

Nature #1 Competition Winning Images — Group Blue



1st "Lesser Sandhill Crane Fly-By" *Jeff Hobbs*

The Nature competitions always inspire our members, and showcase their talents, possibly more than any other. We are fortunate to live on one of the most naturally beautiful peninsulas on the planet, teeming with diverse wildlife and pristine coastlines. However, as you will see, these winning images draw from near and far away locations, proving that the eyes of the photographer can find the beauty of nature wherever they are. *Jeff Hobbs* captured his 1st place image above at the Merced National Wildlife Refuge with his Nikon D500, 850mm, 1/2500 sec at f/9 - ISO 640.

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My Two Bits

Getting Serious About Group Shoots

by Ken Jones

The words “cautiously optimistic” come to mind when looking ahead to 2022 and thinking about what that optimism might look like for PTCC. It's too early yet to plan for in-person meetings as the COVID-19 situation is a seesaw right now with dips and peaks in infections, potential new variants rising up, and increasingly serious outcomes. But even in these times, the great outside awaits with a good degree of certainty.



Our November 6th group shoot at the *Monterey Zoo* proved that the past two years of restrictions have resulted in considerable pent-up demand for getting out together, seeing one another in three dimensions, and sharing our love of photography together. I want to talk about some changes that have been implemented that will help guarantee that the path from group-shoot idea to group-shoot action is refined, simplified, and standardized, all of which will get more outings on our calendar in the coming year.

Vice President, *Charlie Gibson*, has accepted the role of Group Shoot Coordinator, effective immediately. He will

serve as the focal point for ideas presented by members for shoot venues, and help them with their responsibilities as group-shoot lead. Charlie will also create a systematic procedure that will ensure the idea, timing, and scope of a proposed group shoot is fully considered. This organizational tweak will help good ideas, which in the past have faded for the lack of such an active focal point, come to fruition.

I have said that I'd like to see us have at least one group shoot per quarter in the coming calendar year. I think of this as a minimum goal that could increase if the venue ideas warrant and the timing and logistics permit.

The second half of the equation, of course, is seeing how we all capture a location from our own unique personal perspectives. The “Top Ten” concept has served us well to bring together images from a group shoot to present to the Club as a whole. These group-shoot shows can easily fold into our pattern of monthly second meeting program nights, and can also piggyback on returns nights, time permitting. I believe these shows are an important part of our group shoots, and how our group shoots help our members grow in their photography.

Take your lens cap off...

Ken

Meet Zach Weston, Judge For Our Nature #1 Competition

Zach Weston is a fourth generation fine art film photographer from one of the most influential and creative families in American photographic history. His great-grandfather was Edward Weston, great-uncle Brett Weston, grandfather Cole Weston, and his father is Kim Weston. Zach's photography focuses on fine art nudes, landscapes, and abstracts. He learned to process and print his images from his father, Kim Weston, in the darkroom at his childhood home in Carmel Highlands, California. About this learning process, Zach says, “I am really glad my parents didn't force photography on me. They let it happen naturally, and if they hadn't, it would have ruined the experience for me.”

Today, Zach photographs with black and white film using a Mamiya RB 6x7, Wista 4x5, and a Pentax 67.



Nature #1 Competition Winning Images

Group Blue



2nd "Snowy Egret Fishing With Reflection" *Chris Johnson*



HM "Ceiba Tree, Belize" *Nicole Asselborn*



HM "Ballet of Sea Skaters" *Nicole Asselborn*



3rd "Tule Elk, San Luis Reservoir" *Jeff Hobbs*



HM "Western Gull Eating a Fish Head" *Karen Schofield*

Nature #1 Competition Winning Images

Group Green



1st "Wild Grass With Dew Drops" *Patricia McKean*



2nd "Feather Boa" *Janet Azevedo*



HM "Stormy Surf Pounds Asilomar Shoreline"
Janet Azevedo



3rd "Mushroom Colony" *Bill Shewchuk*



HM "Great Blue Heron"
John Drum



HM "A Desert Canyon"
Bill Brown

Nature #1 Competition Winning Images

Group Red



1st "Woodland Douglas Iris" *Frank Penner*



2nd "Black-bellied Plover Takes a Break" *Christina Parsons*



HM "Coexisting on the Rocks Near Baja"
Carol Fuessenich



3rd "Pied-billed Grebe" *Jerry Loomis*



HM "Pair of Black-crowned Night Herons"
Jerry Loomis

Meeting Recap & Preview

November, December & a Peek at January

On November 3rd members enjoyed seeing images taken by members attending *John Gavrilis's* October workshop in the Eastern Sierras, Bodie State Historic Park, and Mono Lake. Images of the area taken by other members during previous visits helped fill the show with some amazing Bodie and Mono Lake impressions.



"Carriage House" Ken Jones

Also on the 3rd, members who took part in the 7th Annual Pebble Beach Zombie Run on October 30th shared their frightening discoveries among the living dead.

