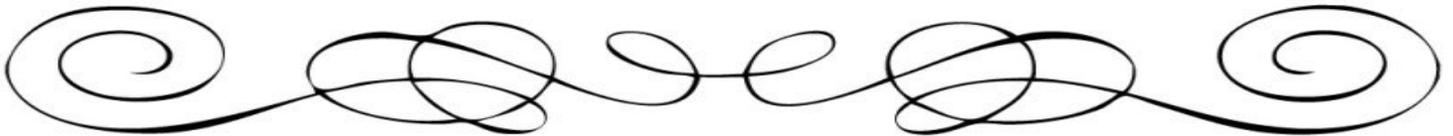


Astrophotography by Linda Avitt and Mike Stys *Postponed to April 2023*

The club will have a real treat in April by two of our own who will present a program on Astrophotography. Linda Avitt and Mike Stys will each present half of the program from a different perspective. Linda will discuss getting started in photography of the night sky using equipment that you probably already own - a DSLR or mirrorless camera, lens, tripod and intervalometer-or another timer. Mike, on the other hand will go into the use of a dedicated telescope with mount and equatorial mount and driver on a tripod mount with specialized astrophotography camera.



Linda Avitt

Linda Avitt's tripod mounted Canon R5 with Rokonon 14-24mm lens. Used with an intervalometer timer this is a good way to start. The Star trails (below) taken over two hours or so, or the Milky Way are good examples of excellent photography made with a set-up such as this.



Mike Stys

With equipment like Mike's 120ED Skywatcher telescope, companion finder scope, computerized equatorial drive mount and specialized astronomical camera, photos like the Twin Pups (below) are possible.



Whether curious or dedicated, experimental or invested, there is a level of astrophotography for everyone. With some time, patience, and persistence combined with



computer software excellent photography of many astronomical subjects may be made without a significant financial outlay. As an example in Brian Loflin's photo, the full moon was made with a twenty-year-old lens on a twenty-year old DSLR and tripod.

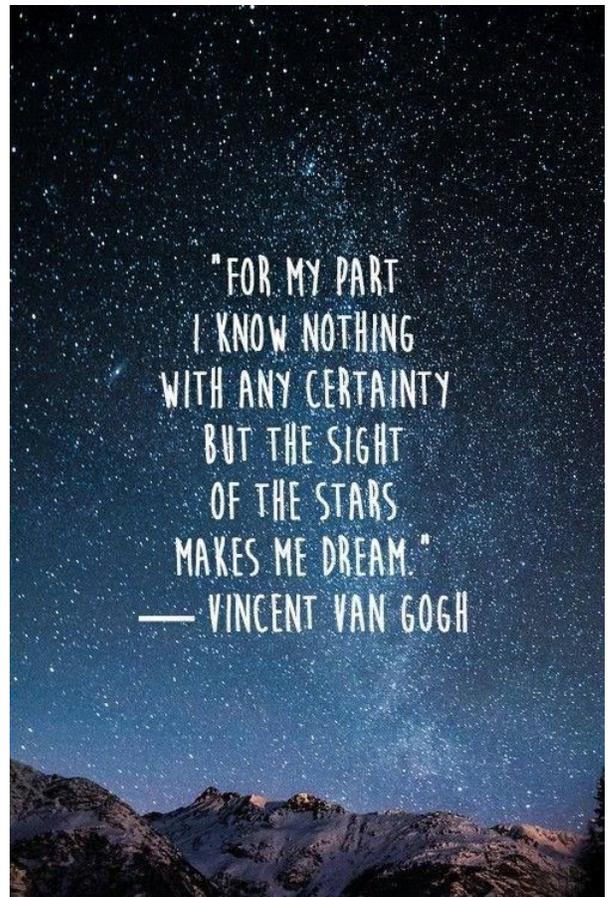


Photo Tips for Wildflower Photography

It's Wildflower Season. Driving home from Kingsville last Thursday, I saw wildflowers popping up south of Interstate Highway 10. Those flowers included bluebonnets, paintbrush, phlox, poppies, and others.

It is understood that to have a great wildflower season, three things must happen: lots of rain in the fall, a hard freeze in January/February, and rain in the first few months of the year. I believe these things have happened over the past few months. My sightings are a signal to me of a good wildflower season.

So, I thought I would take a moment and list ten suggestions for successful photography this year.

1. Get to the subject's level.

Improve the angle. Avoid the 5-foot, 6-inch photograph- you know, from standing up. Get down to the flower's level. Shoot down, shoot up, and by all means, vary your composition.

2. Shoot a "Three View"

That's first, a *habitat* shot, showing the plant and where it grows, second, the *habit* shot, full plant, top to ground level, providing structural detail, and finally a **detail** shot, illustrating small structures that may make the plant unique.

3. Use variable apertures

Shoot images with shallow to great Depth of Field. Vary your images because some really nice, dreamy images may be produced.

4. Focus stack

For maximum detail, use focus stacking techniques to assure maximum detail in the smaller subjects.

