

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

Welcome to October! As autumn arrives, our month is packed with incredible visual opportunities, from peak fall foliage along the river bluffs to prime astrophotography targets like the Draconid and Orionid meteor showers. In this issue, we dive into the latest AI editing updates in Photoshop and Camera Raw, highlight regional photo contests you can enter for free, and share local cultural events rich with portrait possibilities. I encourage everyone to grab their gear, embrace the cool seasonal light, and keep pushing your creative limits!

🗓️ October Meeting Reminder

Date: October 15
Social Time: 6:00 p.m.
Meeting: 6:30–8:30 p.m.

🗓️ October Event Reminder

- Event: **Wyandotte County Lake Colors**
  Date: October 24
  Time: 9:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.
  Location: Meet at parking lot Southwest of stone bridge. 📍 Bridle Trail Parking .

📝 What We Learned Last Month

🎬 **September's Presentation: TR Franklin's The City Eagles** If you missed TR Franklin's presentation you can viewed on our YouTube Channel under the title The Six-Year Journey of the Pond Eagles. Many noted that it was original and captivating with exceptional photographs covering the six years a pair of mated eagles nested in a suburban area in Kansas City.

👥 **Help is Needed** The club needs a treasurer to manage the club's funds. The position entails a little bookkeeping, writing checks, and keeping an accurate listing of paid members.

📰 News & Updates (Past 30 Days Only)

- **Native Focus Point Display:** Adobe Camera Raw (ACR) added the ability to display the active autofocus point directly on raw files. Right-click an image and toggle *"Show Focus Point"* to instantly review hit rates without third-party software.
- **In-Mask Color Wheel Grading:** Color grading wheels are now available inside individual local masks. Highlight, midtone, and shadow split-toning can be restricted exclusively to backgrounds, foregrounds, or

subjects without affecting the rest of the frame.

- **Raw Generative Expand:** The Crop tool in Camera Raw now supports native *Generative Expand* on RAW DNG files. This allows extending canvas dimensions while preserving white balance, tonal depth, and linear raw data—eliminating the need to route out to 16-bit TIFFs/PSDs in Photoshop first.
- **New Glow Effects:** ACR added a dedicated non-destructive *Glow* effect under the Effects panel with Diffusion, Bloom, and Halation modes, providing fine control over highlight roll-off and atmospheric bloom.
- **Harmonize Tool (Photoshop 2026):** Photoshop introduced a one-click AI composite blending tool designed to analyze and match lighting, tone, and ambient color schemes when placing objects into new background environments.

Member Showcase

September's club meeting offered 10 images from 2 club members. Here are three of the images from the September 2026 gallery.



Bill Pugh



Bill Pugh



George Jerkovich

Learning Corner

- **Judging Wildlife Photographer of the Year - an insight with Andy Parkinson, NAT GEO Photographer** Shares judging and past submissions of his photos into the NAT GEO Wildlife Photographer of the year.
- **Perfect Skin Tones With the Camera Raw Vectorscope** This is a must watch for anyone interested in photographing people.
- **The Hidden Photoshop AI Tool That Cleans Up Wrinkles and Skin in Seconds** Adobe's new one-click Blemish Removal tool inside Camera Raw finds and removes skin blemishes in seconds.
- **The Update We've Been Waiting For! New Adjustment Layers Explained** This important non-distructive update brings Color & Vibrance, Clarity & Dehaze, and Grain adjustment layers directly into your workflow!

Tired of Paying Monthly to Edit Photos? Try This Instead Here YouTube photographer, Mark Denney shares with viewers DxO PhotoLab 10's Depth Mask, which is the only application that offers this feature. This YouTube video also offers a 50% off coupon..

Community & Exhibits

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

American Prospects and Landscape Photography, 1839 to Today

- **Dates:** Opened in 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).*

Symbiosis

- **Venue:** Zhou B Art Center KC (1801 E. 18th St.)
- **Dates:** Runs through January 7
- **Details:** A collaborative exhibition with *Imagine That KC* focusing on line, texture, form, and repeating organic patterns found throughout nature. Excellent for members interested in fine art framing, macro composition, and abstract visual textures.

First Fridays in the Crossroads & 18th & Vine

- **Dates:** Friday, November 6 (4:00 PM – 9:00 PM)
- **Details:** The final official First Friday art walk of the season. Dozens of galleries open across the Crossroads Arts District alongside pop-up art markets, street performers, and food trucks—offering great opportunities for candid street photography and gallery visits.

