© Saskia Vaughan

JAN
2026

The Shutterbug

a newsletter of Trinity Arts Photo Club

Wildlife in Focus
100 days & 100 images

2026 Club Officers

President Monte Zillinger

Vice President DeLania Truly

Secretary Larry Marx

Treasurer/Membership Beverly Sharp

Officers at Large Teresa Hughes, Bill Webb

2026 TAPC Committee Chairs

Competition Mark Lenz

Judges Greg Richards

Newsletter Laura Richards

Outings Lesa Key, Lynne Rogers Harris, Nancy Abby

Programs Greg & Laura Richards, DeLania Truly

Web/Media Bruce Hutter

Have something to contribute?
Email Laura Richards: rci85@yahoo.com

Find us on: facebook

www.trinityartsphotoclub.org

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January Meeting

Date: Monday, January 26, 7:00 pm (CST)
Location: Martin United Methodist Church, 2621 Bedford Rd., Bedford
Program Speaker: Saskia Vaughan

Saskia Vaughan is a landscape, nature, and wildlife photographer from Mineral Wells, Texas. In her previous career, she was a dentist. As that involves working in extremely small spaces, she gravitates towards the expanses of landscape photography as her artistic release.

She found her voice in letting her photographs speak to humanity's response to the God who created this world. God made this world with every detail necessary for our lives here on earth in place. This did not just happen by accident. Without our faithfulness to be stewards of all He has created our world will suffer; Conservation should be our response in worship to a holy God. She prays that through her images, she will be able to show a compelling reason for people of faith to practice natural resource management.

Her crowning accomplishment, so far, has been winning the photography section of the 2018 National Weather Center Biennale at Oklahoma University. This event is cosponsored by the Norman Arts Foundation.

She is affiliated with the Fort Worth Camera Club and many of her images have found their way into their monthly competition. Recently, she won a first and third place recognition in the Heard Natural Science Museum 2023 nature photography competition.

www.saskiavaughan.com
Instagram-@saskiavaughanphotography
www.facebook.com/mineralwellsphotography

Lightning and Stars © Saskia Vaughan

Topic: Wildlife in Focus 100 days & 100 images

Osprey Pair © Saskia Vaughan

In the spring of 2025, **Saskia Vaughan** participated in the Wildlife in Focus photography contest. She will share the mission and vision of Wildlife in Focus. Also she will specifically talk about the Wildlife in Focus photography contest. She will present her specific experience and how this project changed and grew her as a photographer. She hopes that she might inspire some in the audience to dedicate some of their time and skills to find a project that can help them grow as a photographer. She will be sharing some of the photographs that she took during the 100 days, as well as some that did not make the 100 photo portfolio.

Raven in Snow © Saskia Vaughan

Madison Morning © Saskia Vaughan

Miller Cabin © Saskia Vaughan

Meet our judges

January

Edgar Miller is a native Texan living in Fort Worth. He is a portrait, commercial, and fine art photographer. Over the past two decades, he has showcased his work and received awards in various Texas and national exhibitions, including Best Photographer of Fort Worth in 2022 and 2024. His fine art photographs are also in private collections. Edgar Miller is a long-time member of the Texas Photographic Society and the Texas Artists Coalition. His photography draws inspiration from his late father and also from his college photo professor, Keith Carter.

Find more about Edgar Miller at:
https://www.edgarmillerimages.com

February

David Downs is a Master Photographer, Photographic Craftsman, Certified Professional Photographer, and a PPA Juror-In-Training with over 14 years of professional experience in landscapes, portraits, and commercial photography. David has judged dozens of print competitions at the club, guild, and state levels, bringing both technical expertise and a deep appreciation for artistic impact. He serves as Skills Director for the Dallas Professional Photographers Association, the largest PPA guild in the nation, where he oversees the monthly Image Competition and mentors photographers in developing competitive, merit-worthy work. David presents a very popular PPA Workshop each year focused on improving images specifically for Merit submission.

www.daviddowns.com

2026 Trinity Arts Photo Club Competitions

January – Open

"Open" means no assigned topic. We have free rein to challenge ourselves with the camera and/or with post-processing

February – Macro and Close-Ups
Entry Deadline - February 1, 2026
Reveal the hidden world of detail that's often unseen but unforgettable. Think "smaller than life, larger than imagination." Depth of field, lighting, and perspective are key to making your close-up composition come alive.

