

'Dancing Cranes' from Salt Lake City to San Antonio



Snow Geese at the Bosque by Jana Svobodova

San Antonio fits no secret that the Rio Grande Valley especially in the autumn, is prime birders and photographers paradise. The changing seasons turn the fields and bosques into harvest reds and golds, and brings an abundance of birds and the people who watch and photograph them.

The tranquil beauty of a Rio Grande fall day is beautifully portrayed in the photograph by Jana Svobodova which adorns the cover of Steppin' Out this month. We're not the only ones to think that. The picture placed first in the Manipulated Photos category of the 2006 Festival of the Cranes Photography Contest and was also given the Judges' Award.

Jana has been an avid photographer for some 10 years but always has had an eye for beauty in and for cranes. She and partner Jim Platt began Dancing Cranes Imports in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1994. Among their jaunts to distant lands in the Far East they also discovered the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge.

We followed the cranes to the Bosque, jokes Jim. After years of visiting the Bosque, the couple three years ago purchased land in the valley. The Dancing Cranes Guest House and Gallery sits at the far east end



A pond near the Dancing Cranes Guest House, photograph by Jana Svobodova of Wendy's Farm Road, just north of Hwy 380 on Farm to Market.

Jana was born and grew up in Czechoslovakia. She met Jim in Prague; she immigrated to the U.S. in 1992. Along with nature photography, Jana enjoys scuba diving and underwater photography. For more information about the Guest House and Gallery, call 505-517-9273.

CHRISTMAS JUBILEE
2008



Shopping Extravaganza

The Ruidoso Valley Greeters Present The
22nd Annual Christmas Jubilee
80 Local Merchants

Ruidoso Convention Center
November 14, 15, & 16

Visit with Santa
Story Teller

Friday Noon to 6 PM
Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM
Sunday 11 AM to 4 PM

Admission \$1.00
Children under twelve admitted free

For Information
www.christmasjubilee.net

Food Court

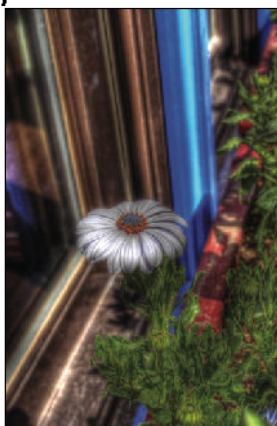
A Festival of Lights Event

Photographer pushes technical limits for new art form

Soconito in Manzanara's Street Coffeehouse will feature the work of Joanne Schmidt during October and November.

Joanne Schmidt took her first photographs as a child using a Kodak Brownie camera. For most of her life, photography was her hobby, often neglected for life's requirements. Joanne's first education was in performing arts, her second in engineering and math. A career in the computer field occupied 20 years of her life. Returning to her artistic roots in 2003, she focuses exclusively on still photography and video documentary.

Although Joanne still enjoys traditional style photography of people, animals, and architecture, her recent focus is HDR, High Dynamic Range. Using new digital HDR techniques, a photographer extends the camera's capabilities to create an image more closely resembling what the human eye sees. Joanne believes the present to be an exciting time of opportunity. She avidly pursues



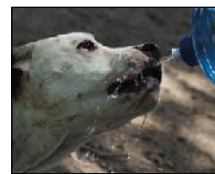
Daisy by J. Schmidt

experimentation with evolving digital darkroom software and image capture devices.

The Manzanara's exhibit features recent HDR work. One set of images showcases street shooting. These express modern life with its complexity, chaos, clutter, competition, extremes, and confusion. Traditional rules are bent and broken but each with a purpose. Reflections and looking through are two common visual

themes. Not surprising, the artist draws inspiration from Abbott's Flatland, Carroll's Through the Looking Glass, and the work of M.C. Escher. Additionally, the Manzanara's exhibit includes HDR architectural images of Albuquerque's historic Rail yard, a favorite site for photographers and movie production companies.

Sometimes, in street shooting or event shooting things move fast with incoming from many directions. Sometimes time stops and the camera becomes an eye for mind and heart. When this happens, the results are often surprisingly interesting. The images need no darkroom work. They go beyond studied composition to convey a meta-dance of life. For me, these moments transform photography from documentary to experiential art. This experience is what I want to share with a viewer, she says.



Water by J. Schmidt

From Jubilee to lighted parade Ruidoso's Festival of Lights a pleaser

Ruidoso's The Ruidoso Valley Festival of Lights Electric Light Parade was voted one of the Top 100 Events in North America for 2008 by the American Bus Association. The Electric Light Parade is the largest Christmas parade of its kind in the southwest, sponsored by the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce as part of the annual Festival of Lights.

The Festival begins with the Christmas Jubilee, Nov. 14-16. The shopping extravaganza brings 88 local merchants into one place for your holiday shopping ease. Sponsored by the Ruidoso Valley Greeters, the 22nd annual Jubilee begins at noon on Friday and is open until 4 pm, all day on Saturday (10 to 6) and on Sunday from 11 to 4. There will be storytelling and visits with Santa on Sat. 10-4 and Sun. 12-30-3 to occupy the younger crowd while shoppers get down to business.

You'll find everything to pamper your friends and your pets and don't forget yourself: Handmade jewelry, soaps, turned-wood bowls, western art and western wear, chili pepper items, lavender products, Alpaca products, stoneware and

raku pottery, Christmas ornaments, stoneworks, wood and metal sculpture, quilted throws, photographs, purses, coffees and teas.

A full food court will satisfy the appetite you work up from all that shopping.

Admission is only \$1 for adults and children are free. Heck, you've saved money just walking in the door from the gas you didn't use driving to all these separate businesses.

For a complete list of vendors, and more information visit www.christmasjubilee.net.

Then, Thanksgiving weekend is the annual Lighting of the Village at Midtown at dusk on Nov. 28.

Nov. 28 to 30 and Dec. 4-7, be sure to visit the Walk through Bethlehem at the Church of the Nazarene.

On Sat. Dec. 6, the Parade of Lights gets underway at dusk; pick your spot in the midtown early for this popular and spectacular parade.

Other events include Christmas in the Park and the production of Snow Queen. For more information call 877-257-7395 or visit www.ruidosofol.org.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
Ruidoso Valley, U.S.A.

November 14- December 14, 2008
Ruidoso, NM

November 14-16 Christmas Jubilee
www.christmasjubilee.net

December 4 Christmas in the Park
www.ruidosonow.com

December 6 Parade of Lights
www.ruidosofol.org

December 12-14 Snow Queen
www.ruidosofol.org

www.ruidosofol.org

877-257-7395