

FOCUS

<http://www.nwhpc.com>

Newsletter of the Northwest Houston Photo Club Volume 25 Number 1

January 2009

President's Message by Larry Belt



A FEW WORDS FROM THE TOP

LARRY BELT

Greetings Fellow Photographers!

Happy New Year! I hope each of you had a wonderful Christmas. As we enter the new year I look forward to a year of great images, programs and activities. Cindi has put together a great line up of competitions as has Jerry K. with the field shoots. David Bahn is continuing with programs, some of which were scheduled last year, and I always look forward to learning something new.

Until 6 January 2009, get out and burn some pixels.

Remember. We are actually a gourmet food club with a photography habit!

Year Winners - 2007

Photographer of the Year Award *Terry Connors*

Best Color Print for 2007 *Mefeora Montessori by Alan Wilson*

Best B&W Print for 2007 *Sockets by John Edinburgh*

Best Overall 2007..... *Sprint for the Finish by Terry Connors*

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Assigned Categories for 2008 (Next Category is Bold Italics) – Aaraj Thyagaraj

Competition Assigned Categories/Challenges for NWHPC 2009

January – Night - Use the darkness as a background. EXAMPLES: Person sleeping on a park bench. NOTE: Chairman may require photographer to prove it's night time if photo does not show some sort of sign of outside darkness. If time-keeping device is the subject, it must show it's 12:00 A.M. and not noon. Examples: Star gazing; neon lights in a store's window.

Aids

<http://www.picturecorrect.com/photographytips/photographyatnight.htm>

http://www.picturecorrect.com/photographytips/professional_night_landscape_photography_lessons.htm

<http://photo.net/learn/astro/star-streak>

February – Home Sweet Home – “Photography is very much about telling stories, and while you are using a visual medium to do so, you still need to be a good storyteller and have an eye for what appeals to people.” Examples: Old house depicting a “home” where a family currently/previously lived—the visual would jump out at you as a “Home Sweet Home” atmosphere (any doubts, please ask chairman for more detail); greetings at the door; soldier being greeted by family members; rocking chair on porch; something that signifies “This is home.”

March – Cropping – “When submitting a photo to a photography competition, it's tempting to select a photo you're particularly proud of, or one that shows off a vast amount of different things at once. That's not necessarily the best strategy. Remember that what you're trying to do is to a) stand out from the masses of other photos and b) tell a story. You should submit a photo of “before” and a photo of “after” cropping – you are required to submit two photos—perhaps a 4x6 of the “entire” photo in addition to your matted photo with the cropped image only. (Only the finished product need be presentation quality. You may simply tape the “before” photo onto the mat.)

March Outside the Box – Speed - Speed (not the drug itself or YOU on drugs [this includes NO photos of an egg in a frying pan—that would be stealing an idea from the commercial—just kidding—fried eggs are fine as long as they show signs of being on speed]) - the image must give the impression something is going fast.

Aids

<http://photography.nationalgeographic.com/photography/photo-tips/landscape-photography-article.html>
<http://photo.net/learn/macro/index>

April – Friends – Examples: Holding hands; helping; two dogs walking side-by-side (can be male or female or neutered); photo must contain at least two subjects expressing a relationship.

May – Back-lighting - "Light directed at the subject from behind the subject."

June – Texture - "The visual and tactile quality of the surface of an object, revealed in a photograph by variances in tone, depth and shape. Lighting has the most influence over how well texture is captured in an image." Texture: whether an object is smooth or rough. A tactile sense is difficult to convey in a two-dimensional photograph; again, it's a function of lighting."

Aids

<http://photography.nationalgeographic.com/photography/photo-tips/landscape-photography-article.html>
<http://photo.net/learn/macro/index>

June Outside the Box – Objects – This is a NOUN. "A tangible and visible entity; an entity that can cast a shadow; "it was full of rackets, balls and other objects." "Something perceptible by one or more of the senses, especially by vision or touch; a material thing." (This is more of a free-for-all challenge. "Anything goes.")

July – Abstract - "In the photographic sense, an image that is conceived apart from concrete reality, generally emphasizing lines, colors and geometrical forms and their relationship to one another." "Abstract photography is about capturing color, shape and pattern to create an intense visual experience for the viewer." "In abstract photography, colors, textures and lines become the focus. It's a matter of looking at common items in a different way. Abstract photos can be made from almost anything—flowers, walls, the texture of tree bark, or the fur of your beloved cat."