March – Minimalist / Simplicity
Less is more — create impact through restraint, space, and clarity. Capture the power of simplicity through clean lines, open space, and uncluttered design.

April –Western Heritage in DFW Metroplex*
Celebrate North Texas' enduring Western spirit — from Stockyards to open range.

May – Open
"Open" means no assigned topic. We have free rein to challenge ourselves with the camera and/or with post-processing.

June – Black & White
Strip away color to expose the power of light, shadow, and emotion. Explore the timeless beauty of monochrome photography — from soft gray scale subtleties to stark contrasts.

July – Sports Action
Capture the decisive moment — energy, motion, and emotion in full stride. Strong storytelling and dynamic composition are key: make the viewer feel they're in the action.

August – Shadows
Play with darkness and light to shape mystery, form, and mood.

September – Open
"Open" means no assigned topic. We have free rein to challenge ourselves with the camera and/or with post-processing.

October – Procrastinator's Delight
Topic will be chosen from a hat at the August meeting. Photos must be taken between drawing and the October 1 competition deadline. No shooting ahead. No looking through archived photos. You have a limited window of time to take this competition topic.

November – Small Town Main Streets in DFW Metroplex*
Capture the character and charm of North Texas' hometown hearts. Whether lively and colorful or quiet and nostalgic, your image should capture the personality and story of a town through its streetscape, architecture, and people.

December – Holiday Party

* DFW metro includes the following counties: Hood, Johnson, Parker, Somervell, Tarrant, Wise, Palo Pinto, Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Hunt, Kaufman and Rockwall counties.

Remember to vote for the People's Choice awards for January!

Club News

Membership Renewal

Just a quick reminder that we need to renew our membership in TAPC. Membership is for a calendar year but you can join at any time (our modest dues are even prorated). Annual dues are: Family-$45, Individual-$35, and Student-$25. There are three methods of payment and are as follows: cash (make sure your name is included), check (payable to TRINITY ARTS PHOTO CLUB) and Zelle. Beverly Sharp is our membership officer. If you have any questions, please contact her at: **tapc.memberdues@gmail.com**

49th Annual Heard Nature Photography Contest

The contest will be accepting all-digital submissions from January 31 to February 22, 2026.

Images may be in Color or Black & White. There is no time limit on when the images were taken or what type of equipment was used (including cell phones).

Submission Fees:
Adult- $10/per image

Youth- $5/per image

There is no limitation on the number of images that may be submitted.

Full details are found on our website:
www.heardnaturephotographers.com

Holiday Party and Awards

There was a good representation of the club for the holiday party at the Mexican Inn in Bedford. Everyone enjoyed delicious food and fellowship. Awards were presented for the Photographer of the Year to Greg Richards for the beginner group and DeLania Truly for the advanced group. More information is included on pages 9-13. Also, the winners of the new award, Photograph of the Year were Leanna Mendoza for the beginner group and DeLania Truly for the advanced group. Monte Zillinger gave Mark Lenz the President's award. Congratulations to all!

Greg Richards, Ron and Lana Macko serving themselves at the buffet.

© Laura Richards

© Laura Richards

Lana Macko, Mahannh Pike and Jan Stout show off their Christmas attire.

© Anne Dyson

Mark Lenz presenting the POY award to DeLania Truly.

© Anne Dyson

Mark Lenz presenting the POY award to Greg Richards.

© Anne Dyson

Mark Lenz presenting the POY award to Leanna Mendoza.

