

Padre Trails Camera Club

Nature #4 - 08/21/2024

Judged by: Bob Sadler



Meet our judge Bob Sadler

Bob began making photographs in 1965 while serving in the US Army in Vietnam. He wanted a way to capture the best of that country and bring it home. Even though the camera was relatively simple (Yashica twin-lens reflex) and he knew nothing about photography, he was captivated with the results. Somehow, the images shed a different light on things...narrow, intense, delightful images of the ordinary. After he shot photographs for several hours, he could see things in that same delightful way for days... maybe weeks before it wore off. During the past ten years, he's attended workshops with Eddie Soloway, Cole Weston and Kim Weston, Dan Westegren, Willie Osterman, and Richard Newman. He studied studio lighting with Barbara and Fernando Moon Batista. He's attended and conducted workshops at the Center for Photographic Arts in Carmel, CA. He joined the Board of Directors at the Center for Photographic Arts in 2019.

Shown here are all the images submitted for this competition from all three groups, Blue, Green, and Red. The winning images in each group are presented beginning on page 17.

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Nature #4 - 08/21/2024 - Group BLUE

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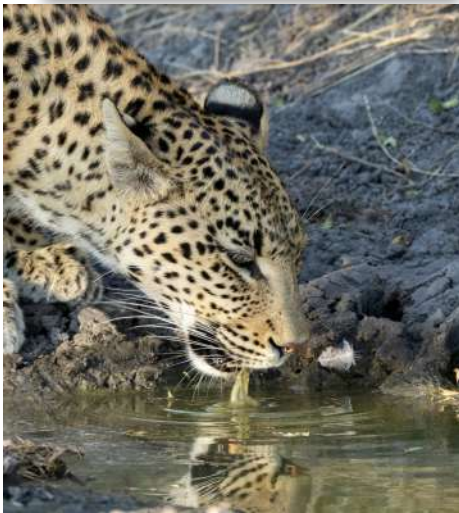


01 - Peters's Epauletted Fruit Bat Panting in the Heat in Botswana (Epomophorus crypturus)

Karen Schofield

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 4 stars

I like the composition with the four twigs forming a frame and I loved the triangle of little bits of color in the eyes and tongue. side is distracting. The pattern reminds me of a flag.



02 - African Leopard (Panthera pardus pardus) Drinking from Okavanga Delta

Karen Schofield

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 3 stars.

Good moment captured and good sharpness. Would have like to see the eyes.



03 - Anna's Hummingbird(Calypte anna)

John Drum

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 5 stars.

Love the color control and composition. Love seeing the eye as well.



04 - Bald eagle With Fish

Jeff Hobbs

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 3 stars.

Good iconic image, but I've seen too many of these and it needed more sharpness.



05 - Black Turnstone in Kelp with Flies

Chris Johnson

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 4 stars.

I love the fecundity of the natural world and this really places the bird in its natural world.



06 - Bob

Jerry Loomis

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 4 stars.

I like the color control. I would have liked it more if I could see more eye or both eyes.



07 - Deer Family at Asilomar on a Foggy Morning

Chris Johnson

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 3 stars.

I like the herd in this unusual setting. I needed more contrast and a tighter cropping of the subject.



08 - Deer in Yarrow

Jerry Loomis

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 4 stars.

I like the color control, eye, and composition.



09 - Elephant with fork-tailed drongo waiting for insects

Julie Chen

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 3 stars.

I like the bird and it gets a bit lost in this cropping. I would like to see a tighter cropping to see the bird more...maybe a vertical aspect of just the bird, the trunk and the elephant's head and ears would have worked better for me.



*10 - Forked-tailed Bush Katydid (Scudderia furcata)
Eating an Aphid*

John Drum

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 3 stars.

I like the color control and composition. I'd like to see more of the insect.



*11 - Goldenrod Crab Spider (Misumeria vatia)
Capturing a Bee*

Carol Silveira

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 3 stars.

I would have like to seen more of the spider



12 - Great Blue Heron on the hunt

Dennis Giuffres

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 2 stars.

I like the subject and would have preferred a single image of the lower version and tighter cropping. I don't think the sequence adds anything.



13 - Honey bee on yellow flower

Jared Ikeda

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 4 star.
Great focus and color control. It would have worked better for me with tighter cropping because there is so much great detail to explore on the bee.



14 - Honey bees at work

Jared Ikeda

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 2 stars
I think it needed more sharpness and more composition.



15 - Juvenile Red Fox Playing

Jeff Hobbs

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 3 stars.

Great subject. It would work better for me if it was cropped with just two heads. The surroundings didn't add anything.



16 - Monarch Butterfly (Lepidoptera)

Carol Silveira

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 3 stars.

Nicely done. Great quality of light.



