

Bits & Pixels



Second Quarter 2025 (April - June)

Volume 9, Number 6

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

www.padretrailsccl.org



Tired Little Ballerina by Carol Fuessenich 1st Place in Group Green in our June pictorial competition.

Inside

President's Message: <i>Thinking About Photography</i> - Ken Jones	Page 2
The Joy of Being Seen - PTCC Print Exhibits on the Horizon.....	Page 2
Member Shout Outs.....	Page 3
Second Quarter Competitions (April, May, June)	Page 4
April Winners - <i>Environmental Portrait</i> judged by Meredith Mullens.....	Pages 4-7

May Winners - <i>Human Hand in Nature</i> judged by Ivone Saed.....	Pages 8-11
June Winners - <i>Pictorial The Color Pink</i> judged by David Archer	Pages 12-15
PSA Snapshot - - Carol Fuessenich	Page 16
Padre Trails Camera Club Organization.....	Page 16
Key Third Quarter Dates July, August, September.....	Page 16

My Two Bits Thinking About Photography

by Ken Jones

On the first Saturday of the month, the *Friends of the Pacific Grove Library* hold a book sale at *St. Mary's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church*, 146 12th Street, at Central Avenue in Pacific Grove. The massive selection of books includes all genres and subjects, and their offerings change each month.



While browsing the collections one Saturday, I ran across a book entitled *At First Sight*, by *Merry Foresta*, who in 1983 became the first curator of photography at the Smithsonian. The book chronicles the history of photography from an artistic sense, which is how we tend to think about it now, but primarily from the standpoint of the technological developments used to make images, and the "...impulses and intentions" of photographic images over some 160 years. In 2002 when the book was published, the Smithsonian Institution held more than thirteen *million* photographs. And I thought my Lightroom catalogs were big.

The book's main focus is on the origins and growth of the Smithsonian Institution's photography collections, which in 2002 comprised 700 separate collections in its sixteen museums. But in seeing the images from the collections that have measured and recorded significant events, locations, people, technology, and the human conditions and progress since images were first beginning to be captured really started me thinking seriously about just how powerful an influence photography exerts on our perception of ourselves.

Today we take photography for granted I think; which is fine, it's the world we live in. But can you imagine the sense of infinite possibility that must have filled photographers in those early days, and the viewers of images of people, places, and things they would have never seen? Wouldn't it be nice to sense some of that feeling of possibility today ourselves?

Take your lens cap off...
Ken

The Joy of Being Seen PTCC Print Exhibits On The Horizon

For an image to warrant the work and expense of framing and display, it must be an image that is technically and artistically excellent. Equally importantly, it must be an image that gives you joy both visually and in memory of its circumstances. This is why PTCC strives to share its work through print exhibitions.

The end of June saw the closing of the Club's *The Monterey Peninsula, Naturally* print exhibit in the *Nancy & Steve Hauk Gallery* at the *Pacific Grove Library*. Forty-three prints from 17 members treated this theme, and were very well received. They provided another example of the talent represented by PTCC members. Many thanks to the entire library staff for their gracious hospitality, and to exhibit curator *Christine Crozier* for her expert design and hanging of the exhibit. The exhibit came down on Saturday, June 28th and we were sad to see it go.

Two exciting new exhibits are on the horizon for 2026 and 2027 that will challenge our members to express their photographic art. The Club has shown at each of the upcoming venues in past years, and we're thrilled to have been asked for a return engagement at both.

In June of 2026, we'll return to the *Walter Lee Avery Gallery* located in the *Seaside City Hall*. The exhibit will run from June 27 to September 4, 2026. With an opening reception on Friday, July 17th. The Avery gallery is expansive and provides space for some larger prints and canvas wrap treatments. A beautiful venue, and we're glad to be back.

In 2027, we'll be back at the Pacific Grove Library from March 27 to June 26, 2027. A reception is planned for Saturday, April 3, 2027. Planning for this show will begin next year, but based on the comments received about the several black and white prints in this year's show, early thinking suggests that an exclusively B&W print exhibition might be a satisfying creative call for our members, and a visually striking experience for viewers, particularly in the beautiful and intimate library gallery. We shall see.



Members' Shout-out Achievements Beyond PTCC

Many of our members' images are winning competitions, and showing up in publications throughout the Peninsula and beyond. It's hard to keep track of all the successes. We'd like to show every member's success outside Club activities, so if one of your images is selected for publication, please let our us know so we can shout out to you too. Send your win information to: info@padretrailsccl.org subject "Shout Out." We know tooting your own horn may not come naturally to you, but please toot away.

Here are a few:

Carol Silveira

Carol's Bodie image was selected from 150 submissions to be included in the 2026 *Bodie State Park* calendar. The image will be featured for the month of January 2026. This is the third time one of Carol's images has been selected. Congratulations Carol.



