



Greater New Braunfels Photography Club

Newsletter Volume 11, March 2025

A note from the Editor - by Christiane Menelas

Hello my friends,

As promised I'm reporting on my results of the FoCal software by Reikan. It is a very user friendly program. Installation and running the program are easy. It will tell you the exact distance your target needs to be placed, based on which lens you are using. The information it provides is very helpful, and also very plentiful. If you're a tech geek, you will love it. I was really only interested in basic information, but you can do a deep dive, and it will provide you with charts and measurements galore. It will also tell you by what percentage your lens focus is off. One of my lenses was 99% good, which was nice to know. Once done with the calibration, it programs the information for that lens into your camera. I do recommend watching the YouTube videos if you're interested. This is only for DSLR cameras, and not for mirrorless. Hope that helps.

PS: Remember to reach out to me if you would like to be featured in our newsletter, I don't always know who's traveling! We'd love to read about your adventures!!

*Happy clicking
Christiane*



BIRDING PHOTOGRAPHY EXPEDITION TO COSTA RICA

By Sandy Gilbert

At the end of February, Sharlana Dillard, Suzanne Daunt, Sue Eley and I traveled to Costa Rica for a birding photography adventure. We flew into San Jose, where we were joined by Sue's friend, Nick Bucek. We arrived a day early (to ensure that we didn't get delayed by a late ice storm as has happened before), which gave us a free day to explore old San Jose. We spent the day wandering around the colonial plaza and buying souvenirs at the very large and busy mercado.

Early the next morning, on March 1st, our tour guide, Andrey Madrigal Torres, and intrepid driver, Antonio, met us at the lodge to officially start our adventure. During the next 10 days, we traveled south from temperate San Jose to the very chilly highlands, then north all the way to the Caribbean coastal plain, and back again to middle elevations. Along the way, we stayed at four unique locations, from rustic lodges in the countryside to a colonial-style hotel in the city of San Ramon. Each lodge had its own charm, but they all had one thing in common – great food!

The main reason for staying in the different locations was to photograph the birds that were common to each region. We usually had a "target bird" each day. For example, in the highlands, we were up at 4:30 am two mornings in search of the Resplendent

Quetzal, Costa Rica's most famous (and sometimes elusive) bird. There were hummingbirds that were specific to certain regions, and we took a couple of hikes up very steep trails to find the Three-wattled Bellbird and an Ornate Hawk-Eagle's nest. We hiked, stopped on the side of the road, photographed owls in a city park, sat in bird blinds and took a boat trip on the San Carlos River. In all, we saw over 90 different species of birds, including 16 species of hummingbirds, 9 species of tanagers, 4 species of owls, as well as Macaws, Toucans, Parrots, Kingfishers, Warblers, shore birds and more.

Andrey and Antonio were amazing at finding birds and other wild creatures in obscure places and generally helping us get the shots.

Although photographing the birds was the purpose of the trip, what made it so great was the camaraderie and fun times that we had as a group. From the amazing scenery, to cocktails on a porch overlooking the San Carlos river, or to finding a baby monkey in the trees, I believe that I can speak for the group when I say that we all came home with wonderful memories!





Oropendola



King Vulture



Kingfisher



*Three-wattles
Bellbird*

Red-legged Honeycreeper



Acorn Woodpecker



Emerald Toucanet



Hummingbird



Cocktails on the porch while overlooking the river







RECOGNITIONS

*The monthly competition winner for the Nature category is
Sharlana Dillard, with her entry "Fight"!*



Congratulations

Allow me to introduce one of our newest members:



Sergina Flaherty



How long have you enjoyed photography?

My journey with photography really took off when digital camera came on the scene. I liked to take pictures but didn't do much because it was quite an expensive hobby in days of film.

What camera did you start out with?

