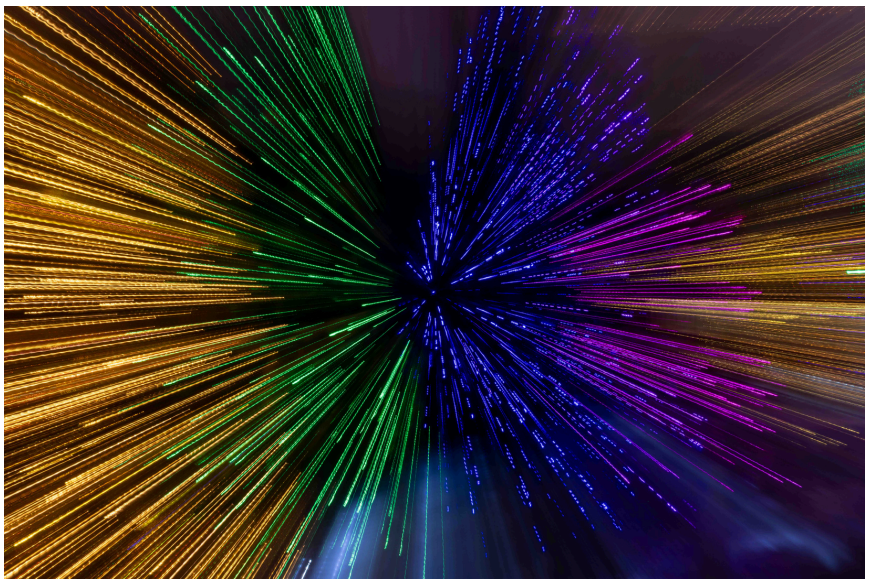
# VIEWPOINT | JANUARY 2026

## Winter Wonderland Trip Led by Jack Myers

On December 16, members went to the Children's Wonderland Christmas display at Sylvania Tam-O-Shanter. Jack showed how to take photos using long exposure and zoom, to create streaks of light. We had fun taking long exposure photos of the display.





## PACT's 38th Annual Photo Contest

Registration for this year's contest opens on January 12 and closes on February 14.

In addition to the seven categories of previous rounds, a new category has been added for 2026. ***Digital Creation*** highlights the effective use of post-production techniques to produce a creative change to the author's original digital image(s). Suggested examples include, but are not limited to, composites, abstractions, layering, blending, and other techniques of digital manipulation. Images in this category must demonstrate significant post-capture modifications.

For information on eligibility, rules, and categories, see the PACT web page.

## Share Your Ideas for Monthly Photo Assignments!

Members of the Photo Arts Club of Toledo, we need suggestions for the next two years of monthly assignments for a total of 24 ideas. Please send up to eight of your choice to wennieanderson120@gmail.com, no later than 1/17/2026. If you have already sent yours, there is no need to re-send.

PHOTO ARTS CLUB
5403 Elmer Drive
Toledo, OH 43615

www.photoartscluboftoledo.com
info@photoartscluboftoledo.com

## A New Feature: *Behind the Shot!*

An idea for a regular feature was offered by Chris Boesel: ***Behind the Shot***. Chris stepped up to do the first one (below), and for future ***Viewpoints*** we're asking for members to present a photo along with a narrative that addresses any or all of the following questions:

*How did the shot come about?*

*What is the most memorable part of this particular experience?*

*What challenges did you encounter in post processing?*

*Were the conditions particularly challenging?*

*What was the motivation behind the composition?*

*What works, what doesn't?*

To volunteer, contact Rick Francis, rick.a.francis@gmail.com or photoartsclubtoledo.news@gmail.com.

## Behind The Shot: Lindy Point Sunset

In the Blackwater Falls State Park of West Virginia, there is a fantastic spot for sunsets: the Lindy Point overlook. Just up the road from the lodge, this is a "can't miss if you're there" spot for landscape photographers.

My second visit came during a winter workshop in January, 2025, and I was excited to see Lindy Point overlook on the agenda. The adventure began with a challenging one-mile hike through two feet of snow, as the road was closed. Carrying my camera gear, I arrived 90 minutes before sunset to secure a good spot, braving 20-degree temperatures and a biting wind chill that dropped into the single digits for almost 2 hours!

