



# The FLASH!

May 2017

Newsletter of the Plano (Texas) Photography Club

[www.planophotographyclub.com](http://www.planophotographyclub.com)



## Best In Show: *Two Mums* By Nancy Mack

My family and grandchildren reside in the far corners of the country, so I have chosen flowers - from my garden and the grocery store – for my inspiration. These mums were selected for their unusual colors. The first photos of the fresh flowers were interesting, but not “wow”. I put them aside and was about to toss them when I realized they might provide some drama in their wilted state.

The photo was made with a Nikon 7100 and a Nikon 105mm 2.8 Macro lens set at ISO100, f5.6, 2.5 sec mounted on a tripod and tethered to a laptop running Helicon Remote. The background is a drape of black velvet lit by filtered light from a bay window. I exposed 10 images of the left flower and 8 images of the right flower. The images were then separately focus-stacked in Helicon Focus. The two results were imported into Lightroom and minimally processed. Both photos were exported to Photoshop to check for artifacts on the black background and composited as one photo using layers.

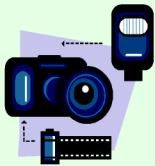
Helicon Focus, Helicon Soft: <http://www.heliconsoft.com/>  
Photoshop and Zerene Stacker can also perform the focus-stacking process.  
Zerene Stacker: <http://zerenesystems.com/>

Other focus-stacked flowers can be seen on my Flickr page:  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/mackimonoart/>

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## Upcoming Club Activities

**May 20, 2017 7:30 - 11:00 AM – Blackland Prairie Raptor Center** – This event is only held once a year and is a great time to take close up photos of the raptors at the Raptor Center. The handlers will have them out and available specifically for photographers. The cost is \$20/person if you pre-register or \$25 on the day of the event. You can get a preview of the Center at <http://www.bpraptorcenter.org>. Please send 5-7 of your photos by June 9<sup>th</sup> to [clubphotos@planophotographyclub.com](mailto:clubphotos@planophotographyclub.com) for the June club slide show.

**June 3, 2017 – PPC End of Year Party** – Setup begins at 5:30 and the party is from 6:00 to 8:15 PM in our regular meeting room at the church. Bring a side dish or dessert to share and the club will provide bar-b-q and drinks. Bring on a USB flash drive a 3-minute presentation of some of your photos — a trip, a photo study, photo essay, or whatever you enjoy sharing. (Photos should follow our contest guidelines for content.) We will also present the contest awards. Family members are welcome. Sign up at the May meeting.

**April 15-July 31, 2017 – Dallas Arboretum: ZimSculpt Exhibition** – The largest collection of Zimbabwean sculptures ever assembled for a US tour, over 100, are displayed throughout the Gardens. In addition to enjoying the sculptures, we will be challenged to capture these works of art with a photographer's perspective. Club guidelines for photographing another artist's work for the club competition states: "Images must be the creation of the photographer and not solely an image capture of another person's art work. If another person's art work is included in an image, the photographer must contribute further insight with compositional elements, such as unique lighting or perspective."

Please send 5-7 of your photos by July 14<sup>th</sup> to [clubphotos@planophotographyclub.com](mailto:clubphotos@planophotographyclub.com) for the July club slide show.

**November 17-19, 2017 – Fall Color Photography Trip to Beaver Bend State Park, Oklahoma** – The PPC is planning a weekend trip to one of Oklahoma's most popular state parks, Beavers Bend State Park, which offers miles of hiking trails and creeks.

Lodging: The PPC has a block of rooms at Hochatown County Lodge

6613 US 259, Broken Bow, OK 74728

580-494-6099

Rate: \$99 +\$9.16 tax, standard room, 2 queen beds

Make reservation by: June 8

There is a 72 hour cancellation fee for full refund.

Contact: [activities@planophotographyclub.com](mailto:activities@planophotographyclub.com)

## GSCCC Contest Winners

The Plano Photography Club was well represented in the Gulf States Camera Club Council (GSCCC) monthly competitions. The following were winners:

Pictorial Projected - Color

Jun-2016 The Eyes Have It - James Stover 3<sup>rd</sup>

Jun-2016 Pas De Deux - Nancy Mack 2<sup>nd</sup>

Aug-2016 Splash - James Stover 3<sup>rd</sup>

Oct-2016 Milky Way over the Grand Canyon - James Stover 3<sup>rd</sup>

Jan-2017 Sossusvlei Sunrise - Inge Johnsson HM- 2<sup>nd</sup>

Jan-2017 Rhythm of Green - Ming Yang HM-1<sup>st</sup>

Pictorial Projected - Mono

Aug-2016 Self Portrait - Don Champlin 2<sup>nd</sup>

Jan-2017 Labyrinth - Robin DeRouen HM-2<sup>nd</sup>

Nature Projected

Nov-2016 Early Morning Breakfast - Sharlott Hasty 3<sup>rd</sup>

Nov-2016 Joshua Trees at Sunset - Dennis Fritsche 1<sup>st</sup>

Feb-2017 Los Cuernos Falls - Inge Johnsson 3<sup>rd</sup>

PJ Projected

Jan-2017 Student in the Rain, Machu Picchu - Marea Downey 2<sup>nd</sup>

Congratulations to all the winners.

