

Nature Competition Winning Images — Group Green



1st "Snow Storm Over Death Valley" *Denice Loria Woyski*

Nature competition judge Ray Hennessy offered some tips about white balance. He noted that there can be color variation in different lighting conditions, but a bird that has no blue in its feathers should not show as very blue, if at all. Ray suggested that the white balance is simply guessed wrong by the camera and should be corrected in post-processing. Lower light can be cooler but not too far off. He has found that all digital cameras seem to oversaturate blues in the shadow areas and this effect can be compounded. It's an easy color correction in Lightroom, as he demonstrated in his videos. Ray says the final color of the photograph is subjective to each artist and can and should be made according to the artist's intent.

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Nature Competition Winning Images

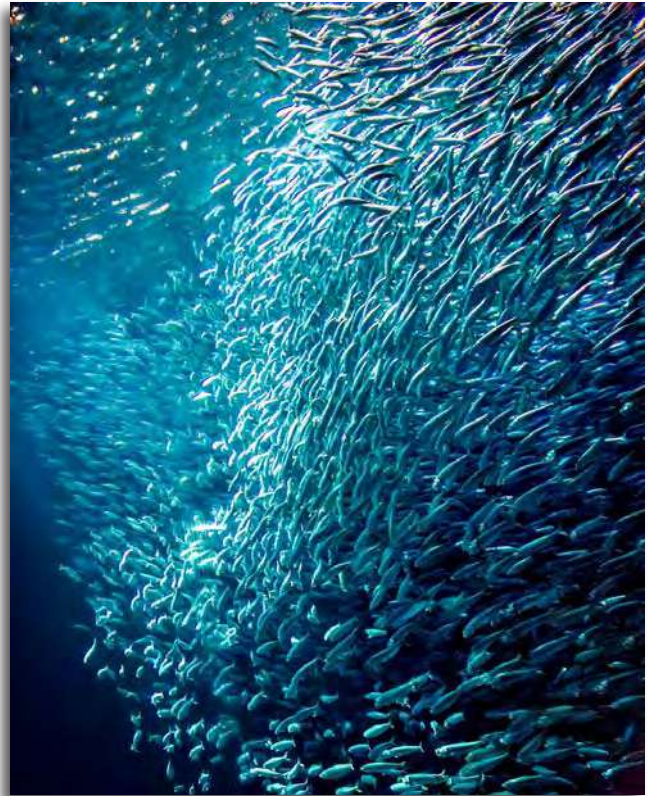
Group Green



2nd "Fall Color Aspen Grove" *Denice Loria Woyski*



3rd "Nature on a Different Planet" *Janet Azevedo*



HM "School of Sardines" *Jared Ikeda*



HM "Wave Action on Sea Stack" *Patricia McKean*

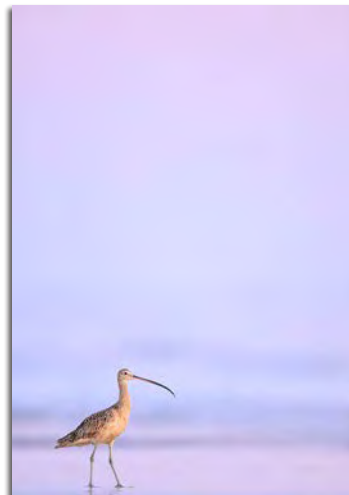
Meet Ray Hennessy, Judge for Nature Competition

Photos by Ray Hennessy



Ray Hennessy's fascination with nature photography began in 2007. Wildlife photography, with a focus on birds, has gone from a hobby to an equally passionate career. Ray spends much of his free time in natural areas searching for birds and any other wildlife that comes along. He concentrates on using creative natural lighting and interesting compositions to capture unique images of common and rare wildlife.

Ray's favorite style is a more scenic photo that includes some of the habitat wildlife lives in. He also enjoys passing along the knowledge and experience that he has gathered over the years to other photographers who are eager to learn. Ray has had the privilege of working with students both in person and remotely from all over the world to help guide them and accelerate the techniques and refinement of their wildlife photography.



