



# The FLASH!

JANUARY 2008

*Newsletter of the Plano (Texas) Photography Club*



## Best of Show, Print, October 2007: 'Neglected'

By KEVIN MOODY

I had driven to East Texas to photograph Jefferson and Lake Caddo. Driving around the surrounding area I noticed what appeared more as a driveway to someone's home than as a road. I noticed on my GPS -- one of the best tools I

have purchased -- that the road was approximately 10-12 miles long and joined another paved road. Without the GPS I would not have taken the old dirt road. I almost missed the old house because of a thick row of trees along the fence line. Once I saw



the log directing the viewer's attention I knew I had a gem if I was able to capture the feeling and emotion. I find sometimes that the emotions felt at the moment are not always transposable onto paper and you end up with a nice photograph but not a great one.

Generally, upon arrival, I don't even unpack the camera but rather walk the entire area. I walked this scene for 20 minutes before I decided on the picture I wanted to capture. Rather than grab my camera and just pop off some frames and later wish I had taken more time and paid more attention to detail, I have learned to always attempt to study the scene very carefully. I try to decide which lenses, what depth of field, whether I want a low or high camera position, direction of lighting (natural or artificial), shutter speed and f-stop and composition all before the camera is in my hands.

Once a decision has been made I always use a tripod -- more so to force me to slow down and have patience. I was at this scene for approximately three hours. I approach a weekend shoot with one idea in mind: Bring home one -- just one -- great shot. If I get lucky and get two or three great shots, that is a bonus, but when you find a "golden egg" -- just sit on it. Time permitting, I will revisit it several times looking for a different time of year (foliage), sunrise or sunset look.

**Specs: Canon 5D, 16-35mm, 1/2 second, F22.**

**Essential Photoshop Editing for Beginner and Novice Photoshop Users.  
Open FREE to all PPC members!**

**Not a beginner or novice Photoshop user? You are welcome also.  
Objective: Teach techniques that will help you raise your score in PPC contests.**

**Where: Grace Presbyterian Church, Plano**

**When: Saturday, Jan. 26, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

**To sign up [EmailLedon-photos@yahoo.com](mailto:EmailLedon-photos@yahoo.com)**

Landscape

You will learn to use the crop tool, the straightening tool, clone tool, the magic wand, also the dodge and burn tools. In addition you will learn how to create and use layers. And you will learn how to combine two photos into one image with more impact. And much more.

Portraits

You will learn to create portraits that really “pop” with sparkling eyes, white glistening teeth and charming smiles. You will learn to use the clone tool, the crop tool, the spot healing tool, the magic wand, the dodge and burn tools. In addition you will learn how to make quick selections, create layers, and create and use layer masks.

**Morning Session 9-11 a.m.**

This will be group instruction on the practical use of Photoshop and Photoshop Elements to create better landscape images and more striking portraits.

The session will consist of non-technical (no math required) practical use of Photoshop tools to create enhanced images for competition in club contests. You will learn to make quick selections and creative desaturated images.

**Afternoon Session 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**



**BEFORE**

Master and Advanced photographers and Photoshop gurus Michael La Point, Ed Auger, Kevin Moody and Bob Frank will be on hand for one-on-one help. Participants are asked to bring one image they wish to enter in the club’s January photo contest on the subject of "Leading Lines." Your personal guru will critique your image and help you enhance it for

composition, color balance, saturation and sharpness. We cannot guarantee that you will win first place in the contest. But we can guarantee that your image will score higher than it would without this valuable one-on-one session.



**AFTER**

Digital photo college course needs two more to ‘make’

Collin County Community College - Continuing Education Division offers several photography classes that vary from beginner, intermediate, and advance skills. Beginners and intermediate classes have begun. However, there is a waiting list for the "Digital Photography - Intermediate Skill" class on Saturday mornings. If enough people sign up, they will begin a Saturday afternoon class. They have five on the waiting list and need about two more to "make" the class. If interested, contact Jennifer Askew at the CCCCD-Continuing Education Department, 972-985-3757.  
-- From PPC member Reuben G. Mendiola

## **Annual Tabletop Workshop February 16, 2008 (10:00am - 2:00pm)**

**Here is your chance to try something totally different.**

**Photograph still life and special effects.**

**Get your camera settings off "Auto."**

**Learn more about composition and lighting.**

**Create winning images for the club competition.**

**All this and more can be accomplished at the Tabletop Workshop.**

**So, bring your camera, tripod, manual, batteries, memory cards, etc.**

**Keep checking the Events page of [PlanoPhotographyClub.com](http://PlanoPhotographyClub.com)**



**"Waterdrops" by P.D. Killion hints of the kinds of shots available for the taking at the club's February 16 Tabletop workshop.**

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## **Avery to show/tell on latest travels at Jan. 28 session**

PPC member Eleanore Avery, the speaker for our Jan. 28 meeting, lives in Dallas but does most of her photographing while traveling outside the United States. Her interest in photography grew as she traveled to 56 countries since 1985.