Despite the harsh conditions, once the light began to quickly change and a few high clouds moved into the scene, the cold and discomfort "melted" away. The scene was breathtaking. To my relief, my equipment performed flawlessly in the extreme weather. This demanding shoot resulted in beautiful images that truly capture the peace and natural beauty of West Virginia, making the effort worthwhile and leaving me with lasting memories of the landscape.

--Chris Boesel






## Step Up, Get Involved

It's that time of year! PACT seeks nominations for various club leadership positions, including president and board members. Please watch your email for more information.

## New Member Welcome!

Please welcome our newest members:
Ahmad Yassine and Angela Capuano

## Lightroom Group!

We are in the process of re-establishing the popular Lightroom study group. Watch your email in the coming weeks for details about our first call. In the meantime, if you have any suggestions or requests for content and guidance, please email Chris Boesel (boeselc@gmail.com) with your ideas.

## Members in the News



A photo by Rick Francis was shortlisted in a monthly competition by Motif Collective. The theme was Silhouettes. "Sea Lion Silhouette" was taken in Baja California with a Nikon D850 in a Nauticam housing.

The winning and shortlisted images can be seen here: https://www.motifcollective.com/winners-nov-2025.html

## Monthly Contest Assignments

January 2026: Bokeh
February 2026: Black & White
March 2026: Print - Rule of Thirds
April 2026: Food Photography

Don't forget to send your ideas for future assignments to wennieanderson120@gmail.com by January 17!

See the Events Calendar for submission and voting deadlines.

## Experiment with a Glass Box!

Cindy White will be offering an opportunity for members to experiment with a Glass Box. It will be Jan 31, 2026, in the clubhouse from 10am to 4pm. (Note that is also a drop-off day for prints for the annual contest.) She will have samples of glassware to use or bring your own glass or crystal. She uses a 24-105 zoom, and suggests a lens under 100mm focal length works best. A tripod is a must!



## Is Your Camera Ready for 2026?

Your digital camera embeds all sorts of data with each photo, and most cameras can be set to write customizeable copyright information with the EXIF data of each shot. Generally you find it in the camera menu and then turn on the feature. You can then set Author (or Artist) to your name, and for the Copyright spot, type something like Copyright 2026 - All Rights Reserved. The example below is from Canon EOS for Dummies.




Enter your name and other copyright information that you want tagged to your images.

Check your manual or google your model for copyright update specifics. And if you knew all this already, maybe this is the reminder you need to update the year!

Image source

# Monthly Contest Winners

The December contest received 55 entries from 19 members. There were 32 entries for the Assignment (Urban Decay) category and 23 entries in the Open category.

The January competitions are open for entries (assignment: Bokeh). Contests will be in the clubhouse and on Zoom every month.




"Urban Decay"
by Susan Shull

Basic - 1st Place




"Ellicott Street Graffitti"
by Carrie Heller

Basic - 2nd Place

## Monthly Contest Winners (con't)

"Enjoy Life"
by Quentin Francis-Emonds

Intermediate - 1st Place







"Hallway"
by Quentin Francis-Emonds

Intermediate - 2nd Place

## Monthly Contest Winners (con't)




"Old Made New"
by Cindy White

Advanced - 1st Place

"Packard Plant"
by Cindy White

Advanced - 2nd Place



## Monthly Contest Winners (con't)




"Alaska Aurora" by Ross Ellet
Advanced Open - 1st Place




"Still Waters on the Cypress Lake" by Ben Ayling
Advanced Open - 2nd Place

# Workshops and Photo Trips

## 2026 Monsoon Photography Workshop




Ross Ellet, a Photo Arts Club of Toledo member, meteorologist, and owner of Picturesque Adventures, LTD, offers his 2026 Monsoon Photography Workshop in Tucson, Arizona, from July 30th to August 6th. Registration closes shortly after the new year! If you have ever wanted to photograph amazing lightning displays or the best of the desert southwest, this photography workshop is a great opportunity.

