

INFOCUS

SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Editor: Alison Earl, communications@sandhillspgclub.org



VOL XXXII, NUMBER 04

www.sandhillspgclub.org

April 2026

SUBJECT	PAGE or DATE	SUBJECT	PAGE or DATE
• Brunch Bunch	April 2 nd & 18 th	• Outings	Apr 21: Page 6
• Contact Info	Last Page (always)	• President's Article	Page 2
• Competitions	Results: April 13th	• PSA FREE WEBINAR	Page14
• Field Trip	April 27-30; Page 7	• TIP of the MONTH	Page 8
• Meeting	April 13 th	• Website Info	Page 9
• Membership	Page 10	• Workshops	Page 8

See More Outing Shots from
HOUNDS ON THE GROUNDS
 &
Festival D'Avion AIRSHOW
 Pages 16-18



Neva Scheve



Phil Lewis

Springtime in North Carolina is a special time. The weather can (and does) alternate between balmy and beastly. Hopefully we will have more of the former than the latter. We have enjoyed good weather for both the **Hounds on the Grounds** and the **Festival D'Avion**, and I invite you to peruse the galleries for both events on our club website.

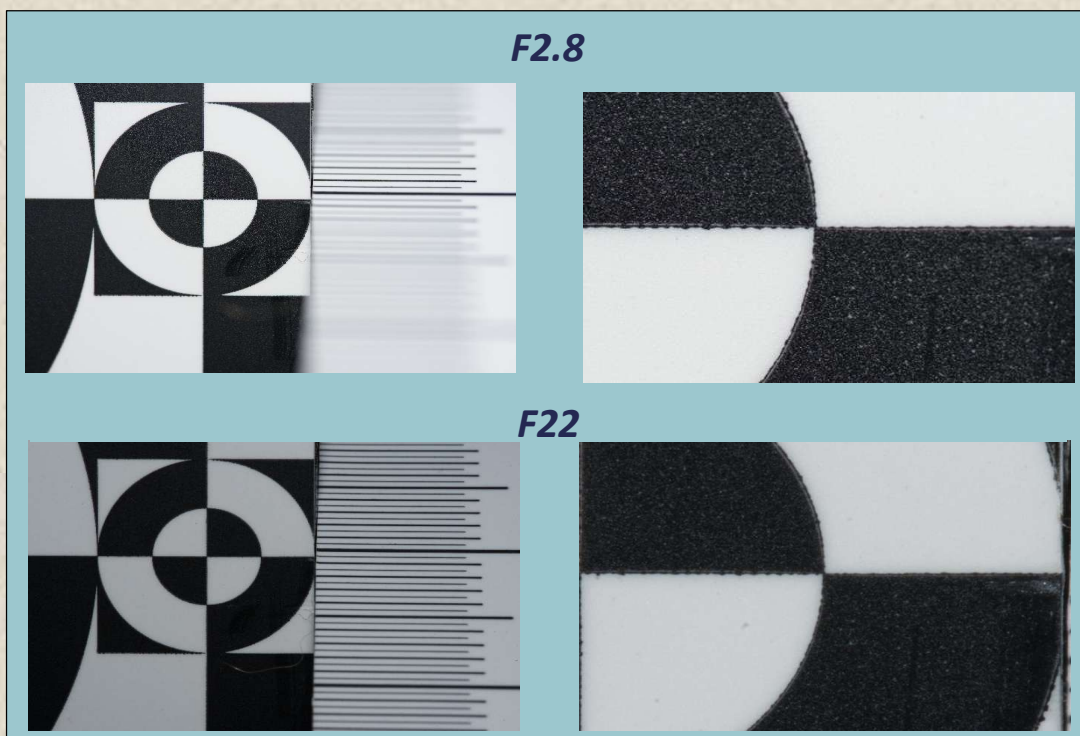


Phil Lewis

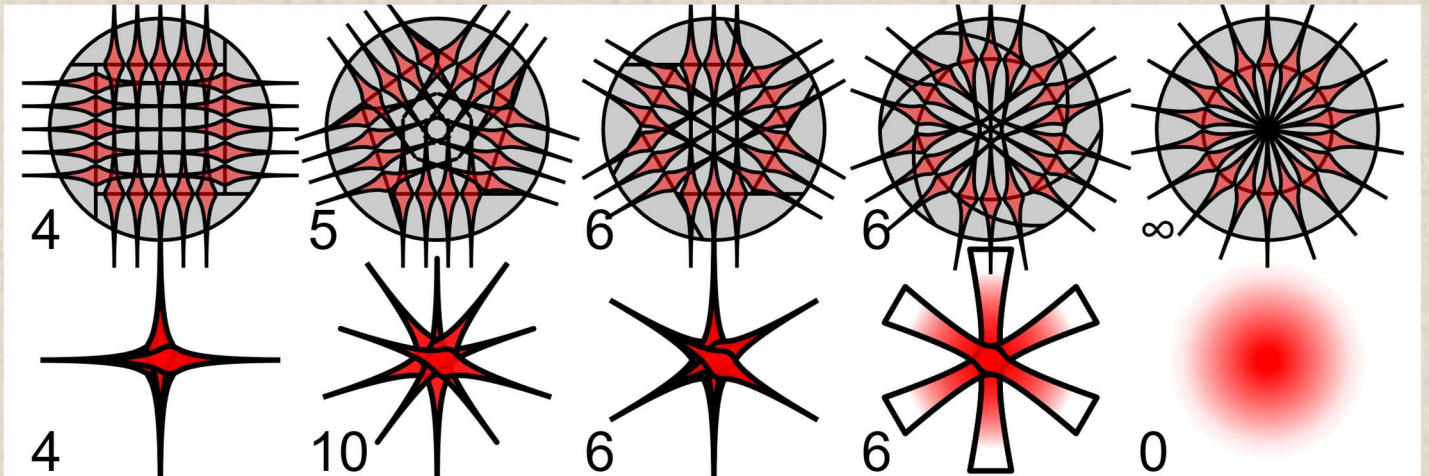
This month the topic of discussion will be **diffraction**. Light diffraction is simply the bending and spreading of light rays when they encounter an obstruction or pass through a narrow opening. This bending and spreading of the light waves causes interference patterns resulting in bands of darkness where the waves are diverted from their original course and brightness where the diverted waves overlap and reinforce other waves. This effect is most apparent when the light rays are passing through an opening whose width is an integer multiple of the wavelength of the light. The lower the integer, the more pronounced the effect is. This diffraction property is used extensively in scientific endeavors and is the basis of the electron microscope. X-Ray diffraction was used by Rosalind Franklin as a key piece of information to elucidate the double helical structure of DNA.

In photography, there are two aspects of diffraction that affect most of the pictures we take. The first is its effect on the sharpness of an image. You will remember that diffraction is the disruption of paths of light waves as they pass through an opening or around obstructions. Thus, the fact that light waves pass through a diaphragm in the lens causes diffraction. The smaller the aperture is, the more diffraction is noticed (remember that the effect is more pronounced as the opening approaches a lower integer multiple of the wavelength of light). The following photographs demonstrate the loss of detail seen by going from an aperture of F2.8 to an aperture of F22

This is an illustration of one detrimental effect of diffraction. Another is chromatic aberration. Since diffraction is dependent on the wavelength of light passing through the aperture, different colors of light show different degrees of diffraction resulting in color fringing.