5. Manage the background.

Always attempt to separate the subject from the background. This can be accomplished in three ways: Separate the subject using a small depth of field- blur the background. Separate the subject using tone values- light subject against dark backgrounds. And separate using complementary colors- yellow flowers against a blue sky, etc.

6. Modify the light.

Do everything possible to avoid high-contrast images with lots of shadows photographed on bright, blue-sky days. Use diffusers to soften the light, reflectors to bounce light into the shadows, and use fill flash to provide the best, softest light of all.



Photo by Brian Loflin

7. Use Live View

Magnify the image on the camera LCD screen to assure focus and Depth of Field is where you want it. And to assure best composition.

8. Use appropriate Shutter Speed.

Higher shutter speeds will result in sharper images by avoiding camera shake while hand-holding a shot. You will have to carefully change aperture and/or ISO to compensate.

9. Selectively groom the composition.

Remove bright twigs, dead grass and rocks from the scene that will catch the eye in the final shot.

10. Use tripod always when possible.

Get and use a tripod with a good ball head, variable legs, and without a center post to be able to get low to the flower's level. Patrol the Border by looking all around the edges of the frame to avoid unwanted strangers creeping in. You can best manage the composition and background by making very small changes while mounted on a tripod.

Brian Loflin, President

Member's Wildflower Pictures



Barbara Hunley
Shelby, TX



Barbara Hunley
Shelby, TX

“Photography for me is not looking, it’s feeling. If you can’t feel what you’re looking at, then you’re never going to get others to feel anything when they look at your pictures.”

Don McCullin

Member's Wildflower Pictures



Joyce Bennett
Willow City Loop



Joyce Bennett
Willow City Loop



Richard Bennett
Willow City Loop



Richard Bennett
Willow City Loop

Member's Wildflower Pictures



Kathy McCall
Front yard



Kathy McCall
Blackfoot Daisies



Kathy McCall
Paintbrush



Brian Loflin
Leakey, Texas (March 25, 2023)

Assignment Categories for 2023

May 4

Water – An image in which water is the dominant or most important contributing subject. The image may be of snow, ice, rain, steam, storm cloud, waterfalls, lakes, streams, creeks, ponds, puddles, fountains, dewdrops, ocean, waves, wet streets or sidewalks, swimming pools, drinks, floods, droplets, or whatever else satisfies this assignment. The image must have been taken within 12 months of the meeting date. May be color or monochrome.

July 6

Repeating Geometric Shapes – A photographic image whose subject is, or is heavily supported by, the appearance of repeating geometric shapes. These shapes may be circles, squares, triangles, rectangles, etc. Computer generated geometric shapes or images are not allowed. The image must have been taken within 12 months of the meeting date. May be color or monochrome.

September 7

Monochrome Image – An image that is made artistically special through rendering it in monochrome display. The image may be made in nature or studio -in the public or private arena, and although of one color, it need not be in Black & White. The image must have been taken within 12 months of the meeting date.

November 2

Action Shots of People – An image of one or more people in action. The image may or may not demonstrate motion blur. The image must have been taken within 12 months of the meeting date. May be color or monochrome.

January 4, 2024

Image enhanced by significant Post-Processing* – The image must be based on an actual photograph which has been artistically altered through the use of computer post-processing. These methods may include HDR, Compositing, Sky replacement, Color replacement, Photo-stitching, Photo-stacking, and innumerable other methods. The image must have been taken within 12 months of the meeting date. May be color or monochrome.



Austin Shutterbug Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2023

Northwest Recreation Center

The meeting was called to order by President Brian Loflin at 7:00 pm.

Visitors introduced were Karen and Paul Austin, Justin Charles, Charlie Maxwell, Jake Ivey, and Carl Gusler. Brian described for the visitors, club activities and meetings that include educational speakers and member image evaluations.

Brian discussed the volunteers needed for meeting refreshments coordination, newsletters, and other club activities. The possibility of having some of these positions shared was mentioned.

Photo evaluation was conducted by Steve Houston and Barbara Hunley. The assignment was 'holidays'.

Brian mentioned that the 25th Annual DeWitt County photo contest is coming up. They accept only prints that when mounted are 11" x 14". Entries open between Feb 8-March 22. Judging is March 25.

Dues for 2023 are due now - \$25 for individual and \$35 for family. Barbara Hunley can accept cash or checks. Next month we will have a presentation on astrophotography presented by Mike Stys and Linda Avitt. **The photo assignment topic for the March meeting is 'Water'.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Volunteers needed for the following three categories:

1. **Newsletter editor** - Produce a monthly newsletter.
2. **Refreshments.** We need volunteers to help with refreshments also setting up and taking down the table!
3. **Programs, field trips, and workshops.** Someone to help coordinate these events.

If you feel lead to volunteer in one of these capacities, please email Barbara Hunley at austinshutterbug@gmail.com

A good photograph is one that communicates a fact, touches the heart and leaves the viewer a changed person for having seen it. It is, in a word, effective.

- Irving Penn -

NEXT MEETING DATE!

Thursday, April 6, 2023

7:00pm

Northwest Recreation Center

2913 Northland Dr, Austin, TX 78757

Visitors welcome!

We are on Facebook!