I purchased a Sony Mavica in 2000. It saved images to a 3x5 diskette. It had a Zeiss lens and I took some pretty good photos with it. In 2013 I got a Sony Alpha 55. It was my first camera that wasn't a point a shoot. I had a kit lens and mainly took photos of landscapes and wildflowers. I bought a 300mm, when I noticed the birds in my frontyard tree limbs. I am self taught and quickly found the 300mm not be close enough.

What camera do you like to shoot with now?

Nikon D850 with Nikkor 200-500mm with a 1.4 TC-14E teleconverter.

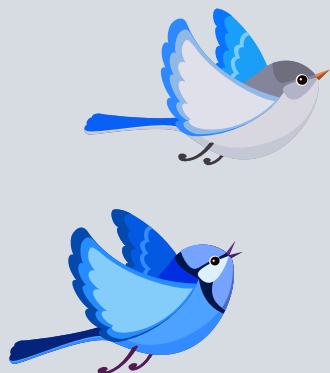
What is your favorite subject to shoot?

Birds

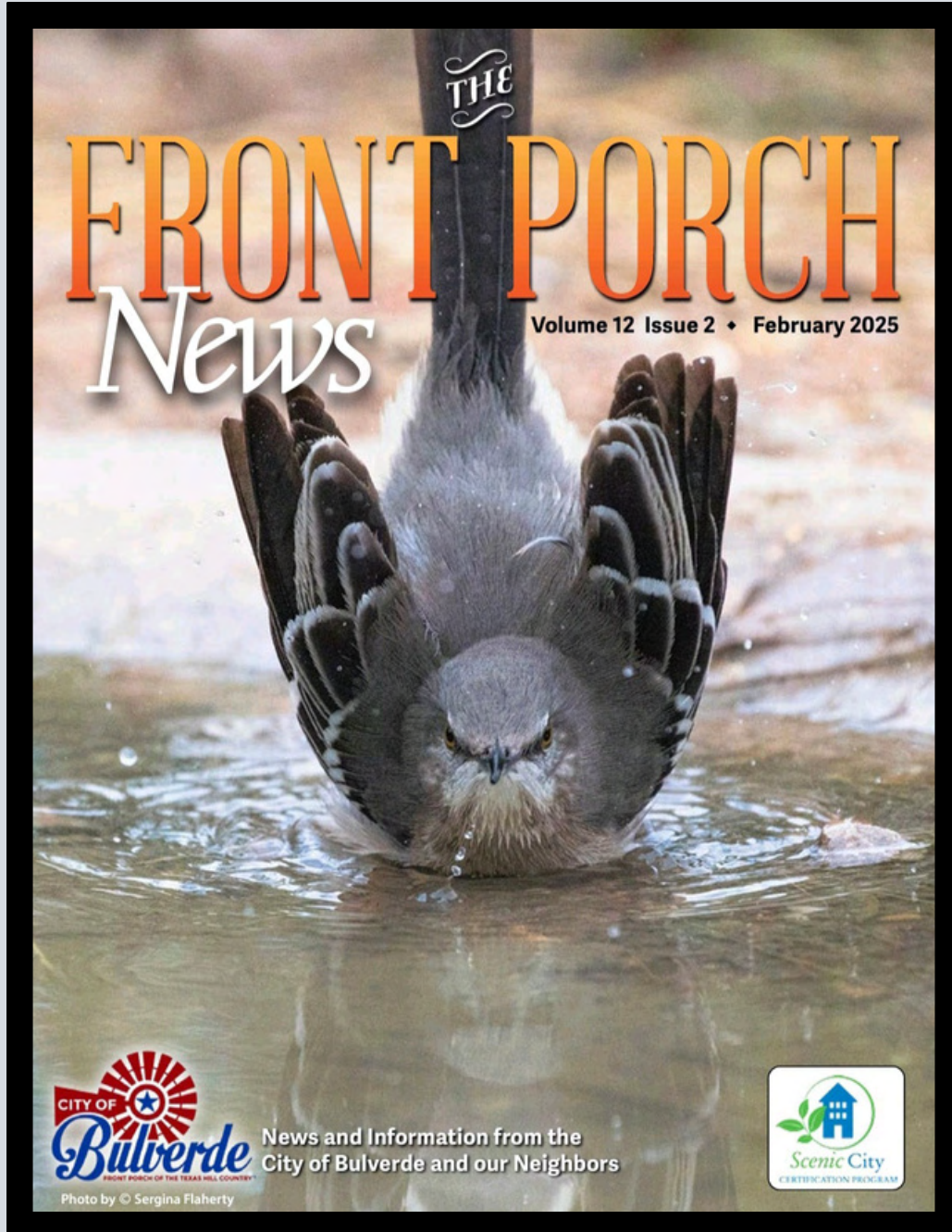
Were you born and raised in Texas, or did you move here?