Her travel/photo articles have been published on Africa, Singapore, Malaysia, Austria, China, and Norway in ITN travel publication. Countries she has visited include Nepal, Tibet, Bhutan, Tanzania, Madagascar, Iceland, Croatia, Mongolia and China.

She is an active member of the Dallas Camera Club, Plano Photography Club and the Photographic Society of America (PSA). Her Jan. 28 program is based on her most recent trip to Patagonia. The photo at right, "Mountain Gorilla in Rwanda Forest," won an Honorable Mention in the club's October competition.



# Winners in October 2007 prints-only competition

Beginners			
1	14	Billy Erwin	Green Katydid
2	13	Svatava Strnad	Downy Paintbrush
3	12	Svatava Strnad	Texas Paintbrush
HM	12	Billy Erwin	Golden Dragon
Advanced			
1	15	Kevin Moody	Neglected
2	15	Kevin Moody	Trick Roper
3	15	Jerry Green	Old Barn in Colorado
HM	14	Alistair Wilson	The Peppermint
HM	14	Marie Hansen	Beach Comber at Sunrise
HM	13	Paul Spencer	Train
Masters			
1	15	Eleanore Avery	Serengeti Sunset
2	15	Dan Leffel	Foggy New Hampshire Sunrise
3	15	Larry Petterborg	Old Juniper
HM	14	David Willie	Painted Hills
HM	14	Eleanore Avery	Mountain Gorilla in Rwanda Forest
HM	14	Michael LaPoint	Pathway to the Past



**First Place, Beginners**  
**“Green Katydid”**  
**Billy Erwin**  
**14 points**

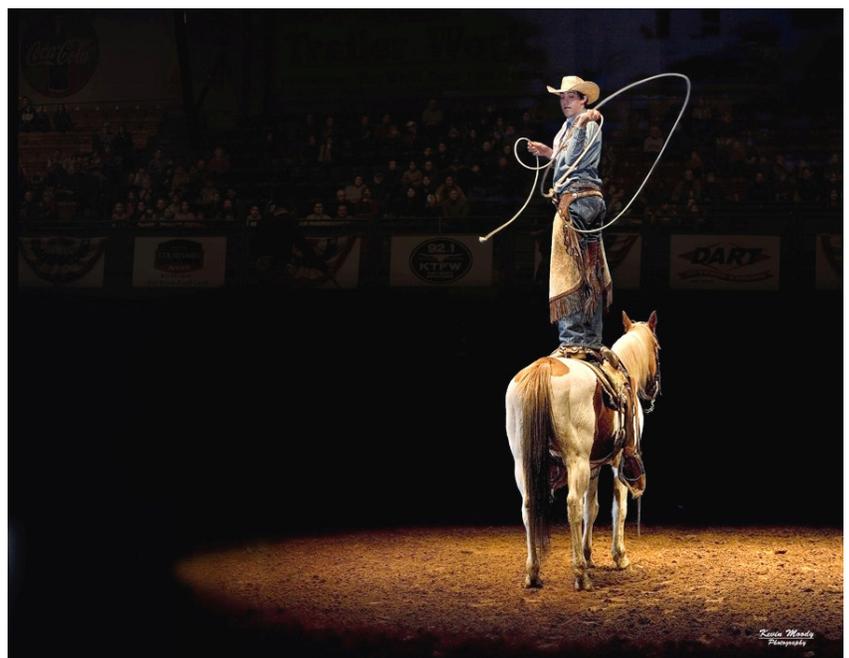
**Second Place, Advanced**  
**“Trick Roper”**  
**Kevin Moody**  
**15 points**

Best of Show **Neglected** by **Kevin Moody** (see Page 1).

Judge’s comment: “This printmaker is on a higher plain than the rest of us. While many of us complain that our digital tools are hard to use, this maker has explored beyond the field and now stands alone, in front of the pack.”

### “Trick Roper” by Kevin Moody

I was asked to shoot at the Fort Worth Stockyards “Pawnee Bill’s Wild West Show”. I had to decide whether to shoot with a very high ISO or use fill flash combined with a lower ISO. I was shooting on the floor of the arena, and when this young roper walked his horse into the spotlight I knew I had my shot. I got a break because the spotlight was actually natural early afternoon light filtering through a window 50 feet up the west wall. I used a 400 ISO with fill flash. Sometimes you just get lucky but always have patience and attempt to anticipate the shot. I composed the roper to the right side because he would be looking into the picture with space. A hot debate over this photo is whether it should have been shot in the landscape or horizontal mode. I still prefer the landscape mode with all of the black space entering into the photo. Depends upon the judge.



