



Sharon Grabowski, Photographer of the Month

Washington Reflections



President's Corner **Bob Maher** 2020 Photography Club President

Let's start 2020 with opportunities for you to support the club.

The board is forming a committee to review ways to promote the club beyond the obvious articles in the Sun Rays. We will also be looking for a Director of Communications to manage the various channels the committee identifies.

The board is also searching for a Director of the Studio (AC Game Rooms 1&2). The person would be responsible to the board for the equipment and material stored in the Studio to include computer equipment, large screen display, backdrops, lighting boxes, etc. The Director would recruit others to help with the various tasks associated with maintaining the Studio.

If you've got a background in communications/marketing consider joining the communications committee. If you've got a technical background, or even an office management background, please consider helping out with managing the studio. Contact a board member if you're interested in either area.

We will be purchasing three new backdrops for the studio in the near future. Thanks to Rick Siersma for helping with the purchase and installation.

Finally, I want to put a pitch in for you to consider submitting a photo to hang in one of our venues. We have master photographers like Glenn Rudd, Holly Moore and Wes Odell, members who did a lot of photography in their younger days and are now picking it back up in retirement and those who have a new camera and are just starting their photographic journey. Don't let your skill level prevent you from putting it out there. If you like it, it doesn't matter what anyone else thinks.

Hope to see our venues flooded with new participants and hope to see you at the General Meeting on February 5th.

rjmaher52@gmail.com

February General Meeting February 5, 2020 - Cowan Creek Amenity Center, Social 1:45 PM, Meeting 2:15 PM

Agenda Welcome guests & members **Announcements** Reports & Financials Guest Speaker

Subject of the Month Photos

Guest Speaker: Kathy Adams Clark: Cataloguing, Keywording, & Organizing Digital

Photos

Subject of the Month

A Favorite Travel Photo

Send one image in JPEG format no larger than 1400 pixels wide or 1050 pixels high at 72 dpi on this month's subject by noon Sunday, February 2 to scphotoclub@suddenlink.net

The club will provide coffee, water and cookies

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE MONTH

Sharon Grabowski

I grew up in the inner city of Philadelphia where my roots still want to pull me back to city life. After I married, I settled in Virginia, raised three children and worked as an Accountant.

My admiration for the art of photography began many years before I held my first camera.

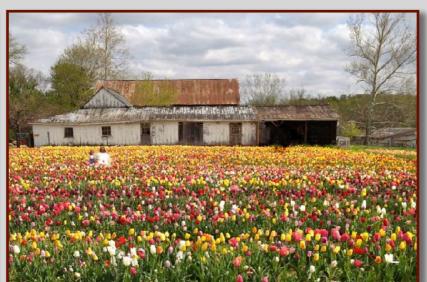
I was blessed to live near the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. which offered frequent photography exhibits featuring the greatest photographers that ever lived. I saw every show I could and images I could only wish I had taken. I received my first camera 15 years ago when I was caring for my mom. It was given to me as a therapeutic gift which did accomplish its purpose but also opened a whole new world for me. I started tinkering in my backyard where many butterflies and birds visited. After my moms' passing I traveled to New York City where I was drawn to Street and Architectural photography converting my images to black and white. Venturing on to explore other genres of photography I discovered my interest in creative photography. My move to Texas eighteen months ago opened a new chapter allowing me to explore my creativity in seeing what the vast-wide open spaces have to offer.

Sharon's Gallery









Concert Blues Island Reflections Spring

View Sharon's exhibit at the Cowan Creek Amenity Center in February. Her digital images are posted in a gallery on the club's website, along with her biography.

SOLO WALL SHOWCASE

Sicily, a step back in time





Marlene Sloan



Piazza of Erice

Romance in Monreale

My husband Roby and I have been wintering in Sun City Texas since 2001. I spent my career working with computers, from mainframes to PCs, and after retirement, found digital cameras to be quite interesting.

In 2002 I purchased my first digital camera, a Canon 2MP elph. Prior to the charter of the Photography Club, I served as SIG Leader for the Computer Club's Digital Camera SIG. As the Photography Club began to evolve, I had the privilege to serve as Vice President, Photoshop Elements Instructor and Webmaster. There are many ways of developing expertise, and mine was to volunteer and work with an extraordinary group of professional photographers.

Fast forward to 2020. Over the years I have had the personal satisfaction to exhibit my photographs within and outside of the Sun City community. However, I most probably will be remembered by my "artisan craft" creating posters, cards, books and postings on social media.

