

# INFOCUS



## SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB



Editor: Alison Earl, [alisonspcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:alisonspcnewsletter@gmail.com)

VOL XXXX, NUMBER

[www.sandhillspcclub.org](http://www.sandhillspcclub.org)

JANUARY 2025

### PRESIDENT – CAL RICE

Almost 60 members and guests gathered for our year end party at Pinewild Country Club. We had the usual good socializing, delicious food, competition winners both for “Rows of Things” and the Stoffel annual awards. The new Bonny Henderson Contribution Award is given to a person who has made a major contribution to the functioning of the Club. This award winner is selected by the President with input from the Board. Two people tied for being selected by the most Board members. Ironically, every person who selected one of them also selected the other, saying they could not select one and slight the other.



*Cal Rice*

The co-winners are **Alison Earl** and **John German**. Both have given generously of their time and talent for many years. Alison publishes a wonderful newsletter. This year we have had major problems with our email, so Alison sent a question to Kim Komando, host of a software technology radio program ([kimkomandoshow](http://kimkomandoshow.com)). Kim thought the question had broad appeal and interviewed Alison on her program. John developed and maintains one of the very best Web sites that we could imagine.

Congratulations and thank you to both of them.

My New Year’s wish to each of you, “May tomorrow be even better than today.”

### IMPORTANT SPC THINGS COMING UP QUICKLY:

- **January outing: Saturday, January 11, 2025; Jordan Lake Dam Birds**
- **1<sup>st</sup> 2025 Competition: FEB) Reflections** – Reflection photography is a creative technique that captures the reflected images on a reflective surface. The reflective surface echoes the surrounding scenery. It can be a large setting (such as the ocean) or a small one (such as a raindrop). (3-year limit)
  - Judge: Brian Fullington / [bfullinton@gmail.com](mailto:bfullinton@gmail.com) or [www.fully.smugmug.com](http://www.fully.smugmug.com)

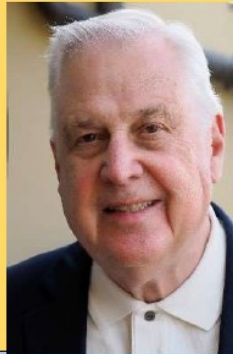
• Entries Open	• Entries Close	• Results Event
1/11/2025	1/18/2025	2/10/2025

- Next Meeting: **January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Live & Zoom**

# MEET YOUR 2025 OFFICERS



**CAL RICE**  
PRESIDENT



**JACQUES WOOD**  
VP/PROGRAMS



**LYNN GOLDHAMMER**  
SECRETARY



**FRANK LIPSKI**  
TREASURER

## AND YOUR 2025 BOARD



**ALISON EARL**  
COMMUNICATIONS



**MIKE SASSANO**  
COMPETITIONS



**DEB CASTLE**  
FIELD TRIPS



**SALLY MASON**  
HOSPITALITY



**JACQUES WOOD**  
PAST PRESIDENT



**DAVE POWERS**  
PSA REP



**MARY BONSTALL**  
MEMBERSHIP



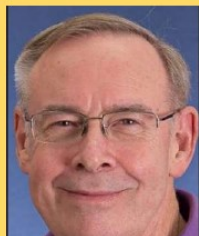
**NEVA SCHEVE**  
OMBUDSPERSON



**CINDY MURPHY**  
OUTINGS



**DAVID KINER**  
PUBLICITY



**DENNIS SNIPES**  
TECHNICAL & ZOOM MASTER



**JOHN GERMAN**  
WEB ADMINISTRATOR



**SUSAN BAILEY**  
WORKSHOPS

See **ROWS OF THINGS** Winners, **Stoffel Award** Winners, and the **Bonny Henderson Award** (new this year) **Winners** pages 11-21; followed by **Out & About** images from **Outings** group at the Chinese Lantern Festival on pages 11-23



January Outing: **Saturday, January 11, 2025**

Our January outing will be bird photography at the Jordan Lake Dam.