Nature Competition Winning Images

Group Blue



1st "American Green Tree Frog" *Margret Mary Cordts*



2nd "Ariya Beach, Oregon" *Bill Brown*



3rd "Fall Color on the June Lake Loop" *Jeff Hobbs*

Nature Competition Winning Images

Group Red



1st "Lawrence's Goldfinch With Fiddleneck" *Cliff Halverson*



2nd "Stormy Day at Shelter Cove" *Marcia Pnacek*



3rd "Blue-eyed Darner in Flight" *Karen Schofield*

Nature Competition Winning Images

Group Blue Honorable Mention



HM "Clark's Grebe vs. Western Grebe Rushing"
Julie Chen

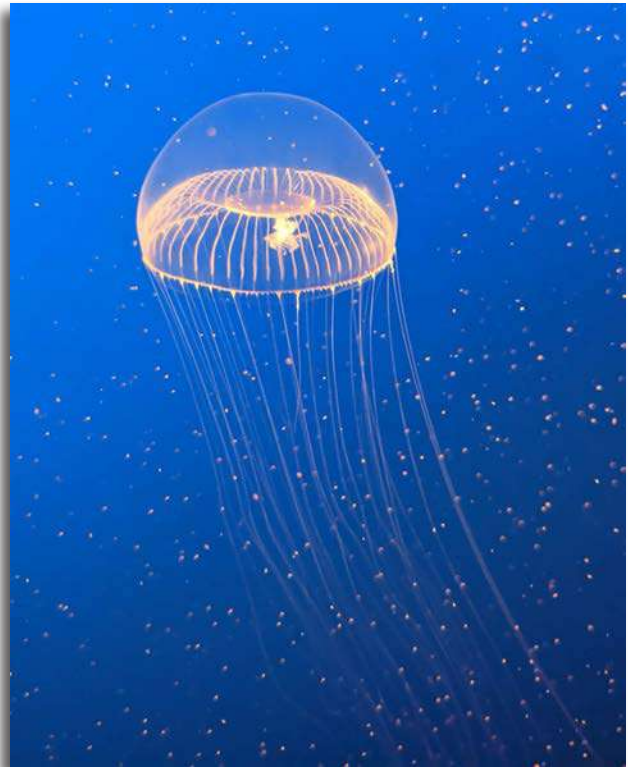


HM "Frozen Mammoth Hot Springs in Winter, Yellowstone NP"
Joni Zabala

Group Red Honorable Mention



HM "Supermoon Rise at Caples Lake"
Carole Gan



HM "Jellyfish"
David Eisen

A Total Immersion in Outdoor Photography

On November 6th and 7th, many PTCC members attended B&H Photo's OPTIC West Imaging Conference at the Monterey Conference Center. The acronym, which rolls off the tongue, stands for Outdoor, Photo/Video, and Travel Imaging Conference.



Panel Discussion with Flip Nicklin, Sapna Reddy, Annie Griffiths, and Frans Lanting

The event more than lived up to its acronym. Originally planned to happen in 2020 in San Francisco, the event was put on hold, due to the pandemic. After three years in the planning, OPTIC West was brought to Monterey. The planning paid off with two days of presentations by a veritable Who's Who of nature and wildlife photography headlined by world renowned photographer, Frans Lanting and his "Bay of Life - From Winds to Whales" presentation, and featuring Monterey's own Kim Weston and Zach Weston. In addition to more than twenty hours of presentations on two stages, the conference also featured a trade show with all the big names in camera gear and accessories. To complete the picture, they threw in a whale watching cruise, contests, and image critiques as well.

The featured speakers showed us unbelievable images from around the world and were generous with their techniques and their motivations. Nature and wildlife photographers can't help but be concerned with the protection of our natural environments, its animals, and its people. That sensitivity came through strongly in most presentations and it's something we should have in mind while we're photographing our small slice of the natural world around the Monterey Bay.

Many attendants exclaimed they walked away with renewed inspiration and heightened curiosity about what is possible with patience, practice, and a desire to create unique and beautiful images. Two long days, but worth every minute. Thanks, B&H, for bringing all this to our doorstep.

