



The FLASH!

OCTOBER 2008

Newsletter of the Plano (Texas) Photography Club



Perturbed owl doesn't quite evade BOS final shot

By **ALISTAIR WILSON**

I had the pleasure of attending a fund raising event for the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center on Lake Lavon. This event was specifically for photographers, so organizers went to extra lengths to ensure that the backgrounds were as natural as possible.

Being in the middle of August, we all expected a quick early morning shoot before the heat and harsh shadows got the best of us. As it turned out, it was unusually cool and nicely overcast.



The birds were set up out in the open, providing a natural looking background. This particular owl had become quite perturbed, probably seeing all the eyes (lenses) starting at him. The handler was getting ready to return him to the cage when he attempted to launch off his perch. This image, "Last Thing I Saw," was the resulting shot. I was pleased that the judge selected it as Best of Show for August. (Editor's Note: "Last Thing I Saw" also won First Place in the Gulf States Council of Camera Clubs October Pictorial Projected Competition.)

The shutter speed was just right to capture the motion in the wings while the face remained sharp, not something that was intentional but it worked out well.

Technical info: Nikon D200, 70-200 F/2.8 @ 200mm F/4.5 ISO 400.



PPC Master Eleanore Avery will present this beautiful image and many others for the Monday, Oct. 27 program. She explains: "Tulip time in Holland lasts only about six weeks. I visited in late April 'by land and by sea' for two weeks, beginning and ending in Amsterdam. I visited several sites of windmills and tulips ... including world famous Keukenhof Gardens ... on my own and other cities on a one-week river cruise with stops in Belgium."

Photo judging: Fair or not? You be the judge

By JOHN LEHMAN

Almost everyone appreciates being appreciated. That is especially true when the person giving the praise is someone who has been endowed (by someone) as having expertise. Likewise when such a person speaks critically of our work, it may seem especially hard to take. A variety of reactions often ensue, usually depending on how personally we take the criticism. Anger, disappointment, discounting of the person's expertise, devaluing of our self-esteem, etc. are just a few of the reactions that may surface.

Each month many of our members (including me) subject our photography to being "judged" by a person designated as having enough expertise to take on that role. I have been on several sides of this process: I've had pictures judged over 150 times, I've been a judge for other contests, and my wife, Lois, and I have had to select judges for PPC. I've had "Best of Show" images and I've been the dreaded first one shown (usually the lowest scoring) in a given class.

The way in which the process is established--a "contest"--sets up a winner and loser mentality, and this encourages those who participate to "compete." For some, competition stimulates them to work harder and do their best; just look at the recent Olympics as an example. For others, competition isn't the motivation for seeking excellence in artistic pursuits. It's the opportunity to create that motivates them.

How dreadful it is when the right judge judges wrong! — Sophocles

Judge not, that ye be not judged. — Matthew 7:1

So how do we take the monthly process and make it personally meaningful? First, listen carefully to the judge's introduction of his/her credentials to judge. I personally listen more carefully to the critique of a person whose credentials are in line with the style of photography I do. I am first and foremost a photographer of people. I value the critique of a portrait photographer more than a landscape photographer who's commenting on my portraits, for example. Second, listen to the critiques of all the images. Do they sound well thought out? Has the person hurriedly rushed through it or given the project some time and thought? If you can evaluate the "judge" based on his/her overall evaluations, then when yours are judged it puts it in context. Third, remember that the comments on your images are one person's opinion. A number of us have had images panned by one "judge" and won a 1st place or even "Best of Show" with the same image when judged by another.

There is a value in having the opportunity to showcase some of your work each month, and some themes push us to try new areas of photography. I would personally like to do away with the "contest" designation and "judges" and opt instead for a "showcase and critique" option without judging, points and winners and losers. We can learn from the critiques, but if we take them too personally they take on a role that isn't helpful. Most of all, in anything artistic, we have to please ourselves.

Editor's Note: John Lehman, a former PPC president, holds a doctoral degree in psychology and is a professional practicing psychologist. He wrote this article at the request of the editor.