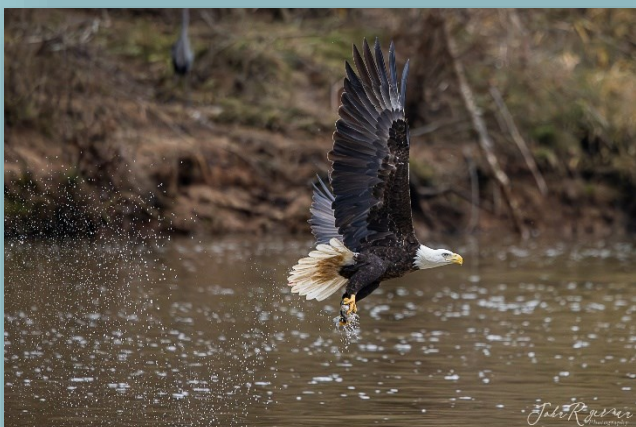
We will meet at the dam at 10am. The address is 2080 Jordan Dam Road, Moncure.

Hopefully we will see migratory eagles, cormorants, and great blue herons. There is also a 1.5 mile trail near the dam, that's good for birding as well.

When we have our fill of bird pictures, we will go for lunch at the S & T's Soda Shoppe in Pittsboro. There we can photograph all sorts of soda shop antiques. It is 85 Hillsboro St., Pittsboro

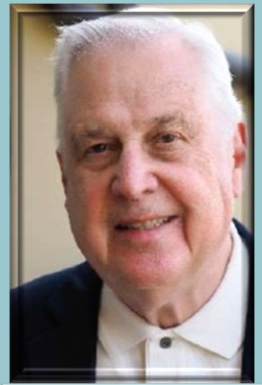
Let me know if you can join us  
[cindy.m.8012@gmail.com](mailto:cindy.m.8012@gmail.com)

Here are some shots John German took at the Jordan Lake Dam last year.



**JANUARY 13, 2025 7 PM**

**AMAZING PHOTO DESTINATIONS:  
THE OUTER BANKS OF NC**

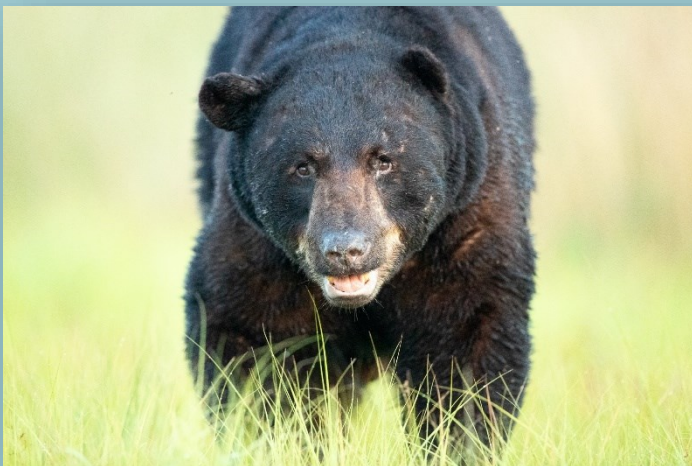
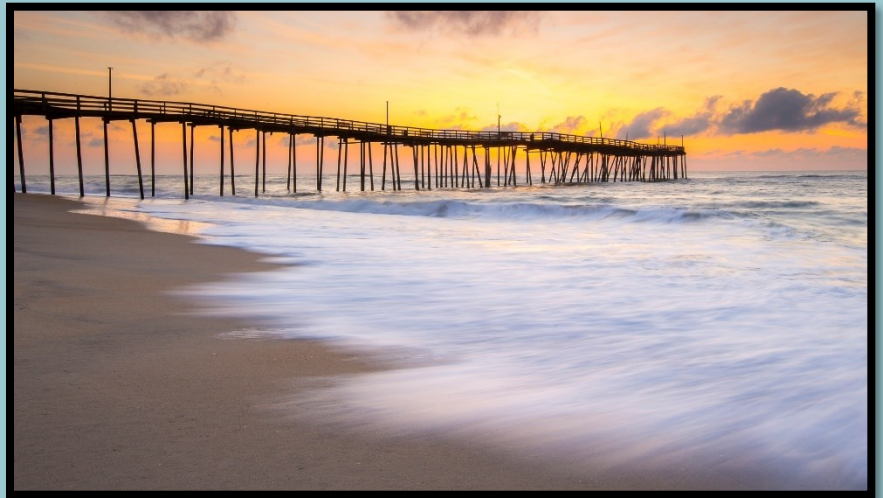


*Jacques Wood*



Our presenter, Mark Buckler, bases his photography career on the Outer Banks because of the amazing diversity of photography subjects...from magnificent landscapes to plentiful wildlife. Most people think of the Outer Banks as a beach vacation destination in the summer months, but it is a spectacular year-round photography location that should be on every nature photographer's bucket list.