13th Annual Día de los Muertos Celebration

- **Venue:** The Museum of Kansas City (East Historic Lawn)
- **Date & Time:** Saturday, October 17 | 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM (Sunset ~6:34 PM)
- **Highlights:** Traditional outdoor and indoor community altars (*ofrendas*), live performances by *Grupo Folklórico Izcalli*, *Mariachi Estrella KC*, puppet theatre, and elaborate face painting. Vibrant colors, golden-hour light, and rich cultural details. *(Note: Advance pay-what-you-wish tickets required; outdoor photography welcome on the lawn).*

Día de los Muertos Exhibit Closing & Calaca Night Parade

- Venue: Mattie Rhodes Center (Westside / 17th St Corridor)
- Date: Friday, November 6
- Highlights: The culmination of the Westside's Day of the Dead festivities featuring a street parade (*Calaca Parade*), costumed performers, traditional altar installations, and evening street life. Ideal for handheld low-light portraiture and motion capture.

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.

Calendar Photo Contest (High Plains Farm Credit)

- **Submission Deadline: November 6**

- **Cost:** Free
- **Theme:** Agricultural life, rural landscapes, Midwest farm sunsets, and equipment/livestock imagery across Kansas and Missouri. Winning images are selected for their annual printed calendar distribution.

Central States Regional Juried Exhibition (Kansas City Artists Coalition - KCAC)

- **Submission Deadline: October 19**
- **Cost:** Free for entry
- **Eligibility:** Open to all artists and photographers residing in Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Oklahoma, or Arkansas (ages 18+). Fine art photography submissions are accepted.
- **Exhibition Dates:** Selected works will hang in the KCAC Gallery (Gillham Rd, KCMO) from November 20 through December 18.

Mail Art & Photography Call (KC Public Library - Central Branch)

- ***Exhibition Window: October 14 – January 17***
- ***Cost:*** *Free*
- ***Details:*** *Open call for 2D visual media, including photography, exploring concepts of freedom. Photos mounted to 8x10 board are displayed physically in the Guldner Gallery downtown.*

🔧 Tools & Resources

- **Topaz Labs "Next-Gen" Models (Gigapixel & Photo AI)** Topaz introduced updated reconstruction algorithms designed to recover critical subject detail from motion blur or missed focus while simultaneously handling high-ISO noise reduction.
- **DxO PureRAW 4** DeepPRIME XD2 AI Denoising: DxO updated its RAW demosaicing engine to process ultra-high ISO images (12,800+) with improved fine detail retention, avoiding artificial plastic textures on feathers, foliage, and night sky foregrounds.
- **PhotoPills 2026/2027 Field Guides:** PhotoPills integrated updated ephemeris engines, solar/lunar azimuth mapping, and target field planning tailored for the upcoming eclipse windows, comet passes, and meteor shower peaks.
- **Photographer's Ephemeris (TPE) 3D:** Upgraded 3D terrain shading and horizon elevation maps allow landscape shooters to calculate exact shadow lengths and ridge blockage across mountain ranges or urban skylines prior to arriving on site.

🔭 Astro Opportunities Ahead

🌌 **October – Milky Way Core Closing Window:** The bright galactic core sets quickly after sunset in the southwest, making this the final month to capture the vertical core before it disappears into the Sun's glare for the season.

🌠 2. Draconid Meteor Shower Peak (October 8–9)

What it is: Unlike most meteor showers that require late pre-dawn hours, the Draconid radiant sits highest in the sky during early evening.

Photo Tip: A **New Moon on October 10** means dark, moon-free skies. While the Zenithal Hourly Rate (ZHR) is relatively modest, the Draconids are known for slow-moving, bright meteors—making them easier to capture on long exposures. Set up facing north/northwest right after dusk.

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

🌌 **October 21-22 – Orionid Meteor Shower Peak**

What it is: Fast-moving meteors (debris left behind by Halley's Comet) known for leaving long-lasting gassy trails (persistent trains).

Photo Tip: The waxing gibbous moon sets around 2:30 AM to 3:00 AM, leaving a prime 2-to-3-hour pre-dawn shooting window of pitch-black skies before twilight. Orient lenses toward the constellation Orion in the east/southeast.

🌕 October 25-26 — Full "Hunter" Moon

What it is: October's Full Moon reaches peak phase overnight on October 25–26.

Photo Tip: Frame the rising full moon against landmark foregrounds or early-autumn foliage during blue hour (roughly 20–30 minutes after sunset). Use a telephoto lens (200 mm - 500 mm) from a distance to maximize the optical compression effect.

📣 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

As we wrap up this issue, let's keep in mind that the best photographs come from genuine connection—whether you are capturing the vibrant spirit of a community event or chasing peak autumn colors and dark night skies. Take time this month to slow down, look a little closer, and make images that tell a real story. See you all at our next meeting!



"It's one thing to make a picture of what a person looks like, it's another thing to make a portrait of who they are."
— Paul Caponigro



DD&B Text Group

WhatsApp group

Not a member of the DD&B What's Up group, then use this QR Code to join. We use this group to promote spontaneous meet ups and to help coordinate meet ups on scheduled club outings.

Club Social Media Sites

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