Outings

Outings

We have a team, Lesa Key, Nancy Abby and Lynne Rogers Harris working on outings for the year 2026. The team has received some good input for outings. Thanks to all of you who have responded. To share further ideas, please contact Lesa Key at:
kandlkey@hotmail.com

Christmas in the Garden at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden

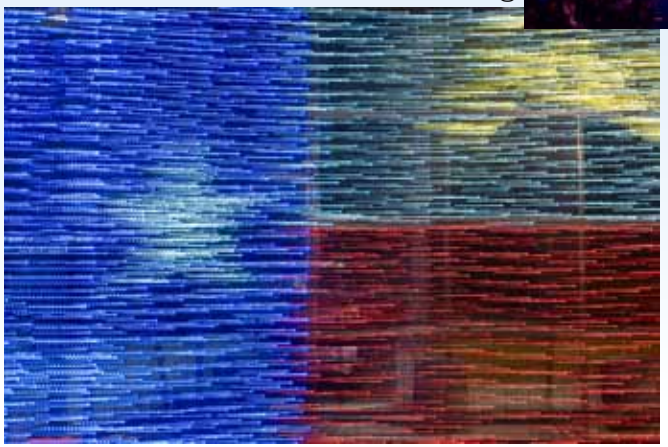
Everyone who attended the outing at the Christmas in the Garden in November had a great time. Several of the members had dinner at Ol' South Pancake House and the rest of the group met at the garden. A total of ten people participated. The outing gave the members the opportunity to take night shots without tripods. Tripods were not allowed, but this provided for some creative photography. There were many photo opportunities and many unique exhibits with colored lights set to music.

Back Row: Mark, Bruce, Robert, Lana and her husband, Ron
Front Row: Larry, Laura, Lesa and Beverly

© Lana Macko

© Mark Lenz

© Lana Macko



© Mark Lenz

© Laura Richards

November Contest Winners – Long Exposure

© Greg Richards

1st Place & **People's Choice**
Iceland Waterfall Greg Richards

"This photo was taken in June of 2025 in Iceland. I was on a photography workshop which was focused on landscapes. It was after 8 at night but in the summer in Iceland, it never actually gets dark. I used a tripod for the long exposure. I like the way the rocks framed the waterfall. Our photography guides took us to many great waterfall locations that provided great photo opportunities."

(5/2 sec, f/16, 17mm, ISO:100, Sony A7III)

- *Greg Richards*

© Nancy Irwin

2nd Place *The Gentle Blur of Time* Nancy Irwin

© Monte Zillinger

3rd Place *The Historic Webb House* Monte Zillinger

© Darrell Smith

Honorable Mention
Parroquia de San Miguel
Darrell Smith

November Contest Winners – Long Exposures

© Mark Lenz

1st Place
Devil Dog Revved up Under the Lights Mark Lenz
"This was taken at Addison Kaboomtown fireworks show in 2023. The last time our aviation photography group was able to get hangar access to shoot an aircraft in front of the fireworks. B-25 Mitchell bomber Devil Dog had engines spooled up and running and we light painted the left side of the plane. " (7 sec, f11, ISO 320)

- *Mark Lenz*

© Bill Webb

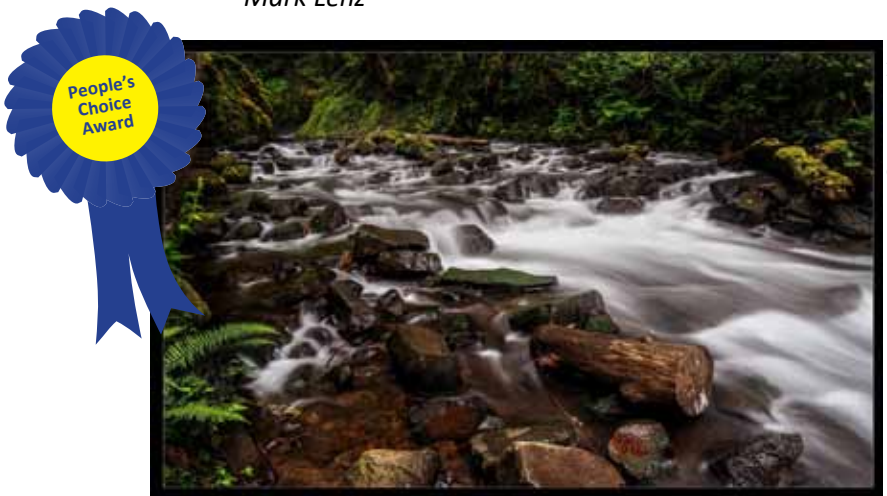
2nd Place
Millions of Light-years in 15 Seconds
Bill Webb