The landscape photographer can concentrate their efforts on multiple lighthouses and fishing piers, golden dunes and magnificent sunrises and sunsets. The wildlife photographer can focus on plentiful birds all year (including massive flocks of wintering ducks, geese and swans), wild horses and the highest concentration of black bears in the world.



In addition to providing us with 2 decades worth of experience living in this area, Mark will share some helpful tips for creating more compelling images. Should be an educational and enjoyable evening.

Suggest that you attend either in person or on Zoom!

*Jacques*

## WORKSHOPS – SUSAN BAILEY

SPC Workshop Topics and Details for March 18, 2025 - Brian Osborne

### Good Foundations Create Fantastic Photos

Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 9-11:30am

This class will help photographers of all levels learn how to be more intentional in the

images they create. Making sure that foundational photography concepts such as modes, depth of field, motion, exposure (especially using the histogram) and proper white balance are able to be applied in the field quickly will encourage participants to capture excellent photographs in camera. We will also talk about how composition plays into all situations. There will be hands-on illustrations and exercises in the classroom to reinforce the material and the last 30 mins will give us the opportunity to go outside into the garden to work on what we have

learned.

The cost is \$60 and registration is available on The Photo Classroom website. (Minimum 8 students and maximum 16)

### Intermediate Lightroom and Photoshop Editing

Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 1-3:30pm

This class will introduce those who have some experience with Lightroom and/or Photoshop to some additional workflow techniques (such as renaming files correctly and more) while also demonstrating the powerful new masking and AI tools of both

Lightroom and Photoshop. We will also cover Generative AI in both software programs and various applications of this tool. Printable materials will be provided to help follow along with the class demonstrations and the last 30 mins of the class time will be set aside to have participants work on their own photos on their laptops applying what they have learned with the instructor assisting.

The cost is \$60 and registration will be available on The Photo Classroom website. (Minimum 8 students and maximum 16)

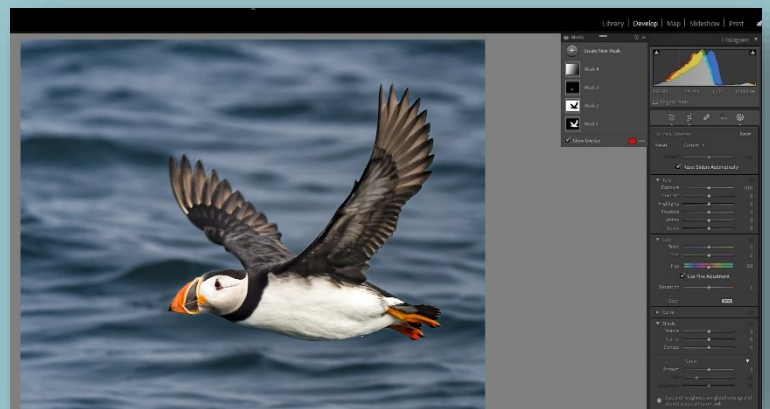
## REGISTRATION

Brian is handling the registrations for both classes. The link for each class is <https://thephotoclassroom.com/sandhills-photography-club-class-offerings/>

Click on the class you want and click on March 18 and choose which class(es) you want to attend.



*Susan Bailey*





# 2024 Competitions Recap



*Mike Sassano*

On behalf of the Competition Committee and Sandhills Photography Club, I would like to congratulate all of the winning images submitted in 2024! Our last competition, Rows of Things (member judged) was a fun event to watch unfold. Here are the winning images by tier and 150 members votes for Rows of Things:

Tier 1		
Tied for 1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Joshua Simpson	(Rainbow Bottles)
	Kate Hitchcock	(Vicar’s Close)
Tied for 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place:	Cindy Murphy	(Rows Awaiting Rowers)
	David Kiner	(Steps of Faith)
Tier 2		
1 <sup>st</sup> Place:	Donna Sassano	(Rows of Lavender)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place:	Mary New Wheaton	(Ducky Six Pack)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place:	Diane McKay	(Old Friends)
Tier 3		
1 <sup>st</sup> Place:	Donna Ford	(Sun Drops)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place:	Neva Scheve	(Private Stock)
Tied for 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place:	Dee Williams	(Fluff)
	Pat Anderson	(hUMP dAy aGAIN)

### Stoffel Award Winners

The William Stoffel Year End Awards were established by Bill Stoffel in 2002 to recognize the improvement of an individual’s progress in producing photographic images.