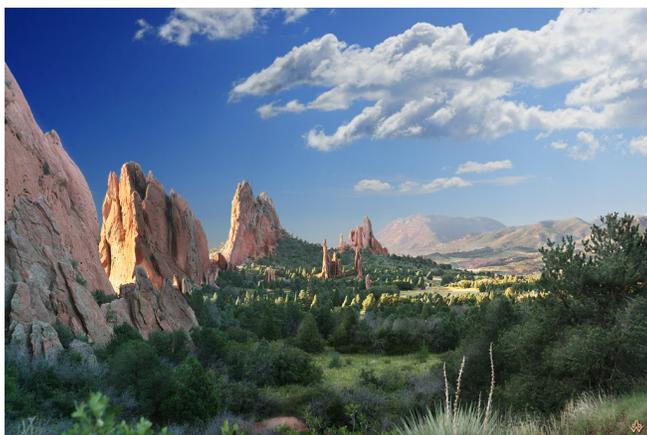
Showcase judge sings high praises for 2008 winners

From DAVID LERRY, co-chairman, PPC exhibits

The judge who evaluated entries in the Plano Photography Club 2008 Showcase was Tim Ostermeyer, a Master Photographer. He has been awarded over 250 First Place ribbons and was named Illustrative Professional Photographer of the Year by the Dallas PPA six times. He was the Texans Camera Club Photographer of the Year eight times. He has won the Heard Nature Photo Contest "Best of Show". He won 2007 Southwest (five states) Professional Photography Contest "Best of Show". His images have been published in numerous publications and on covers of three magazines, and he has published a children's book about penguins. Some of this award winning photography can be seen at www.ostermeyer-photography.com. Below are his comments about the first, second and third place Showcase images. See the award winners' how-I-got-the-shot articles on Page 9 of this issue of The Flash.

First Place – "Violet Delight" by Cindi Giordano

Breathtaking, beautiful, and stunning. The flower by itself is gorgeous; adding a bee makes it even more interesting and storytelling. The beauty of the image, the spectacular splash of yellow in the middle, the soft and delicate purple and yellow "stamen" surrounding the bee, the beautiful texture in the petals, all the flower parts providing an explosion of beauty around the bee, the circular composition of the "stamen" around the bee all contribute to the stunning, breathtaking beauty of this image, making it Best of Show!



Second Place – "Central Garden Area (Garden of the Gods)" by Don Weaver

Beautiful scenic. Very nice early morning light coming from left to right thru mountain peaks. Nice textured rock formations. Excellent depth with rocks receding into image and mountains in background. Nicely framed at bottom with some pretty Colorado plants. Clouds in sky complement scenic. This is an image that would sell well at art fairs, beautiful in every sense of the word.

Third Place – "Neglected" by Kevin Moody

Gorgeous scenic. Congratulations on finding such a beautiful old shack or home or barn. A gorgeous scenic log with nice light in the foreground. Nice moody clouds. Nice moody haze or fog in background. Love all the twigs and vines hanging from the building. Great shot.