© Lynne Rogers Harris

3rd Place *Timeless Crossing* Lynne Rogers Harris

© Laura Richards

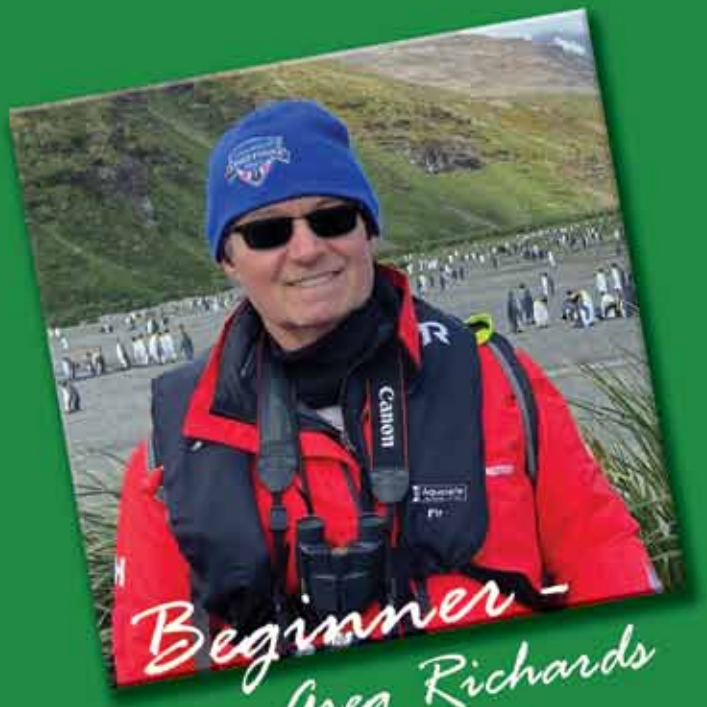
Honorable Mention *Golden Sunrise* Laura Richards



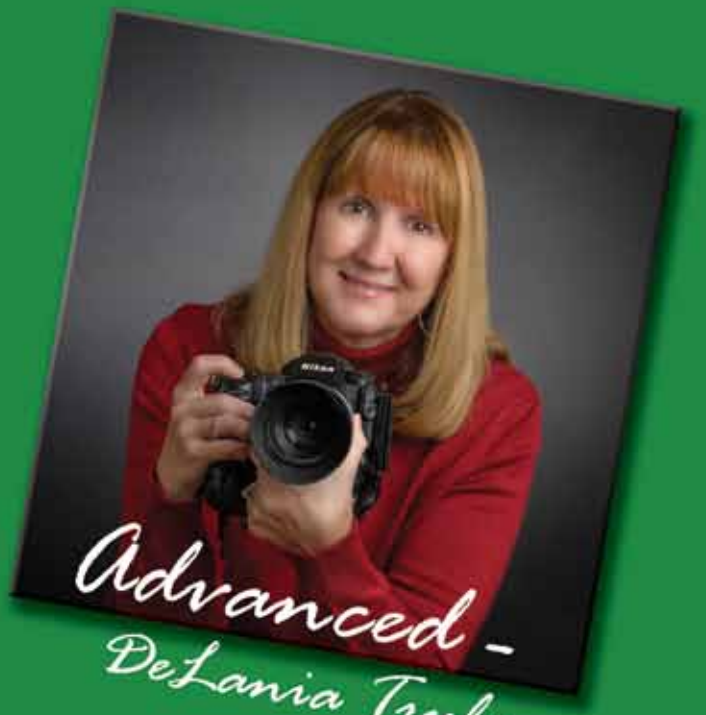
© Nancy Abby

People's Choice
Where Time Slows
Nancy Abby

Photographers of the Year!