<b>Tier 1 Winner</b>	Joshua Simpson
<b>Tier 1 Next Level Winner</b>	Donna Sassano
<b>Tier 2 Winner</b>	Pam Jensen
<b>Tier 3 Winner</b>	Donna Ford

**Winners and their images for ROWS OF THINGS and Stoffel Award: pages 11-20**

The winning images are posted on the SPC website under Competitions.  
Mike Sassano, Jerry Kozel & Dee Williams



# 2025 Topics Dates & Definitions

**(FEB) Reflections** – Reflection photography is a creative technique that captures the reflected images on a reflective surface. The reflective surface echoes the surrounding scenery. It can be a large setting (such as the ocean) or a small one (such as a raindrop). (3-year limit)

**Judge:** Brian Fullinton / [bfullinton@gmail.com](mailto:bfullinton@gmail.com) or [www.fully.smugmug.com](http://www.fully.smugmug.com)

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
1/11/2025	1/18/2025	2/10/2025

**(APRIL) Old Barns/Buildings** - Photograph an old livestock structure or an old home or store. The structure may be dilapidated or just aged. (3-year limit)

**Judge:** Jamie Konarski Davidson (New Life Photos). [jamie@newlifephotos.com](mailto:jamie@newlifephotos.com)

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
3/08/2025	3/15/2025	4/14/2025

**(JUNE) M is for....** – The subject of the image should begin with the letter “M.” The title of the image must reflect the “M” name of the subject. (3-year limit)

**Judge:** TBD

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
5/10/2025	5/17/2025	6/09/2025

**(AUG) Churches/Graveyards** – Photograph a church, old or new, OR photograph a cemetery. (3-year limit).

**Judge:** Debbie Brooks (PPG) Charlotte, NC: [@dbrooks839](https://www.instagram.com/dbrooks839) (Instagram)

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
7/12/2025	7/19/2025	8/11/2025

**(OCT) The Color Red** – The image must contain a dominant overall color of red or the subject of the image must be red. (3-year limit)

**Judge:** Mary Presson Roberts (Fort Mill, SC, website: <https://www.themaryphotographer.com>)

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
9/13/2025	9/20/2025	10/13/2025

**(DEC) Open** – any subject is acceptable. Color or black & white may be submitted. (3-year limit)

**Member judged.**

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
11/08/2025	11/15/2025	12/08/2025

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SPC MEMBERS ENTERING COMEPTITIONS:

**NOTE:** Mark your calendars with the dates above. Look for email reminders the week before the competition. The link for each competition will be sent to you just before the competition begins.

When you receive the email, please be sure to proceed as follows:

1. **Click on the link**
2. **Complete the form and upload your image**
3. **You must hit the SUBMIT button in order to receive a confirmation that the photo was sent to us.**



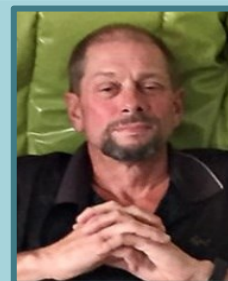
Finally, you will receive an acceptance email from us within 24-48 hours after submitting your image. If you don't receive an acceptance email within 48 hours please check your SPAM folder or contact the committee.

If you are a **new member** and you need help with entering a competition, there are two resources: the Competition Manual is on our website and offers many tips for sizing and other technical specifics; and you are welcome to email us with any questions at [competitions@sandhillsphotoclub.org](mailto:competitions@sandhillsphotoclub.org). We are happy to help!

## Treasure's Report – Financial Report 2024

### TOTAL FUNDS

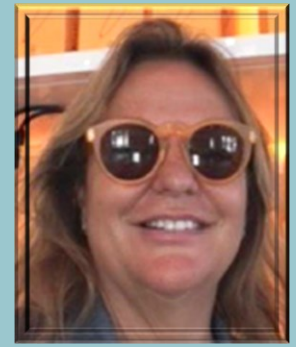
	Checking	\$2,743.49
	Savings	\$10,047.28
Grand Total of all Accounts		\$12,790.77



*Frank Lipski*



## Membership –Mary Bonsall



Mary Bonsall

Greetings from Mary, your new Membership Chair. I've had a wonderful and generous handoff from Mei Kei, who will continue to be part of our membership team as she transitions to motherhood and her new home with Byron in Augusta. We continue to have a great membership team working behind the scenes too ... many of whom have vast historical knowledge and are happy to share. I love how technology enables members who have relocated to continue as vital members and contributors to the Club.