In 2018 we took a family trip to Sicily. I took along one of my newest cameras, the Panasonic DMC - FZ1000, with fixed lens (16x optical zoom, f/2.8-4), 1" sensor and 20MP. A great camera for traveling the streets and roads of a country that puts you "back in time".

Sicily is an island that seems to be standing still, with its rich history, proud citizens and great cuisine. My images are meant to reflect those notable qualities. While many have lived there forever, I can understand why many are returning.

Please feel free to contact <u>me</u> if you have any questions or interest in my photographs.

Marlene's Gallery

Sun City Activity Center February 1 - 29, 2020 A special thanks to Wes Odell for coordinating this exhibition.

EDUCATION & PROGRAMS

Travel Photography Kathy Adams Clark Workshop

Feb 4, 1pm - 3pm The Retreat
Repeats on Feb 5, 9am - 11am Cowan Creek Florence Room
Register at the CA Ticketing & on the Photo Club Calendar



More Than a Snapshot – Photos from our travels capture and enhance memories. Through those photos we remember the crowded streets of Fez or the wide-open spaces of Big Bend. Our photos freeze that silly time we ate gelato on a bench or that somber moment we came face-to-face with the atrocities of war. Attend this program with Kathy Adams Clark to learn how to make your travel photos look better. You'll learn how to isolate details, how to use your lens to enhance your images, how camera settings can change the look of your pictures, and how to take advantage of the time of day. Traveling with others will be discussed as well as packing and carrying cameras. Kathy will also offer tips on photographing people, the moon, the Milky Way, northern lights, and crowded city streets. Tips on processing and video will also be offered. Bring your camera and lenses you might carry on a trip.

Kathy has been a professional nature photographer since 1995. She runs the stock agency KAC Productions that represents the work of 15 photographers. Her photos appear every week in the "Nature" column in the *Houston Chronicle* written by her husband, Gary Clark.

Kathy is Past-president of the North American Nature Photography Association. She teaches photography and is a popular speaker at local and national events. She leads photo tours through Strabo Tours to countries including Costa Rica, Spain, Africa, Italy, Peru, Morocco, and Bhutan.

Creating e-Books / with or without Lightroom Presented by Marlene Sloan

Feb 14, 10:00am - 11:30am Activity Center rooms 1 & 2 No fee. **Register on the Photo Club calendar**



Creating an e-book was how Marlene came up with a means to share photos that would be independent of the electronic device and not require the recipient to have detailed knowledge of any specific app or program. She will be discussing one self-publishing service, Blurb. Blurb is the service that is integrated in the Lightroom Book Module. While there are many means to share photos and create books, she will discuss some of her experiences and provide a list of resources to assist in creating an e-book. This will be a lecture format, so no need to bring any equipment.

Marlene has been in Sun City since 2001. She has served in the past as the club's VP, Photoshop Elements Instructor and Webmaster. She is most remembered by her "artisan craft" creating posters, cards, books and postings on social media. She is the featured photographer for this month's Solo Wall Showcase.

A special thanks to Rita Johnston, VP of Programs and Education, for coordinating these presentations. For help registering contact Rita at at <a href="mailto:scenarios.com/scenarios.c



EDUCATION & PROGRAMS (con't)

Composition Plus Presented by Holly Moore

Feb 3 @ 2 - 3:30p Activity Center rooms 1 & 2 No fee. **Register on the Photo Club calendar**

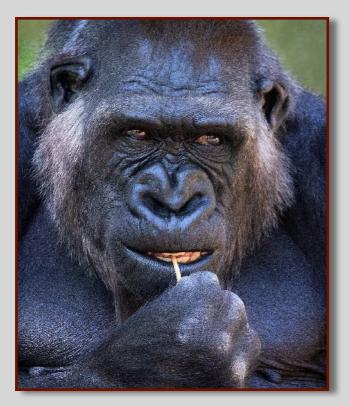
This second session of Composition Plus will be a review of members' photographs as to compositional elements and perhaps some tips on how to improve.

Send one photo in advance to Holly by January 29 at <u>ehollymoore2@yahoo.com</u>. Follow these Photo Club standards when submitting your photo:

Vertical: 1050px or fewer • Horizontal: 1400px or fewer • 72dpi JPEG format Image file should be named **PhotogName.PhotoTitle.jpg** e.g. JaneJones.Big Meadow.jpg

Holly Moore, recently received recognition for three photographs entered in the 2019 North Georgia Digital Exhibition Circuit. The image "Just Thinking" received five acceptances including one Honorable Mention. The image "Purple Water Lily" received six acceptances including two Honorable Mentions. Both images were in the Open Category. The image "On the Move" received six acceptances, including two Honorable Mentions in the People Category.