I got here as quick as I could. I trained in Ft. Sam Houston way back in the late 1900s. I've lived in Texas since 1993 and in Comal county since 1998.

I still work full-time as an Certified Ophthalmic Medical Technologist at Stone Oak Ophthalmology in San Antonio. I plan on retiring in a few years and then will devote all my time to photography.



Sergina had a photograph of hers featured on the cover of "Front Porch News", a monthly publication for her community. This was featured in February 2025. They have used 5 or 6 of her images over the last 6 years. Congratulations Sergina, and welcome to the club!



Congratulations!



*A big congratulations to our
members that got
recognized for their
exceptional work in round
one and two of the PSA
inter-club competition.*



Congratulations!



PID Monochrome Competition

2024-2025

Round Two

"Thor's Well Pacific coast" **Horst Schoninger**

Greater New Braunfels Photography Club



Nancy Speaker, APSA, PPSA
PSA Interclub Director

Elizabeth Passuello,
APSA, EPSA, EFIAP/b
PID Monochrome Director



Honorable Mention



PID Color Competition

2024-2025

Round Two, Group D

"Rainbow waterfall Watkins Glen" **Horst Schoninger**

Greater New Braunfels Photography Club



Nancy Speaker, APSA, PPSA
PSA Interclub Director

Nancy Speaker, APSA, PPSA &
Alice Marie Way PID Color Directors



Honorable Mention



**PID Color Competition
2024-2025**

Round One, Group D

**"Butterfly in the Yard"
Suzanne Daunt**

Greater New Braunfels Photography Club



Nancy Speaker, APSA, PPSA
PSA Interclub Director

Nancy Speaker, APSA, PPSA &
Alice Marie Way PID Color Directors

Honorable Mention



**PID Color Competition
2024-2025**

Round One, Group D

**"Tiny Territorial Dispute"
Sandy Gilbert**

Greater New Braunfels Photography Club



Nancy Speaker, APSA, PPSA
PSA Interclub Director

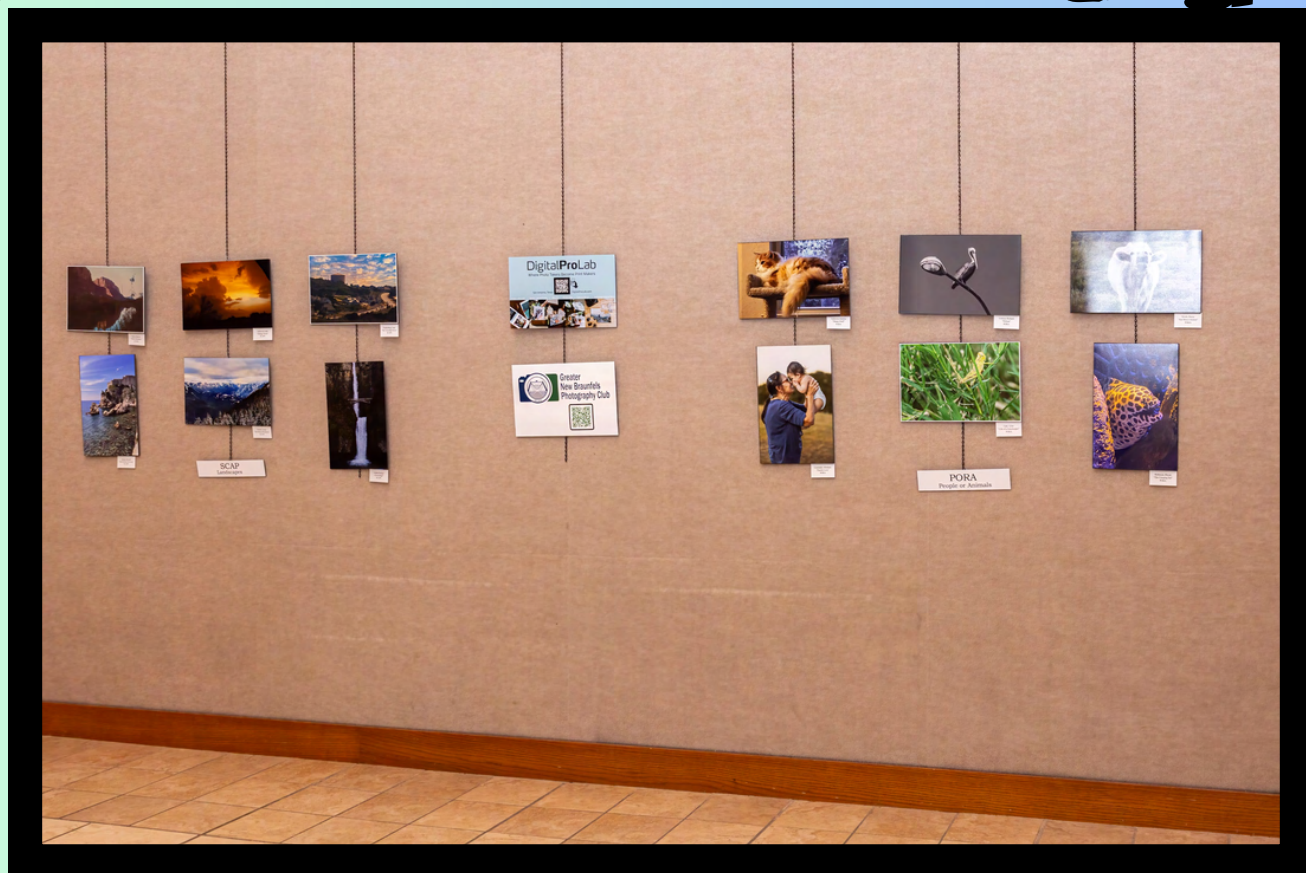
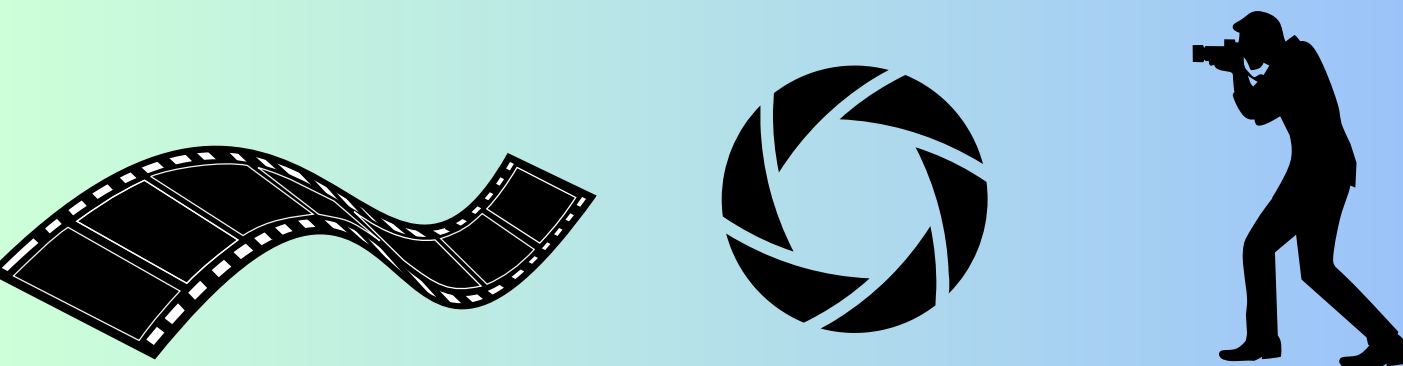
Nancy Speaker, APSA, PPSA &
Alice Marie Way PID Color Directors