Sandie McCafferty

A recent *Monterey County Weekly's* ETC. Photo of the day sent in by Sandie McCafferty. This is a fun thing to do, and Sandie suggests that when you do send an image to the Weekly, put *Padre Trails Camera Club* in the caption.



John Drum

John's image of an *Anna's hummingbird* took 1st Place in the wildlife category of the 2025 *Carmel Valley Garden Club's* photography contest. This was the eighth year for this highly competitive event.



Will Salmon

New member Will Salmon's image of a *Stellar Jay* (below right) took 2nd place in the Animal category, and his *Killdeer* (below left) received an honorable mention in the Birds and Water category of the *Carmel Valley Garden Club* contest.

See more of Will's bird photographs at his show at the *Carmel Valley Library* in the CV Village on CV Road. (Next to the *Corkscrew* restaurant)



Sara Courtneidge

At our July 2nd meeting, Sara shared some of the incredible images she captured on her trip to Kenya earlier in the year. Sara traveled with a group led by *Jason Bradley* during which she photographed an impressive range of animals and landscapes.

In addition to the images, Sara told stories of life on safari, including a mud-slinging elephant that made things interesting. Many of the images in the show were in stunning black and white, but her color photography is equally breathtaking as evidenced by her capture of a Sunset, Amboseli National Park, Kenya, below.

Her beautiful presentation deserves a Shout-out.



Second Quarter Competitions

April: Environmental Portrait

May: The Human Hand in Nature

June: Pictorial - The Color Pink

April 2025: Environmental Portrait

Judged by Meredith Mullins



Meredith Mullins is an internationally exhibited fine-art photographer living bi-continently (in Paris and Pacific Grove, California ... two of the most beautiful places on earth). Prior to moving to Paris, Meredith was a leader in the art community on the Monterey Peninsula for more than 30 years, including teaching photography and serving on arts commissions and photography boards. In 2001, she received a California Visual Artist of the Year award.

Her award-winning book of photographs and stories, *In A Paris Moment*, was released in 2006. Her work is also represented in calendars published by Browntrout Publishers of San Francisco. She most recently served as co-founder and director of the International Fine Art Photography Program, a competition designed to support emerging fine art photographers.

Her photographs have been in more than 50 exhibits worldwide and have appeared in numerous publications, including *Paris Magazine*, *Carmel*

Magazine, *Camera Arts Magazine*, *National Geographic Education*, *Bonjour Paris*, *Eye Prefer Paris*, *McGraw-Hill* and *Wadsworth* publications, and *Paris Voice*.

Her philosophy can be summed up in one phrase: "Vive la photographie!"

Meredith's photography can be seen at her exhibition, *Paris: En Dehors Du Temps "Outside of Time"* at *Del Mesa Gallery*, Carmel, California from July 9 to August 26, 2025. The gallery is located at 500 Del Mesa Drive, Carmel, California. On July 19th there will be an artist's talk at 4pm followed by a reception (4:30–6 pm). Gallery Hours: Wednesday–Sunday, 11am to 8 pm.

About this competition:

This the first environmental portrait competition for us. Simply stated, it is a portrait executed in the subject's usual environment, such as in their home or workplace, and typically illuminating the subject's life and surroundings. As you'll see, our members rose to the occasion submitting some truly beautiful examples.

April 16th Environmental Portrait Winners

Group Blue



1st "Adrea at Wave Street Studios"
Bill Brown



2nd "Flower Vendor in Mexico"
Carol Silveira



3rd "Spring Branding"
Carol Silveira



HM "Parisian Cheesemaker Saying Cheese
for the Camera"
Chris Johnson



HM "Indian Chef"
Lillie Grossman



HM "Nate Making Us Cry at
Paper Wing Theatre"
Bill Brown

April 16th Environmental Portrait Winners

Group Green



1st "911 Fire Response"
Karen Schofield



2nd "Diverting Carmel River at Flood Stage (2)"
Jeff Hobbs



HM "Time for a
Break"
Carol Fuessenich



3rd "Retired Leon Panetta Tilling His Walnut Orchard"
Joni Zabala



HM "Actor Participating in
Civil War Recreation"
Carol Fuessenich



HM "Carlos, Printmaker"
Bill Shewchuk



HM "Next King of the Cowboys"
Sandie McCafferty

April 16th Environmental Portrait Winners

Group Red



1st "The Eyes Are Upon You"
Carol Fuessenich



2nd "Sheep Herder"
Jerry Loomis



HM "Musician on Duty"
Patti Gilbert



3rd "Lift Operator"
Ilene Isen



HM "PG Heritage Society Croquet Team"
Brooks Leffler



HM "The Glass Blower"
Andrea Madsen

May: Human Hand in Nature Judged by Ivonne Saed

Graphic designer, writer, translator, and photographer, *Ivonne Saed* has extensively explored the crossroads between the visual and the textual, both in her creative work and in teaching.