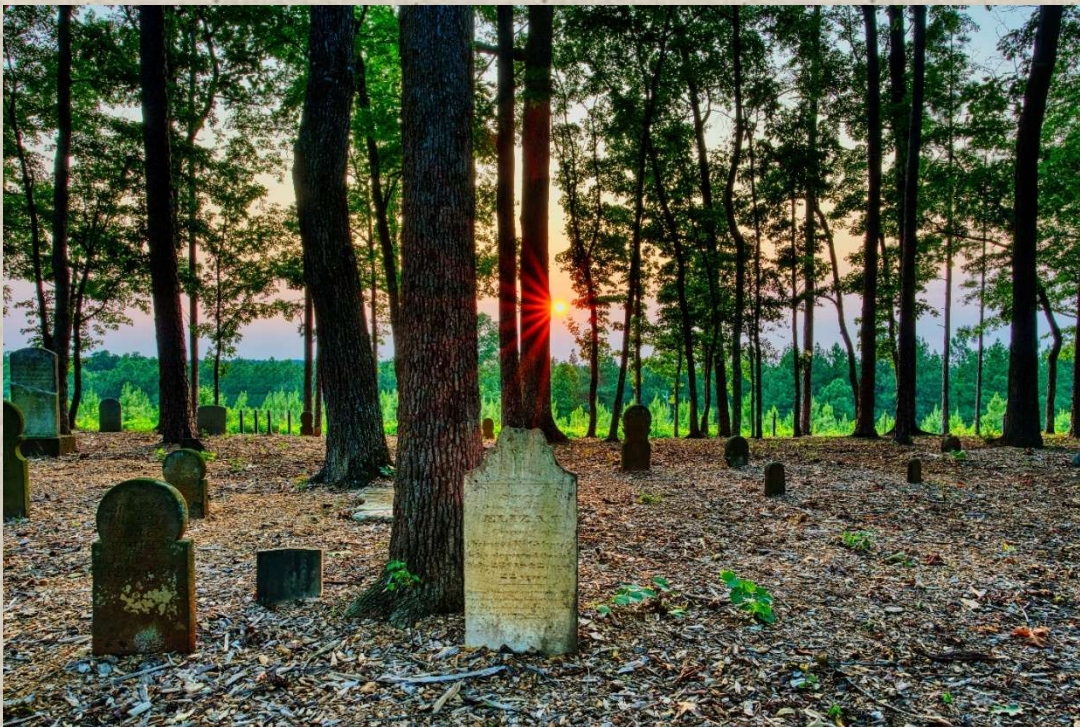


There is one aspect of diffraction that can be positive and that photographers use to great effect. This is in the production of the starburst effect for point sources of light. The intensity of the starburst effect is dependent on the size of the aperture and the shape of the starburst is dependent on the number of blades that make up the aperture. Diaphragms with even numbers of blades form starbursts with the same number of spikes as the number of blades while diaphragms with odd numbers of blades form starbursts with twice as many spikes as the number of blades. Below is a diagrammatic representation of this. C.M Lee, Wikipedia



This effect can produce beautiful images of sunrises and sunsets. The effect is more pronounced if

the light source is close to another object such as a tree or a cloud. The effect is also enhanced as elevation decreases, maximizing when the lower limb of the sun is at the horizon. The sunburst below was taken with an eleven-bladed aperture, hence the 22 spikes.



Diffraction can also add some pretty dramatic effects to night photography as well. This effect can increase the impact of streetlights dramatically but works best on lights that are round and usually requires a smaller aperture to achieve than with the sun. The presence of high levels of water vapor in the air adds to the amount of general diffraction and diffusion of the light so the effect is best induced on a dry night. The photo below was taken at



F18 with a long exposure on a tripod and little atmospheric haze due to water vapor. The intensity of the light affects the length of the diffraction spikes.

I will just leave you with a point to ponder. Most of have you have seen spectacular images from the Hubble and James Webb Space Telescopes. Those telescopes do not use a diaphragm aperture of any type, but the images always have diffraction spikes. If there is no aperture, what causes the spikes and why are there 4 spikes on Hubble images and 6 spikes on JWST images? Answer will be in next month's newsletter if you are interested.

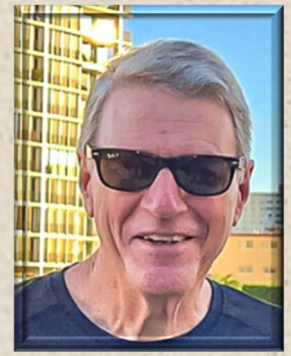
Phil Lewis



CHECK THIS OUT!!!!

[TO SIGN UP FOR THE FREE ZOOM PSA WEBINAR "ART & SCIENCE OF TIME-LAPSE PHOTOGRAPHY"](#)

More Information on PAGE 14



Mike Sassano



Color, Color Everywhere

Celebrate the vibrancy and diversity of color in the world around us. Look for colorful flowers, buildings, or people. Consider photographing colorful markets, festivals, or street performers. Experiment with different white balance settings to capture the true colors of the scene. You may include one or multiple colors in your photograph, but your choice of color(s) should stand out in the image.