# More winners in October 2007 prints competition

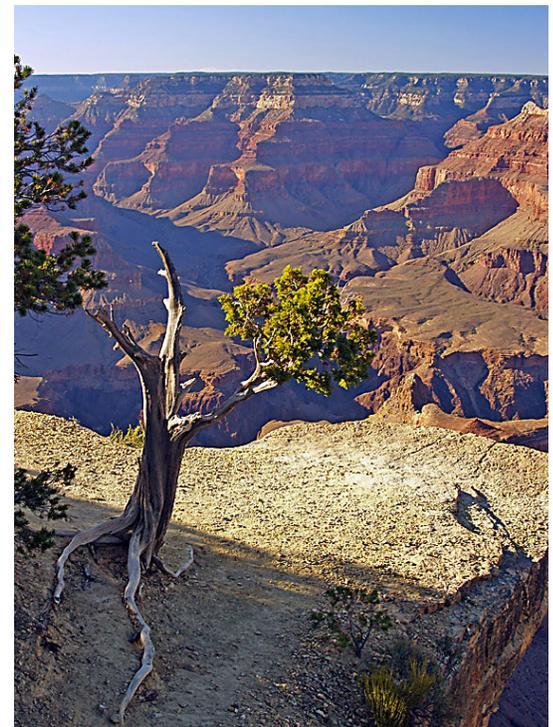


**First Place, Masters**  
**“Serengeti Sunset”**  
Eleanore Avery  
15 points



**Second Place, Masters**  
**“Foggy New Hampshire Sunrise”**  
Dan Leffel  
15 points

**Third Place, Advanced**  
**“Old Barn in Colorado”**  
Jerry Green  
15 points



**Third Place, Masters**  
**“Old Juniper”**  
Larry Petterborg  
15 points

# Club competition standings as of October 2007

Beginners

Name	Place Points	Judge's Points
Svatava Strnad	18	122
Linda L. Grigsby	10	109
Paul Rimka	18	79
Jean Karlik	14	64
Clint Hastings	6	54
Eran Spigelman	20	47
Sanaa Diab	3	41
Nicci Ackermann	10	33
Billy Erwin	10	26
Aida La Point	6	23
Ron Hasty	0	19
Debbie Tigh	0	15
Joe DeVincentis	0	12
Meirie Rusly	0	10

Advanced

Name	Place Points	Judge's Points
David Grossman	21	142
Dennis Fritsche	3	131
Stewart Musket	14	128
LeDon Becker	11	126
Jim Berry	0	124
Danette Volkmer	3	123
Alistair Wilson	0	119
Kay Griffith	6	116
Tatyana Bessmertnaya	20	113
John Lovelace	0	109
Harry Rumberger	0	105
Andrew Hibma	9	99
Bernie Pysz	0	91
Terree Stone	0	87
Bill McMurray	0	80
Marie Hansen	0	72
Anne Hargreaves	0	62
Barry Grossman	0	59
Fred Grossman	0	57
Irwin Lightstone	10	53
Anita Oakley	0	43
Bud Barlow	0	37
Laura Farnham	0	36
Kevin Moody	17	30
Ken Morton	0	25
Paul Spencer	0	25
Jerry Green	3	23
Jay Goode	0	23
Jeff Kearns	0	22
Marian Green	0	20
Jim Spencer	0	20
Will Gunadi	0	8

Masters

NAME	PLACE POINTS	JUDGE'S POINTS
Dan Leffel	12	149
David Willie	3	144
Priscilla Killion	0	144
Eleanore Avery	20	143
Dawn Attebery	3	143
Jose Artilles	24	141
Larry Petterborg	16	141
Jamie Hilbig	0	119
Bob Frank	12	116
James Stover	6	116
Elizabeth Szilagyi	0	106
Michael La Point	9	95
Lois Lehman	11	88
John Lehman	0	84
Ed Auger	0	71
Cindy Vaillantcourt	0	25
Mitsuka Iwahiro	0	18

*Activities ideas:  
Here's a list  
for starters*

PPC Contests Chairperson Elizabeth Szilagyi compiled this list of possible PPC activities for 2008-2009. Your ideas welcome at SzilagyiE@aol.com.

- Tabletop Workshop
- Indoor Mode shoot
- Outdoor Model shoot
- Dallas Blooms in the Arboretum
- Pug Mark Park - shoot tigers and lions
- Dallas skyline
- Tourist-for-a- Day Scavenger Shoot in Fort Worth
- Hit-and-run weekend visit to Hot Springs, Ark.
- Bluebonnets in Ennis, Texas
- Scarborough Renaissance Festival in Waxahachie (April 5-May 26)
- Waterbabes- underwater model shoot
- Horse racing in Lone Star Park, Grand Prairie
- Plano Balloon Festival
- Plus: Digital Workshops: Useful Plug-ins, Build your own Website

## FLASHbacks

**March 1994:** Among the visitors to the January 1994 meeting were Priscilla Killion and John Lehman. Priscilla joined that February and John soon after.

