

Welcome to "Beyond the Frame," our monthly newsletter celebrating the art, craft, and community of photography. Each edition brings you club updates, creative insights, member highlights, and inspiration to keep exploring — both within and beyond the viewfinder.

💬 From the President

September was an incredible month of shooting, from exploring the historic streets during our **18th & Vine field trip** to capturing the spectacular **Harvest Moon alignment** over the Kansas City skyline. We are now transitioning into the heart of autumn, which brings magnificent, highly saturated fall foliage perfect for practicing your backlighting techniques. As we head into October, I am thrilled to welcome our members to look forward to a stunning new lineup of local gallery exhibits and crisp, cool weather ideal for landscape work. Keep your gear ready, check out our newly updated editing software tips, and keep your creative eyes open!

🗒️ September Meeting Reminder

Date: September 17
Social Time: 6:00 p.m.
Meeting: 6:30–8:30 p.m.

🗒️ September Event Reminder

- Event: **18th & Vine Exploration**
  Date: September 12
  Time: 10:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.
  Location: Meet at American Jazz Museum. Free parking is available behind the museum. Click for parking map.

📝 What We Learned Last Month

🟡 Myth vs. Science: The Shifting Harvest Moon

Myth: The full moon follows a predictable **30-day cycle**, landing on roughly the same day every month.

Science: The lunar cycle actually averages **29.53 days**. Because our calendar months are 30 or 31 days long, the full moon shifts dates every month. This year, our **Harvest Moon** hits its peak alignment on **September 26 at 11:49 AM**.

The Photographer's Secret: Because the mathematical peak occurs during the day, the moon will look **equally spectacular and 99%+ illuminated** for three straight nights (September 25, 26, and 27). Plan your skyline shoots for any of these evenings!

- **The Club's Videographer** needs to monitor the recording controls more attentively to avoid losing a presentation. Big Sorry for losing Reed Hoffmann's presentation on photographing the FIFA World Cup games in Kansas City.

News & Updates (Past 30 Days Only)

- **Skylum Luminar** has made a major change beyond the dropping of the suffix NEO. There are now three products: Luminar on Desktop, Luminar on Mobile, and Luminar on Web. Check out Ted Forbes YouTube videoblogger for the *Art of Photography* channel video ***Meet the New Luminar: A Cleaner, Faster Photo Editor***.
- **Adobe Camera Raw** v18.6 added a really cool new **GLOW** control that gives three different looks: Diffusion for Orton-style effect; Bloom for beautiful, natural-looking highlight glow; and Halation for a warmer glow that can work well with sunsets. This feature isn't as of yet added to Lightroom. Watch this video
- **RapidRAW** is a *free* non-destructive and GPU-accelerated RAW image editor that doesn't take up much disk space. This Lightroom like editor can be installed on Linux, macOS, and Windows computers. Check out this YouTube video.

Member Showcase

August's club meeting offered 20 images from 4 different club members. Here are three of the images from our August 2026 gallery.



Dehdasht Behrouz



Mollie O'Day



Michael Farley

Learning Corner

- **Use Backlighting to Make Fall Photos Glow** Backlighting can really make your fall photos pop.
- **10 Autumn Photography Tips You Must Try This Season!** Mads Peter Iversen shares 10 essential tips to capture truly breathtaking, atmospheric, and highly saturated fall scenes.
- **8 Tips &Tricks for Better Autumn Edits in Lightroom!** Christian Möhrle of the YouTube channel The Phlog Photography gives you expert insight to enhance your fall photos.
- **Lightroom's Darkest Editing Secret for Stunning Fall Colors** Mark Denney shares his insight to using the calibration tool in lightroom to make fall colors pop!

🏛️ Community & Exhibits

Here are a few local events and exhibits to check out before our September Club Meeting:

Diallo Javonne French: *2 Decades in Focus*

- **Dates:** Sept 29 - Oct 12 (Opening Reception Sept 25: 5-7:30 PM)
- **Location:** The Gallery at Kansas City Kansas Community College (7250 State Ave, Kansas City, KS)
- **Details:** Honoring over 20 years of work by Kansas City-born photographer and filmmaker Diallo Javonne French.

American Prospects and Landscape Photography, 1839 to Today

- **Dates:** Tentatively opening October 2026
- **Location:** The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (Bloch Building)
- **Details:** Centered around Joel Sternfeld's influential 1980s color series *American Prospects*, this major exhibition explores humanity's changing relationship with the natural world through 80 historic and contemporary landscape works. *(Note: Club members should double-check the museum's website prior to visiting, as opening dates are subject to construction shift schedules).*

Out of Many, One: Series from The Lawrence Lithography Workshop

- **Dates:** Opens October 3, 2026
- **Location:** The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
- **Details:** While focused on fine art printmaking series rather than strictly photography, this new exhibit provides an excellent look at visual sequencing, narrative structure, and framing choices that can inspire a photographer's compositional workflow.

