

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 November! As late autumn settles in, our month brings rich visual opportunities, from golden-hour light across the prairie landscapes to prime astrophotography targets like the Leonid meteor shower and the Beaver Super Moon. In this issue, we dive into advanced night-sky planning tools, highlight regional photo contests with upcoming deadlines, and showcase local spectacles like Manhattanhenge for unique cityscape shots. I encourage everyone to bundle up, capture the crisp seasonal light, and keep pushing your creative limits!

🗓️ November Meeting Reminder

Date: November 19
Social Time: 6:00 p.m.
Meeting: 6:30–8:30 p.m.
Presentation: George Jerkovich a noted nature and wildlife photographer. His presentation will focus on his photographic process and field techniques.

🗓️ November Event Reminder

- Event: **Fall Visit to KC Zoo**
  Date: November 21
  Time: 9:30 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.
  Location: Meet at the main entrance.
- Event: **County Club Plaza Lights Photoshoot (Don't Miss Out)**
  Date: December 5,
  Time: 5:30 a.m.– 10:15 p.m.
  Location: Meet at the Intercontinental Hotel once your RSVP is accepted. Use the below QR Code to RSVP.

- Event: **DD&B Club Photo Exhibition and Reception**
  Date: December 11
  Time: 6:00 p.m.
  Location: Lenexa City Hall Art Gallery

📝 What We Learned Last Month

🎬 **October's Presentation: Tom Strongman's To Russia with Love** If you missed the meeting, then use the link to watch it. It was a very interesting travel story that was nicely

photographed. Other presentations are available in our DD&B Channel.

💻 **Club's Article** ***Capturing Autumn: Top Fallo Photography Locations Around Kansas City (2026 Edition)*** was the top visited page this last month and understandably so. Check it out.

👥**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

- **Luminar Fall 2026 Update (Released Oct 28):** Skylum officially rolled out its massive fall upgrade. Key additions include **Enhance AI** (retains quality while automatically removing defringe/ghosting), **Atmosphere AI** (customizable, realistic fog height and placement), and a natural-language **AI Assistant** to apply complex edits. Crucially, **Luminar on Web** launched simultaneously as a free browser-based companion tool.
- **Topaz Photo AI v1.7.1 (Released Oct 22):** This critical bug-fix and performance utility expanded the input limit for local Denoise Max processing. It specifically addresses installation stability on macOS 27 and resolves minor layout artifacts like one-pixel calculation shifts during upscales.
- **Adobe has officially completed its acquisition of Topaz Labs**, integrating the industry leader in AI image enhancement directly into the Creative Cloud ecosystem. While Topaz flagship applications will continue to be available as standalone products, Adobe plans to embed Topaz's advanced denoising, sharpening, and upscaling technology directly into Photoshop and Lightroom. This move will significantly streamline workflows for photographers by delivering local, powerful AI enhancement tools without requiring external file exports.
- PhotoPills Premium is in Beta Testing This long awaited cross-platform layer and web planner is designed for faster shot planning, sharing points of interest, and community collaboration.

🖼️ Member Showcase

October's club meeting offered 4 images that Paul Douglas took on a trip to Oregon. Here are a couple of his images found in the October 2026 gallery.





📚 Learning Corner

Before You Go to Namibia, Watch This as Nate Luebbe and Autumn Schrock share insights on how to make the most of a trip to Namibia as well as sharing what they took and apps they used.

The Luminar Update We've Been Waiting For is Finally Here! In this video Anthony Turnham reviews what is in the Luminar update mentioned in the News section.

PhotoPills Premium for Beginners Rafael Pons provides an introduction of the new features on this newly developed cross platform application.

- **The Ultimate Guide to Scanning Film with a Digital Camera** This video was added based upon last month's club discussion. If you like this, check out this post from our club's website 📸 From Physical to Pixel: The Master Guide to Digitizing Film and Prints
- **Photoshop's New Relight Layer** This new Relight layer lets you move the light on your subject after the photo is taken. Right now it's only in the Photoshop beta, and it uses 30 generative credits every time you click Done. So is it worth it?

🏛️ Community & Exhibits

Here are a few local events and exhibits to check out:

American Prospects and Landscape Photography, 1839 to Today

- **Dates:** Opened daily to January 10, 2027
- **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).*

Current Works 2026 Juried Exhibition

- **Organization:** Kansas City Society for Contemporary Photography (KCSCP)
- **Dates:** November 12 – December 31, 2026
- **Why it appeals:** The premier regional member showcase highlighting modern photographic excellence, diverse processes, and cutting-edge visual styles produced over the last two years. It provides a direct window into what active Midwest photographic artists are executing today. Full gallery location details are updated on the KCSCP Events Calendar.

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.

