

# Bits & Pixels



First Quarter 2024 (January - March)

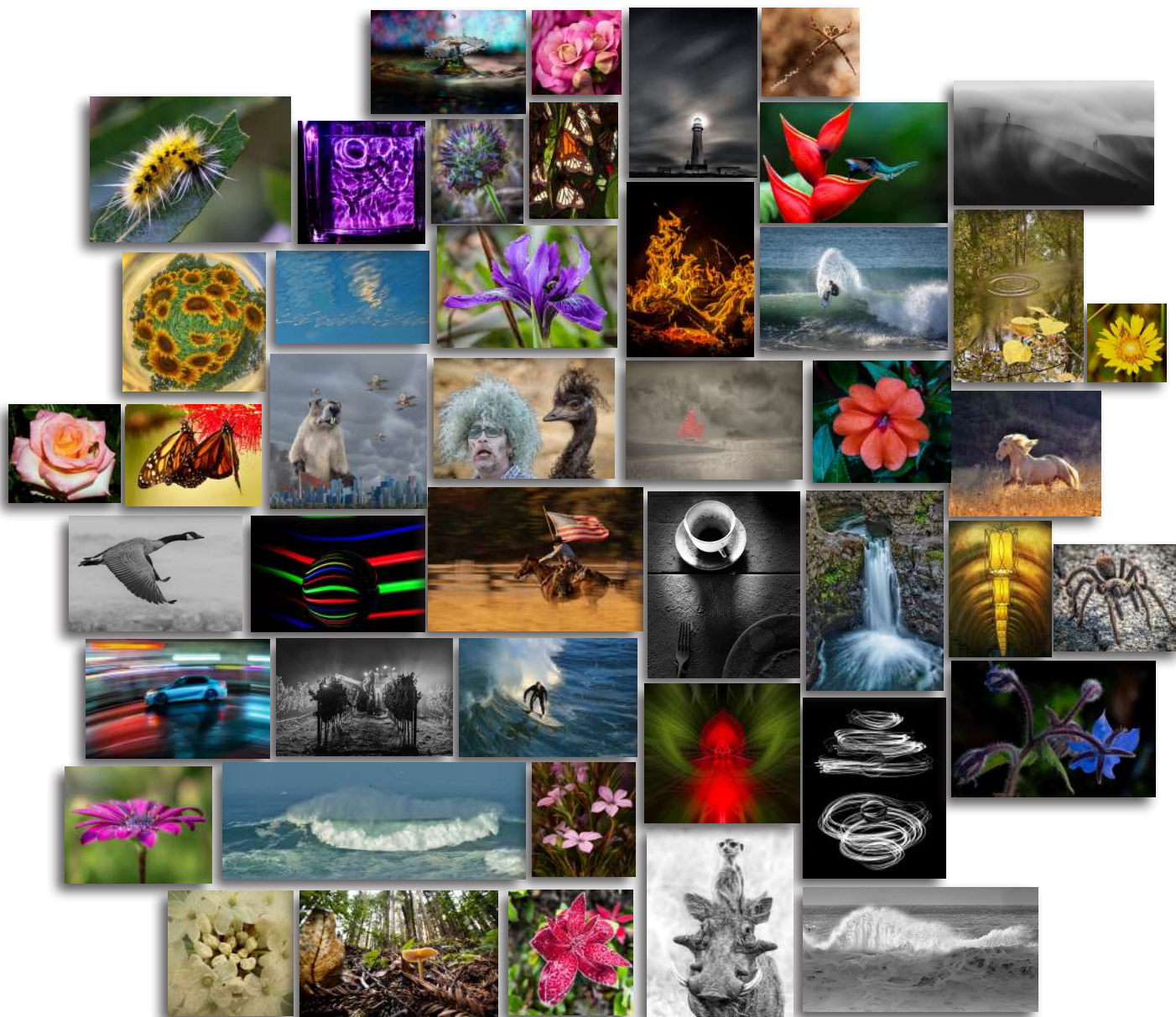
Volume 9, Number 1

P.O. Box 51154, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

[www.padretrailsccl.org](http://www.padretrailsccl.org)

## First Quarter's Best

See pages 3-10 for titles, photographers, and places.