She is the author of the novel *Triple crónica de un nombre* (Lectorum, 2003) and the non-fiction *Sobre Paul Auster: Autoría, distopía y textualidad* (Lectorum, 2009). She co-authored *Literatura: imaginación, identidad y poder*, *Vampiros transmundanos y tan urbanos*, and *¡Madres! Cuentos (y precauciones) de maternidad*. Saed has published book reviews, short fiction and photos in periodicals like *Reforma* and *Crónica* (Mexico), *Literal Magazine* (US), and *Arquivo Maaravi* (Brazil).

Her documentary *Naïve* premiered in 2011 as part of *Object Stories*, a Portland Art Museum project, and she produced *Vida Sefaradí: A Century of Sephardic Life in Portland*. Saed has taught at Marylhurst University, Oregon State University and Universidad Iberoamericana (Mexico), and she's been a Delve Seminar guide for Literary Arts, in Portland, Oregon, since 2011. Her work has been discussed by academics in a number of publications and it has been staged by Jewish Theatre Collaborative (Portland) and Jewish Women's Theatre (Los Angeles).



About this competition:

The *Human Hand in Nature* category avoids the strict rules for the regular Nature category established by the Photographic Society of America, PSA, which the Club follows. Rather than prohibiting man-made objects, this category includes the requirement for capturing evidence of human interaction with the natural world. Images submitted may depict human adaptation to the demands of nature, or evidence of how nature adapts to human intrusion.

May 21st Human Hand in Nature Winners

Group Blue



1st "Tern Stealing the Bait"
Julie Chen



2nd "Backyard Fountain Bath Time"
Ken Jones



3rd "Scrub-Jay Having a Snack"
Carol Silveira



HM "Lunch Is Served"
Carol Silveira

HM "Bewick's Wren"
John Drum



HM "Red-winged Black Bird
on Fence Post"
Julie Chen

May 21st Human Hand in Nature Winners

Group Green



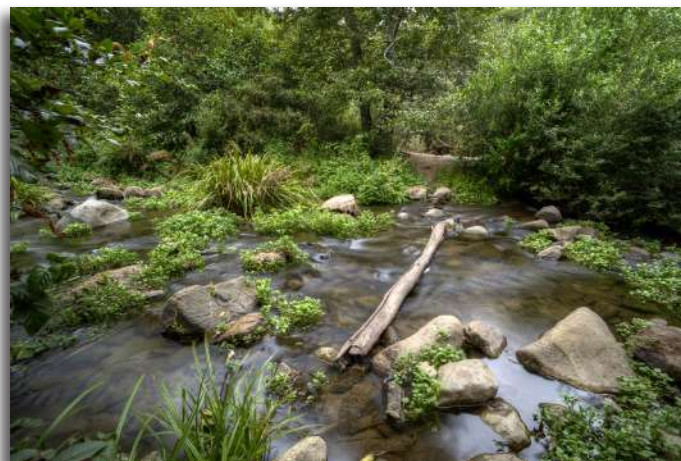
1st "Cayucos Pier Shadows"
Janet Azevedo



2nd "Grasshopper on Window"
Karen Schofield



3rd "Summer Tanager of Costa Rica"
Carol Fuessenich



HM "Log Over The River"
Brian Spiegel

May 21st Human Hand in Nature Winners

Group Red



1st "Wise Decision"
Patti Gilbert



3rd "Quiscalus mexicanus reading sign"
Victoria Blackmon



2nd "Raven on Parking Stumps"
Don Eastman



HM "Bull Fighting a Man"
Rick Thau



HM "Outside Looking In"
Patti Gilbert

June: Pictorial - Pink

Judged by David Archer

David's love for photography started around 1979, back in the film days. It was a hobby that got put aside for twenty or more years and was rekindled once digital cameras came onto the scene.

During a successful career as a professional musician (bandleader and guitarist/vocalist), David was bitten by the photography bug and it quickly became an all-consuming endeavor. As it turns out, gaining proficiency at photography was a very similar process to becoming proficient on a musical instrument.

He is probably best known for his wildlife and bird photography, but he also enjoys landscape and night photography as well during his travels. He also enjoys creating short wildlife videos.

He currently is a co-leader and instructor on photography workshops around the world with Hudson Henry Photography.



