golf like No One is Watching
- Dale Jennings – Needs some TLC
- Shari Dutton – In the Deep Blue

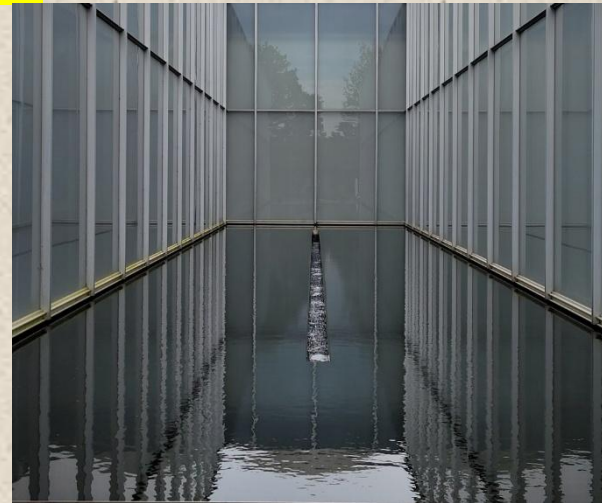


Shari Dutton

The exhibit goes through December 20th with Saturday house on November 15 and December 20th. And, please remember to pick up your artwork on the 20th.



Donna Ford - Sundrops



Steve Sorsch – NC Art Museum

Neve Scheve – Play Golf like No One is Watching



Shari Dutton – In the Deep Blue



Dale Jennings – Needs some TLC





SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB'S WEBSITE

www.sandhillsphotoclub.org



John German

Website Notes for December 2025:

This month's featured member's website is by [Lana Rebert](#). Click her name to view her gallery or the link to her 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

***** A Reminder *****

Next year's membership dues are due by **December 31, 2025**.
Membership dues for 2026 remain the same as this year.



Mary Bonsall

***** 38 members have not renewed yet for 2026.** We hope you'll stay onboard this vibrant team. Renew now and avoid jeopardizing your January competition entry...we will accept membership dues checks at the Holiday Party but if you're not attending go here Pay Membership Dues | Sandhills Photography Club | Pinehurst now to get back onboard. Remember if you pay by Paypal, you are instantly renewed for 2026...*****

Greetings from Membership! We are hoping all our special members return for another and arguably better year in Sandhills Photo Club.

I, for one, am very excited to see what Cal has up his sleeve for workshops. We did have a wonderful display of in-house talent when Cal, Neva and Jacques put their heads together in the printing, matting and framing workshop. The results are evident in Campbell House this month!

It feels surreal on November 19th to be writing for December, the first month of winter, before I head out for a walk in 73 degree weather. I hope it's an indicator of a mild winter. I have to say these days the only part of true winter I like is traipsing around in 1/2 inch of NC snow for photos. I only recall three very short opportunities last year.

Watch out its National Egg Nog month - could you imagine an eggnog per day for thirty days! While the creaminess is luscious, the sugar, fat and spirits could kill you. Not to be a downer but it's also National Impaired Driving Prevention Month. It's probably a good time to remember to celebrate responsibly, especially if you like egg nog.

Anyone know a good spot where we could gather and practice night photography? Meteor showers occurring in December are the Andromedids (September 25 – December 6, peaking around November 9), the Canis-Minorids (December 4 – December 15, peaking around December 10–11), the Coma Berenicids (December 12 to December 23, peaking around December 16), the Delta Cancrids (December 14 to February 14, the main shower from January 1 to January 24, peaking on January 17), the Geminids (December 13–14), the Monocerotids (December 7 to December 20, peaking on December 9. This shower can also start in November), the Phoenicids (November 29 to December 9, with a peak occurring around 5/6 December), the Quadrantids (typically a January shower but can also start in December), the Sigma Hydrids (December 4–15), and the Ursids (December 17-to December 25/26, peaking around December 22). There's also the last full moon on December 4th. December contains the winter solstice, the day with the fewest daylight hours, December 21-22., This time is celebrated globally as a time for reflection, renewal, and celebration. It's a

turning point in the year with a reflection on darkness and a celebration of light returning - a reminder to honor the beauty of both the darkness and the light and set intentions for the new year. There are many traditions for releasing the dark including candlelight vigils with meditation and reflecting on the past year and seeking a deep understanding of self. Take a nature walk and get real about changes we need and desire to make in our lives. Preparing smoke bundles with fragrant evergreens, and welcoming the dawn by embracing the stillness. Often the next day, we celebrate first light - let the return of the sun fill you with hope, joy, and endless possibilities.

It's no wonder that throughout history at this dark time of year, people around the world have celebrations of light: Hannukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa all celebrate the miracle of light in dark times. Many ancient people felt the interconnectedness of humans with nature and align celebrations with the sun and moon like the solstices.