### Inside

Meet Our First Quarter Judges .....	Page 3	Some Edward Weston Wisdom .....	Page 12
January 17 <sup>th</sup> Creative Winners .....	Pages 3-4	PSA Snapshot by Carol Fuessenich.....	Page 13
February 21 <sup>st</sup> Pictorial (Motion) Winners.....	Pages 5-7	Second Quarter Group Shoot, Pop Up, and Submission Dates .....	Page 13
March 20 <sup>th</sup> Macro/Close-up Winners.....	Pages 8-10	Members' Shout Out.....	Page 14
Coastal Wanderings by Meade Fischer.....	Page 11	First Quarter Highlights.....	Page 15
President's Message: My Two Bits by Ken Jones.....	Page 12	PTCC Organizations.....	Page 15

# Meet Our First Quarter Competition Judges

January 2024: Open Creative - *Eduardo Fujii*



**E**duardo Fujii is a self-taught fine art photographer living and working on the beautiful Monterey Peninsula. Early in his life, his parents introduced him to the arts and he fell in love with classical music and painting. Busy college life though distracted him from his artistic path until about twelve years ago when he chose photography to express himself as an artist. His photography offers hints of the influence music and painting had and continue to have on his artistic style. His images have an unquestionable painterly look and are full of mystery and lyricism.

He has been developing his style through a process of self-discovery and always leaves part of himself in each one of his images. Eduardo truly believes that every photograph is a self-portrait.

---

February 2024: Pictorial (Motion) - *Ann Jastrab*

**A**nn was born in Utica, New York, and grew up in nearby Whitesboro. She received a BA in English Literature and a BA in Studio Art from *Hartwick College* before completing her MFA in photography at the *Savannah College of Art and Design* in 1995. After graduation, she joined the resident faculty at the *Maine Photographic Workshops* and taught there for nearly a decade in both their year-round program and their intensive summer workshops. After living and working in Sweden, India, Australia and a number of places in between including Manhattan, Ann eventually moved to Los Angeles where she printed for the *Motion Picture Academy* (while still driving back to Maine every summer to teach photography).



Finally Ann made her way north to San Francisco where she worked as the gallery director at the beloved *RayKo Photo Center* for 10 years until their closure. She curated many exhibitions for RayKo during her tenure while also jurying, curating, and organizing numerous exhibitions for other national and international venues outside of the San Francisco Bay Area. While being a champion of artists, she also created a thriving artist-in-residence program at RayKo where recent residents *Kathya Marie Landeros*, *Meghann Riepenhoff*, *Carlos Javier Ortiz*, and *McNair Evans* all received Guggenheim Fellowships. Prior to taking the position of executive director of the Center for Photographic Art, (CPA), Ann worked as the gallery manager at Scott Nichols Gallery in San Francisco. She has served on numerous boards and fundraising committees and is thrilled to bring her talents, passion, and leadership skills to Carmel. Besides being a curator and an educator, Ann is a writer and editor and she is also a fine art photographer who still carries around a wooden view camera...and a metal one too.