**March 1995:** The Texins (Texas Instruments) Camera Club and the PPC collaborated to present a Table Top Workshop on April 1, 1995. The event was held at the TI rec center. About 4 stations were featured: studio lights, blacklight still lifes, mylar abstracts, and close-up flowers.

-- Cindy Vaillantcourt, PPC Historian



**This is the majority of some 30 PPC images on display at the Plano Convention Centre. The club's annual Showcase opened in December at the Plano Municipal Center and moved to the Convention Centre in early January. Club exhibits co-chairs Ed Auger and Jamie Hilbig will be looking for volunteers to help take down the exhibit on Feb. 29.**

## *It's apples and oranges in this unusual 'continuous' image*

*Editor's Note: One Honorable Mention winner, "Mobius Strip," in the 2007 PPC Showcase was not available for publication in the November Flash. Because of the image's unusual size and construction, the artist, PPC member Donald B. Weaver, was asked to describe it. He is a psychologist in private practice in Dallas.*

I shot the two apples and three oranges -- positioned adjacent to a real mobius strip (white construction paper about 3 ft. long, 5 in. wide) in dawn window light with a point'n'shoot -- Vivitar Vivicam 4000 (6.3 megapixel) -- f/2.8 -- 1/50 sec. -- ISO 50, no flash. Laid it all out on the floor on top of a towel and shot from above -- no tripod. In Photoshop, I extracted the fruit and strip, superimposed them on a black background, and added the Einstein quote (papyrus font, rasterized and warped) to the strip and free-handed "me" and "you" on the apples and oranges with the brush tool. Printing and mounting were done by BWC in Richardson. As I recall, printing was at 150 dpi, and the mounting was 1/4 in. beveled acrylic, with a lot of lumber in the back to support the weight.



To construct a mobius strip, twist one end of a strip of paper one half-turn (180°) and attach it to the other end with tape or glue. Despite appearances, you've created a continuous, one-sided surface. In consequence, objects which appear to be on opposite sides of the Mobius strip -- such as the apples and oranges in the picture above -- are actually on the same page. If the apples were to take a trip around the strip, they'd eventually merge with the oranges. Despite appearances, the apples and oranges share a spatial togetherness or unity.

## A new year message from your co-presidents

It is now January 2008, and the state of the Plano Photography Club is excellent. We are getting started on our activities again with the membership meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 28 (see article on Page 3) and a Photoshop workshop at Grace Presbyterian Church from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 26 (see article on Page 3).

**Note: Both the club meeting and the Photoshop workshop will be at the church as usual but on the second floor of the Education Building where we formerly held monthly meetings.**

Last month we had a very successful PPC Christmas Party at the home of past president David Wille and his wife, Minoo. All who attended had a great party, and the food was excellent. We thank David and his wife for being the most gracious hosts ever. It was a full house, but they handled it well. We would also like to thank our members for their excellent slide show photos. We must say this party was the best ever and it was a large crowd because of the present size of our club. You can really be proud, because our club is considered to be the largest and best in the area with the highest quality images of all the Gulf State clubs. There are some high quality photographers in our club, so take advantage. We really appreciate our members, and that's you!

In February we are having our Table Top Workshop that is the envy of all other photo clubs in the area, so be sure to attend.

— From Co-Presidents Bernie and Bob

### Monthly Photo Club Contest Topics 2007-2008

January 2008: Leading Lines  
 February 2008: Open  
 March 2008: Portraits (prints only)  
 April 2008: Open  
 May 2008 (start of new contest year) Weather  
 June 2008: Open  
 July 2008: Abstracts

## Plano Photography Club Officers

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 Vice President — Programs  
 Vice Presidents — Activities  
 Secretary  
 Treasurer  
 Contests

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 Michael La Point  
 Jack Dickson, Reuben Mendiola  
 James Stover  
 P.D. Killion  
 Elizabeth Szilagyi, Laura Farnham  
 Tatiyana Bessmertnaya

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 PSA Representative  
 Historian  
 Light Rental  
 Membership  
 Newsletter Editor/Publisher  
 Webmaster  
 Exhibits  
 Model Shoot Coordinator

Stewart Musket  
 Carol Bohnstengel  
 Cindy Vaillancourt  
 Don Pool  
 Debbie Tigh, Don Pool  
 John A. Lovelace  
 LeDon Becker  
 Ed Auger, Jamie Hilbig  
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The club meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month except December at Grace Presbyterian Church, 4300 W. Park Blvd. Officers meet at 7p.m. on the second Monday of each month except December at Schimelpfenig Library, 5024 Custer Road.