17 - Osprey with catch

Dennis Giuffre

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 5 stars.

I love the color control and the similarity of the two species in color and shape. I love the fact that I can see the eye of each. I also love the delicate grip of the left foot and the gesture of the right foot.



18 - Taiwan Barwing

julie Chen

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 4 stars.

Great composition and color. Love the detail in the feathers, the light blue highlights and the eye.

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Nature #4 - 08/21/2024 - Group GREEN

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01-Black Winged Stilt

Dick Light

STAR RATING: 3 stars.

COMMENT: Like the parallel lines in the composition. It would have worked better for me if it was cropped closer to the birds.



02-California Brown Pelican in Flight (Pelecanus occidentalis)

Ken Jones

STAR RATING: 4 stars.

COMMENT: I love the composition and the unusual point of view, aspect and sharpness.



03-Could Bee Dinner Time

Carol Fuessenich

STAR RATING: 3 stars.

COMMENT: I like the subject combination and the color. It would work better for me if it was cropped tighter.



04-Cypress Tree, Caddo Lake, Texas

Bill Shewchuk

STAR RATING: 4 stars

COMMENT: I love the color and sharpness that brings out the texture.



05-Fall at Convict Lake

Lillie Grossman

STAR RATING: 3 stars

COMMENT: I think this would have worked better at a different time of day so that the sky was a softer, more reddish color. At this time of day, the blue sky is so strong that it diminishes the fall color in the trees.



06-Fly Catcher

Fernando Ibanez

STAR RATING: 3 stars

COMMENT: I like the sharpness and color of the bird and twig. I think it would work better for me as vertical aspect with tighter cropping to bring out the feathers even more.



07-Gannet, Hawke's Bay New Zealand
Bill Shewchuk

STAR RATING: 3 stars

COMMENT: It's good and sharp. It would be better for me if the aspect was even more narrow so that there is less sky in the image.



08-Goldene Aspens
Lillie Grossman

STAR RATING: 3 stars

COMMENT: There is a lot of nature in the image, but the road is a feature and it's manmade and makes this more of a scenic image than nature image.



09-Humpback Whales in Monterey Bay
Don Eastman

STAR RATING: 3 stars

COMMENT: Good composition and it would work better for me if the cropping was tighter and the sky eliminated.



10-Lemur

Fernando Ibanez

STAR RATING: 3 stars

COMMENT: Good image and I like the unusual branch composition. I think it would have worked better with a vertical aspect, the tail included and a tighter cropping.



11-Milk Thistle at Wilder Ranch

Charlie Gibson

STAR RATING: 3 stars

COMMENT: I like the colors and texture in the background. It would have worked better for me if the flower color was less saturated.



12-Polar Bear and Cubs

Dick Light

STAR RATING: 3 stars

COMMENT: There is a great image in this scene of the mother and cub. It probably would have taken a longer lens to get it and hold the sharpness it deserves. It would work better for me if it was cropped down to include just the mother and one cub.



13-Ravishingly Radish

Charlie Gibson

STAR RATING: 3 stars

COMMENT: I like the pattern and color in this flower and the composition would have been stronger if it was cropped to include just the flower and the buds above it.

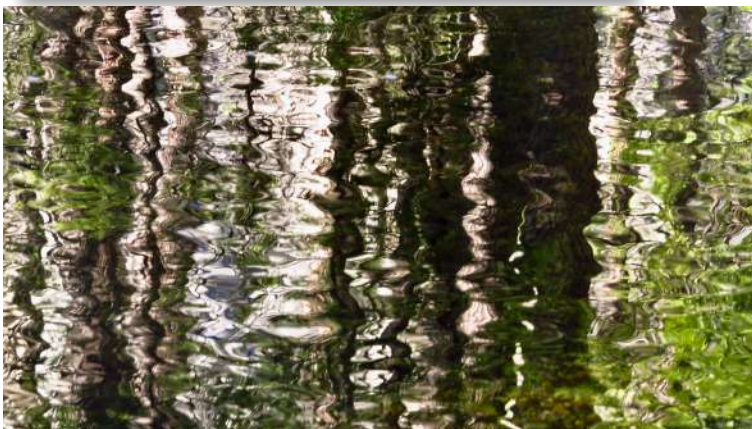


14-Red Eyed Frog of Costa Rica

Carol Fuessenich

STAR RATING: 4 stars

COMMENT: I like the subject, the color control, the sharpness, and the composition.



15-Reflecting on Yosemite

Sandie McCafferty

STAR RATING: 2 stars

COMMENT: Nice reflection, and it needs a subject and composition.