From Ross: "We will be in the area during the peak of monsoon season, which brings high chances for photogenic lightning storms, vivid sunsets, and rainbows in the evening. During the day, we will visit national and state parks to photograph landscapes, go over how to edit the photos we have taken, and eat home-cooked meals. We will also try our hand at photographing the Milky Way with the saguaro cacti in the foreground.



This is a smaller group size with about 8 people total. If you are a Photo Arts Club member, please use the club coupon code "Photoclub" for $100 off the cost. More information, including itinerary and logistics, can be found at the following link: www.rossellet.com/p/monsoon-chase-worksh. The sign-up link is at the top of that page.

If you have other questions or any interest, please contact Ross directly at elletadventures@gmail.com.

"What makes a photograph a strange invention is that its primary raw materials are light and time."
– John Berger

# Workshops and Photo Trips

**PACT member Ben Ayling and his photo partner Tom Yackley** are Fine Art, Landscape, Nature, and Wildlife photographers based in Maumee and Atlanta respectively. Both are career educators and have traveled extensively to capture rare and interesting animals, birds, and scenic landscapes across the globe.

Their latest venture is Nature Photo Workshops where they lead photographers of all skill levels to explore the variety and beauty that is The Great Smoky Mountains.

Springtime in the Smokies is magical with bear coming out of hibernation while there is flora and fauna galore.






Included in each workshop are Individual hotel accommodations, all meals, attentive assistance with your photography, zoom meetings before and after the event as well as a clinic/class and guided photo sessions in the field.

So come join Tom and Ben in an adventure to our “Happy Place,” The Great Smoky Mountains National Park this Spring and/or Fall.

Special offer for PACT members: Use the code: SALE200 at checkout by March 25, 2026 and receive a $200 savings off the full Spring workshop price. The same code is valid off the full Fall workshop price as well. Workshop details are on the website available with the QR code above or at https://www.naturephotoworkshops.com/ (check out the new Cypress Lake Exploration workshop in Georgia).

## Local Gallery Events

Deborah Orloff, Head of Photography & Digital Media at the University of Toledo, has a new solo exhibition at River House Arts, a gallery at 425 Jefferson in Toledo. The exhibit, *Archive of Absence*, is open through January 18, 2026. For more information see https://www.riverhousearts.com/orloff

ARCHIVE OF ABSENCE

an exhibition featuring new work by

Deborah Orloff



NOVEMBER 15, 2025 - JANUARY 18, 2026

RIVER HOUSE ARTS 2nd FLOOR GALLERY

425 Jefferson Ave, Toledo, OH 43604

Gallery Hours: Friday & Saturday 1 – 6 and by appointment

419.441.4025 or schedule a visit here

RiverHouseArts.com

GALLERY TALK SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2:00

Free and open to the public

## Upcoming Events and Meetings

January 12: Registration for the Annual Contest opens.

January 16, midnight: deadline for submitting entries for the January competitions (open and assignment: Bokeh)

January 18, 2:00 pm: Deborah Orloff gives a gallery talk at River House Arts, 425 Jefferson, on her solo exhibition there titled Archive of Absence.

January 20, 7:00 pm: Voting closes for January competitions.

January 21, 7:00 pm: monthly contest meeting on Zoom only.

January 31, 10 am to 4 pm: Cindy White offers a chance to experiment with a Glass Box in the clubhouse.

February 11, 7:00 pm: For Education Night Ben Ayling presents “Nature Photo Workshops.” It is an informative talk on the type of workshops Ben and his photo partner, Thomas Yackley, provide each Spring and Fall in the Great Smoky Mountains as well as a new offering at a cypress lake in Southeast Georgia. On Zoom only!

February 14: Registration for the Annual Contest closes.

February 19: Last day to drop off photos for the Annual Contest. See Annual Contest 2026 page for locations and hours.

Please refer to the website Events Calendar for Zoom links and more information.

Remember, the Botanical Gardens are closed every Wednesday night through the end of February for park maintenance. As a result, there will be no clubhouse classes or meetings on Wednesday evenings during that time.

