

Sharing the Awareness of Nature through Photography

SANP Newsletter

September 2021

Golden Valley Sunrise, Second Place, Panoramas category, 2021 Salon, *copyright Chris Rohwer.*

September Monthly Meeting—Tues, Sep 28: a hybrid meeting, 7pm at the Watershed Bldg., Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church, and virtually via ZOOM, featuring Kendall Chiles

Join us on September 28 for our second hybrid club meeting. Come to the Watershed Building if you are comfortable meeting in person or join us on Zoom to see SANP member and past president Kendall Chiles, who will be presenting a program he calls “Coast of Maine: More than just Lobster and Lighthouses.” Here is Kendall’s description of the program:

The Coast of Maine is a wonderful slice of America where things are still laid back and life doesn't have to move at breakneck speed. US 1 is the thread that connects all the dots along the coast. Most of the dots are small towns and fishing villages. Of course, lighthouses and lobster shacks are in abundance. Acadia National Park is the crown jewel of the Maine coast, and for good reason. This program will explore many of these locales from nine trips since 1996. We will discuss travel options, via air or car, to Maine, as well as other potential photographic locations along the way.



Bass Harbor, copyright Kendall Chiles.

See Kendall’s bio on p. 2.

SANP members do not need to register to join the Zoom session. The link will be emailed to all members on Sunday, July 25. Guests who are not SANP club members and wish to join the Zoom session must [register](#) to receive the Zoom link via email. On Sep 28, visiting time starts at 6:45 and the meeting at 7, both in person and via Zoom.

BIO: Kendall Chiles, September presenter

Kendall Chiles, a freelance nature and travel photographer with over 40 years of photography experience, started out as a yearbook photographer in high school. His interest grew from a hobby into a passion for photographing the beauty of creation and America. Over the years his passion developed into a business that also includes commercial photography. His stock nature and travel photographs have appeared in numerous magazines, books, and brochures.

A graduate of the University of Tennessee, Kendall is also an instructor for UT's Professional & Personal Development Program and the Smoky Mountain Field School. He has been an instructor and workshop leader for American Park Network/Canon USA, EarthSong Photography, Gander Mountain, Grandfather Mountain, Kentucky State Parks, National Parks of Lake Superior Fund, Natural Impressions Photography, Tennessee Outdoor Writers Association and Volunteer State Community College. Since 1992, he has been a presenter and workshop leader at the annual Pigeon Forge Wilderness Wildlife Week. He served 14 years as president of SANP, of which he is a charter member and also a past member of the Board of Directors.

His publication credits include Amphoto Books, *Birds & Blooms*, *Birds & Blooms EXTRA*, *Blue Ridge Country*, Book Production Resources, *Country*, *Country DISCOVERIES*, *Country EXTRA*, *Farm & Ranch Living*, Great Smoky Mountains Association, *Guns & Gear*, *In the Wind*, Knoxville News Sentinel, Leisure Publishing, *Monroe Life*, Pigeon Forge Department of Tourism, *Roughing It Smoothly*, Smoky Mountain Visitors Bureau, *Tennessee Conservationist*, Towyery Publications, and University of Tennessee's Smoky Mountain Field School.

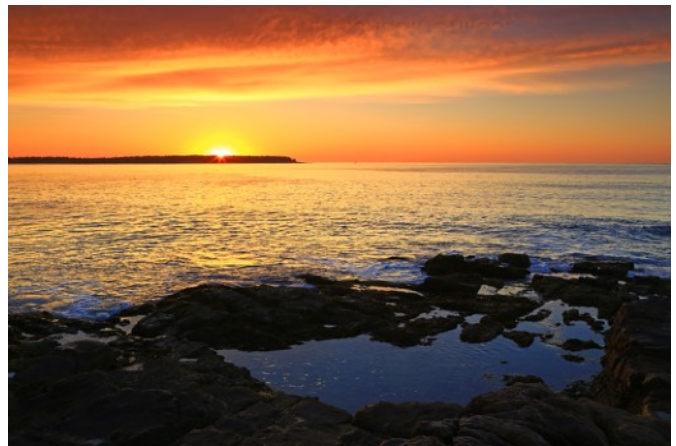
Join us on September 28 for a great trip to Maine with Kendall!