Beginners winners in August 'Open' competition

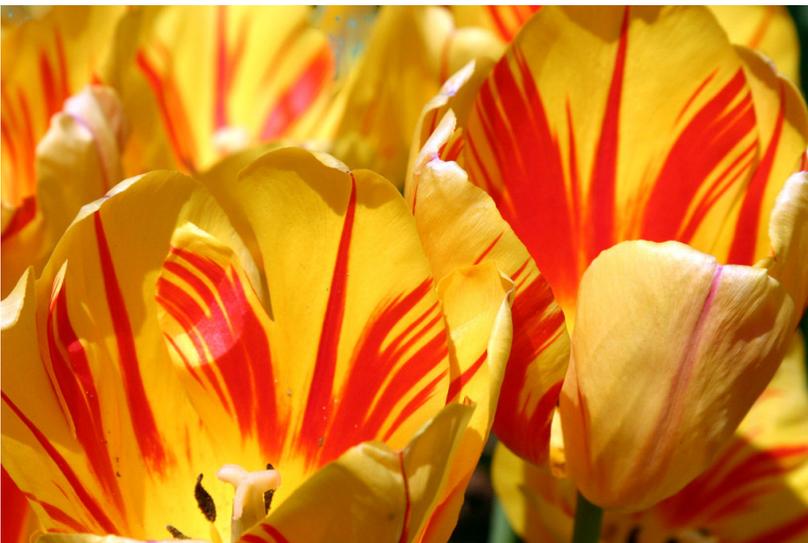


RONNIE SCAGGS

- 1st – Ronnie Scaggs, Bridge of Sighs –15
- 2nd – Michael Losurdo, Tulips Among Us – 15
- 3rd – Linda L. Grigsby, Diving for Pollen – 15
- HM – Brett Buchmiller, Kiss Goodnight – 14
- HM – Nicholas Tovell, When You Need More Horsepower – 13
- HM – Ron Hasty, Golden Sunset, Kwando River, Namibia, Africa — 14



LINDA L. GRIGSBY



MICHAEL LOSURDO

Advanced winners in August 'Open' competition

1st & BOS – Alistair Wilson, Last Thing I Saw – 15

2nd – Dennis Fritsche, Hostas – 15

3rd – Tatyana Bessmertnaya, Pomegranates – 15

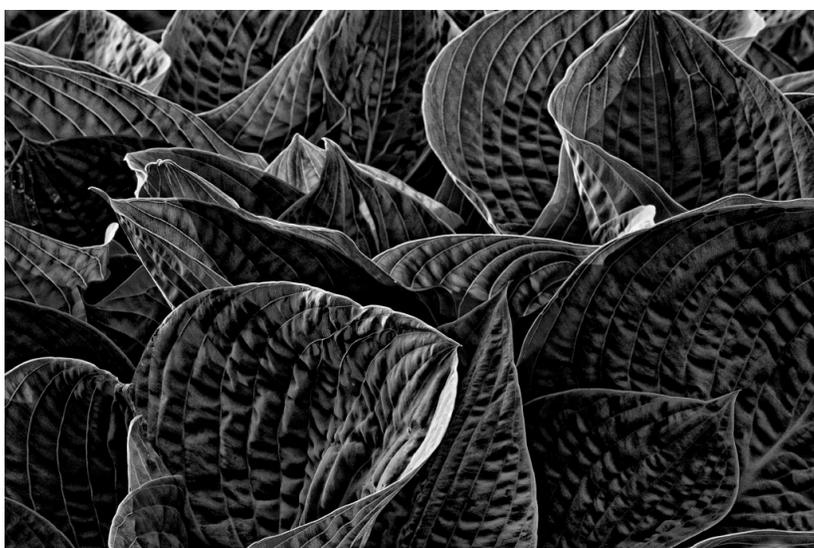
HM – John A. Lovelace, Seeing-eye Specs – 14

HM – Jerry Whitty, Native Dancer – 14

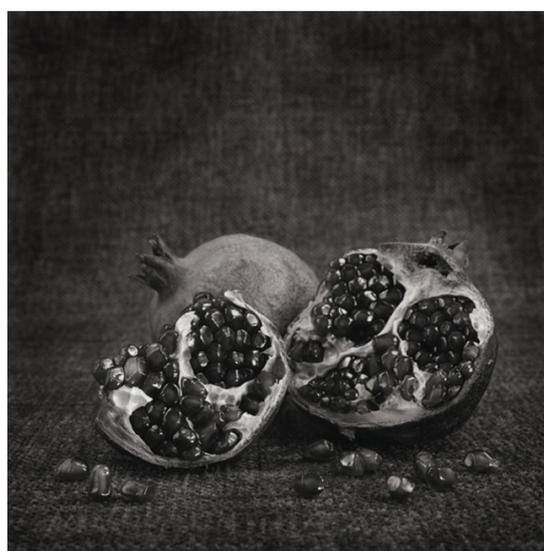
HM – Peter Staxen, Picture Perfect – 14



ALISTAIR WILSON (see article Page 1)