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
		4/13/2026

Competition Judge



Joy Marie DeBlock The Professional Photography Group Charlotte, NC

April 2026 Outing Sandhills Horticultural Gardens



Susan Bailey

When: **Tuesday, April 21, 9:30am**

Meet: Bell Visitor Center
3245 Airport Road,
Southern Pines, NC

Lunch: 11:30am ROAST (next to ACE Hardware)
370 Capital Drive, Southern Pines, NC www.ncroast.com

Description – Lots of botanicals to photograph... the walled garden and much more. If you are not familiar, it is an incredible area for photography. There are hills but you can walk on level ground to the back side which is also level.

Equipment -

- Bring a macro lens if you have one but any lens can give you lots of opportunities.
- If you want to slow the water in the little waterfalls, bring Neutral Density filter and tripod. You can also do this with your smartphone.
- We can talk about impressionist style with AvgCamPro app on your phone if anyone is interested.
- A tripod can be helpful.
- Diffusers and reflectors are also a good aid on sunny days. I will bring several you can play with if you don't have one.

We keep most outings on the weekends, but gardens in the springtime are very crowded so we are moving this outing to a weekday. Please let me know if you plan to come so I can send any updates.
outings@sandhillsphotoclub.org



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



Deb Castle

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



- 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

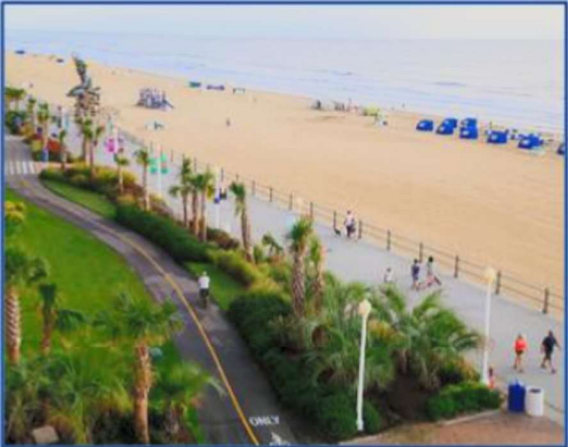
**SpringHill Suites by
Marriott Virginia Beach Oceanfront**
 901 Atlantic Avenue
 Virginia Beach, VA 23451
 757-417-3982

*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.*



**RSVP to Deb Castle
 at
 937-409-1582 text
 or email
Fieldtrips@sandhillsphtoclub.org**

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

WORKSHOPS – CAL RICE

Workshops:

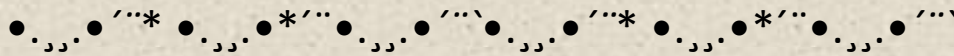
By the time you see this SPC will have had its first two workshops of the year: **Pet Photography** and **Night Photography**.



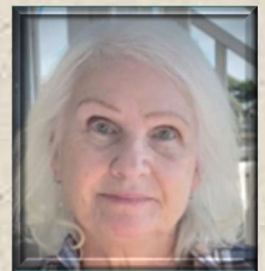
Cal Rice

I am sure both were fun and educational. There will be a break and then we plan two workshops in the fall.

Cal Rice



Tip of the Month from Joshua Simpson

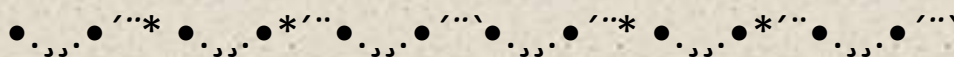


Neva Scheve

The April “Tip of the Month” comes from **Joshua Simpson**. If you have a tip to share for future newsletters, please send it to Neva Scheve at ombudsman@sandhillsphtoclub.org

“ Always do a **dummy test**! A dummy test is when I take a picture before I leave the house. This lets me know if the dummy holding the camera (Me!) has forgotten to put a battery in or still has the memory card in the computer. I've found that it's much more convenient to realize I'm missing something at the house instead of when I've driven an hour away.”