Portland Head Light, copyright Kendall Chiles.



Birch Forest, copyright Kendall Chiles.



Seawall Sunrise, copyright Kendall Chiles.

SANP BOARD UPDATES

At the September Board meeting, Dale Potter was elected to fill the open seat on the Board of Directors until the end of the year, at which time the membership will elect a replacement for the rest of Kent Sauter's term, which ends in December 2022.

See the article below about an addition to the SANP Bylaws, which was approved by the Board and will go before the membership for a vote at the October meeting.

If you have a question or issue to bring before the Board, contact [Ed Stickle](#), President, 48 hours before the meeting. An issue may be presented in person (via Zoom for now) if you wish, as long as the president knows that's your preference. If you want to attend a Zoom Board of Directors meeting (even if you have no issues to bring forward), email [Sharon](#) to get the Zoom link. Read minutes from [August](#) and other past [meetings](#).

Next meeting: October 11.

Stay tuned: Survey for SANP members about the club, the newsletter, and the website coming soon

The SANP Board of Directors would appreciate your help. In a few days, you'll receive an email with a link to an online survey with questions about our club, the website, and the newsletter. In order to understand our members and their varied interests, the Board included a number of questions about what you like about photography and the club and what you would like to see improved.

This survey is completely anonymous, so please be candid. The survey will be open until the middle of October. Our Membership Management System has a survey feature incorporated into it, and it keeps track of who submits the survey, allowing only one submission per member, but your responses are not tied to your identification in any way. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact [Ed Stickle](#), SANP President.

Proposed Amendment to the SANP Bylaws

At the September Board Meeting, President Ed Stickle proposed the following change to Article VI.1 of the club bylaws, which was approved by the Board:

Replace the second sentence in Article VI.1, which currently reads "Elected officers shall have previously served as an Officer of the Club or served on the Board for a minimum of two years" with "Elected officers shall have previously served as an Officer of the Club, served on the Board, or served as a Committee Chair."

If approved by a majority of the members present at the October meeting, Article VI.1 will be changed to read:

VI.1 General. The Board shall elect by simple majority vote the officers of the Club. These elected officers may or may not be Board members. Elected officers shall have previously served as an Officer of the Club, served on the Board, or served as a Committee Chair. The Officers of the Club shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Board may also elect assistants to the Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer at the Board's discretion.

Membership Renewal—To renew your membership, go to your online [profile](#) on the SANP website and click the button labeled "Renew to mm/dd/yyyy." Follow the prompts to pay by credit card. If you want to pay by check, click the "Invoice me" button, and follow the instructions on the invoice. Questions? Contact Brad Cottrell at sanpmembership@gmail.com.



Are you a Photoshop User?

If you are a Photoshop user, check out the Photoshop Virtual Summit 3—a free, on-line event to be held October 4-8. Learn more and sign up at the [website](#).

Over the 5-day Summit, 20 instructors will be teaching 40 classes. Adobe, one of the sponsors of the Summit, is giving away three Creative Cloud memberships in a random drawing from all the people who sign up.

CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL OF TENNESSEE (3CT)

SANP is a member club of 3CT, www.3ct.org, which is a network of photography clubs from across Tennessee and neighboring states. Their [monthly newsletter](#) includes information about meetings and events for member clubs.

You can also visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CameraClubCouncilOfTennessee.

Welcome New SANP Members!

Names are linked to bios provided by members. Click to read more and send a message (available to members only.)

[Elle Colquitt](#), Knoxville (interested in plant life, travel, conservation, close-up/macro, abstracts, black & white, artistic post processing). Elle says, “I like to portray the beauty of a plant in all its stages of life.”