DENNIS FRITSCHÉ



TATYANA BESSMERTNAYA

Masters winners in August 'Open' competition

- 1st – Jose Artiles, Groucho the Cat – 15
- 2nd – Michael LaPoint, Luminous Renditions – 14
- 3rd – Eleanore Avery, Tulips in Holland – 14
- HM – Jose Artiles, Pond in Edom, TX – 14
- HM – Jamie Hilbig, Sailboats at Sunrise – 14
- HM – Priscilla Killion, Racing Line Up – 14



JOSE ARTILES



MICHAEL LAPOINT

ELEANORE AVERY





RECAP: FALL MODEL SHOOT

Co-chairs Ken Guthrie and Russell McGuire issued this report following the shoot Saturday, Oct. 4:

- 32 PPC members participated. Each paid \$29.
- Seven models participated. Each was paid \$100.
- 23 members responded to a post-event survey.
- 96% rated the event good or excellent
- 100% said the club should continue to organize this type of event
- Newer members wanted it to be more instructional
- On a scale of 1-5, members' ratings of models ranged from 3.8 to 4.9.
- Two models were shot by 19 of the 23 shooters who responded to the survey. One attracted 17, three 14 and one 13.
- Members Paul Archer, John Lehman and Lewis Sheriff provided lights. Don Pool supervised club-owned lights.

Beginners		
Name	Place Pts.	Judge Pts.
Linda Grigsby	19	92
Ron Hasty	3	80
Nicholas Tovell	3	76
Jim Shannon	10	75
Michael Losurdo	6	75
Betty A. Johnson		70
Svatava Strnad		70
Bob Johnson	9	69
Brett Buchmiller		68
Troy Becker		66
Bill J. Boyd		63
Jean Karlik		60
Ray Daberko	10	49
Charles Henthorne		45
Joe Sullivan		45
Franz Crystal	6	34
Willie Baker		32
Aida LaPoint		27
Laurence Briggs		25
Ronnie Scaggs	10	15
Jolynn Dumais		6

The Epson Print Academy is coming to the Dallas area Dec. 13. It is described as a great opportunity for PPC members to learn all about printing. The event will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn Dallas Lewisville at 785 SH 121 Bypass in Lewisville. Reservations can be made on-line for \$79.95, which includes lunch and runs 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sign up at www.epson.com/cgi-bin/Store/PrintAcademy/pa_home.jsp.

Advanced		
Name	Place Pts.	Judge Pts.
Tatyana Bessmertnaya	9	93
Dennis Fritsche	6	92
Andrew Hibma	9	91
Paul Spencer	14	90
Bernie Pysz		87
Alistair Wilson	11	86
Jim Spencer		85
Stewart Musket		82
Kent Taylor		81
Danette Volkmer	11	80
John A. Lovelace		80
LeDon Becker		74
Billy Erwin	11	72
Harry Rumberger		69
Jerry E. Schlesinger		69
Andrew L. Hollander		68
Katherine Robertson	6	65
Peter Staxen		65
Marie Hansen		64
Lewis Sheriff	3	62
Terree Stone		56
Bud Barlow		55
Kay Griffith		54
Anne Hargreaves		53
Mary J. Baker		51
Fred Grossman		49
Holly Lynn		39
Carol Barlow		37
Irwin Lightstone		25
Lee Vestyck		24
Bill McMurray		18
Jerry Whitty		14
Rick Pang		10

Masters		
Name	Place Pts.	Judge Pts.
Eleanore Avery	22	98
Jose Artiles	16	97
Jamie Hilbig	10	93
Michael LaPoint	6	87
Priscilla Killion	3	85
James T. Stover		84
Larry Petterborg		81
Ed Auger		67
John Lehman		56
Mitsuka Iwahiro	3	50
Elizabeth Szilagyi	10	48
Lois Lehman	6	36



PPC Master Jamie Hilbig's "Mother & Child" won Portrait competition in the 2008 Scarborough Renaissance Festival at Waxahachie.