My background is over three decades of aviation engineering, but I love the art of photography and using the 'other' half of my brain. Although I am a recent member, I look forward to onboarding new members and enhancing the experience of being a Club member.

As we begin the new year, I look forward to working with the team to provide the best services to you throughout the year. **If you haven't paid your 2025 dues yet and plan on attending the Jan 13<sup>th</sup>, bring along a check, and drop it off with our Membership Team.**

Mary Bonsall

### \*Membership Directory\*

As we head into the new year, our Membership committee is working together to update our directory to reflect our club's current contacts and engagement. As you renew your memberships, we request contact information and a photograph from each member to update our password-protected Membership Directory. Please look out for reminders from Membership Committee member **Patti Cifelli** toward updating your profile with us. If you have not yet provided your photograph, please forward your selected one to **John German** at [website@sandhillsphtoclub.org](mailto:website@sandhillsphtoclub.org) and he will gladly integrate your chosen photo in your profile on our Membership Directory page.

## SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

### IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025!

REMEMBER: YOU MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY COMPETITIONS UNTIL YOUR DUES ARE UP TO DATE!!!

- Family Membership- \$75
- Individual Membership - \$55
- Student Membership - \$20

There are 2 basic ways to pay your renewal dues:

- Mail a check to:

Sandhills Photo Club  
P O Box 763  
Southern Pines, NC 28388

Or

- Pay by Paypal, which is a convenience– go to [www.SandhillsPhotoClub.org](http://www.SandhillsPhotoClub.org) and (on the homepage) click **MEMBERSHIP**, and then the link **PAY MEMBERSHIP DUES**. The website pages will instruct you.



Any questions, please contact: [membership@sandhillsphtoclub.org](mailto:membership@sandhillsphtoclub.org)



John German

## SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB'S WEBSITE

WWW.SANDHILLSPHOTOCLUB.ORG

### Website Notes for January 2024:

This month's featured member's website on the club website is [Michael Sassano](#). Click his name to view his website or the link to his website on our website homepage.

### Club Directory

You may view the club directory at: [Club Directory](#). You will need the password from Alison's Upcoming Page sent in conjunction with this newsletter. 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.

### Member Galleries

**Members who would like a personal gallery** should let me know at [website@sandhillsphotoclub.org](mailto: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.