Merit Award

Congratulations to all participants of the Texas Teen Photography Contest. It was a well attended event by very talented young photographers.

A big thank you to Victor Watson for all his hard work in putting this event together, and supporting these young artists. And also a big thank you to the volunteers that showed up to help!









**EACH VOLUNTEER WAS PRESENTED WITH A
CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION AND A GIFT CARD:**

**2025 Texas Youth Photography
Showcase and Exhibition**

This certificate of appreciation is presented to

Jerry Kloeher

This is recognition of your outstanding photography support during the Texas Youth Showcase Awards. Your skillful documentation of this special day ensured lasting memories for all who attended.

Thank you for capturing the spirit of the event!

Recognized this 29th day of March, 2025.

Jason Irle

Jason Irle
President, GNBAC



Frank Bayerque

Frank Bayerque
President, GNBPC

**2025 Texas Youth Photography
Showcase and Exhibition**

This certificate of appreciation is presented to

James Moseley

Thank you for your dedicated service as an event photographer for the Texas Youth Showcase Awards. Your images beautifully told the story of this vital celebration of young talent.

Your contribution helped preserve the magic of the moment

Recognized this 29th day of March, 2025.

Jason Irle

Jason Irle
President, GNBAC



Frank Bayerque

Frank Bayerque
President, GNBPC

2025 Texas Youth Photography Showcase and Exhibition

This certificate of appreciation is presented to

Paula Gorman Moseley

Thank you for your vital help with student check-in and refreshments at the Texas Youth Showcase Awards. Your welcoming spirit and attention to detail contributed to a positive experience for all attendees. Thank you for your warm and dedicated support.

Recognized this 29th day of March, 2025.

Jason Irle

Jason Irle
President, GNBAC



Frank Bayerque

Frank Bayerque
President, GNBPC

2025 Texas Youth Photography Showcase and Exhibition

This certificate of appreciation is presented to

Becky Love

With sincere thanks for your support at the student check-in table during the Texas Youth Showcase Awards. Your careful attention to detail ensured a smooth registration process and accurate recognition of student work. We appreciate your friendly and organized presence.

Recognized this 29th day of March, 2025.

Jason Irle

Jason Irle
President, GNBAC



Frank Bayerque

Frank Bayerque
President, GNBPC

2025 Texas Youth Photography Showcase and Exhibition

This certificate of appreciation is presented to

David Harris

We are grateful for your flexible and reliable assistance at the Texas Youth Showcase Awards. As our all-around "go-to" volunteer, your willingness to jump in wherever needed was invaluable.

Thank you for being an indispensable part of our team.

Recognized this 29th day of March, 2025.

Jason Irle

Jason Irle
President, GNBAC



Frank Bayerque

Frank Bayerque
President, GNBPC

2025 Texas Youth Photography Showcase and Exhibition

This certificate of appreciation is presented to

Marty Watson

We want to express our gratitude for your outstanding role as the awardee announcer at the Texas Youth Showcase Awards. Your voice and presence helped bring polish and professionalism to our ceremony.

Your poise and precise delivery kept the event on track and engaging.

Recognized this 29th day of March, 2025.