[Frans Deroos](#), Maryville (interested in wildlife, landscapes, black & white, video)

[Louvine Hallmark](#), Loudon (interested in wildlife, landscapes, and video). Louvine says “I’ve been in love with the nature and wildlife as long as I can remember. I’m eager to improve my skills.”

[Ken Morgan](#), Derby, Kansas (interested in landscapes and travel photography). Ken says, “Resident of Kansas, so not likely to be joining in many on-site events. But Mark Frankel lead me to your on-line events and I enjoy them so much I decided to officially join.”

[John Parker](#), Alcoa (interested in closeup/macro photography)

[Kathy Westbrook](#), Knoxville (interested in wildlife, plant life, landscapes, close-up/macro, black & white photography)

Questions about membership? Contact Brad Cottrell at sanpmembership@gmail.com.

Do you ever wonder whether you are being an ethical wildlife photographer? Check out this website: <https://www.format.com/magazine/resources/photography/ethical-guide-to-shooting-wildlife-photography>

SANP Field Events

Check the [events page](#) on our website regularly for all the latest information on events. Contact [Dale Potter](#), 865.773.8114, if you are interesting in leading a field event.

what's ahead...

[Hatfield Knob Elk Viewing Tower](#) —Wed, Sep 22. The last recorded sighting of a wild elk in Tennessee was in 1865, until the year 2000 when the TWRA began an elk restoration project in Campbell County. That year, 50 elk were released in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Subsequently, 151 additional elk were released in the area. Now, around 600 elk are estimated to be free roaming in the management area.

Our vantage point will be the Hatfield Knob Elk Viewing Tower located in the Sunquist Unit of the North Cumberland WMA about 5 airline miles north of La Follette. We can set up our cameras on the tower platform and watch for elk coming to browse in the surrounding fields planted with food crops for the elk. The probability that we will see a lot of elk is good. This trip is scheduled during the elk mating season, and the animals should be quite active.
Brad Cottrell, leader

Focus Stacking Workshop, take 2—Sep 30, 3pm. The next seven people on the waiting list will receive an email about this four-hour workshop at the our property in Kingston. Focus stacking can be used for landscape photos as well as closeups.

See some examples of focus-stacked images taken on the our property at my [Zenfolio website](#).

If you are interested in this workshop and haven't signed up, send me an [email](#) to get on the waitlist for a future workshop. Read about the [event](#).
Ron McConathy, leader.

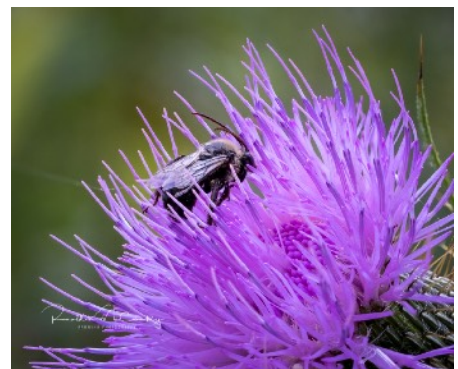
what happened in August...

Cades Cove Early Morning Visit, Aug 28 (*led by Dale Potter*) — Bob Howdeshell shared some of his secrets about the Cove. Some in our group experienced their first black bears in the wild. We saw two cubs interacting while their mother slept and watched another mother with two cubs. Experiencing hummingbirds enjoying jewelweed was exciting but getting lucky enough to capture one while it paused in flight was exhilarating.

Sunrise from Clingmans Dome, Aug 7 (*led by Dale Potter*) — We actually got to finally see a sunrise on a field event! Turnout was great for an early morning event. Everyone ventured up the steep trail to the top of the tower where we were joined by others waiting for the sunrise. Afterwards, part of the group stopped at the Oconaluftee Visitor Center where elk were crossing the river to the field to hang out. For some in the group, this was their first time seeing elk and getting to hear the large bull bugle.



Elk at Hatfield Knob Copyright Brad Cottrell.



Bumblebee on thistle, ~10 images focus stacked. Copyright Ron McConathy.