16-Sea Otter Pair (Enhydra lutris)

Ken Jones

STAR RATING:4 stars

COMMENT: Although I've seen too much of this subject, I like the sharpness, color control, composition, and the strong eye contact



17-Wild Tom Turkey at Spyglass

Don Eastman

STAR RATING:3 stars

COMMENT: I liked the color of the subject and I think it would have worked better to wait until the bright sunlight part of the background was out of view.



18-You Otter Know

Sandie McCafferty

STAR RATING:3 stars

COMMENT: Interesting gesture. I think it would work better to just see the hands and face in a tight cropping.

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Nature #4 - 08/21/2024 - Group RED

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01-Hilo Rainforest in the Rain

Brooks Leffler

STAR RATING: 2

COMMENT: This is technically good and needs a composition which you can get to by moving camera around to a different point of view. Look for patterns, lines, and shapes that hold the image together.



02-Juvenile Red-Tailed Hawk

Clarissa Conn

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: I like the point of view and the texture. The color balance is not quite right... probably needs to be more toward red to get the sky to a more complimentary color.



03-Lava on the Highway - Big Island

Brooks Leffler

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: This is technically good and it needs a composition. I think there is a good pattern in the middle...kind of a wave that moves from left to right...and it has 10 young plant shoots impossibly pushing through the lava. That's a story of nature. You could crop down to just the wave pattern and the shoots and it would take this image up two levels.



04-Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)

Sara A Courtneidge

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Good image and well framed. I love the eyes and the sharpness as well as the composition. I think it would have even more impact if it was cropped down to be a close up from just above the long eyelashes down to the ends of the whiskers. It's more powerful without so much sky.



05-Light shadow guide the way

Brian Spiegel

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Technically excellent and I like the composition and the invitation to walk the path. I like the sunburst as well. I'm going to overlook the fact that this is probably a man made path that is out of the remit of the competition, but, because it looks like it almost could have been a natural animal made path, I'm overlooking it. I've tried to make this image several times and didn't succeed. The lens choice and into the sun point of view give this a Van Gogh feel.



06-Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)

Sara A Courtneidge

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: I've seen a lot of monarchs on flowers, but I thought the color control and composition were exceptional.



07-Penguins

David Eisen

STAR RATING: 2

COMMENT: Technically good but it lacks a composition that draws the viewer in. I think there is a better image by focusing on the three penguins in the back because they are all framed by white. The three in front are visually compromised by the ocean in back and compete with the three in back.

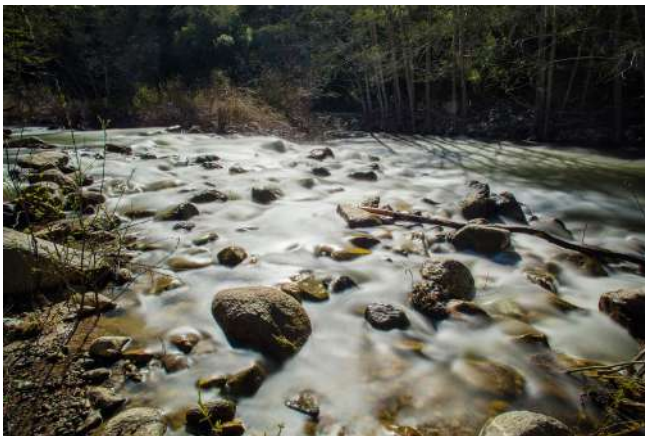


08-Southern Mountains

David Eisen

STAR RATING: 2

COMMENT: Nicely framed and it needs some more contrast and some foreground.



09-Water runs over rocks

Brian Spiegel

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: Technically good and a promising idea. I think it would work better with more definition in the water. This exposure is so long we just see white. There is a lot of pattern in the currents which is lost in this longer exposure. A good place to look for composition is probably a triangle of three rock surrounded by patterns in the currents.

Top Three Winners - Blue Group



First Place - Anna's Hummingbird
John Drum



Second Place - Taiwan Barwing
Julie Chen



Third Place - Osprey With Catch
Dennis Giuffre

Winning Images Group Blue

Honorable Mentions



Black Turnstone in Kelp with Flies
Chris Johnson



Honey Bee on Flower
Jared Ikeda



Deer in Yarrow
Jerry Loomis

Top Three Winners - Green Group



First Place - Red Eyed Frog of Costa Rica
Carol Fuessenich



Second Place - California Brown Pelican
Ken Jones



Third Place - Otter Pair
Ken Jones

Honorable Mention - Green Group



Cypress Tree, Caddo Lake, Texas

Bill Shewchuk

Winning Images Group Red

First Place



Leopard
Sara A Courtneidge

Third Place



Juvenile Red Tail Hawk
Clarissa Conn

Second Place



Monarch
Sara A Courtneidge

Winning Images Group Red

Honorable Mention



Light shadow guide the way
Brian Spiegel