ISO: Crossroads Camera Club Walk

- **Venue:** Crossroads Hotel
- **Dates:** Bi-weekly occurrences throughout November and December
- **Why it appeals:** Led by local creatives, this community meetup presents distinct urban photo challenges through the historic West Bottoms and Crossroads brick architectures. It is a fantastic networking event for your newsletter readers to mingle with other regional lens professionals. Details are hosted on the Crossroads Hotel Events Board.

7th Annual Winter Magic Light Festival

- **Venue:** Platte Purchase Park (KC Northland)
- **Dates:** Nightly from November 4, 2026, through **January 2, 2027**
- **The Draw:** Over a mile of synchronized holiday lights, massive animated displays, and pixel tunnels. This is an ideal playground for mastering **bokeh effects**, abstract light trails, or sharp twilight captures against deep blue hour skies.
- **Logistics:** You can view event dates, pricing, and purchase tickets on the online portal for Winter Magic KC.

Light Up the Pitch winter festival

- **Venue:** CPKC Stadium (1460 E Front St, Downtown KC)
- **Dates:** Active through the winter season, including **January 1, 2027**
- **The Draw:** Hosted by the Kansas City Current along the riverfront, this newer winter light festival features expansive light setups. The reflection of seasonal lights dancing off the riverfront backdrop offers a

completely unique composition challenge for night-sky photography.

Zona Rosa Holiday Lighting Ceremony

- **Venue:** North Park / Zona Rosa (7350 NW 87th Terrace, KC, MO)
- **Date:** Saturday, **November 21, 2026** (Starts at 3:00 PM)
- **The Draw:** If your members enjoy candid event photography and rapid action, this features the arrival of Santa, a grand tree lighting, live musical performances, train rides, and "magical snow" areas perfect for high-shutter-speed freezing of motion.

🏆 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:

Nex-Tech Wireless: Capture Kansas Photo Contest

- **Submission Window: January 25, 2027**
- **Details:** Perfect for the club's landscape and nature photographers. They are looking for striking imagery showcasing Kansas scenery, landmarks, and agricultural life. Winning images will be featured across social media and selected for their upcoming calendar.

Sony World Photography Awards 2027 (Single Image Competition)

- **Submission Deadline: January 5**
- **Cost:** Free for up to 3 single 2026 images
- **Details:** One of the largest global platforms for individual work. Features 10 diverse categories including Landscape, Portraiture, Street Photography, and Natural World & Wildlife.
- **Prizes:** $5,000 cash for the overall winner, Sony digital imaging equipment, and inclusion in the London exhibition.

Black & White Magazine: 2027 Portfolio Contest

- **Deadline:** January 15, 2027
- **Details:** Ideal for members focusing on fine art, monochrome tones, and conceptual series. This contest looks for cohesive portfolio bodies of work. Selected portfolios are published directly in the magazine's prize issue.
- **Fee:** $45 for the first portfolio unit.
- **Submission Info:** Portfolios can be uploaded online directly through the Black & White Magazine Entry Portal.

Decagon Gallery: "What the Streets Hold" Open Call

- **Deadline:** January 15, 2027
- **Details:** A themed international open call dedicated entirely to contemporary street photography, urban exploration, and candid moments. Selected works are displayed in their curated online exhibition gallery.
- **Submission Info:** Check details and active entry requirements via the Photo Contest Deadlines Directory.

World Press Photo Contest 2027

- **Deadline:** Submissions open December 1, 2026, and close January 13, 2027.
- **Details:** The premier global competition for photojournalism and documentary photography. Notably, the 2027 edition introduces two dedicated new tracks: the **World Press Photo Nature Award** (focusing on human-ecosystem coexistence) and the **World Press Photo Sports Award**.
- **Prizes:** Up to €11,000 in cash, premium Fujifilm GFX camera gear, and participation in a global traveling exhibition. Guidelines are available on the World Press Photo Portal.

🔧 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

🌑 **November 8 — New Moon** Last chance to capture the Galactic Center of the Milky Way.

🌌 **November 17-18 – Leonids Meteor Shower**

During those nights the conditions to enjoy it might not be very good because of the Moon- light. But it all depends on your location!

🌕 **November 24 — "Beaver" Super Moon**

Largest of the two super moons for this year and on this date it is at its closest point to the earth.

🌄 **November 24 — The Manhattanhenge**

It's a fantastic spectacle by which the Sun aligns itself during Sunrise with some of the streets that form a grid on the island of Manhattan in New York (USA).

📣 Want to Contribute Next Month?

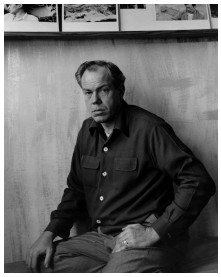
Have a photo story, gear review, field-trip recap, or gallery announcement? Send it to 📩 mark.asbury@ddandb.org and we'll try and feature it in next month's newsletter.

🖼️ Submitting Photos for Showing

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 quiet beauty of late autumn landscapes or chasing crisp night skies and seasonal celebrations. 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!



"The eye should learn to look at a host of things in nature before deciding which combination is best."
*— **Minor White***





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