On November 6th, 30 members spent the better part of the day at the Monterey Zoo. Members are submitting their best wild animal captures for a show scheduled for our first meeting in December. A few of the remarkable shots taken that day are shown to the right. If it's been awhile since you have visited the zoo, make plans to do so. The animals will appreciate your attention, and you'll see things you might otherwise never encounter.

In the middle of the day, the group decamped to Indian Springs Equestrian Center for a picnic lunch, thanks to the generous hospitality of PTCC member, *Nicole Asselborn*, coordinator of the group shoot.

On November 17th we watched the returns of the Open Nature #1 Competition, and enjoyed the comments and awards by our returning judge, *Zach Weston*.

At our first meeting in December, we'll present a show of images taken by our members at the Monterey Zoo, the first Club group shoot since 2018.

There will be no meeting on December 15th.

Content for our first meeting of the new calendar year on January 5th is being finalized at this writing. On January 19th, we'll see the returns of our second Pictorial Competition directed to "Reflections."



A few of the many images captured at the Club's November 6th group shoot to the Monterey Zoo. A full showing is scheduled for our December 1st meeting.



Rick Verbanec



Julie Chen



Chris Johnson



Clif Halverson

In The Spotlight: *Carol Silveira*

Photos by Carol Silveira, Text by Shelley Nemeth



Carol is happy to share this photo, “Carol,” taken by her grandson R.J. Escobar when he was only 14.

Carol was born in Charleroi, Pennsylvania in 1948 and spent her early years living in the “country,” where she rode her horse Navajo — a feisty quarter horse who hated men, but loved Carol. They rode together happily around the countryside for many years. She followed the path of most kids, and graduated from high school in 1966, prepared to go on to college, where she majored in Elementary Education and Spanish.

Carol pursued her teaching career in Pennsylvania, and was satisfied there, but was invited by her cousin for a visit to San Jose. She fell in love there — with the location, the opportunities, and the people she met.

She enrolled at San Jose State, adding teaching options to her skill set and graduating with bilingual and special education credentials. She also met her husband-to-be, Jeff Silveira, who was a bartender at Mountain Charlie's in Los Gatos. Carol and Jeff settled in as she began teaching third grade in San Jose.

Their marriage produced two kids - a son, Nick, and a daughter, Heather, who added four grandchildren (three boys and a girl) to the family. The oldest of them, R.J., has inherited an interest in photography. Carol enjoys spending time with R.J. looking at life through the eye of a camera.

When I joined the Club, a decade or so ago, I was unsure if I would fit in, having no established relationships with other members, and feeling both impressed and envious of the talented photographers I met. But from the very beginning, I felt welcomed by and soon became familiar with these gracious members — *Chris Johnson, Carol Fuessenich, and Carol Silveira*, and have treasured their welcoming spirits at meetings ever since. Eventually, I also became aware of their individual talents, in addition to photography... especially those of *Carol Silveira*, who is an artist in a variety of media.

Shelley Nemeth



“Asilomar Sunset”

In The Spotlight: *Carol Silveira* - Continued

Photos by Carol Silveira, Text by Shelley Nemeth



"Summer Home"

Carol is also a wonderful artist. She employs a whimsical take on the technique of water color painting, which she often shares on Facebook, but also produces gifts of joyful images, like the recent calendar of "Little Happy Homes," which I am happy to display at my desk. Carol creates acrylic paintings and drawings, and her magnificent quilts are shown regularly at *Back Porch Fabrics* on Grand Avenue in Pacific Grove.



"Mixed Media"



"On The Farm"

What Carol loves most these days, in addition to her family, is her French bulldog, Stella, (now 11 years old), and travel. She has taken many wonderful trips, centered on photography, enjoying the company of her husband *Jeff*, and fellow PTCC members *Chris Johnson*, *Jeff Hobbs*, and *Carol Fuessenich*. Together, this crew has visited places such as Montana, Costa Rica, Bosque and Apache (New Mexico), Baja California, and Yellowstone National Park over the past ten years. Carol has shared her experiences at Club meetings, showing photos she has taken during those excursions.

Carol says that Padre Trails has helped her improve her photography, create new friendships, and enjoy the work of others.



"Stella"

Six Vital Things to Look for When Photographing Landscapes

Original by: Jeremy Flint, Excerpted by Dale Thies

Photographing landscapes is a hugely enjoyable pursuit that you can undertake all throughout the year. Here are six things to consider when photographing landscapes to elevate your images.



1. Dramatic light

One of the best times to be outdoors photographing landscapes is when the light is adding ambiance to the land. Dramatic light can appear in all weather. You might expect dramatic light only to appear when the sun is shining. This is simply not the case. A predominantly overcast sky can yield impressive light for landscape photography. When the clouds disperse, the sun can unveil magical light as it paints and radiates the landscape.

Another great moment for dramatic light is after a storm or rain shower when the bad weather clears and breath-taking light replaces it, or the final rays of light following a sunset.