Showcase winners tell how they got the honored shots



By CINDI GIORDANO

As soon as I saw the color of the water lilies, I knew I wanted to obtain a close-up of them. Imagine my surprise, when I was working on taking a picture that captured the color and impact of a single flower, that bees were visiting the flowers. I handheld my Nikon D40x and focused on the closest flower. I visited and photographed the flowers several times, hoping my pictures would capture and convey the beauty of the water lilies. I used an ISO of 200 with the shutter speed of 1/500 with a 105mm micro lens at f 5.6. I cropped the picture in Photoshop so that the lily encompassed the entire print. I was thrilled to be awarded First Place and Best of Show in the PPC Showcase.



By DON WEAVER

On January 3, 2008, I had the good fortune to catch the Central Garden Area of Garden of the Gods, outside Colorado Springs, bathed in morning sunlight. I captured a panorama of six portrait orientation shots, using a tripod, with my Canon 30D (all at f/5.0, 1/40 sec., 65 mm, ISO 100) and stitched them together using Photomerge in Photoshop CS3. Photomerge rocks!

By KEVIN MOODY

I had driven to East Texas to photograph Jefferson and Lake Caddo. 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 that this setting had great possibilities. The difficult part would be to capture the feeling and emotion within the finished photograph. I have learned to study the scene very carefully. I always use a tripod to force me to slow down and have patience. I was at this scene for approximately three hours waiting for the right light. Canon 5D, 16-35mm, 1/2 second, F22



Balloon festival: 'Such a beautiful and photogenic . .



By ELIZABETH SZILAGYI
Activities Vice President

The 2008 balloon festival was a huge success. We are so very lucky that such a beautiful and such a photogenic event is being organized year after year in our neck of the woods.



The ten media passes that our club received were shared by 41 club members. We could shoot the balloons floating up in the sky, up close and very close ... and some members were even lucky enough to get a chance to wander around inside a balloon. That was very special.



It was quite difficult to be at the right place at the right time since the right place sometimes seemed to be far away across the field, but at least somebody from the club happened to be there.

I'll be happy to forward each CD with images taken at the balloon festival to the organizers, so please bring your CD to the next meeting if you haven't already done so.



Dave Tyler Photography

... event year after year in our neck of the woods'



Fall Outdoor Model Shoot Great Success



The annual Fall Outdoor Model Shoot, held October 4th at the Frisco Heritage Museum, was a great success. There were seven professional models and 32 talented photographers in attendance. See images on Pages 7 of this issue. I would especially like to thank Ken Guthrie, Russell McGuire, Jean Karlik, Don Pool, Lewis Sheriff, and John Lehman for all their help in making this event such a success.

Everyone had a great time and created many beautiful images. Because of the tremendous positive feedback we received from many participants, the board has voted to adopt this format for future model shoots.

The holidays are approaching and once again we are planning our annual Christmas party. We hope to use the church meeting room, and we need volunteers to help organize the party. This is your club, and we need your participation to make this a success!



JAMES STOVER

Club Contest Topics 2008-2009

- October 2008: Open (prints only; no digital images)
- November 2008: Up
- December 2008: No contest or club meeting
- January 2009: Sound of Music
- February 2009: Open
- March 2009: Spirit of Texas (prints only; no digital images)
- April 2009: Open
- May 2009: Special Effects (either digital manipulation of your image or in-camera special effects)
- June 2009: Open
- July 2009: Action (fast or slow shutter speed techniques)

On Thursday, Nov. 5, Drew Hendrix from Red River Paper will present a workshop on "Color Management and Printing". At a recent PPC meeting he agreed to provide a workshop on this subject. Details: 7 p.m. to 9:30 or 10 p.m., room 200-202, Grace Presbyterian Church. Only the first 20 members responding to edauger2@verizon.net can be accepted. As soon as we are fully booked, the PPC website Events page will so indicate.

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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 7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month except December at Schimelpfenig Library, 5024 Custer Road.