Hummer in Cades Cove. Copyright Dale Potter.



Elk at the Oconaluftee Visitor Center. Copyright Dale Potter.

Connections are the heart of photography... SANP Director Kristina Plaas

by David Boruff

For Kristina Plaas, photography is a way of connecting to the hearts of others and the beauty of the world around her.

“Photography always has been a heart thing for me,” says SANP Director Kristina Plaas. “It’s about noticing beautiful or interesting things and feeling some sort of connection to whatever is on the other side of the camera.”

Rooted in Utah, blooming in East Tennessee

Born in Utah, Kristina grew up mostly in Knoxville, where her father, Hyrum, accepted a faculty position at the University of Tennessee when Kristina was 7. From him she acquired a love of higher education and research. Her German-born mother, Johanna, imbued her with an eye for beauty and a lifelong passion for photography.

“I am a blessed and grateful daughter,” says Kristina.

She still treasures her mother’s vintage leather-covered Zeiss camera and her boxes of slides that her father projected often to the family. Like her mother’s Zeiss – and her slides – her father’s Carousel projector is also a treasured keepsake.

The love(s) of her life

Kristina’s own love affair with photography began in middle school, where she wielded the family’s Instamatic cameras “taking pictures of anything I could take pictures of.”

After finishing her bachelor’s degree in nursing from UT-Knoxville, Kristina acquired her first SLR: a 35 mm Canon AE-1 Program. “That camera was the love of my life for decades,” Kristina says.

It was at UT that Kristina encountered another lifelong love.

“In my junior year, I fell in love with my first premature baby,” she says. “I took care of her in pediatrics. A little girl named Emily with fuzzy red hair. My heart was just gone, and I knew what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.”

After three years in the neonatal intensive care unit at UT Medical Center, Kristina moved to Nashville, where she worked at Vanderbilt University Medical Center while completing a master’s degree. From there she returned to her roots in Utah and devoted 12 years to direct practice and clinical leadership at the University of Utah Hospital.

During her time in Utah, Kristina became a nationally renowned authority on neonatal care and only the 2nd recipient of the prestigious Excellence in Clinical Practice Award from the National Association of Neonatal Nurses.

A time for healing

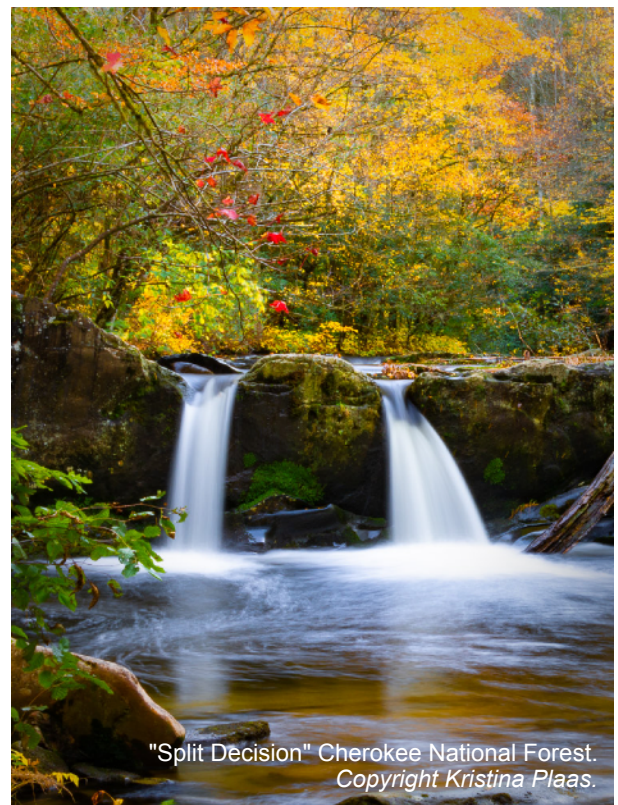
But in 1998, Kristina was forced to retire due to health issues of her own: chronic fibromyalgia.