---

March 2024: Nature (Macro/Closeup) - *Richard Cannon*

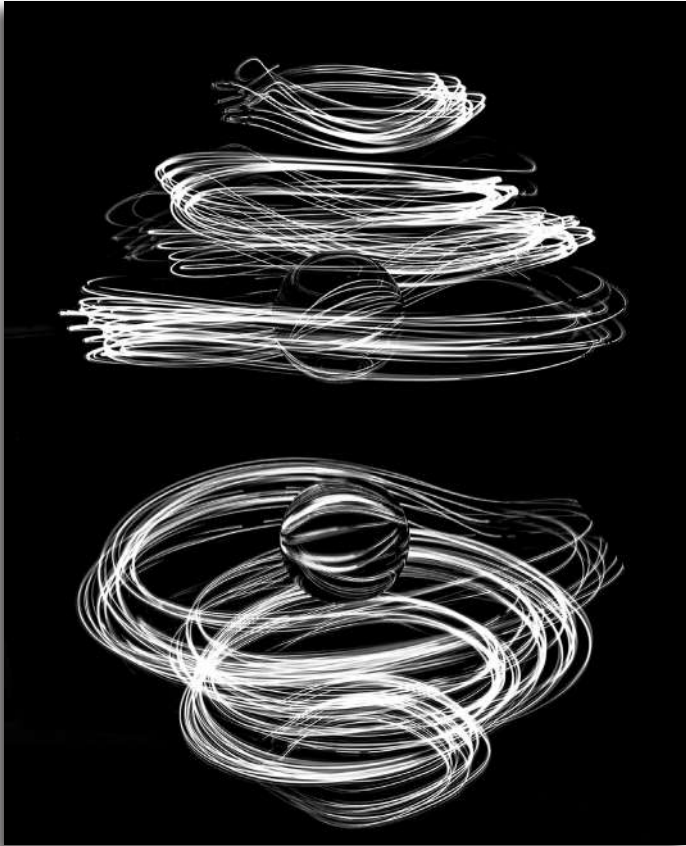
**R**ichard Cannon is a native of San Jose, California, and has been creating fine art photography since 2005. Working primarily with digital media, his artistic goal is to achieve visual, intellectual, and emotional connectivity with his images. Richard's photographs have been in numerous exhibits on the Monterey Peninsula and Santa Clara, California. Several of his works are in the permanent collections of the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula and Santa Clara's Triton Museum, as well as private collections in Carmel, La Jolla, and Monterey. He is a member of The Image Makers of Monterey Peninsula, and is active in the photography scene in Carmel.