Holly's bio and gallery







Just Thinking

On the Move

Purple Water Lily

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB NEWS

Exhibits Outside Sun City

Wes Odell, a Founding Member of the Photography Club, and photographer of 73 years has five exhibits in Georgetown in February that feature his large Black and White prints, a medium that he considers his specialty.

He will have "Solo Exhibits" at the Legacy Living Facility on Williams Drive, and at the Impressions Gallery of St. David's Hospital Georgetown, plus single entries in the Healing Arts Gallery of St. David's, the Lamppost Coffee, and the Jarrell Library.

His work is not limited to B&W; his color version of an American Bald Eagle was awarded the Photo Club's Best of Show for 2019.

Ellen Greeney and Rob Neff have exhibits at The Legacy at Georgetown during February. They also have photos on display at the Healing Arts Gallery at St David's Hospital and Ellen has photos on display at the Jarrell Community Library.

Ellen writes the weekly ArtScapes in the *Williamson County Sun*. Rob is the curator for the Healing Arts Gallery.

Exhibits Inside Sun City

The two exhibitors for February in the Club's new "Recognitions Exhibit" in the Activities Center's Game Room #1 are Holly Moore and Dean Ginther.

The Recognitions Wall is new in 2020 and recognizes the photographers who win awards outside of Sun City and "bring home the bacon" so to speak and enhance the artistic standing of Sun City and its Photo Club. They will each be showing one of these award winners during February.

Winning awards in a national or international competition is not a trivial accomplishment and viewing them is an opportunity to see "some of the best work from Sun City." Holly and Dean also share their knowledge by serving the local and international communities as "Photography Contest Judges."

Introduction to Photographic Society of America Presented by Dee Darius Sams

Feb 10 at noon Game Rooms 1 & 2, Activity Center

Dee Darius Sams was recently invited by Mitch Michielutti to replace him as the Photo Club's Representative to the Photographic Society of America (PSA) and she accepted. This *does not* include replacing him for the PSA Digital Image SIG – Mitch will remain the leader of that group.



The Photography Club offers many training and education opportunities to our members and Dee believes that PSA individual membership can compliment that training while adding a few more opportunities to help us improve our photography skills. Her responsibilities are many, but she plans to begin by focusing on educating the membership on the PSA opportunities, a small sample of these include:

- Online Courses
- Study Groups
- Evaluation

Membership also includes an opportunity to create your own Member Gallery, joining the New Member Gallery and communicating with other photographers worldwide on the PSA Facebook Forum.

darisams@msn.com

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB NEWS (con't)



Field Trips

Jim Sandham, Field Trip Director jsandham77@gmail.com

On **Thursday**, **Feb. 13** at 8:00 AM we will depart from the SC Ballroom parking lot near the tennis courts for our first field trip of 2020. We are going to Natural Bridge Caverns just north of San Antonio. It's about a 2-hour drive. Ticket prices vary day to day, but range from \$18-20 mid-week. We'll be taking the "Hidden Passages Tour", which lasts about 70 minutes. Tripods and monopods are "Not Recommended" according to their website www.naturalbridgecaverns.com. The website's photos show nicely lit scenes, so we may not need tripods after all. High ISO numbers might be the tip of the day.

The tour covers about 1/3 of a mile, and goes almost 200 feet below the surface, which means that there will be a lot of stair steps. The temperature is a constant 70 degrees, but the humidity is a constant 99%. When we're done, we can have lunch in the park's Visitor Center, or find a restaurant outside of the park. We should be back in Sun City sometime after 3:00 PM.

Zilker Botanical Garden

Wed Mar 11
9am carpooling from SC lot near tennis courts
45 min drive
Lunch at Shady Grove Restaurant

Inks Lake State Park

Thur Apr 9
9am carpooling from SC lot near tennis courts 60 min drive Lunch at Aranya Restaurant in Burnet

Photography Discussion Group

Every Monday, Noon - 2:00 pm Game Rooms 1 & 2, Activity Center

The Photography Discussion Group is an all inclusive gathering of photographers: novice to advanced, cellphones to pro-cameras. Discussions will be facilitated by a variety of photographers, experienced in the subject for that day.