To Know the Dark by Wendell Berry

To go in the dark with a light is to know the light.

To know the dark, go dark. Go without sight,
and find that the dark, too, blooms and sings,
and is traveled by dark feet and dark wings

However you celebrate this season, I wish you peace and joy.

Mary

I am happy to highlight two of the clubs' biggest contributors for 2025. In my humble opinion.



First, Jacques Wood, our vice president. Jacques has been a member for 6 1/2 years and has held a variety of positions for six years which shows his high level of engagement in and care for SPC. He has served as Workshop Chair, President, Past President and three terms as VP. This year, while serving as VP, he also filled in for the President as needed, picked up holiday party planning when Joann was injured, and spent significant time improving processes behind the scenes. He will move on to a bigger role in his Church next year but we will still enjoy his active participation at SPC. His mediation and arbitration background underlies everything that I've seen; including great listening skills, patient consideration of all aspects and opinions and focus on the best

practices for the club.

Jacques was born in Texas, raised in NJ and attended college and law school at Cornell, in Ithaca NY. He gravitated to Pittsburgh where he spent 26 years in a large law firm where he resolved employer disputes with unions and discrimination lawsuits in federal court. He continued in labor relations as a Commissioner with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. He subsequently became a private arbitrator where he usually takes 8-20 cases per year. With over 50 years of experience in labor relations, rendering decisions in over 100 labor arbitration cases, he recognizes the heavy responsibility in making decisions that are of significant consequence to the employers, labor organizations and/or individuals. He finds the work very rewarding, but also sobering, and appreciates having his wife Mary as his support team.

He and his wife Mary relocated to Hilton Head briefly before happily settling in Moore County.

Jacques' equipment evolution began with a Brownie, then Konica DSLR, to point and shoots. After the advent of digital and birth of his first grandchild, he reignited his passion and evolved to Canon. He currently is pleased with an Olympus Micro Four Thirds E- M1 Mark III camera. He primarily uses lightroom for post- processing now.

When asked how he achieves success in competitions, he said he has 1) taken continuing education from a non-profit or community college, including locally, 2) taken online classes - about 16 total from two companies (like Brian Peterson School of Photography) which are defunct now, and 3) is self-taught through online articles, you tube videos, books and practice. He has done a couple of travel workshops also.

His favorite genres are travel and street photography. He enjoys travel with his wife - especially to places where street photography is enjoyed as a culture, like Italy. His favorite area is Tuscany and Florence and he finds the locals warm and welcoming. They are looking forward to an upcoming trip there in the spring.

His favorite part of the club is meeting good people who share a love of photography and where we are learning and moving forward together. He sees this art as a continuum wherein we improve skills, knowledge, concepts, processing, competition and framing and display.

He encourages all members to get involved and share your influence to enhance the club. Compete and learn from others and the judges. He advises us to see competitions like dogs shows...where beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Continued 



Susan Matthews is our second member highlight – she is also one of the busiest people I know. I shared questions via email and I was thrilled to receive and read her answers via email between her full time work and Thanksgiving travel to family. She is the daughter of Jack Matthews, a former Membership Chair and current active team member. Reading her bio, and working with her on two club projects this year, I wish I had the skillset to work for her!

Where were you born, and how did you get to DC?

I was born in Alexandria, Virginia and have lived in the DMV—Washington, DC, Virginia, and Maryland—my entire life. I studied at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, and after graduating, I landed my first design job in Washington, DC.

For many years, I lived and worked in Virginia, but I recently moved to Cathedral Heights in Northwest DC, near American University. It's a wonderful location—close to my office on Capitol Hill, the Supreme Court, and my volunteer work in Columbia Heights. From my balcony, I've begun photographing and sketching National Cathedral studies in morning and golden-hour light, which has become a creative ritual I really enjoy.

Career: Tell us about the evolution of your career. How did you achieve your level of success?

My career has followed a creative path from the very beginning, supported by a line of generous teachers and mentors who helped shape not only my skills, but my philosophy of leadership. Their example taught me what kind of spaces I wanted to cultivate when I eventually moved into leadership roles.

As I advanced into positions such as Creative Director and later Brand Management, I focused on building environments where shared knowledge, healthy collaboration, and thoughtful critique could thrive. I believe strongly in giving people both the support and the freedom to develop their own voice—whether in communication, problem-solving, or design.

Over time, I've seen how transformative it is when people feel valued, trusted, and challenged in productive ways. They become deeply invested in their work, more confident in their craft, and more connected to their colleagues and clients.