Joshua Simpson





SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB'S WEBSITE

WWW.SANDHILLSPHOTOCLUB.ORG



John German

Website for April 2026: <https://sandhillsphtoclub.smugmug.com/Day-Trips/2019-Sandhills-Gardens-Day-Trip/>

*This month's featured member's website is by **Diane McKay**. Click her name to view her gallery or the link to her gallery is on our website homepage.*

Useful Links

Jordan Dam water flow information can be found at:

[Jordan Dam Water Release](#)

<https://sandhillsphtoclub.smugmug.com/Day-Trips/2019-Sandhills-Gardens-Day-Trip/>

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@sandhillsphtoclub.org <mailto:johngerman@outlook.com>, 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@sandhillsphtoclub.org

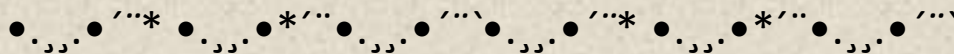
Membership –Mary Bonsall

SPC 2026 Membership	
Individual	71
Honorary Members	3
Family	13
Family +1	13
Student	0
Total Members	100



Mary Bonsall

Just wanted to share a wonderful experience Lynn and I had attending a recital by **Robin Frye and Robert Mobsby** in Pinehurst last month. Accompanied by a wonderful pianist, they opened with a romantic Mendelssohn piece as a 'greeting' to set the tone for the night. Next, we heard arias from Donizetti that were contained and personal, about heartbreak and jealousy. Robin followed with quirky arrangements of Dorothy Parker poetry that were poignant and funny. Later in the evening, Bob performed selections from songs of travels with text from Robert Louis Stevenson. The clever duet "We'll Go Away Together" from the opera Street Scene, must have been reminiscent of the beginning of their 30-year marriage! Sprinkled in between was Irving Berlin and other classics. It was such an amazing night, as I felt transported back to the Met or Broadway, with these two spectacular talents in our very midst. Their upcoming performances include another duo-recital on September 27th at 4pm at **Haymount United Methodist Church in Fayetteville** and then they'll be performing solo works with a string quartet at **Congregational Church in Southern Pines, date TBD**.



We have survived the rollercoaster of spring weather in March - 50 degree changes really affect our health and spirit but we are well on our way to warmer days and everything coated in pollen!

I'd like to welcome back two former members, **Frank Holt** and **Lois Pollard**. We are happy you both returned to the fold to continue your photography journey.

The Romans gave this month the Latin name Aprilis but the derivation of this name is uncertain. The traditional etymology is from the verb aperire, "to open", in allusion to its being the season when trees and flowers begin to "open". The red buds, cherry blossoms and Bradford pears are already raining petals all around town and surely the early flower blooms should draw us all outdoors with cameras and smartphones!

The night sky is getting active and a few ideas in this link:

<https://www.tensixphotography.com/eclipse-blog/2026-april-astro-events/> should enable us to practice what we learn in the Raleigh club's night photography workshop.



Member Interviews:

They say good things come in small packages and I'm here to share two petite and powerful photographing dynamos!



Linda Piechota is our recent 'honorary' member and a worthy and valued one. She just celebrated her 38th year within the club. I'm sharing her bio in her own words that some of you may have seen but still offers great history.

Before moving to Whispering Pines in 1988, my husband and I subscribed to The Pilot and I found Bill Stoffel's Creative Photography Class at Sandhills and Sandhills Photography Club listed in the calendar section. Both appealed to me because I already had an SLR camera that was used to photograph scenes and objects to be included in my artwork and I had been a member of Capital City Camera Club in Raleigh. So, as soon as we moved, I joined both, just in time to go on my first Photo Field trip to Cades Cove. Fran and I met the other members and had a wonderful time.

Little did I know what a difference the Photo Club would make in my life! I had always been very bashful, but here I was taking part in exhibitions and competitions, making my own prints in a darkroom in my garage, cutting mats, framing photos, going on all the field trips, participating in photo workshops and creating the monthly newsletter.

Then, I was elected President! I also found that **I WAS NO LONGER BASHFUL!**

After Bill Stoffel, founder of the Photo Club passed away, his wife came to me with all of Bill's class notes and asked me to carry on the work Bill had started, which I gratefully accepted. So, another chapter of my life, teaching, began. Encouraged by my friends Gisela Danielson, June Margeson and June White, I taught the first of many classes entitled, "Creative Photography, The Bill Stoffel Method". The classes caught on like a wildfire and I taught most of the photo club members, 4-H clubs, art groups, NC State extension staff and club members in the county, district and state, O'Neal students and even the Pinehurst employees! What fun that was!