Presenters by Monday-of-the-Month:

1st: Basic camera functions / Bob Maher rjmaher52@gmail.com

2nd: Exploring photography genre / Marsha Larrabee marsha larrabee@me.com

3rd: Smartphone Photography / Jim Newkirk newkirk12@gmail.com

4th: Exploring Instagram / Sue Puetz sspuetz@gmail.com IG @suespuetz

5th: TBD and may change with the seasons

Come grow with us. Contribute to and learn from our discussions. Bring a friend.

ON-SITE EXHIBITIONS

The Retreat Amenity Center

This venue exhibits 12-15 images each month. The next exhibit date is Mar 16. Register on the club's calendar.

Temporary restrictions: framed images are to be no larger than 16x20. Until the CA gets the slots at the top of the boards redone we can't take the chance of a frame falling off.

Contact Sherry McRae

topspin53@gmail.com





Cowan Creek Amenity Center

This venue exhibits 15 images each month. The next exhibit date is Feb 4. Register on the club's calendar.

Contact Larry Lorimor <u>larry.lorimor@gmail.com</u>

The Activity Center

This venue exhibits 16 images January thru August. Register on the club's calendar.

Bing your photo to hang at a 10AM, usually on the 1st day of each scheduled month.

Contact Dean Ginther <u>dean.Ginther@gmail.com</u>



Solo Wall Showcase

This year, the Photography Club has invited some of its senior members, each of whom is an accomplished photographer, to create a series of monthly "One-Person" exhibits high-lighting many of their recent award-winning photographs.

Seven of the eight who will be exhibiting this year also serve the community as "photography judges" for events like the Williamson County Fair, 4-H Clubs, PTA sponsored events, and various local, state, national, and international contests and "Salons."

The Solo Showcase is on the wall in the Activity Center just outside Game Rooms 1 and 2. The Activity Center is typically open from 8 am to 8 pm.

The next exhibit will feature Marlene Sloan and titled

Sicily, a step back in time

wesodell@gmail.com

Mini Gallery

The Photography Club has introduced a new "Mini-Gallery" to give special recognition to those members whose photographs have garnered a significant award "outside" Sun City. A "significant award" is one where a Judge or Jury has made the selections. Not only is this an achievement for the photographer, it enhances the stature of the Sun City Photography Club and Sun City Texas amongst the local, national and international family of Camera and Photography Clubs that are considered "strong competitor clubs." The Sun City Club members have won numerous "outside awards" and this is an attempt to recognize their hard work and excellence, as well as to motivate others to follow.

The Gallery is in Game Room #1 at the Activities Center and open to the public when not otherwise in use.

For more information email wesodell@gmail.com

For more information about the Photography Club Click here

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



Competition SIG

Coordinator, Rick Siersma <u>richard.j.siersma@gmail.com</u>
4th Fri every Month 9am - noon Activity Center rooms 1 & 2

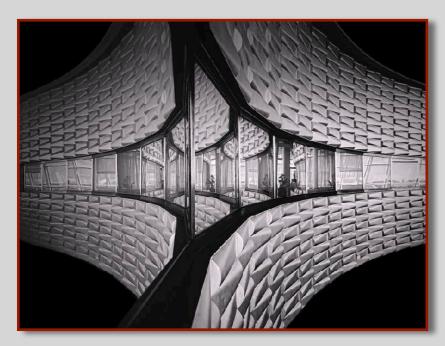
Competition SIG Webpage Competition SIG Gallery

The advantage of participating in the Competition SIG is that you will receive written comments from three of our club's finest photographers. This SIG is important because it has welcoming, supportive, like-minded members who enjoy sharing positive evaluations through monthly mini-competitions. You will gain confidence and when comfortable, look forward to entering competitive venues of your choosing. Members are welcomed and accepted at any level. You do not need an image to attend this SIG. The three best photos will be displayed in the Activity Center hallway.

For more information please visit the Competition SIG webpage

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATING Feb 28		
	COMPETITION	REVIEW
IMAGES	1	up to 6
IMAGE SIZE	~~~ 2000px on the long side ~~~~	
DEADLINE noon	Fri Feb 21	Thur Feb 27
SUBMIT TO	sc.competition	n.sig@gmail.com

Selected for Display



Reflections by Patty Michielutti



Strumming the Day Away by Jerry Mienzer



Komodo dragon by Jim Sandham



iPhone Photography SIG

1st Fri every Month 9am - noon Activity Center rooms 1 & 2 Coordinator, Bob Bearden <u>rebsctx@gmail.com</u>

<u>iPhone Photography SIG Webpage</u>

iPhone Photography SIG Gallery

This monthly SIG focuses on helping all club members who use iPhones to understand and use their iPhone cameras to produce better images. Our usual monthly topics include:

- Non critical reviews of Subject of the Month images submitted by SIG members
- How-to videos on various photo techniques
- The art of Photographic Composition
- iPhone camera modes and how to use them
- New iPhone reviews
- Photo Editing and Alternative camera apps

Most importantly this SIG is an opportunity to get to know other iPhone camera users in the club and to share how we use our iPhones to capture our vision of the world around us.