Foto Walk 2026: Kansas City

- **Date & Time:** Saturday, September 26, 2026 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- **Location:** Central Kansas City, MO (Exact meetup point provided upon registration)
- **Details:** Hosted by the regional Foto community, this free, open photo walk centers around the creative theme of *"Contrast"* (exploring light vs. shadow, old architecture vs. new builds). It is open to all skill levels and camera types, providing an excellent casual networking opportunity for club members to shoot alongside other local creators. Registration is required on Luma.

Digital Photography I Class Series

- **Dates:** Tuesdays, September 15 & September 22, 2026 | 6:30 PM
- **Location:** Bedford Camera & Video (8701 Metcalf Ave, Overland Park, KS)
- **Details:** For newer members or those looking for a foundational refresher, this local camera store series covers light mechanics, composition, archiving, and essential modifiers like filters and flashes.

Plaza Art Fair: Sept 25-27 Fantastic for street photography, candid portraiture, and capturing outdoor crowds amidst architectural backdrops.

NASCAR Weekend: Sept 25-27 Ideal for members wanting to practice high-speed panning techniques, telephoto tracking, and sports action photography.

Louisburg Ciderfest: *Louisburg Cider Mill:* September 26–27, 2026

Weston Applefest: Saturday, October 3 (10:00 AM – 5:00 PM) and Sunday, October 4 (11:00 AM – 5:00 PM)

🏆 Photography Contests Open Now

Looking to challenge yourself and get your work in front of fresh eyes? Here are a few upcoming submission deadlines to keep on your radar this month:

Rural Kansas Photography Contest

- **Submission Window: September 21 – October 25, 2026**
- **Details:** Organized by KUMC Rural Health Education and Services in partnership with *Kansas Country Living* magazine. It

highlights life, landscapes, and hidden gems across Kansas.
- **Categories:** Hidden Gems of Kansas, Sky's the Limit, Healthcare in Kansas, Seasons of Kansas, Wildlife and Critters.
- **Prizes:** $100 cash for 1st place, $50 for 2nd place in each category.

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Missouri Livestock Symposium Cover Photo Contest
- **Submission Deadline: October 15, 2026**
- **Details:** Perfect for club members who enjoy rural, agricultural, or livestock photography. Images must be high-resolution and taken in portrait orientation.
- **Prizes:** Winning image is featured on the symposium's program cover, and the photographer receives a **$100 cash prize**. Learn more via the Missouri Livestock Symposium

NACD Conservation Photo Contest
- **Submission Window:** Open through your target dates (closes December 1).
- **Details:** Sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts and locally facilitated by groups like the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts. Open to all amateur photographers.
- **Categories:** Conservation Practices, Close-up Conservation, Conservation in Action, and Agriculture across America.
- **Prizes:** $100 per category winner and public exhibition.

Neutral Density (ND) Photography Awards 2026
- **Submission Deadline: September 20, 2026**
- **Details:** A highly acclaimed international competition open to both amateur and professional divisions across a vast array of categories (Nature, Landscape, Fine Art, Street, etc.).
- **Prizes:** Over **$10,000 in cash prizes**, global press coverage, and publication in ND Magazine. Enter via the ND Awards.*Check the respective contest websites for more details and submission requirements!*

🔧 Tools & Resources

- **Adobe Camera Raw** v18.6 added a really cool new **GLOW** control that gives three different looks: Diffusion for Orton-style effect; Bloom for beautiful, natural-looking highlight glow; and Halation for a warmer glow that can work well with sunsets. This feature isn't as of yet added to Lightroom. Watch this video
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🔭 Astro Opportunities Ahead

September – Milky Way Core low in the South shortly after sunset.

September 10 — New Moon Last month to take advantage to capture the Galactic Center of the Milky Way.

September 23 – Zodiacal Light Best time to capture this light phenomenon.



🌕 **September 26 — Full Moon** This is the much anticipated **Harvest Moon**. Moonrise 6:59 PM, rising 17 mins before sunset, allowing you to capture the moon high enough above the horizon during late golden hour and civil twilight. Three shooting points to consider:

- Summit Street Bridge to Bartle Hall pylons
- Strawberry Hill Lookout for KC skyline
- Observation Park for moon over KC

📣 Want to Contribute Next Month?

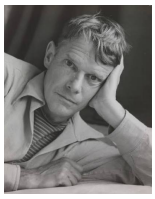
Have a photo story, gear review, field-trip recap, or gallery announcement? Send it to mark.asbury@ddandb.org and we'll try and feature it in next month's newsletter.

🖼️ Submitting Photos for August

Paid members can share up to five photos. Click to learn how to submit.

❤️ Closing Thought

With peak autumn color approaching and excellent local events like the upcoming Weston Applefest on the horizon, October is the perfect time to experiment with new landscape compositions and rich color editing tools. Don't forget to submit your favorite frames to the **Rural Kansas** or **Neutral Density Photography Awards** before the upcoming deadlines, and we will see you all at our next gathering on **September 17**!



"The autumn colors are more vivid than any that the summer brings, and it is the very brevity of this splendor that makes it so moving."
— Eliot Porter



Club Social Media Sites

- Public Facebook Page
- Members-Only Facebook Page
- Flickr Group (Digital Dimensions)
- Instagram
- Pinterest Board
- YouTube Channel