If I had to attribute my success to specific qualities, it would be curiosity, persistence, and a willingness to continually evolve. I try to say “yes” to opportunities that stretch me, and I view mistakes—my own and others’—as an essential part of the creative process. Growth rarely happens without a few missteps, and I've learned to lean into experimentation, discovery, and even the occasional happy accident.

Tell us about your history in photography. What do you love? How has your photography evolved? Do you have goals?

My earliest connection to photography comes from looking through the images my grandfather made during and after World War II. He began with a Brownie and later used a 4×5 format camera, and I was captivated by how his photographs held stories, histories, and people I never had the chance to meet. Those early impressions stayed with me.

In college, my very first photography assignment was to build a pinhole camera, capture images, and develop them in the darkroom. I fell in love with the entire experience—the patience it required, the quiet focus, and the magic of watching an image slowly appear in the developer tray. I gravitated toward the work of Ansel Adams, Stieglitz, and classic black-and-white photography, all of which influenced my early style.

Today, my own photography has shifted from simple documentation to more intentional storytelling. I'm continually experimenting with composition, mood, texture, and the interplay of light. And while I believe in embracing creative spontaneity, I also value understanding the science behind the craft; knowing how light behaves makes the surprises even more meaningful.

My goals now include refining my personal style, participating in more competitions and exhibitions, and developing a few ongoing personal projects that have been percolating for a while.

Does your family share your love of photography?

My family appreciates photography, even if they're not all active participants. They're wonderfully supportive—and patient enough to pause for “just one more shot.”

My dad, in particular, has always found thoughtful ways for us to spend time together learning and exploring new interests. He's truly been my greatest teacher. When he developed an interest in photography, it gave us yet another shared passion and a natural way to connect. Our conversations, outings, and learning together ultimately led me to join SPC, which has been a great extension of that bond.

To what do you most attribute your success?

I attribute my success to a mix of curiosity, consistency, and a willingness to embrace failure as part of the creative process. Some of my favorite breakthroughs—both in design and in photography—have come from experimentation, unexpected outcomes, and the “happy accidents” that happen when you're open to trying something new.

At the same time, I believe strongly in understanding the science behind the light and the magic. Knowing the technical foundations gives me the confidence to push boundaries intentionally, and it makes the creative results—even the surprises—more meaningful.

I’ve also been fortunate to learn from and work alongside generous, talented people throughout my life. Community matters. Being surrounded by those who are supportive, honest, and equally committed to learning has shaped me just as much as the work itself.

What do you enjoy most about the club?

I love the sense of community and the culture of continuous learning at SPC. The range of backgrounds, skill levels, and creative perspectives makes the club a genuinely inspiring place. The programs, competitions, and outings provide both motivation and camaraderie—and always leave me energized.


What’s your advice to new members?

Show up, participate, and be curious. Try new genres, enter competitions even when you feel unsure, and take advantage of field trips and workshops—they’re some of the richest learning experiences the club offers.

Most importantly, allow yourself to evolve. Photography is a lifelong practice, and the process is just as important (and rewarding) as the final image.



Treasure’s Report – Financial Report 2025		
TOTAL FUNDS		
	Checking	9,221.69
	Savings	5,840.65
Grand Total of all Accounts		\$15,062.34



Frank Lipski

SPC out & about

Brunch Bunch
&
Malcolm Blue Festival

Brunch Bunch @ Panera Bread, November 20th – organized by Susan Bailey



2025





Photographers:

Susan Bailey Cindy Murphy
 John German Phil Lewis
 Kim Roberto Josh Simpson
 Lynn Goldhammer
 Robert D'Ottavio





Website: www.sandhillsphtoclub.org

Newsletter: communications@sandhillsphtoclub.org

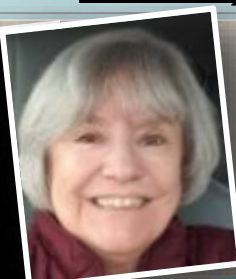


2025 SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB BOARD AND CHAIRS

TITLE	NAME	EMAILS
President	Cal Rice	president@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Vice President	Jacques Wood	vicepresident@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Secretary	Lynn Goldhammer	secretary@sandhillsphtoclub.org
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Communications	Alison Earl	communications@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Competitions	Mike Sassano	competitions@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Exhibitions	Shari Dutton	exhibitions@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Field Trips	Deb Castle	fieldtrips@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Hospitality	Sally Mason	hospitality@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Membership	Mary Bonsall	membership@sandhillsphtoclub.org
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Ombudsperson	Neva Scheve	ombudsperson@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Outings	Cindy Murphy	outings@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Past President	Jacques Wood	pastpresident@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Programs	Jacques Wood	vicepresident@sandhillsphtoclub.org
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communications@sandhillsphtoclub.org

Alison Earl



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