	SUBJECT OF THE MONTH
Feb	Favorite Image of 2019
Mar	Patterns
Apr	Texas!
May	Spring has Sprung
Jun	Favorite Places / Faces
Jul	Architecture
Aug	Shadows / Silhouettes/ Reflections
Sep	My Vacation Highlights
Oct	Favorite Photo Locations
Nov	Remembering Halloween
Dec	Fall Color (Trees, Landscapes etc)
Jan	Holiday Highlights / Memories



Mi Tierra Fiesta by Jerry Meinzer

Holiday Highlights / Memories



Whitewater Canoeing by Maggie Jung



Glowing Sunset at Legacy Grill by Sherry McRae



Nature SIG

Coordinator, Carlos Rio scnaturephotosig@gmail.com 4th Fri every Month 1pm Activity Center rooms 1 & 2

Click Here for the Nature SIG webpage

The Nature Photo Sig meeting was replaced in January and will again be replaced in March by the PSA Nature Digital Competition. On the fourth Friday of February however, our regular meeting will occur. The "theme" will be "Nature Photographs in Black & White". Please submit up to 3 images at 1400x1050 resolution via email to scnaturephotosig@gmail.com or bring them to the meeting on a thumb disk. Please label them as "PhotogName.PhotoTitle.jpeg".

THEME OF THE MONTH

Feb 28 B&W

Mar 27 PSA Nature Competition Digital

From the Ground Up or Photos from Bird Outing to Murphy Lake

May 22 Spring Colors

Jun 26 Animals in the Zoo

Jul 24 Shadows & Silhouettes

Aug 21 Potpourri &/or From the Ground Up



Kissing Dinosaurs by Randy Dykstra



Emerald Toucanette by Glenn Rudd

PSA Nature Competition - Digital



You Are Mine by Carlos Rio



Gathering Nectar by Jim Reichel



Let's Build a Nest by Allen Utzig



Mesquite Dunes by Dean Ginther



Sony Photo SIG

Coordinator, Bob Bearden <u>rebsctx@gmail.com</u>

3rd Fri every Month 9am - noon Activity Center rooms 1 & 2

<u>Sony Photo SIG</u> <u>Sony SIG Gallery</u>

This monthly SIG focuses on helping all club members who use Sony mirrorless cameras to understand and use their gear to produce better images. Our usual monthly topics include:

- Non critical reviews of Subject of the Month images submitted by SIG members
- How-to videos on various photo techniques
- The art of Photographic Composition
- Sony camera Menus and How to set them up
- New Sony Camera reviews
- Best Lenses for Sony cameras

Most importantly this SIG is an opportunity to get to know other Sony camera users in the club and to share how we use our gear to capture our vision of the world around us.

	SUBJECT OF THE MONTH
Feb	Favorite Image of 2019
Mar	Patterns
Apr	Texas!
May	Spring has Sprung
Jun	Favorite Places / Faces
Jul	Architecture
Aug	Shadows / Silhouettes/ Reflections
Sep	My Vacation Highlights
Oct	Favorite Photo Locations
Nov	Remembering Halloween
Dec	Fall Color (Trees, Landscapes etc)
Jan	Holiday Highlights / Memories

Holiday Highlights / Memories



Watching it Spin by Kathy Lorimor



Christmas Cousins by Lee Miller



Christmas Comes to Georgetown

By Mitch Michielutti



Photoshop SIG

Coordinator, Allen Utzig <u>autzig@outlook.com</u> <u>Photoshop CS-CC SIG Webpage</u>

The Photoshop SIG is made up of three different groups:

Training Group: Focus is on Using Photoshop

Photoshop lab: Drop in and come with their laptop and an image or images and I (and possibly others) will help you practice

Photoshop SIG: Discussions about how we might use Photoshop to improve our photos

Each Group meets once a month. Please check the Photography Club calendar for the specific dates, times and locations

of the meetings. Most of the meetings have been scheduled in our PC Studio (Game Rooms 1 & 2)



PSA Print SIG

Coordinators, Glenn Rudd and Cheryl Janssen grudd2@yahoo.com or cherylj2013@att.net

PSA Print SIG Webpage



This is both a club and individual competition. For each submittal event, there are awards in each category for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mentions. End of Year certificates and ribbons are also given. This is an International competition with 14 clubs currently participating. Please check the club calendar. SIG meeting attendees are sent email confirmations of these dates. Please <u>CLICK HERE</u> to view photos from this season.