Elkhorn Slough Group Shoot

On October 6th, Padre Trails had its first group shoot of the Club year. We went to Moss Landing and took a tour of Elkhorn Slough with Monterey Bay Eco Tours on their fully electric Eco Tour Catamaran for a 90 minute tour.

There were 19 members who took the cruise, plus one guest, Jerry Gifford's wife, Emiko.

The morning started off overcast, but by the time we were on the slough, the sun came out. There was a naturalist aboard who pointed out the wildlife along the way. We started in the harbor and saw the sea lions on the dock, then entered the slough to see the harbor seals resting on the sandbars. On the slough there were plentiful pelicans (brown and American white), terns, cormorants, avocets, sea otters, and egg yolk jellyfish.

We had a wide variety of wildlife to photograph and had a picnic lunch afterwards.

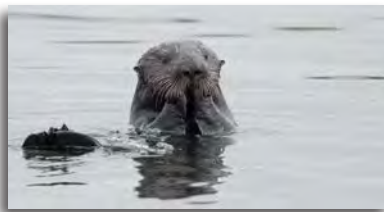
Our next group shoot will be on February 4th, 2023 at Wilder Ranch in Santa Cruz.



"Harbor Seal" *Cliff Halverson*



"American Avocet" *John Drum*



"Sea Otter" *Jeff Hobbs*



"Sea Lion" *Christina Parsons*

My Two Bits

Back to the Future

by Ken Jones

No mad scientist or atomic DeLorean was involved, but on October 29th, 2022, we relived the pre-COVID past and, just as we did back in 2019, we had a live, in-person, face-to-face, 3D get together for our year-end party. In a "Come with me, Marty" moment, Club members and guests gathered for a potluck supper to celebrate the Club year that just ended, and to applaud all the winning images from last year's competitions. The fifty or so members and guests filled the room with laughter, good food, and good cheer. The atmosphere bodes well for a quick return to a future with in-person meetings and more face-to-face time.



Awards were presented to the high-point winners in each 2022 color group. See complete list on Page 9.

Following a showing of all the placing 2022 images, those selected as the crème de la crème by our judge, Dolores Frank, were presented. Overall Image-of-the-Year honors went to Joni Zabala, for her "Visitors Enjoy Spring Blossoms in Huntington Gardens." Congratulations, Joni!

Top 2022 image awards presented in each competition category were:

Travel: Cath Tandler (Red), Joni Zabala (Green), and Jeff Hobbs (Blue).

Human Hand in Nature: Frank Penner (Red), John Drum (Green), and Carol Silveira (Blue).

Creative: Ken Jones (Red), Steve Perkins (Green), and John Avera (Blue).

Nature: Jerry Loomis (Red), John Drum (Green), and Jeff Hobbs (Blue).

Pictorial: Jared Ikeda (Red), Andrea Madson (Green), and Chris Axe (Blue).

Our 2022 Club year saw PTCC grow, and our members create some truly outstanding images across all categories. Congratulations to all the members who put their work out there through club competitions, and special kudos to those chosen for Image-of-the-Year honors from this incredible field of talented photographers.

Take your lens cap off...

Ken

Meeting Recap & Preview

November & December/January

November began with a special show put together by Chris Johnson presenting the top-ten images from each of the members who came out for last month's Elkhorn Slough group shoot. Seeing everyone's unique take on the day, and the way the variety of bird and other wildlife in and around the slough caught their eye brought the fun of the outing back to us all. Thanks to members Chris Johnson and Carol Silveira for organizing the shoot.

The meeting also featured a visit from Glen Clark, a representative of Bay Photo, who gave us an in-depth look at the products and services that Bay Photo provides. Focussing mainly on tips for navigating their website, Glen led us through the product listings and ordering options. The range of products, online ordering, and competitive pricing makes Bay Photo a resource to consider when making printing decisions. Thanks to Glen for a very informative evening.

On November 16th, we enjoyed the returns of the first Nature competition of the PTCC new year, judged by first-time judge, Ray Hennessy. Ray's comments were given in video form, a first for us, in order to provide more detailed and extemporaneous critiques.