“My health failed. I literally could not stand on my feet, and I could not do the work anymore,” she says.

(Continued on p. 7)



Kristina Plaas at home in her favorite place—the Smokies.



"Split Decision" Cherokee National Forest.
 Copyright Kristina Plaas.

Interview with Kristina Plaas, SANP Board (con't from p.6)

She returned to Tennessee to be closer to her family and the Smokies, to heal, and to further her education. In 2007, after nearly a decade of soldiering through her debilitating illness, she completed her doctorate at the University of Tennessee College of Nursing, where she continues to play an active role in qualitative research.

"I still have the heart and brain of a nurse and think like a researcher," Kristina says.

A respite from work

Throughout her nursing career, photography provided a welcome respite from the rigors of her profession.

"I worked in a high stress occupation with babies teetering on the edge of death," she says. "On my days off, I would grab my AE-1, a cooler, my maps and guidebooks, and head up into the canyons or the west desert in Utah and take pictures. Then I felt better about life. It's what I did to be happy."

Her first digital camera – a Fuji FinePix S700 – was a gift for completing her PhD. She still uses her Nikon D5100, a Christmas gift five years later, for macro work because of its tilt-out screen. With her chronic pain issues, Kristina knew she couldn't lug a heavy camera down trails in the Smokies. Her decision to stay with lighter crop-sensor cameras made her next upgrade to a Nikon N7100 "a very intentional choice."

Today Kristina's camera bag also includes a bevy of lenses: a Tamron 18-400 mm, a Tokina 11-20 mm, a Sigma 105 mm macro, and a 40 mm macro. With its phenomenal range, the 18-400 is her favorite. "I love that lens to death," Kristina says. "It's on my camera most of the time."

Seeing the goodness in imperfection

Kristina's favorite subjects tend to be butterflies and wildflowers – especially those that flit or bloom while hampered by imperfections. "Big wildlife like elk and bears do not speak to my heart the way a little butterfly does," she says. "Nothing makes me happier than finding a butterfly that is not perfect."

Kristina recalls encountering a butterfly on Clingman's Dome with a big chunk of its wing missing but still flying from aster to aster. "As someone who has chronic health issues, that speaks to me," Kristina says. "We all have battered wings from life, and it's that story connection that's the thing for me."

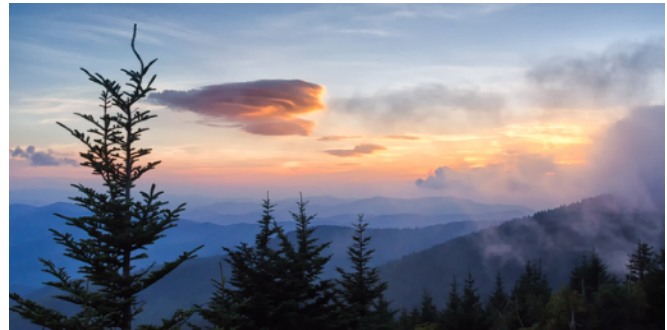
Kristina's appreciation for imperfection extends also to her wildflower photography. "I look often for the imperfect flowers to photograph," she says. "I don't mind that torn edge or something that is not perfect because I think there's a story there."

"Photography is the means for telling that story," she says. "Bees pry their way into pink turtleheads to feed on the nectar. The lips of the pink turtleheads are always bruised as a result. This flower feeds a creature that helps feed mankind."

(A gifted writer as well as a photographer, Kristina wrote a poem based on one of her photographic experiences, which is included on the last page of the newsletter.)

Beloved mentors, sharing attention to detail

Kristina's intrinsic attention to detail was essential to her in nursing, and it strengthens her photography today. Like many SANP members, she is a big fan of the macro photography tutelage she received from fellow SANP Director Ron McConathy, a long-time instructor for UT Non-Credit Programs & Conferences. *(Continued bottom of p. 8)*



"Centennial Sunset" photographed at Clingmans Dome on the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service.
 Copyright Kristina Plaas.