2. Changes in the season

You can enjoy the beauty of the landscape throughout the year. Local panoramas change throughout summer, autumn, winter, and spring. The changes each season brings can be brilliant for photographing landscapes. Revisit your favorite local scenic view during a different time of year and see how the landscape transforms in an alternative season.

The beautiful vibrant greens of summer are usually followed by the crisp and golden leaves of autumn when a palette of colors unfolds from shades of red and orange to hues of yellow. In spring and summer, photographing landscapes can be a superb time to capture flowers in bloom, or in winter, more minimalist looking images when the trees are bare.

Farming has a big influence on our land and can be great for photography. Farming can make great subjects for photography, as fields get plowed, seeds get planted. When different crops grow every year, these changing landscapes provide wonderful photo opportunities. You can also photograph grazing animals in the landscape.

3. Changes in the landscape

Our dynamic landscapes continue to change due to human activity and natural processes, shaping our diverse and wonderful landscapes.

4. Varying weather

Changes in the weather can be unpredictable and can occur at a moment's notice. One minute it can be sunny, and the next minute it can be raining. So get creative when photographing landscapes in varying weather. Bad weather can provide exciting chances to improve your photos. For example, snow can transform a landscape into a striking minimalist scene.

The weather can influence a landscape with its changing patterns of light. As the sun and clouds come and go, shoot the diversity of the scene as it develops.

5. Atmospheric conditions

Atmospheric conditions can really help to lift your landscape images. A hint of mist can make an uninteresting scene look moody and interesting. Mist swirling around a group of trees can look spectacular, especially in the right light.

6. Interesting elements

The final suggestion to shoot quality landscapes is to add an extra element of interest in your shots. You can go for a tree, water, people, or even parts of the landscape, such as a fence or gate.

Experiment with different compositions and come up with a view you like. The extra element will help give scale to your pictures and bring out another interesting side to the scenery.

Conclusion

Changes in the weather can be both subtle and extreme, creating incredible moments to capture the landscape. Consider things such as showers, sun, cloud cover, or clear skies when photographing landscapes.

Also, look for the seasonal changes and take advantage of dramatic light as it casts its rays over a magical view. Mist and fog can add an element of drama and can lift your images from great to spectacular. Include a person or building in your landscape shots for interest and scale.

Source: <https://digital-photography-school.com>

The full article by Jeremy Flint is available at: <https://bit.ly/2OvsEfq>

What's Your Photographic Interest?

by Carol Fuessenich

Over the years I have mentioned that a major perk of PSA membership is the ability to join one of PSA's study groups, commonly called Digital Dialogue groups. There are 98 groups and over 538 members worldwide!



Groups consist of seven members and an administrator. Each member submits one photo per month and the other members evaluate it and make comments.

These groups are not a place to showcase winning photos. They are structured to present a new photo, explain how it was taken and processed, and receive comments on what makes it a success or how it might be improved. Now the question arises - what are the subjects of these groups? Here are some of the group and subjects offered:

General: any subject
Assigned: specific subject
Monochrome
Nature
Nature Plus: hand of man
Phoneography
Creative: altered reality
Sports
HDR: HDR process
Macro: true macro 1:1
Close-up
Compositing/Advanced photoshop
Painting: producing a painterly effect

Infrared: converted digital camera, or with a filter or from infrared negatives
Street Scene: similar to photojournalism, may be manipulated
Land/Sea/Cityscapes
Fine Art: having an aesthetic feel
3D: stereoscopic 3D imaging
Video: submitted bi-monthly.
Drones: single-image submission

Barbara Miller, recipient of PSA's Appreciation Awards for Teaching in 2015, wrote an excellent article in the October issue of the *PSA Journal* explaining the group process. Barbara says, "You will learn how other people see and interpret your images. You will get differences of opinion, learn new techniques and share yours. Your photographic horizons will be broadened by the interpretation and input of others."



Welcome New Members

Please welcome these new PTCC members most of whom came to us through member referral while Sean Crawford found us via our website.

Don Christopherson: San Bernardino County

Sean Crawford: Pebble Beach

Don Eastman: Pebble Beach

Meade Fisher: Soquel

Warren Rider: Aptos Hills (Watsonville)

New members note: If you have any questions at all about how the Club operates, our competitions, or any other aspect of PTCC, please don't hesitate to contact any member for answers. Use any "Contact Us" link from our website.



Upcoming 2021/2022 Submission Dates

All competition submissions are due by midnight.

- There is no submission in November.
- Sunday, December 26th: Pictorial (Reflections)
- Sunday, January 30th: Fine Art (Open)



Padre Trails Camera Club

Meetings: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 7:00PM - 9:00PM
via Zoom

All Officers and Activity Chairs
can be reached via email at:

info@padretrailsccl.org

Membership information can be found here:

www.padretrailsccl.org/ptcc/ptccmembership.html



Member Club Since 1948