Thank you,

John German

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

# Rows of Things WINNERS

## Tier 1



*Tier 1 - Tie 1st Place*

*Rainbow Bottles*

*Josh Simpson*



*Tier 1 - Tie 1st Place*

*Vicar's Close*

*Kate Hitchcock*



*Tier 1 - Tie 3rd Place*

*Rows Awaiting Rowers*

*Cindy Murphy*



*Tier 1 - Tie 3rd Place*

*Steps of Faith*

*David Kiner*

# Tier 2



*Tier 2 - 1st Place   Rows of Lavender   Donna Sassano*

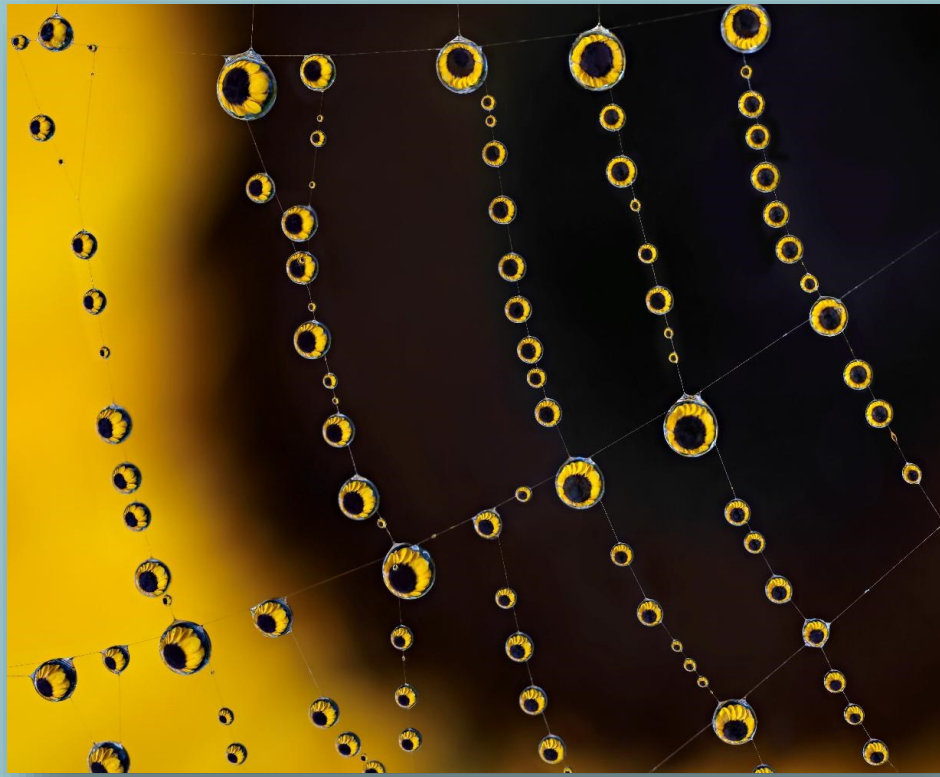


*Tier 2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place   Ducky Six Pack   Mary New Wheaton*



*Tier 2 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place   Old Friends   Diane McKay*

# Tier 3



*Tier 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place*

*Sun Drops*

*Donna Ford*



*T3 – 2<sup>ND</sup> Place*

*Private Stock*

*Neva Scheve*



*T3 - Tied - 3rd Place*

*hUMP dAy aGAIIn*

*Pat Anderson*



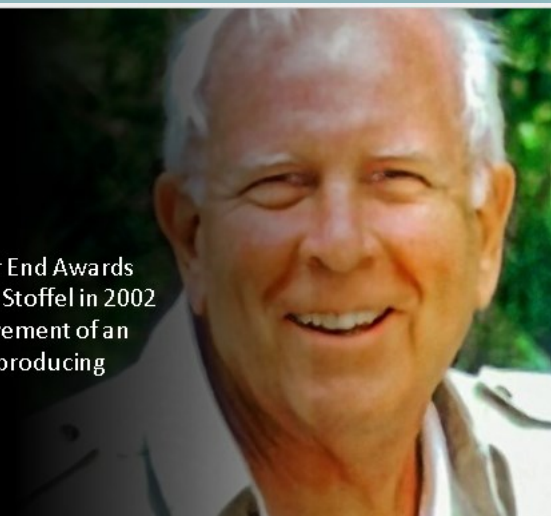
*T3 - Tied 3rd Place*

*Fluff*

*Dee Williams*

## Stoffel Award Winners

The William Stoffel Year End Awards were established by Bill Stoffel in 2002 to recognize the improvement of an individual's progress in producing photographic images.

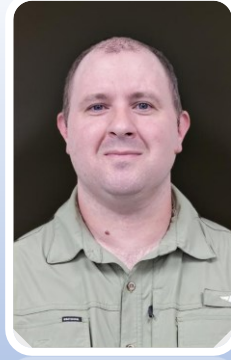


## Bill Stoffel Awards

### Sandhills Photography Club

	<u>Class A</u>	<u>Class B</u>
2002	Fred Cirule	Amy Purvis
2003	Roy Kita	Jim McGill
2004	Fred Cirule	Fran Piechota
2005	Jim McGill	Brady Smith
2006	Jim McGill	Jill Margeson
2007	Jim McGill	Marilyn Owen
2008	Jim McGill	Donna Ford*
2009	Donna Ford	Dave Verchick
2010	Jim Davis	Carole Barnard
2011	Dave Verchick	<i>Four Way Tie</i> Diane McCall Kathy Green Debra Regula Alison Earl
2012	Dave Powers	Gene Lentz
2013	Debra Regula	Jennifer German
2014	Donna Ford	Mary New
2015	Donna Ford	Tobè Saskor
	<u>Class A</u>	<u>Class B</u>
2016	Diane McCall	Teresa Bruni
2017	Matthew Smith	Bonny Henderson
2018	Matthew Smith	Kathryn Saunders
2019	Darryll Benecke	Drew Steidinger
	<u>Tier 1</u>	<u>Tier 2</u>
2020	Jacques Wood	Dee Williams
	Shari Dutton	<u>Tier 3</u>
2021	Jack Matthews	Darryll Benecke
	Special Achievement Award	Shari Dutton
2022	Bill Buss	Shari Dutton
2023	Steve Long	Mary Wheaton