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail on Spotted Joe Pye Weed, Blue Ridge Parkway. Copyright Kristina Plaas.

Want to share an interesting field experience or other information with fellow members? Email sanpinfo@sanp.net and include a short description and some photos.

From **Brad Cottrell**: The National Park Service (NPS) and the Federal Aviation Administration are seeking public feedback on a draft Air Tour Management Plan being proposed for the Smokies. The proposed plan would authorize up to 946 air tours per year on defined routes.

I assume most of us would prefer to have no sightseeing flights over the Smokies. That, however, has already been decided. This plan regulates how the flights are conducted. Currently two operators are authorized to conduct sightseeing flights over the park with very little control over how they do it. The proposed plan would restrict the number of flights per year and per day, the days and hours they fly, flight routes, altitudes, vertical and lateral distance from land features, type of aircraft, noise levels and other things. If implemented, the plan would likely improve the current situation.

Public feedback can be provided through the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website through Sunday, Oct. 3. Comment here: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=382&projectID=100689&documentID=114585>

From **Dale Potter**: Check out the [2021 Fall Foliage Map](#)--the ultimate visual planning guide to the annual progressive changing of the leaves. While no tool can be 100% accurate, this tool is meant to help travelers better time their trips to have the best opportunity of catching peak color each year.

Interview with Kristina Plaas, SANP Board (con't from p.7)

"Ron's macro classes got me thinking in intricate detail about distance and timing," she says. "I bring those gifts to what I do in photography, looking for those little details."

Giving others a reason to smile

Kristina also shares her gifts as a volunteer with the National Park Service in the Smokies. Along with two other unpaid volunteers, she contributes photographs to support the park's social media.

"It's a wonderful way to give back to a place that I love so much and has meant so much to me," she says. "It's a place where I went to heal when I was so in need of healing. Where I go to find peace and sort out my life problems or let go of stress. It has been my place. My camera has facilitated those life experiences."

Kristina says she is grateful for the opportunity to share her affection for the park with others. "If someone is having a positive experience with the Smokies because of my photos, if I can give someone a reason to smile by what is coming out of my camera, that's a good day."

A more welcoming place for others

Kristina says recent changes at SANP also give her reason to smile. "I joined the Board because I wanted SANP to feel like a more welcoming place, so there's a little something for everyone," she says. She's been delighted to see the Club offer more educational and mentoring opportunities, helping members forge connections with each other in small groups.

"Dale Potter has done an outrageously stellar job at bringing what I had hoped for to life," Kristina says. "People are getting together with their cameras, enjoying the same thing and learning from one another. Just imagine how much better it's going to be once COVID is over and we're able to get out and enjoy nature photography even more."

A brighter future ahead

Kristina is excited about the possibilities that lie ahead, but she wants the Club to keep its focus on nature and landscape photography. "We have other clubs in the area that have a broader vision that includes things like people and architecture," she says.

"But SANP focuses on the things I love most."

Future 2021 Club Meetings

Sept 28 Kendall Chiles
 Oct 26 Ron McConathy
 Nov 23 TBA, note date is the 4th Tuesday

SANP Officers

President: [Ed Stickle](#), 865-405-8143
 Vice President: Open
 Secretary: Charles Samuels
 Treasurer: Sharon Cottrell

Volunteer Managers

Community Outreach: [Ron Sentell](#)
 Field Events: [Dale Potter](#)
 Historian: Open
 Membership: [Brad Cottrell](#)
 Newsletter: [Sharon McConathy](#)
 Programs: [Kendall Chiles](#)
 Salon: [Dale Potter](#)
 Social Media: [Chris Cannon](#)
 Website: [Sharon McConathy](#)
 Workshops: Open

Board of Directors

The Board meets 2nd Monday each month.