## January 17<sup>th</sup> Creative Winners

### Group Blue

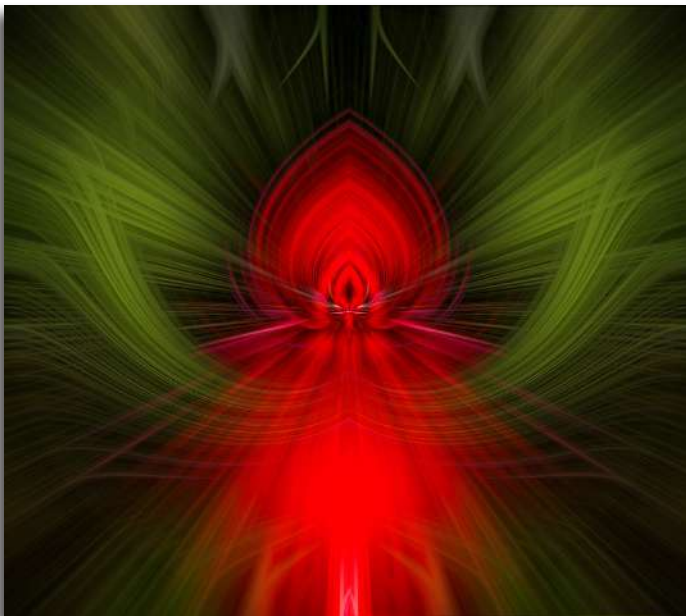
---



1<sup>st</sup> "Swirly Reflections"  
*Chris Johnson*



3<sup>rd</sup> "Aged in Dust"  
*Carol Silveira*



2<sup>nd</sup> "Path to Nirvana"  
*Chris Johnson*



HM "Hakuna Matata"  
*Julie Chen*



HM "Lighting the Way"  
*Carol Silveira*

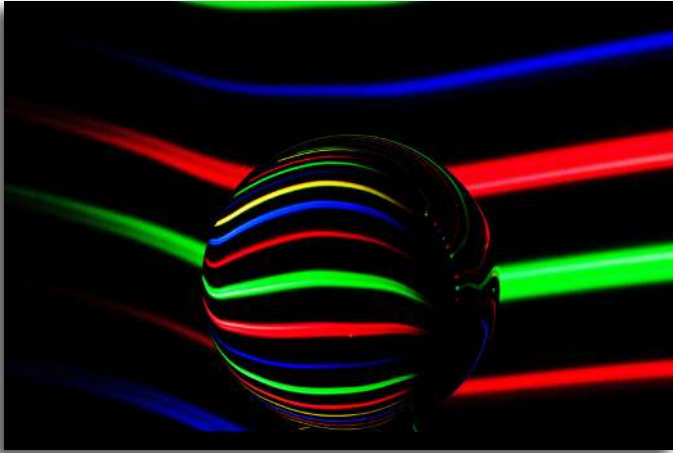


HM "Really Bad Hair Day"  
*John Drum*

## January 17<sup>th</sup> Creative Winners

### *Combined Groups Green & Red*

---



1<sup>st</sup> "Sphere Light Lines"  
*Brian Spiegel (Group Red)*



3<sup>rd</sup> "Bad Day in Toronto"  
*Ken Jones (Group Green)*



2<sup>nd</sup> "Red Sails in the Mists"  
*Ken Jones (Group Green)*



HM "Clustered Butterflies"  
*Brooks Leffler (Group Red)*



HM "Sunflower World"  
*Bill Shewchuk (Group Green)*



HM "Illusion of Water"  
*Carol Fuessenich (Group Green)*



## February 21<sup>st</sup> Pictorial (Motion) Winners

### Group Blue

---



1<sup>st</sup> "Night Time Grape Harvest"  
*Joni Zabala*



3<sup>rd</sup> "Clouds Moving Over Mount Bruno"  
*Patricia McKean*



2<sup>nd</sup> "White Necked Jacobin Hummingbird"  
*Carol Silveira*



HM "Perfect Wave"  
*John Drum*



HM "Panning a Street Corner"  
*Denice Loria Woyski*



HM "Clouds Sailing Past Pigeon Point Lighthouse"  
*Chris Johnson*



HM "Racing to the Finish"  
*Carol Silveira*

## February 21<sup>st</sup> Pictorial (Motion) Winners

### Group Green



1<sup>st</sup> "Endless Rings"  
*Sandie McCafferty*



2<sup>nd</sup> "Icelandic Waterfall"  
*Bill Shewchuk*



3<sup>rd</sup> "Goose in Transit"  
*Christina Parsons*



HM "Surfer"  
*Fernando Ibanez*



HM "Morning Run"  
*Carol Fuessenich*



HM "Wave Crest Carmel Beach"  
*Kent Van Vuren*



## February 21<sup>st</sup> Pictorial (Motion) Winners

### *Group Red*

---



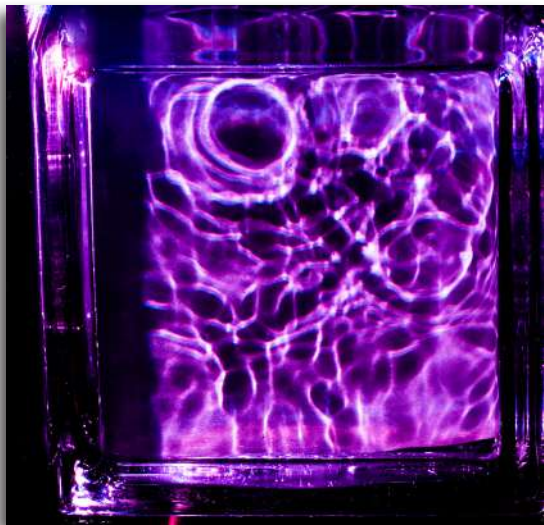
1<sup>st</sup> "Water Drops Sparkles"