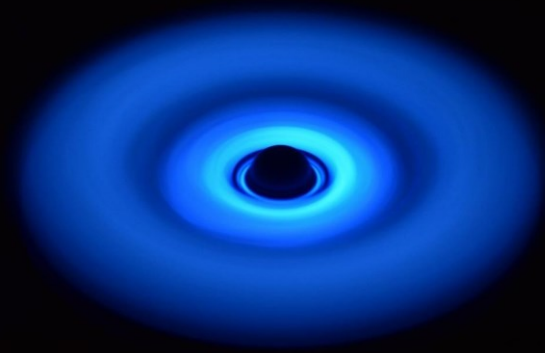




Stoffel Award Winner  
Tier 1

2024

*Joshua Simpson*



Accretion Disk



Resist the Flow



Shotgun Wedding



Stoffel Award Winner  
T1-2 Next Level

2024  
*Donna Sassano*



Rows of Lavender



Painted Hills



Eye See You



Mosaic Throne



God's Acre



Stoffel Award Winner  
Tier 2

2024  
*Pam Jensen*



Torrents on Course



If the Shoe Fits



Hazardous Hoofs



Stoffel Award Winner  
Tier 3

2024

*Donna Ford*



Sun Drops



Dinner is Served



Raining Down



Going Up

*Bonny  
Henderson  
Award*

*2024*



**Alison Earl**  
*Communications & Newsletter Editor*



**John German**  
*Website & Tech*

**Presentation of 1<sup>st</sup> Bonny Henderson Award by Cal Rice, President**

“We have ribbons for winners in each photo competition and the Stoffel awards for the outstanding competition annual awards. This year the Board decided to add a recognition to a person who made outstanding contributions to the Club in honor of Bonny Henderson. The person is to be selected by the President with input from the Board.

I asked each Board member to suggest a deserving person. Two people tied being suggested the most times. The unusual thing was that every person who suggested one of them also said the other one was also so deserving that they could not select between the two. So, I am breaking with the rules and awarding two Bonny Henderson awards for outstanding contributions to the Club.

The awards go to Alison Earl and John German.

**Alison** does a fantastic job with our newsletter

**John** maintains our outstanding website

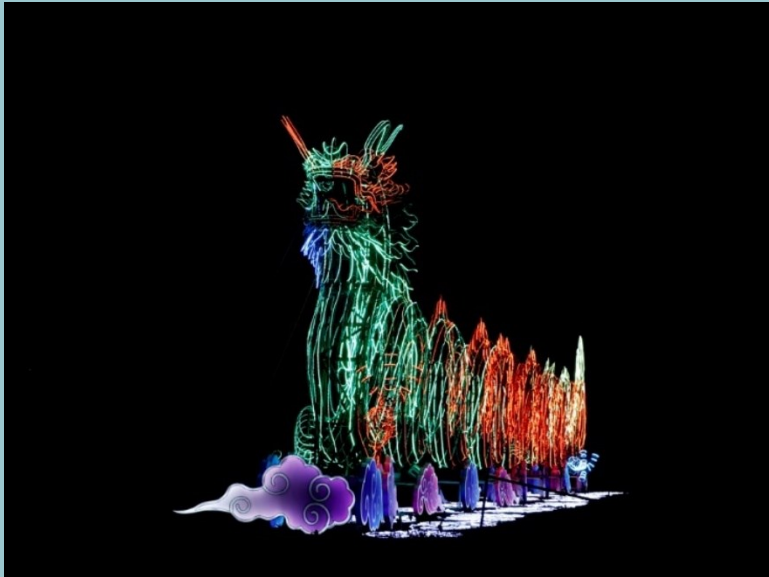
Together they are working to solve the email challenges we have had this year. That is still a work in progress.”

# out & about



## Chinese Lantern Festival:

Sally Mason (photographer)  
Dee Williams  
Cindy Murphy  
Susan Bailey  
Open until January 12th in Cary!