About this competition:

In Club context, pictorial is defined as a visually impactful photograph which projects emotional intent and/or artistic quality, and through the photographer's efforts, emphasizes beauty of subject matter, tonality and composition. This category offers artistic freedom: the "digital dark room" is allowed, as long as the compositional reality of the photograph is maintained. Entries should be a faithful representation of the original scene, and localized adjustments can be used appropriately. Pictorial is typically an "open" category, but may be "directed" to incorporate specific photographic elements. In this case, the directed element is the color pink.

June 18th Pictorial - Pink

Group Blue



1st "Sunset, Amboseli National Park, Kenya"
Sara Courtneidge



HM "Jumping Spider on Pink Petal"
Chris Johnson



2nd "Pink Dogwood Blossoms"
Carol Silveira



HM "Hard To Match"
Julie Chen



3rd "Hydrangea Deconstructed"
Chris Johnson



HM "Pink Buttons"
Julie Chen

June 18th Pictorial - Pink

Group Green



1st "Tired Little Ballerina"
Carol Fuessenich



HM "Passion Pink Hibiscus"
Charlie Gibson



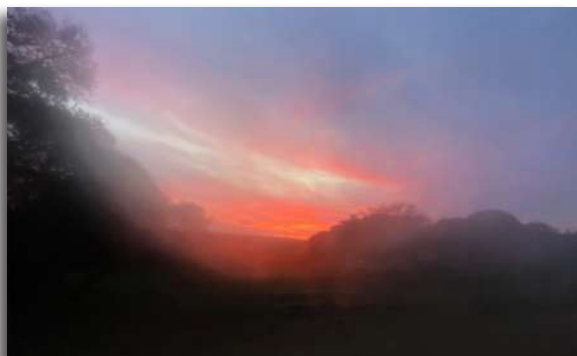
HM "Prickly Pear Lemonade
on a Hot Day"
Karen Schofield



2nd "Vertigo"
Sandie McCafferty



HM "Dusk Through the Mist"
Janet Azevedo



3rd "Pastoral Pictorial"
Sandie McCafferty



HM "Pink Magnolia Stellata"
Jared Ikeda

June 18th Pictorial - Pink

Group Red



1st "Self-Portrait in Red, Pink, and Mauve"
Brooks Leffler



2nd "Cooper-Molera Garden"
Don Eastman



3rd "Carnival at Sunrise"
David Thon



HM "Japanese Garden"
Soaring Uyematsu



HM "Pop of Color"
Patty Gilbert



PSA Snapshot Sharp Photos:

Is it the Equipment or the Photographer?

by Carol Fuessenich

The most common criticism I hear from judges has to do with image sharpness. I have received these comments from judges a number of times over the years, even though I try my hardest to prevent it from happening.



Early on I figured that the softness came from the camera I was using. So, eventually I bought a new camera, and my hopes soared. Sadly, I found that I still had problems with sharpness. More analysis...was it due to the lens I was using? Even after buying a better lens I still wasn't able to produce photos with perfect sharpness. Should I use a tripod? monopod? rock? tree? What was causing my sharpness problem?

The *PSA Journal* came to the rescue. More often than not, the *photographer* is responsible rather than the equipment. To achieve sharper images, PSA recommends we focus manually, use mirror lockup, and continuous shutter. Also, know the minimum speed and "sweet spot" for each lens. Use a sturdy tripod, turn off image stabilization, and use a remote shutter release. Shooting raw will also allow better post processing.

I have learned from numerous judges' comments that there is a right and wrong way to sharpen in post processing. If sharpening is needed, decide just *what* needs to be sharpened. If just one part of the image needs sharpening, select those elements and then sharpen only them. Use global sharpening only when needed, and either way, avoid over-sharpening.



The PSA Photo Festival registration is underway.

Go to the PSA web site for complete information:

<https://psaphotofestival.org>



Padre Trails Camera Club

Meetings: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 7:00PM - 9:00PM
First in person at the Pacific Grove Meals on Wheels Center, the second via Zoom

All Officers and Activity Chairs can be reached via email at: info@padretrailscc.org

Membership information can be found here:

www.padretrailscc.org/ptcc/ptccmembership.html

2024 - 2025 Officers

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

Activity Chairs

Competitions - *John Drum and Bill Brown*
Judge Coordination - *Joni Zabala*
Media Relations - *Bill Brown*
Membership & Awards - *Chris Johnson*
Hospitality - *Sandie McCafferty*
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



3rd Quarter Competition Submission Dates

All competition submissions are due by midnight.

- Sunday, July 27th: Nature - Wildlife
- Sunday, August 31st: Travel

SAVE THE DATE:

Year-End Dinner & Awards - November 1st.

Key 3rd Quarter Events Pop-Up Challenges, Group Shoots and Scavenger Hunts

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

Point Lobos Group Shoot - July 12th

Landmarks In Our Area - August Scavenger Hunt

September Pop Up - "Feathers" Subject Treatment Challenge.

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