

October 17th Club Meeting

Ric Westman

All About Bird Photography

This month we look forward to welcoming noted local nature photographer, Ric Westman. While Ric is both a bird and landscape photographer, at our meeting he will focus on his bird photography—particularly his passion for raptor photography. His ultimate goal is to capture the raw power and elegance of these formidable birds of prey, and he will share some

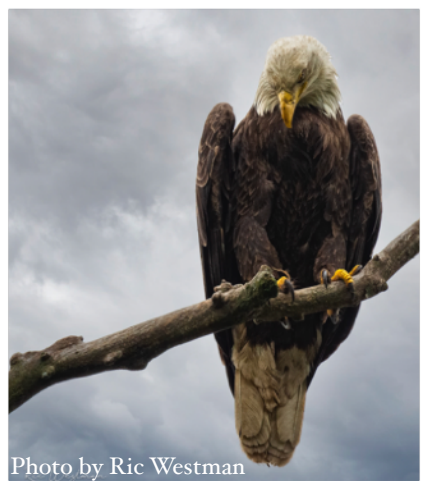


Photo by Ric Westman

of his insights into how to accomplish this by focusing on the intricate details and dynamic movements of raptors, from their piercing eyes to their majestic wingspans.

Ric has a keen eye for composition and a deep respect for wildlife. “I feel that my images provide a captivating window into the lives of eagles, hawks, owls, and other raptors. My photographs not only celebrate the beauty and majesty of these birds but also highlight the need for their conservation and protection.”

For the past ten years Ric has primarily used Nikon photographic equipment. His knowledge of Nikon's advanced tools allows him to achieve the exceptional clarity and detail in his photographs that showcase the power and grace of these majestic birds. Ric's landscape, nature and raptor photography has appeared in a



Photo by Lisa Downs

variety of magazines, including Kansas magazine, Canvas Rebel (online magazine), and Lenexa TownTalk. One of Ric's photos was also the basis for a children's e-book titled “The Turtle and the Egret.”

You can check out Ric's photography at his website, [Gray Ghost Photography](#) to see more of his work.

Mike Farley will also give us an overview of using “Back Button Focusing” in the monthly Tips and Tricks segment of the meeting.

Also in This Issue

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- ◆ Update on fall colors in the Kansas City area (p. 2)
- ◆ Photo opportunities and other photography-related info to share (p. 2)
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Photo by Mark Asbury

Member Slide Show

Each meeting we have a slideshow of photos submitted by our members. The photos submitted for the slideshow will be available for viewing on the DD&B website and a few may be selected for this newsletter. We hope that most members will participate. Guidelines [here](#).

Powell Observatory Outing Update

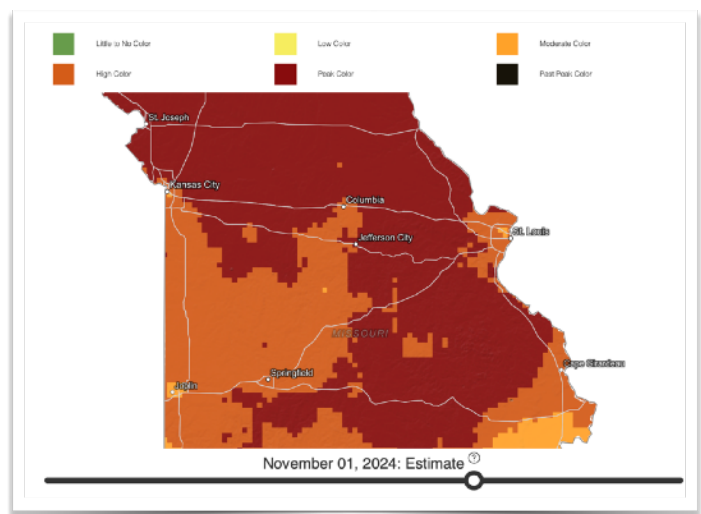
The Powell Observatory outing in Louisburg, Kansas is rescheduled for Friday, October 25th, 6:30 - 10:00 pm. We had lots of interest in the original September outing that was cancelled due to heavy cloud cover. People who paid initially but can't make the rescheduled outing will have their money refunded. Any new attendees can pay at the door. There will be no limit on how many can attend, but we do need to know how many are coming ahead of time to make sure we have enough volunteers to help. You can click [here](#) to register. Bring warm jackets!

November 21 Club Meeting to Feature Kansas City Pulitzer-Prize Winning Photographer Dan White

Best known for his photos of the 1998 Hyatt Hotel Skywalk collapse, Dan White is currently a Kansas City commercial, editorial, and fine art photographer who has never lost touch with his photojournalistic roots. Dan was recently inducted into the Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame. According to his [website](#), "From the aboriginal people of the Northern Territories in Australia, to the jazz musicians of Kansas City, to the cowboys of western Kansas, or in honoring the people of his hometown, he photographs with respect for and with an ability to make people comfortable in front of the camera." Be sure to check out the photos on Dan's website; you're in for a treat.

Fall Foliage Forecast for Kansas City

We still expect some spectacular fall foliage in the Kansas City area this year, but the recent very warm and dry conditions the past few weeks have pushed the high and peak color seasons towards the end of October and into early November.. Check out this updated [map](#) showing when and where peak foliage colors will be visible this year, with maps by state available.



CAROLE'S CORNER

SHAPE OF THE FINAL IMAGE

Final images are too often the exact shape of the viewfinder or monitor. Why? Habit. The familiarity of WYSIWYG, or “what you see is what you get.”

Indeed, the final shape ought to be determined by the best presentation for that subject matter.

Shoot now. Crop later. How about creating a habit of shooting with just a little extra space around the main subject?



Photos by Nancy Armstrong



That extra space gives you flexibility in shooting, straightening, and cropping. When shooting, you can concentrate of capturing the main subject from the right viewpoint to get the best lighting and background.

When straightening you often lose edges of the photo. When cropping, you can see the results in real time. You can make several crops including ideas you didn't think of when shooting. Your original idea won't always be your new final favorite!

Some reasons that influence the image's final shape are to:

- Frame more perfectly a main subject which does not fit well into the camera's default shape
- Place a leading line where it belongs, because it was physically impossible to make the original composition that way
- Decrease an excessive amount of foreground or sky
- Accentuate a vertical or horizontal object by placing it within a narrow picture
- Fit on standard size photo paper (which does not match the camera's image shape)
- Fit into a ready-made frame (popular for home or office décor or for giving as a gift)
- Change or highlight the mood of the picture
- Create a unique look
- Create more than one final image from a single original.

The crop can be the most significant edit you do, and planning ahead can help you turn a so-so photo into a winner.