Aids

http://www.hp.com/united-states/consumer/digital_photography/take_better_photos/tips/outdoor_photography.html
http://www.hp.com/united-states/consumer/digital_photography/take_better_photos/tips/fine-art.html

August – Free - Wildlife; flag; wind blowing a shirt; prisoner getting out of jail (if the photo is of yourself exiting the jail, we'll know YOU did not take the photo!).

Aids

<http://photo.net/learn/nature/butterfly>

September – Pinnacle – "The highest point; A tall, sharp and craggy rock or mountain; to put something on a pinnacle. steep pyramidal or conical ornament to a spire, buttress or parapet. A tall pointed decorative feature." Example: "Sharp as a tack." ☺

October – Opposites Attract - Man & woman; dog & cat; fork & spoon; angry & happy attitudes.

October – Outside the Box – Warmth – Depending upon how you define the term, it could mean "Warm colors" or even "loving feelings." 1) You might "Warm" your photo by enhancing; or 2) Projecting "warm feelings" or emotions using color or physical attributes. Examples: People on a cold day; fur.

November – Same Object – Skyline – Houston—“The elements of composition are mass, form, tone, texture, line and color.” Everyone photographs the same object as we did in 2008. Specifically, the subject is downtown Houston skyline – photo can be at any angle, day or night, rain or shine. Photos do NOT need to be taken at the same time as everyone else. Only rule is that the photo must have been taken within one-year. Watch your composition!!

Aids

http://www.hp.com/united-states/consumer/digital_photography/take_better_photos/tips/water.html

December – No Competition

REMEMBER: Any photo entered must have been taken within the last 12 months.

NOTES: All text in italics was excerpted from various websites for reference only.

EXAMPLES: These are meant for “ideas” only. Your photos do NOT have to be composed of the subjects used as an example.

FOR ANY ENTRY: If your photo might possibly be disputed as to how it satisfies the challenge, you should attach no more than a 5x7 card to your photo explaining “How, Why and/or Where.” Chairman reserves the right, at competition, to require any entry of dispute to have a card of explanation attached. This is not only for your benefit but also to assist the judges in determining proper scoring in the associated categories.

Competition Results for 2008 – Aaraj Thyagaraj

All prints eligible for the Print of the Year Competition, by Photographer.

Alan Wilson	Brooklyn Bridge
Alan Wilson	Waterfall
Betty Lieu	Glitter Abstract
Betty Lieu	Mardi Gras
Cal Lenderman	Chilly Cascade
Cal Lenderman	Frozen in Tim
Cal Lenderman	Progressions Folly
Cal Lenderman	Splendor Shared
Cindi Rogers	NO!
Cindi Rogers	Quacking Up
Cindi Rogers	The Orangutan
Darnell Klumpp	Texas Proud
David Bahn	Hibiscus
David Bahn	Three Berries
Debbie Henderson	Dusk at Big Bend
Debbie Henderson	Inverted Pink
Debbie Henderson	Long Forgotten Studebaker
Debbie Henderson	Sam I Am
Gary Woodard	Sam
Gary Woodard	Tree
Gary Woodard	Tulip
Garden Harger	Yellow Rose of Texas
Jackie Richardson	An Old Mill and Swimming Hole
Jan Ward	Banana Leaf
Jan Ward	Box Canyon