*Brian Spiegel*



2<sup>nd</sup> "Spindrift at Asilomar"

*Brooks Leffler*



3<sup>rd</sup> "Light and Water Wave Diffraction"

*Brian Spiegel*



HM "Flaming"

*David Eisen*

## March 20<sup>th</sup> Nature (Macro/Closeup) Winners

### Group Blue

---



1<sup>st</sup> "Tarantula"  
*John Drum*



2<sup>nd</sup> "Douglas Iris"  
*John Drum*



3<sup>rd</sup> "Cape Marguerite with Dew"  
*Chris Johnson*



HM "Orb Spider & Web"  
*David Eisen*



HM "Monarchs"  
*Jerry Loomis*



HM " Gum Plants and GrassHopper"  
*Jerry Loomis*



## March 20<sup>th</sup> Nature (Macro/Closeup) Winners

### Group Green

---



1<sup>st</sup> "Pretty in Pink"  
*Charlie Gibson*



2<sup>nd</sup> "Blue Flower with Friends"  
*Christina Parsons*



HM "Impatiens"  
*Dick Light*



HM "Golden Chia"  
*Bill Shewchuk*



3<sup>rd</sup> "Inside a Giant Scabious-cephalaria"  
*Ken Jones*



HM "Honeybee on  
Pink Rose Blossom"  
*Don Eastman*



HM "Succulent Blossoms"  
*Charlie Gibson*



## March 20<sup>th</sup> Nature (Macro/Closeup) Winners

### Group Red

---



1<sup>st</sup> "Coast Paintbrush"  
*Brooks Leffler*



2<sup>nd</sup> "Common Flower Fly"  
*Sarah Courtneidge*



3<sup>rd</sup> "Mini Daffodils  
& Eupeodes Corollae, female"  
*Clarissa Conn*



HM "Spotted Bussock Moth Caterpillar"  
*Sarah Courtneidge*



HM "Mushroom Caught in Light"  
*Brian Spiegel*



HM "Wet Petals"  
*David Eisen*



# Coastal Wanderings

*Elephant Seals of San Simeon & Piedras Blancas Light Station*

*Text and photos by Meade Fischer*

There's a parking lot and a fence just south of *Piedras Blancas Light Station* where I once pulled off, spent the night, and then launched my kayak in the morning. Now it is a popular spot to view elephant seals. At certain times of the year the beach is packed with bulls and females with babies, all grabbing their little patch of sand. For the photographer, all you need is a small telephoto to get close enough to capture their faces, these animals being only a few yards away. To get even closer, drive a short way south to Arroyo Laguna Beach, where I think you can still hop the fence and walk past these sleeping giants to get to the beach, but tread lightly, as these big bulls have bad tempers and don't like being disturbed.



Since I usually go down that way in summer, I'll assume that it's the best time to view them, but a quick internet check should keep you from wasting a long drive.

While you can get good pictures almost any time of day, if you wish to get the best dawn or dusk lighting, there are several nice motels five minutes south in the town of *San Simeon*. Set your alarm, take a quick drive, get great shots, and be back in time for a good breakfast.



Once you've taken all the elephant seal photos you wish, try to take a tour of the light station, where you can get some beautiful coastal shots from the top. In my case, one of my favorite photos. The 2 hour tour costs \$10 and you can book by calling 877-444-6777. Tours meet at the now closed motel 1<sup>1/2</sup> miles north, and the views are well worth the cost. I've included the photo that made the tour worth while for me.



*Meade Fischer is a past member of PTCC. He enjoys photographing the California coastline where he finds inspiration, contentment, and some outstanding images. Meade is the author of numerous books that explore California's Central and North coasts as well as several that display his wit and humor. Learn more about Meade and his talents at: <http://www.meadefisher.com/>*

## My Two Bits

### *The Instant Gratification Conundrum*

by Ken Jones

It wasn't all that long ago when waiting several days for a roll of slide film to be developed was considered normal. As was holding each up to the light to see whether any were keepers, and eventually tossing most of them out. And later, of course, trying to remember which slide tray or plastic sleeve we put the keepers in.