2019-2021:	Sharon Cottrell Charlie Samuels Ron McConathy
2020-2022:	David Boruff Kristina Plaas Dale Potter
2021-2023:	Chris Cannon Gretchen Kaplan Marcy Wielfaert

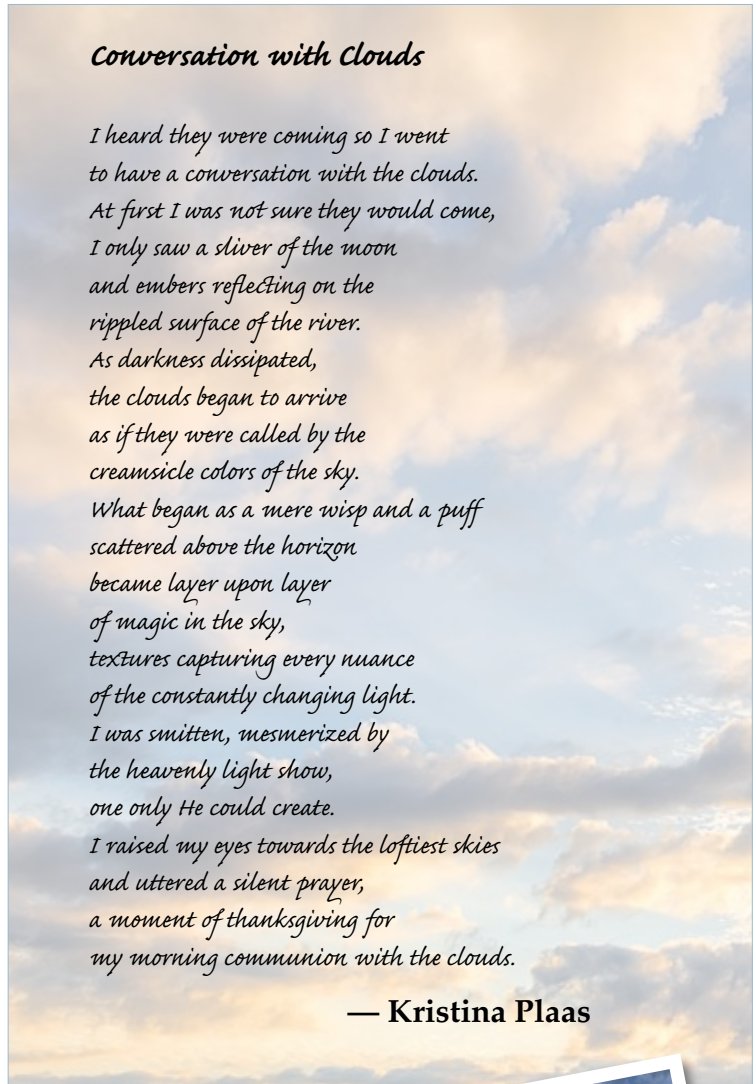
CCOR Annual Salon

The Camera Club of Oak Ridge has invited our members to participate in their **73rd Annual Salon**, a digital only competition. Rules are found on their [website](#). The entry fee is \$15.00 for members and \$25.00 for non-members, regardless of the number of entries. There are 9 categories with a maximum of 2 entries per category and a 10 images total.

Conversation with Clouds

*I heard they were coming so I went
 to have a conversation with the clouds.
 At first I was not sure they would come,
 I only saw a sliver of the moon
 and embers reflecting on the
 rippled surface of the river.
 As darkness dissipated,
 the clouds began to arrive
 as if they were called by the
 creamsicle colors of the sky.
 What began as a mere wisp and a puff
 scattered above the horizon
 became layer upon layer
 of magic in the sky,
 textures capturing every nuance
 of the constantly changing light.
 I was smitten, mesmerized by
 the heavenly light show,
 one only He could create.
 I raised my eyes towards the loftiest skies
 and uttered a silent prayer,
 a moment of thanksgiving for
 my morning communion with the clouds.*

— Kristina Plaas



Sunrise at the Cove in Concord Park in Farragut, the experience that inspired the poem above. Copyright Kristina Plaas.