Jan Ward	Colorado Humming Bird
Jan Ward	Fuschia
Jan Ward	High Hill Church
Jan Ward	Moore Cove
Jan Ward	No Trespassing
Jan Ward	Over the Misty Fjords
Jan Ward	Pick Me
Jan Ward	Princess Glitter
Jan Ward	Purple Cornflower
Jan Ward	Soft Harmony
Jerry Klumpp	Chrome Chair
Jerry Klumpp	Destination Berlin
Jerry Klumpp	Reflection of General Sam
Jerry Klumpp	Texas Past and Present
Jerry Klumpp	Wild Eyed Bug
Jerry Pierson	Birth Place of Texas
Jerry Pierson	Flower Blur
Jerry Pierson	Hominy in Harmony
Jim Fife	Crossroad of a Nation
Jim Fife	Photographer's Crossroad
Jim Fife	Rocks to Riches
John Edinburgh	City Curves
John Edinburgh	High Rise
John Edinburgh	Neon Oasis
Judith Williams	Autumn's Last Embrace
Judith Williams	Crawfish Breakfast
Judith Williams	End of the Trail
Judith Williams	Misty Morning
Judith Williams	Musical Reflection
Judith Williams	Visuals Haiku
Judith Williams	Water Lily
Larry Belt	Hot Rocks
Larry Belt	Pattern
Larry Belt	Texas History
Leslie Stessel	Niagara at Night
Lorne Sproule	High Island Sunset
Lorne Sproule	Old Friends
Lorne Sproule	Shattered
Michael Gelardi	Stairs
Pam Carlson	Aquarium by Night
Paul Foulger	Burned Horizon
Sherry Aubin	Buddies
Sherry Aubin	Glacier Gazing
Terry Connors	After the Rain
Terry Connors	Bottle Chutes
Terry Connors	Cross-Road
Terry Connors	Santa Ana's Secret Weapon
Terry Connors	Some Call it Harmony
Terry Connors	Stewart Farms Panorama
Terry Connors	Terlingua Cemetery

Program by David Bahn – January 6, 7:00 pm

Prints of the year for 2008 will be decided. All entries that placed 1st 2nd or 3rd in 2008 competitions are eligible for entry in this contest.

To aid in the learning experience, we have decided that you may modify a print that was entered so long as it is the SAME photo, but enhancing per the critique is allowed.

Activities by Jerry Klumpp

January

Cypress Top Historical Park in Cypress, Texas, January 24, 2009, 9AM

February

Houston Livestock and Rodeo Parade, downtown Houston, February 28, 2009, 10AM

March

Beer Can House, 222 Malone, Houston, March 21, 2009, 2PM

April

Wild flower and bluebonnet shoot somewhere in Texas. Date and location TBA

May

Armand Bayou Nature Center, near Clear Lake. May 9, 2009, 9AM

All activity dates and times are subject to change.

Membership – April Ferguson

Nothing to report this month.

Articles of Interest

STAY PUT!

One of the chief advantages in taking an on-line photography course is that you don't have to drive to school-you can 'stay put' right in your home! Not only do you save gas, but you save time too!

And, to the surprise of many students, there is a TON of images one can make right inside your own home and I wanted to share a few of these ideas with you today!



Lemon Slice Photo made with 70-180mm Nikkor Micro lens, f/22 for 1/8 sec.

Opportunities to shoot close-ups are right inside your home, and with a stable tripod, a small table, and a lone window for light, you can spend hours making a multitude of discoveries.

For example, a simple lemon slice can make a bold statement of color and texture when seen and photographed close-up. Note the use of the green wrapping paper in the background. Since depth of field is so shallow when shooting close-ups, I was able to render the leaf pattern of the paper as abstract to emulate green grass-as if to suggest that this image was made outdoors. Additionally, I used sparkling water, not tap water, and with each and every shot (a total of sixteen attempts), I would also add a few dashes of salt to create even more carbonation in the water.





Nikkor 105mm Macro lens at F/2.8 @ 1/250 second.

A small wooden chopping block in the kitchen can quickly become a miniature studio. Positioned near a south facing window, there is plenty of available light to practice "kitchen art", where in this case, a simple cheese grater is transformed into a colorful abstract. A simple idea that requires only the use of one if not several pieces of colorful gift wrap. The highly polished metal and the resulting reflective surface picks up the colors of the two different pieces of gift wrap it is sitting

upon and with the aid of my 105mm Nikkor macro I was soon making several frame filling compositions of color/shape and texture. Obviously the idea of "kitchen art" is not limited to cheese graters, as any metallic surface will perform equally well when shot close-up e.g. spoons, forks, knives, measuring cups, bowls, pots, pans, kettles, skillets, a corkscrew, garlic press, whisk, and egg-beaters to name just a few.



Bryan F Peterson
Founder/PPSOP
www.ppsop.net

Next Meeting
January 6, 2009
Print of the Year Competition
For 2008 Entries
Start: 7:00 PM Sharp.
Doss Park - Old (South) Bldg.