Over the years, I served in most all officer positions (President twice), Workshop Chair, Field Trip Chair, Slide Competition Chair and whatever else I was asked to do.

Now, here are some interesting facts. When I joined the Photo Club, cameras were totally manual. We had to set the aperture, shutter speed, film speed, focus, exposure, EVERYTHING! We usually shot slide film because most competitions used slides. Some were print competitions and prints were shown on a light box with exactly the correct light to best show the photos. The light box was made by Jill Margeson's Dad, Chris Christianson, one of the most experienced members ever in the club.

Color printers, color monitors and Photoshop didn't exist. Home computers were very basic with very small amounts of system memory and no hard drives, only just big floppy disks about the size of a 45 music record! Yet, we all succeeded in producing excellent slides and prints! Looking back, that was really amazing!

When digital photography arrived, Bill Matthews and I were the first club members to try out the new, but still very basic technology. We each had a digital point and shoot Olympus camera that took fairly low resolution photos. But we proudly showed the club what could be done and had a great time playing around with our new cameras.

During the last 10 years I haven't been very active in the club because of several reasons such as my husband's bad health and death and later, my inability to see well enough to drive at night, but the club is still very important to me and I will continue my support as a member and in any other way I can.

Thank you for giving recognition to all of us old timers. It means the world to me!

Linda is linked to our next interviewee through cardboard boxes, after moving to Sandhills, she offered free boxes online. Lana moving within the area jumped to it and Linda recognized another artist and enrolled her in the SPC team..



Lana Rebert has become well known for her special, creative eye in viewing the same subjects that the rest of us see, uniquely. I was astounded after our macro workshop, where we all posted variations of the slinky, shells and flowers, to see Lana's incredible posts! They blew me away. I learned some secrets at a recent brunch bunch that I won't divulge here. Even at the recent airshow, she found some unseen views of cars, planes and people.

Lana was born in CA and has an older sister and a twin. Twinning was always fun for them and their mom had to tell them where to stand in photos so she could tell them apart. While identical, they have opposite personalities! I enjoyed hearing about their differences.

Lana was born in a small desert town closest to Palm Springs, and only 3 blocks from an Indian reservation. They were a minority in town and school and her grandpa, an outlaw-chasing game warden, actually taught them how to fight back in this tough environment. In high school, Lana contracted polio, and had to leave her cheerleading team and fight to walk again. These events gave her a challenging foundation in life and surely contributed to her feistiness. This also is serving her in overcoming recent health issues.

Lana attended San Bernardino Valley College and continued to San Diego State studying business and psychology. While there, she met and married her husband and they had two daughters. She worked diverse jobs to help the family, as her husband continued his studies in electrophysiological psychology. While her husband studied in Iowa City, she and other 'psych' wives developed activities for kids in hospitals. Both of her daughters were Girl Scouts, and she was an active leader. Wanting the girls to experience camp, but finding it overgrown and out of commission, she enlisted the military, -after noticing a vast number of unused trucks, she asked for transportation to and from the camp. Rallying around her request, they found a special way of helping clean the campground and bring it to livable standard and provided transportation to the girls too! She is a dynamo! In later years, she also organized use of the camp for underprivileged children and kids at risk, to have their own getaway. She enjoyed photographing these children and saw beauty in God's eyes. Lana later became a real estate agent and worked in Silicon Valley during the Internet boom. This served her well when she moved to Whispering Pines, where she helped herself find and buy a home quickly.

As for her photographic journey, she began with a point and shoot, but her mom took it away because of the cost of developing her unusual shots. In her 40's, she wanted a getaway and saw an ad for Artist's Retreat in Virginia City, Nevada, but when she got there and they asked “are you a painter or photographer”, she said “neither”. She liked the photography itinerary better, and joined them, learned a lot, and then invested in Canon equipment. Lana took a photo class and persevered in transitioning to digital. She continued to travel with photo field trips to wonderful locations like Three Sisters in Arizona, Sante Fe and Yosemite to capture beauty in nature. She uses her iPhone primarily now and has mastered smartphone software editing, blending, angles and perspectives with outstanding results!