Jason Irle

Jason Irle
President, GNBAC



Frank Bayerque

Frank Bayerque
President, GNBPC

2025 Texas Youth Photography Showcase and Exhibition

This certificate of appreciation is presented to

Edward Zukowski

In recognition of your early and thoughtful work setting up the student artwork display for the Texas Youth Showcase Awards.

Your efforts ensured a professional and visually engaging presentation of student creativity.

Your behind-the-scenes work made a significant impact.

Recognized this 29th day of March, 2025.

Jason Irle

Jason Irle
President, GNBAC



Frank Bayerque

Frank Bayerque
President, GNBPC

What a wonderful show of support!



Upcoming events for photographers:



DOWNTOWN NEW BRAUNFELS!
Friday, April 18th

**PARADE DOWN SAN ANTONIO ST.
BEGINNING AT 5PM.**

This is a free, family-friendly event!



GRUENE HISTORIC DISTRICT!
Saturday, April 19th

**PARADE THROUGH HISTORIC GRUENE
BEGINNING AT 2PM.**

This is a free, family-friendly event!



**We are looking for a 2nd
photographer for the Art House
and Poetry Contest for May 2nd.
Please reach out to Frank if you're
able to help!**



The DIY Photographer

provided by Schertz Photography School & Studio

Doing It Yourself doesn't mean you can't ever buy cool new photo gear! However, there may be times when you want to try a new lighting tool out before investing in a ready-made version. Maybe you are just starting out and want to achieve great lighting but don't yet have the budget for expensive gear. You don't have to spend a lot to have high-quality lighting! Knowing how to rig your own gear up has benefits too; you learn to be resourceful. Even when you have the best gear available, there will be times when it will break or you need to modify it in some way. Your DIY skills will pay off regardless of your gear budget or resources.

Window Light Scrim

The large scrim is one of the most helpful lighting modifiers you can own. It works excellent outside to diffuse or reflect the sun and can be used indoors with a flash fired or as a fill reflector. The large size means terrific, soft, window-like light. It can be used for babies or groups of 4-5 adults. Make a couple of these, and there are a few lighting challenges you can't tackle!

Building the DIY Scrim

Supplies Needed:

- 3 - 10' pieces of 3.4" PVC pipe 480 psi schedule 40 wall thickness (\$6.50)
- 4 - 90 degree elbow joints 3/4" (\$1.75)
- 2 - T fittings 3/4" (\$1.00)
- white ripstop nylon 60" x 2 yards. (\$10)
- elastic cording 1/4" x 20' (\$1.80)
- elastic strap 1" wide x 2'

Tools Needed:

- small hacksaw
- sharpie marker pen
- tape measure
- instant glue for PVC
- sewing machine

Instructions:

1. Measure, mark, and cut 3 pieces from one of the 10' PVC sections:

34", 34", & 36-1/2"

2. Repeat on a second 10' PVC pipe section. 3. From the 3rd 10' length of PVC, cut a piece 36-1/2". 4. Layout the pieces with corners and T-fittings. 5. Glue the T-fittings

as shown. Keep it flat on the floor so the angles are correct.

Keeping the center bar un-glued allows it to be removed if not needed.

6. Optionally, you can mark with a Sharpie on the T-fittings where the non-glued pieces will go so you remember which sections to pull apart for packing.

7. Run the elastic cording around and through the perimeter pieces. Pull it to create some tension and tie a knot. Once you have the tension just right, cut off any extra cording past the knot. The cording helps keep your pieces together prior to assembly but should not be relied on to hold the frame intact. The pressure fitting of the pipes to the joints handles this.

8. Lay your assembled frame on your nylon cloth and cut the fabric to fit.

9. Stitch a piece of elastic strap across each corner.

Social



Feel free to join us after our
monthly meetings at:
La Cosecha Mexican Table
505 Business, N Interstate 35
Frontage Rd.
New Braunfels,
TX 78130

Let's take a new group
pic at the next social
hour!