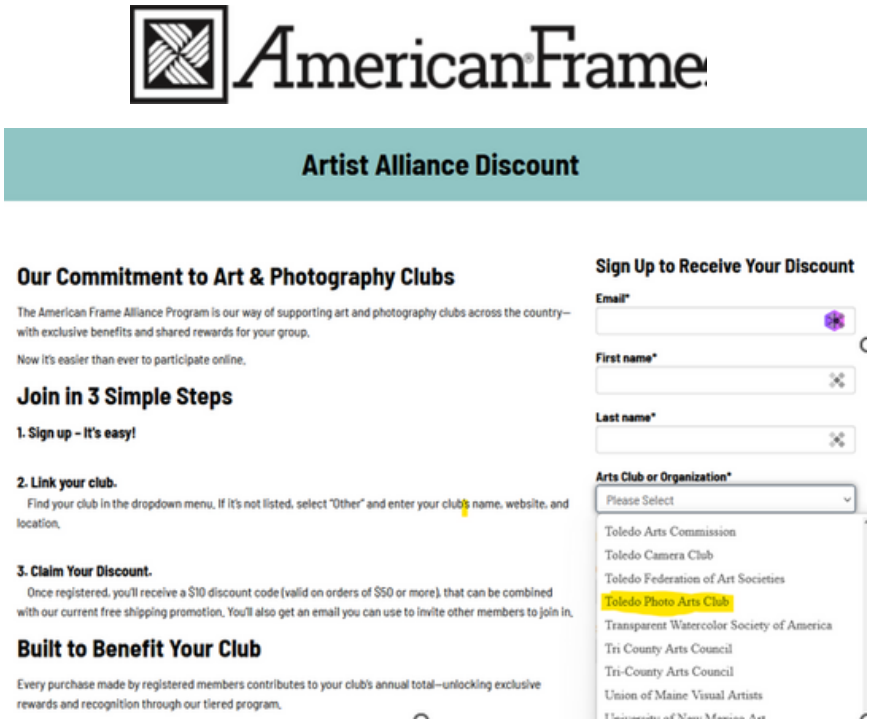
“To me, photography is an art of observation. It’s about finding something interesting in an ordinary place… I’ve found it has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them.”

– Elliott Erwitt

**Exclusive Artist Discount for Club Members!**

Did you know that as a Photo Arts Club member, you receive a 10% discount on all American Frame products and services? In addition, with every purchase you make, a percentage of the sale is donated back to our club, helping to support our community of photographers and artists!

Register at learn.americanframe.com/alliance-discount as shown on the right, and instantly receive a 10% discount code to use on all orders. Even better, every purchase made by registered club members is tracked and totaled annually, qualifying our group for additional awards and benefits based on overall spending.




# PACT Board

President - Michele Kipplen - michelekipplen@gmail.com 419-283-4616
Vice President - Ross Ellet rellet17@hotmail.com
Treasurer - Michele Ross - mickey.ross1204@gmail.com 419-360-0712
Secretary - Cindy White - cwphoto63@gmail.com 419-480-7485
Past President - Wennie Anderson - wennieanderson120@gmail.com 734-243-3346

Board Members
Jack Myers - jrmyers@roadrunner,com 419-575-1558
Charlie Mather - matherc@yahoo.com 419-277-7060
Mary Mather - mmather@toast2.net 419-277-7050
Laurie Dietrich - diet6rich@hotmail.com 419-290-7551

Committees
Lightroom - Charlie Mather - matherc@yahoo.com
Studio Group - John Dillon - jdillon356@aol.com
Photoshop Elements Group - Steve Stalker - sstalker@buckeye-express.com
Competition Chair - Jack Myers - jrmyers@roadrunner.com
Website Chair - Rick Francis - rick.a.francis@gmail.com
Membership - Cindy White - cwphoto63@gmail.com
Newsletter - Rick Francis - rick.a.francis@gmail.com

Reminder to members: we have returned to scheduling our Monthly Board Meetings on the first Thursday of each month.