Travel Photography SIG

Coordinator, Dr. Howie DiBlasi. howie@frontier.net
1st Wed every Month 9am - 11a Activity Center rooms 1 & 2

Travel Photography SIG Webpage

If you are passionate about photography, you love to travel, own a camera and wish to capture stunning pictures, this SIG is for you.

This is a place for people who would like to explore new places and destinations, and take great photos. Meet fellow travel enthusiasts and share your photos from around the world. Discover first-hand recommendations on new destinations and ways to travel. Learn how to take amazing photographs on your next trip. Learn about Scene modes and the other dials and menus on your camera.

Find fun, laughs - and new ways to travel to different venues. Whether you are completely new or experienced, we would love to have you. This is a chance for you to meet fellow likeminded people and find travel friends.

Meetings are scheduled on the first Wednesday of the month in Activity Center's Game Rooms 1 & 2



PSA Digital SIG

Coordinator, Mitch Michielutti imitchmeister@gmail.com PSA Digital SIG Webpage



Our PSA Digital Image SIG meets 3 times a year to compete in PSA inter-club competition. We choose the top 6 photos submitted at our meeting in Projected Image Divisions (PID). These are then sent to PSA for judging. Great way to evaluate our photo skills compared to other photography clubs. Join us for a journey to another level of learning and enhance your skills and artistry.

Check out the 2019 photos on the PSA Digital's webpage.

PSA Digital Image SIG Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10am.

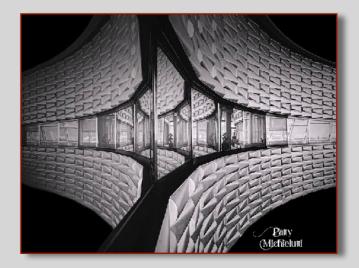














Sun City Texas Photography Club Newsletter



Fun Foto Social

4th Fri of the month from 4:00 - 6:00 in Meeting Rooms 1 & 2, Activities Center Coordinator, Jim Sandham jsandham77@gmail.com

Please bring enough goodies, snacks, finger food, etc. to share with the rest of the group. As always, remember to bring your own choice of beverage, unless you just like the Activities Center water better.

1. Please resize your images per the guidelines following PSA PID and Nature Inter-club Competition requirements:

Vertical: 1050px or fewer • Horizontal: 1400px or fewer • JPEG format

Image file should be named PhotogName.PhotoTitle.jpg e.g. JaneJones.Big Meadow.jpg

- 2. Attach your photos to an **E-MAIL MESSAGE** sent directly to my address: <u>isandham77@gmail.com</u> That will enable me to load them onto my laptop PC well before the meeting.
- 3. DO NOT bring your photos on a FLASH DRIVE. That method is messy and delays the meeting for me and you.
- 4. Send me no more than ten (10) images each month. Be prepared to "talk to" each of the photos so we can appreciate them better. Send them to me by the end of the Wednesday before that month's Fun Foto Social.



Cathy O'Connor Webmaster cathy0114@gmail.com

Website, Calendar, Email & Newsletter

Sue Puetz Editor, The Viewfinder sspuetz@gmail.com



Submission Guidelines to The Viewfinder

Articles must be received by the 24th for next month's newsletter.

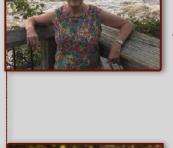
Lengthy articles may be edited to fit space. Links will be used for long articles.

Articles must be submitted digitally via email.

Photo submissions must be:

Vertical: 1050px or fewer • Horizontal: 1400px or fewer • JPEG format Image file should be named **PhotogName.PhotoTitle.jpg** e.g. JaneJones.Big Meadow.jpg Photographs must be legally reproducible or licensed by the member submitting the photo. Include relevant information, e.g. contest/show entered, award received.

NOTE: Consult the new guidelines for submitting photos to be published on the website and in the newsletter.



Marsha Larrabee E-mail Blaster & Calendar Admin marsha larrabee@me.com