Thanks to our own  
**WONDERFUL** Photographers:  
Cindy Murphy, Susan Bailey,  
Dee Williams, & Sally Mason



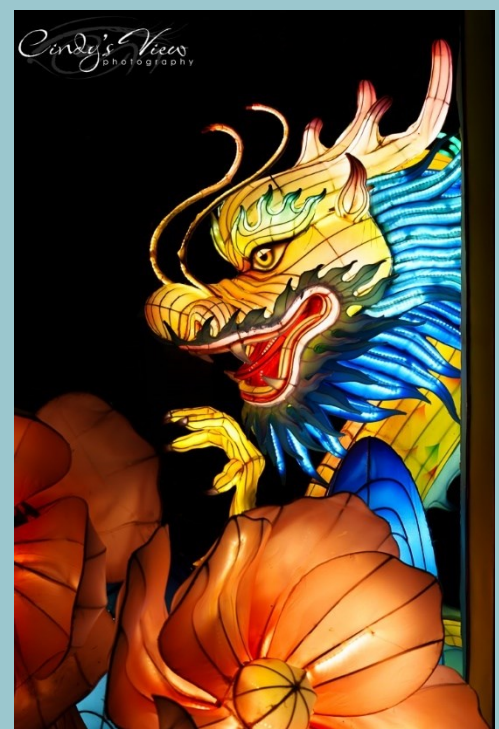
Cindy's Views  
photography



Dee Williams



Cindy's Views  
photography



Cindy's Views  
photography



Website: [www.sandhillspgphotoclub.org](http://www.sandhillspgphotoclub.org)  
 Newsletter: [alisonspcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:alisonspcnewsletter@gmail.com)



## 2024 SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB BOARD AND CHAIRS

TITLE	NAME	EMAILS
President	Cal Rice	<a href="mailto:president@sandhillspgphotoclub.org">president@sandhillspgphotoclub.org</a>
Vice President	Jacques Wood	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@sandhillspgphotoclub.org">vicepresident@sandhillspgphotoclub.org</a>
Secretary	Lynn Goldhammer	<a href="mailto:secretary@sandhillspgphotoclub.org">secretary@sandhillspgphotoclub.org</a>
Treasurer	Frank Lipski	<a href="mailto:treasurer@sandhillspgphotoclub.org">treasurer@sandhillspgphotoclub.org</a>
Communications	Alison Earl	<a href="mailto:communications@sandhillspgphotoclub.org">communications@sandhillspgphotoclub.org</a>
Competitions	Mike Sassano	<a href="mailto:competitions@sandhillspgphotoclub.org">competitions@sandhillspgphotoclub.org</a>
Exhibitions	Vacant	<a href="mailto:exhibitions@sandhillspgphotoclub.org">exhibitions@sandhillspgphotoclub.org</a>
Field Trips	Deb Castle	<a href="mailto:fieldtrips@sandhillspgphotoclub.org">fieldtrips@sandhillspgphotoclub.org</a>
Hospitality	Sally Mason	<a href="mailto:hospitality@sandhillspgphotoclub.org">hospitality@sandhillspgphotoclub.org</a>
Membership	Mary Bonsall	<a href="mailto:membership@sandhillspgphotoclub.org">membership@sandhillspgphotoclub.org</a>
PSA Rep	Dave Powers	<a href="mailto:psarep@sandhillspgphotoclub.org">psarep@sandhillspgphotoclub.org</a>
Ombudsperson	Neva Scheve	<a href="mailto:ombudsperson@sandhillspgphotoclub.org">ombudsperson@sandhillspgphotoclub.org</a>
Outings	Cindy Murphy	<a href="mailto:outings@sandhillspgphotoclub.org">outings@sandhillspgphotoclub.org</a>
Past President	Jacques Wood	<a href="mailto:pastpresident@sandhillspgphotoclub.org">pastpresident@sandhillspgphotoclub.org</a>
Programs	Jacques Wood	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@sandhillspgphotoclub.org">vicepresident@sandhillspgphotoclub.org</a>
Publicity	David Kiner	<a href="mailto:publicity@sandhillspgphotoclub.org">publicity@sandhillspgphotoclub.org</a>
Tech & Zoom	Dennis Snipes	<a href="mailto:tech@sandhillspgphotoclub.org">tech@sandhillspgphotoclub.org</a>
Web Administrator	John German	<a href="mailto:website@sandhillspgphotoclub.org">website@sandhillspgphotoclub.org</a>
Workshops	Susan Bailey	<a href="mailto:workshops@sandhillspgphotoclub.org">workshops@sandhillspgphotoclub.org</a>

**CONTACT "IN FOCUS" EDITOR Alison Earl with any questions, concerns, ideas, submissions (including images), etc. @ [alisonspcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:alisonspcnewsletter@gmail.com)**

*Alison Earl*



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