Beginner -
Greg Richards



Advanced -
DeLania Truly

Pelicans © Greg Richards

Ocean Sunset © DeLania Truly

Beginner Photographer of the Year

Greg Richards

How did you initially become interested in photography?
I got a Canon AE1 camera for my 21st birthday and started to take photos. Then after college when I moved to Texas, I took a continuing education class at UTA and shot and developed black and white photos. But what really got me interested was joining the Trinity Arts Photo Club. We started going to the Colleyville Nature Center during COVID and we were hooked. We went every week and tried our best to capture photos of the many bird species that gather there.

How long have you been involved in photography?
47 years but seriously for only the last 6 years

What are your favorite subject(s)/genre(s) to shoot?
Since I started making trips to the CNC during COVID, I started focusing on wildlife especially birds due to the endless variety and the added challenge of capturing them in flight.

Icelandic Reflection © Greg Richards

What image are you most proud of? (Please include the photo.) *Icelandic Reflection* was taken during an Iceland landscape photography workshop. Landscape was a new genre for me and I was very happy with the results. It was taken after sunset but it was during the period of the summer when it never gets dark. It was such a beautiful location with just a touch of mist and great lighting which made for a perfect reflection.

What equipment do you consider to be essential?
My go to lens is the Sigma 100-400 zoom lens for birding and other wildlife. It generally allows me to zoom in well enough but you always would like to get a little closer. **What are your favorite non-essential items?** The Tamron 17-28mm wide angle lens and tripod are essential for quality landscape photos but I've just begun to explore that genre.

What is the best advice in photography that you have received?
Those great award-winning photos of birds in flight are not by accident. It takes a lot of planning and proper preparation. To capture a great bird photo, you should study the habits of the bird so you can anticipate where to find it and its flight patterns. Then you position yourself with the sun and wind at your back so you're in position for that perfect takeoff shot.

What skill would you like to improve?
I would like improve my ability to capture birds taking off and in flight. I still have trouble consistently tracking birds in flight.

What do you enjoy about being a member of Trinity Arts Photography Club?
I enjoy the socializing and interaction with the fellow club members at meetings and field trips. I also really enjoy the monthly photo competitions with the wide variety of topics which challenges me to expand my photography skills into areas that I wouldn't typically explore. Seeing the wide variety of great photos submitted by the club members is challenging and motivating.

© Greg Richards

© Greg Richards

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What challenges have you had to deal with or overcome in your photography pursuits?
I don't naturally have a great eye so I am continually trying to slow down and step back and try to literally see the big picture or composition before pressing the shutter release. So often I will get back from a photography outing and look at my photos and be disappointed. I'll be just amazed what I failed to see when I took the shot. How could I not have seen the limb going right through my subject when all I had to do is change my position!!!!????

If you could travel anywhere in the world to take photos, where would it be? Why?
There are so many places I would like to go but Africa his high on the list because of all the exotic wildlife. I was there many years ago and now that I have much better equipment and hopefully I'm a better photographer I would like to return and give it a try. There is just such an amazing variety of wildlife providing many great photography opportunities.

What thoughts would you like to share?
I've always been drawn to great photos. I love looking at spectacular or wow photos that capture a moment in time inspiring me to see the possibilities. And now that I've gotten more involved in photography, I've gotten an even greater appreciation of the work that goes into capturing those award-winning photos.

Horses on the Beach © Greg Richards

Photographs of the Year

Saxxy!

Leanna Mendoza

© Leanna Mendoza

I enjoy the street photography of Deep Ellum. This was taken inside a coffee shop, downtown, that hosted a jazz band. I took those while enjoying great coffee and even better music! Using Photoshop, I highlighted the saxophone and made the rest of the photo black and white. (Nikon D7500, f/5 1/60 sec, 62mm, ISO 1000)

- Leanna Mendoza

A Prickly Pearfect Texas Night Sky

DeLania Truly

© DeLania Truly

This image was taken at Fort Griffin State Historic Park. I was excited to see that some of the prickly pear cacti were blooming this year and specifically searched for a patch that might align with any of the historic buildings and the Milky Way. Using Photo Pills, I picked the location and timing (around 1 am). The final image is a blend of two: the bottom half features the prickly pear with very low light painting for a few seconds; and the top half is the Milky Way with the historic ruin light painted a little longer. I edited in Lightroom Classic and blended in Photoshop. (Nikon Z9, 4-24mm lens, f/2.8, ISO:1600. Prickly pear-8 sec, Milky Way-10 sec.)