Currently, Lana's twin, Dana, lives in Raleigh and her sister Marilyn is in Whispering Pines near her home. Her daughters, Andrea and Alison, are in Kentucky and Tennessee so that will be her travel focus for a while.

Lana enjoys the camaraderie in SPC and has contributed to the Competition team and as Secretary of the club too. She encourages everyone to reach out and get involved, as it is the best way to learn a lot.

Lana's underlying faith has been the basis of her adventurous and beautiful life.

Mary



You're Invited! Free PSA Webinar – “The Art and Science of Time-Lapse Photography”

Come see what PSA is all about! Join us for a fun, inspiring **live webinar on April 2, 2026**, hosted by the **Photographic Society of America (PSA)** and proudly sponsored by **Hunts Photo and Video**.

This **free** event is open to everyone—PSA members, camera clubs, club members, friends, and the general public. If you love photography or are simply curious about what PSA offers, this is the perfect chance to explore, learn, and connect.

Whether you're a seasoned photographer or brand-new to the craft, you'll get a taste of the creativity, community, and education that make PSA special.

Just share this message, and anyone can register using the link below.

TO SIGN UP FOR THE FREE ZOOM PSA WEBINAR "ART & SCIENCE OF TIME-LAPSE PHOTOGRAPHY; CONTROL + CLICK

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA WORLDWIDE

2026 Free Webinar

Mastering Motion: The Art and Science of Time-Lapse Photography

THURSDAY, APRIL 2nd 6 PM EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME

Silvana Della Camera



Digital photography has become a daily part of our lives. We consume and create photography almost constantly in our daily travels. A natural stepping stone to still photography is time-lapse, the art of capturing change over time. Only since the advent of modern digital cameras has time-lapse photography become so accessible.

Time-lapse photography produces stunning images that give viewers a glimpse of the world as they rarely see it.

It is a technique that compresses timed capture over an interval of time into a concise creative rhythm. In this presentation Silvana will demonstrate how anyone could leverage this functionality with gear they already own.



All Images Silvana Della Camera © 2025

OUTINGS: *out* & *about* Hounds On Grounds

Participating Photographers:

- Susan Bailey
- Jacques Wood
- John German
- Cathy Maready
- Josh Simpson
- Neva Scheve
- Jim Davis
- Kim Butler
- Celeste Harris



Group Shot by John German



Jim Davis

Josh Simpson



© Joshua Simpson

Participating Photographers:

- Susan Bailey
- John German
- Dee Williams
- Kim Butler
- Lana Rebert
- Phil Lewis



Kim Butler



Susan Bailey



Jacques Wood



Cathy Maready



Celeste Harris

OUTINGS: Festival D'Avion

out & about

Participating Photographers:

- Susan Bailey
- John German
- Phil Lewis
- Lana Rebert
- Dee Williams
- Kim Butler



Lana Rebert



Dee Williams

Dee Williams



Phil Lewis



Dee Williams



Susan Bailey

Susan Bailey



John German

John German

Kim Butler



John German

John German
Photography

Susan Bailey



Susan Bailey



John German
Photography



Website: www.sandhillsphotoclub.org

Newsletter: communications@sandhillsphotoclub.org



2025 SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB BOARD AND CHAIRS

TITLE	NAME	EMAILS
President	Phil Lewis	president@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Vice President	Jean Antholzner	vicepresident@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Secretary	Bob Mobsby	secretary@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Treasurer	Steve Bonsall	treasurer@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Communications	Alison Earl	communications@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Competitions	Mike Sassano	competitions@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Exhibitions	Shari Dutton	exhibitions@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Field Trips	Deb Castle	fieldtrips@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Hospitality	Sally Mason	hospitality@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Membership	Mary Bonsall	membership@sandhillsphotoclub.org
PSA Rep	Dave Powers	psarep@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Publicity	Susan Batts	publicity@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Ombudsman	Neva Scheve	ombudsman@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Outings	Susan Bailey	outings@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Past President	Cal Rice	pastpresident@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Programs	Jean Antholzner	vicepresident@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Tech & Zoom	Josh Simpson	tech@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Web Administrator	John German	website@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Workshops	Cal Rice	workshops@sandhillsphotoclub.org

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

Alison Earl



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