If you weren't into slides, you had the joy of picking up those little envelopes from the drug store and leafing through your prints while sitting in the car in the parking lot. You could even order wallet size prints to carry with you to show to friends when you happened to run into them.

Considering these things now seems like reading about an ancient civilization, whose primitive rituals are laughable to us modern folks. Perhaps I'm just in a particularly nostalgic time of life, but I think that the photographic suspense and delight that came with discovering if any of our exposures were worth the effort made the whole process kind of exciting. Add the reality that there was no post processing wizardry around to straighten horizons, remove an unnoticed candy wrapper from the tall grass, or fiddle with the coloration of your subject, and for better or worse, what you got, was what you got.

It's a different world now for sure. Today, photography is everywhere, all the time. Yesteryear's elements of suspense and discovery have given way to instant "chip" glances, bulk air-drops to our computers, and mass distribution of selfies and food shots via social media.

I'm not saying this is bad, but it might be good to take a step back and think about the relative ease of capturing images now versus "then." Before things began speeding up, tossing out 30 of 36 slides, or most of a packet of prints, meant money down the drain. That kind of financial consequence may have made us take a bit more care before we tripped the shutter.

Forgetting about the cost of cameras and memory cards, today's captured images are virtually free. We can make hundreds of exposures of a given subject, quickly triage the images, and start the process of turning the chosen few into works of art with tools Ansel could only dream about. Format the card, and you're ready to go out and do it again.

If we're not careful, it's possible that our "no consequence" workflows today might breed a kind of carelessness in the seeing and capturing process.

And this I think is the value of camera clubs, and the photographers they bring together. Camera clubs play a vital role in maintaining the discipline that keeps us focused on respecting the value of carefully seeing and capturing the world in a way that satisfies each of our creative and artistic aspirations. While today's equipment and technologies make it easy to produce vast quantities of images, the camera club community reinforces the value of the quality of our images thereby enhancing the enjoyment we get from taking pictures in the first place.

*Take your lens cap off...*

Ken



### Some Edward Weston Wisdom

- "When subject matter is forced to fit into preconceived patterns, there can be no freshness of vision. Following rules of composition can only lead to a tedious repetition of pictorial clichés."
- "The fact is that relatively few photographers ever master their medium. Instead they allow the medium to master them and go on an endless squirrel cage chase from new lens to new paper to new developer to new gadget, never staying with one piece of equipment long enough to learn its full capacities, becoming lost in a maze of technical information that is of little or no use since they don't know what to do with it."
- "This then: to photograph a rock, have it look like a rock, but be more than a rock."

Source: <https://www.johnpaulcaponigro.com/>





## Providing Motivational and Educational Opportunities

by Carol Fuessenich



The Photographic Society of America (PSA) has as its main purpose helping photographers improve their craft. PSA members can take advantage of this through online classes, working with a PSA mentor, or attending sponsored conferences. PSA also strives to motivate photographers to try new techniques for working with photos once they've been downloaded.

There are PSA clubs across every state. Clubs join together and form councils. Monterey county, thus Padre Trails, comprises the Northern California Council of Camera Clubs, N4C. Eleven other counties belong to the northern California Yerba Buena council, a valuable network of talent.

To further the education and motivation of photographers, Yerba Buena organizes a conference (FotoClave) every two years. Recently four PTCC members went to FotoClave, a three day conference in San Ramon.

The always entertaining and informative *Scott Kelby* was the main speaker. I attended two sessions on how to photograph with a light box. Then there were the sessions on landscape photography, macro photography, and Intentional Camera Movement (ICM) which I attended.