- DeLania Truly

Advanced Photographer of the Year

DeLania Truly

How did you initially become interested in photography?
Honestly, I've always had an interest in photography. In high school, I had an important school project and I included slides and music to make the project more interesting. I was on the high school newspaper and saw the impact of images with words. I took photography in college as part of my journalism degree and continued to focus on creating stories with photography and writing.

How long have you been involved in photography?
As I mentioned, I became interested in high school and college. However, over the years of marriage, kids and career, it became secondary.

What are your favorite genres/ subjects to photograph?
I love photographing almost anything! I appreciate the variety of subjects to explore all around us, so I never say "no" to a potential subject. However, I will gravitate toward beautiful landscapes that offer multiple perspectives, and people who offer personalities and storytelling.

What image are you most proud of? (Please include the photo.)
My image at dawn over Tuscany taught me something important. The moment I saw the beautiful fog throughout the valley and the sparkling lights of the village waking up, I knew I had to capture that vision. I was with a group who were being ushered to another scene about 100 yards away, but I stayed and made sure I captured what my heart saw. I learned that when you see a vision, explore it. You may or may not succeed in capturing it fully but go for it. The other image is the one that was selected as the People's Choice Photograph of the Year with the prickly pear and the Milky Way. I envisioned this image the moment I saw that there were blooming prickly pear in the area, and I followed through to execute it, both in camera and in post-processing. It reminded me of the same lesson … always try to capture what you envision.

What equipment do you consider to be essential? What are your favorite non-essential items?
The tripod is essential to some of the best photographs. I used to think it was not important until the time I finally understood the value of a slow shutter speed, or stacked images, or anything else that requires the strong foundation of a tripod. My other favorites are ND and CPL filters, and a small rectangular Lume Cube to help light paint a subject in darker scenes.

What is the best advice in photography that you have received?
Change your perspective … look up, look down, look behind you and look all around. The scene will change and so will your perspective on the possible images. Don't get locked into just one perspective or one way of doing things. Always explore and look for more.

Dawn Awakens the Village © DeLania Truly

A Prickly Pearfect Texas Night Sky © DeLania Truly

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What skill would you like to improve?
I want to go deeper on my editing in Photoshop. I use it all the time, but in limited ways. I want to really explore the depths of what it can help me do to enhance a single image and make it really great. That includes color grading, art history brushes, background blending, and more.

What do you enjoy about being a member of Trinity Arts Photography Club?
I love how so many people encourage each other and that we are small enough to really know each other. It's a great balance of learning from our presenters, learning from our judges, and learning from each other.

What challenges have you had to deal with or overcome in your photography pursuits?
There are always more places to go and more photos to take than time allows. Early in my journey I just wanted to shoot; it didn't matter what. Now, I feel like I need to keep variety in my photography and travel yet still focus on specific growth areas.

If you could travel anywhere in the world to take photos, where would it be? Why?
I would really love to go to Ireland/Scotland. I've been to a small part of Ireland, but there's so much more to explore and it's so rich in history. I am excited to travel to Southern France next July which was also a bucket-list destination.

What thoughts would you like to share?
I encourage everyone to set goals, small or large, for their photography journey. Then intentionally take steps to achieve the goals, one step at a time. Whether I'm on a workshop or taking photos in the backyard, I try to have a specific vision or goal to achieve. Sometimes I learn something I didn't expect and it's always fun.

Watercolor Flowers © DeLania Truly

Aspen Dew © DeLania Truly

Northern Lights © DeLania Truly

Sunrise Symmetry © DeLania Truly

The City that is Always in Motion © DeLania Truly