The Club meets only once in December. That meeting, on December 7th, will mark the Club's return to in-person meetings, conducted as hybrid get togethers, both in-person, and via Zoom. There will be bumps in the road, for sure, while we work out the details and refine the process. We'll include an Open Projector that will feature one of the "Pro-Shows" originally shown two years ago. The December 7th meeting will also see the return of a long-suspended annual print raffle for the benefit of local charities. This year, proceeds of the raffle will go to Peace of Mind Dog Rescue in Pacific Grove.

We'll begin the new calendar year on January 4th with our special guest, landscape photographer, Jon Norris. Jon has specialized in studying, photographing, and hosting workshops in Joshua Tree National Park. The meeting will feature Jon's *Seven Years in the Desert – A Photographic Journey* presentation.

On January 18th, we will see the returns of our Creative Fine Art competition which will be submitted in December, and will be judged by Les Ellis.



Upcoming Submission Dates

All competition submissions are due by midnight.

- Monday, December 26th: Creative Fine Art



Snapshot

Arm Chair Travel

by Carol Fuessenich

I thought I'd share some information in this column about what nearby PSA clubs are doing. I chose the Tracy Camera Club (2 hours 15 minutes away) and the Fremont Photographic Society (1 hour 30 minutes up US-101 N from Carmel).



The stated purpose of the Tracy Camera Club: "The Tracy Camera Club is a group of people dedicated to improving their own photography. We meet monthly to have our photos reviewed, for the insights of others, and to have a fun time talking with and learning from fellow shutterbugs." I think the purpose of their club is a universal one. It sure fits the mission of Padre Trails.

The club has competitions with specific subjects each month. Members pay \$2.00 for each entry with a maximum of three photos.

Tracy Camera Club also has a great section on their web site <https://tracycameraclub.org> with presentations. Topics I found included: layers, composition, retouching photos, panorama image creation and what every photographer should know. I was able to open and click through a number of the presentations.

The Fremont Photographic Society is a much smaller club, but like PTCC, they have two meetings a month. The first one is a development meeting. Speakers present information that will help the members improve their photography. For example, Jeff Dunn gave a presentation reviewing 21 of the 40+ selection tools in Photoshop, including: 4 marquee tools, 4 Lasso tools, a Quick selection, Magic Wand, 6 pen tools, 19 Selection-menu tools, and a Select and Mask tool.

The second meeting of the month is for critique and competition. You can see the winners of their competitions on their website <https://fremont.photoclubservices.com>.



Fremont Photographic Society

Club Events Calendar

Club Print Raffle

December 7th at the Club meeting

Pebble Beach Community District Offices
3101 Forest Lake Rd, Pebble Beach, CA 93953

Members are encouraged to bring matted prints to our in-person meeting for the return of our annual print raffle. The prints are displayed for review during the meeting, and raffle tickets are obtained for donations of \$5 per ticket or five for \$20.

Tickets are then drawn to allow lucky winning ticket-holding members to choose a print to take home.

This year, all proceeds from the raffle will go to Peace of Mind Dog Rescue in Pacific Grove.

This is an excellent way to see, and possibly take home, the fine work of other members, and support a worthy cause at the same time.



Stop by to see Club member Nicole Asselborn's selected photograph on display at the

International Juried Exhibit Center for Photographic Art

Gallery Open Wed. - Sun., 12:00PM - 4:00PM
San Carlos and 9th, Carmel, CA



Congratulations

2022 Club High-point Winners in Each Color Group

Red: Frank Penner (21), Jared Ikeda (20), Carol Fuessenich and Ken Jones (19 each), and Brooks Leffler (17).

Green: Bill Shewchuk (21), Sean Crawford (17), Patricia McKean (14), and Bill Brown (13).

Blue: Chris Johnson (30), Carol Silveira (14), Kent VanVuren (15), and Jeff Hobbs (13).



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@padretrailsc.org

Membership information can be found here:

www.padretrailsc.org/ptcc/ptccmembership.html



Member Club Since 1948