The PSA Southern California Chapter has just released information about their conference May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in Palm Desert, CA. Registration is only \$25 for PSA members. *Lisa Langell* and *Mason Mullaly* will be the two Saturday speakers. Friday offers a number of possible activities: a Salton Sea Photo Safari; photo walk in Big Morongo Canyon Preserve - an internationally recognized birding site; The Living Desert - take a train ride around an African Safari and a ride thru a botanical garden; take a 2 mile photo walk through the city of Palm Springs; tour Pioneer Town - a town built for use as a movie set and photograph actors dressed in period clothing. Some of these have a charge, and some are free.

Finally, other photographic possibilities are the Metal Sculptures in Anza Borrego Desert, the possibility of night photography at the Cacti Gardens, military aircraft on display, and finally a Hopi inspired Pueblo Castle in Desert Hot Springs.

You do need to be a PSA member to attend the conference. Join at <https://psa-photo.org/>.

And finally, the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual PSA Photo Festival will be held September 18-21, 2024. It is being held in Tucson, Arizona this year. Registration will open April 1st. Be sure to go on the PSA web site and read about all the tours, workshops, and speakers that are planned.



### Key 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Dates Pop-Up Challenges & Group Shoots

Full year's schedule available at our website: Member Resources

- Show: Macro Mysteries Pop Up - April 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Group Shoot: Carmel River Tide Pools - April 14<sup>th</sup>  
Submit by April 24<sup>th</sup>
- Submit: Long Exposure Pop Up - April 24<sup>th</sup>
- Show: Long Exposure & Carmel River Tide Pools - May 1<sup>st</sup>
- Submit: Wild Things Pop Up - May 25<sup>th</sup>
- Scavenger Hunt - Monterey Adobes - Photograph anytime prior to submit date.
- Submit: Scavenger Hunt - Monterey Adobes May 29<sup>th</sup>
- Group Shoot: Lake El Estero - June 1<sup>st</sup>
- Show: Wild Things Pop Up & Monterey Adobe Scavenger Hunt - June 5<sup>th</sup>
- Submit: Lake El Estero Group Shoot - June 26<sup>th</sup>

Group Shoot & Pop Up details  
will be sent out well in advance of the event.

### Upcoming Competition Submission Dates

All competition submissions are due by midnight.

- Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>: Human Hand in Nature
- Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>: Pictorial (Reflections)
- Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>: Black & White

## Members' Shout-out Achievements Beyond PTCC



Congratulations Chris Johnson and  
Sandie McCafferty!

*Both contributed to this article.*

FotoClave is considered the premier photography conference in Northern California. Organized and conducted by The Northern California Council of Camera Clubs (N4C), this year's conference took place in San Ramon over the weekend of February 17-19. PTCC members *Chris Johnson*, *Carol Fuessenich*, *Carol Gan*, and *Sandie McCafferty* participated this year. Despite the rain, they all enjoyed the abundant opportunities provided by the conference to learn from a wide range of experts, peruse vendors with gear, gadgets, and gizmos, and take advantage of plenty of opportunities to schmooze with other enthusiastic photographers. Of note also were the seminars, break-out workshops and panel discussions that added depth to the experience.

In Sandie's words regarding the various sessions she attended: "This was my first time participating in a FotoClave conference, and I was impressed by how well it was organized and how conveniently the whole weekend flowed. I came away feeling energized and enthusiastic to try lots of new ideas, as well as having a wealth of visual inspiration.

*Jason Bradley* explained things clearly and had great examples on how to create successful landscapes, and improve your workflow to make your pictures the best they can be. *Scott Kelby* shared travel pictures and tips that dazzled, and made me feel like I could travel the world and fill my camera with views that would capture the adventure, romance, and beauty! *Jan Lightfoot* inspired with great bird images and a fantastic presentation on how to effectively create art with ICM (Intentional Camera Motion). This will be useful in one of the PTCC challenges that's coming up in April and May! I wholeheartedly recommend attending the next FotoClave as a way to build your skills and your connection to a larger photographic community."

The event included a juried open subject digital image competition. The distinguished panel of judges included, *Scott Kelby*, *Frans Lanting*, *M.H. Rubin*, and *Frederick Van Johnson*.

A total of 391 images were submitted by participants. From that number, only 150 were selected to move on to the final judging. *Chris Johnson's* "Brown Pelican Bathing," and *Sandie McCafferty's* "Wabi Sabi," were among those selected and are shown below.

Fifteen awards ultimately were made and they, along with all the other selected images, will be published in a book containing the winning images, and all those selected. All submitted images, those selected, and the final fifteen winners may be seen at:

<https://fotoclavegallery.slickpic.com>.



"Wabi Sabi"  
*Sandie McCafferty*



"Brown Pelican Bathing"  
*Chris Johnson*



# First Quarter Highlights

## January

PTCC Pro Member *David Gubernick* presented a macro nature master class at our January 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. David's narrative expressed and clarified macro definitions, techniques, and tips he has developed over the years. He shared several of his own macro and closeup images to demonstrate the effects of his proven techniques. Lively discussion followed and much was learned by all. Thank you David!



David is working on the details of a wildflower workshop just for PTCC coming up in April.



Our second meeting in January featured the returns of our Creative competition, shown on pages 3 and 4 of this issue.

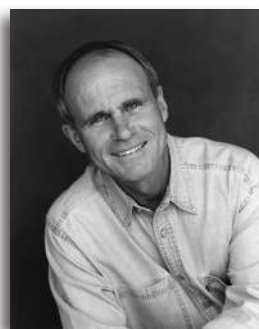
The evening began with the showing of images from a very successful Scavenger Hunt through the streets of Pacific Grove. Participation in the hunt exceeded expectations. The Club is building more such extracurricular events to allow members to express their photographic artistry beyond our competition schedule.

## February

February was an abbreviated month due to extreme weather on the Peninsula that caused wide spread power and WiFi outages. Our first meeting was cancelled but things were back to normal for our February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting when we enjoyed the content scheduled for the first meeting and the returns of our Pictorial (Motion) competition, judged by *Ann Jastrab*, Executive Director of the *Center for Photographic Art*, (CPA).

## March

Another special program opened this month. Long-time PTCC Pro Member *Doug Steakley* joined us to spend the evening sharing the techniques and methods he uses to capture stunning wildlife images. Doug's presentation ranged from the technical to the artistic, including specific optimal settings for various conditions, and ways of maximizing the power of light when photographing in nature. Thank you Doug!



Our second meeting, on March 20<sup>th</sup>, brought the returns of our Macro/Closeup competition which was judged by *Richard Cannon*.

## Padre Trails Camera Club

Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, 7:00PM - 9:00PM  
Currently via Zoom

All Officers and Activity Chairs can be reached via email at: [info@padretrailscc.org](mailto:info@padretrailscc.org)

Membership information can be found here:  
[www.padretrailscc.org/ptcc/ptccmembership.html](http://www.padretrailscc.org/ptcc/ptccmembership.html)

### 2023 - 2024 Officers

President - *Ken Jones*  
Vice President - *John Drum*  
Secretary - *Dick Light*  
Treasurer - *Judi Clayton*

### Activity Chairs

Awards & Hospitality - *Chris Johnson*  
Competitions - *John Drum* and *Bill Brown*  
Judge Coordination - *Joni Zabala*  
Media Relations - *Bill Brown*  
Membership - *Chris Johnson*  
Newsletter (Acting) - *Ken Jones*  
Publicity - *Amy Sibiga*  
Points Accounting - *Carol Fuessenich*  
Star-rating Accounting - *Rick Verbanec*  
Submission Review - *Bill Brown*,  
*Jared Ikeda*, and *Brooks Leffler*  
Website - *Jared Ikeda*



Member Club Since 1948