## Guest Speakers – "Compositing: Expand Your Creative Space" – Jim Christensen

Want to create images with more impact? Jim will demonstrate the power of compositing to completely change the mood of an image, and open-up your creative space to images that mix your imagination with your digital captures. He'll show examples and explain how to create them using Photoshop and filters from Topaz Labs. This talk will encourage you to imagine and create images with more impact.

Jim is a photographer, teacher, and speaker from the New York City area; a member and past president of the Westchester Photographic Society; founder of the annual Croton-on-Hudson Fall Arts Festival; and was the Artist in Residence at Acadia National Park in the spring of 2015. His work has been featured in galleries and other venues in NY and CT, and spans landscapes, night-scapes, wildlife, people (in the studio and on the sidewalks on NY), flowers, and abstracts. In addition he designs and builds one-of-a-kind mixed-media frames, and has a deep technical background in digital imaging theory and software as a result of his career as a research scientist at IBM where he created firmware and image processing software for one of the world's best (and first) digital colorimetric cameras (in the 1980's and 1990's). You can see some of his work on Facebook (where he's the Jim Christensen in Westchester NY), and on his website: [jimchristensenphotography.com](http://jimchristensenphotography.com).





## Promotions

At the end of the competition year, participants with the highest Total points (combined Image and Place points) in each level are invited to move to the next level. Those of you who have been promoted should have been contacted by Contest Chair. If there is an issue, please contact the Contest Chair at [contest@planophotographyclub.com](mailto:contest@planophotographyclub.com).

This year we recognize Jim Walsh and Valerie Johnson for their excellence as photographers and their service to the club. They have been promoted to the Masters Class. Congratulations to all participants who are advancing.

Note: promotion to Masters Class is based on the member's portfolio of work, both depth and breath, over several years, service to the club, and a demonstrated ability to teach and assist other club members. We invite members to become more involved in the club and to help all members improve their photographic skills.

## Larry Peterborg Show

Larry Peterborg is having a solo show entitled *A Closer Look: Parking Lot Abstractions and Artifacts*. The show is at the Brazos Gallery at Richland College from May 1<sup>st</sup> through May 19<sup>th</sup>. Gallery hours at 10 AM – 4 PM. There is an opening reception Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 6-8 PM and Larry would like as many PPC members as possible to attend the reception.

## Training Classes Starting May 2017

We will start a new set of classes at the May 18th meeting.

Most of the classes are open to anyone. However, two classes have size limits and you must enroll directly with the instructor. Placement is based on a first come basis.

Fundamentals - Bud Mallar [bmallar@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bmallar@sbcglobal.net)  
Lighting - John Lehman [drjlehman@aol.com](mailto:drjlehman@aol.com)

The "Open Topics" do not require registration or notification to the instructors – just show up.

## Dennis Fritsche PSA Third Place Winner

Dennis Fritsche's image, "Caddo Lake Rainbow", was awarded Third Place in the Photographic Society of America (PSA) Council's Challenge 2016 Color General competition. The image also won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the GSCCC Nature Projected Competition for November 2016. Congratulations!

According to Dennis "This photograph was made in January 2015 at Caddo Lake in far East Texas. Three of us hired a pontoon boat and guide to take us through the cypress forests to photograph wildlife and scenic. The leafless trees showed off the Spanish moss and tree shapes in the winter. We were in an area with vacation cabins and we came across this collection of brightly color chairs in the nearly colorless setting. I used a 70-200 f/4 lens at 200mm on a Nikon D810. The pontoon boat is fairly stable, but is always moving. I had the camera set to f/8, shutter speed of 1/320 second, -2 exposure compensation, and auto-ISO chose ISO 900. Minimal processing in Lightroom was required."





## March Winning Images – Decrepit, Ruined or Broken

### Masters

<b>Larry Petterborg</b>	Mouldy Oldies	15	1st
<b>Danette Volkmer</b>	Abandoned and Forgotten	14	2nd
<b>Linda Grigsby</b>	3 Old Clunkers	14	3rd
<b>Sharlott Hasty</b>	Abandoned Fishing Boat	13	HM
<b>Dennis Fritsche</b>	Visions of the Past	13	HM

### Advanced

<b>James Walsh</b>	Broken Window...Broken Room	14	1st
<b>Carol Barlow</b>	Mausoleum in Recoleta Cemetery	13	2nd
<b>Linfen Hwang</b>	This was where the big gun was	12	3rd

### Intermediate

<b>Nancy Mack</b>	Two Mums	15	1st,BoS
<b>Walter Brock</b>	Retired in the field	14	2nd
<b>Aaron Leshar</b>	Unrestorable	13	3rd
<b>Jack Hwang</b>	A Home is A Home	13	HM

### Entry

<b>Wenchi Lee</b>	Abandoned Diesel Gas Station	15	1st
<b>Alan Daniel</b>	Wagon Wheel	14	2nd
<b>Katherine Moulton</b>	Rusted	13	3rd



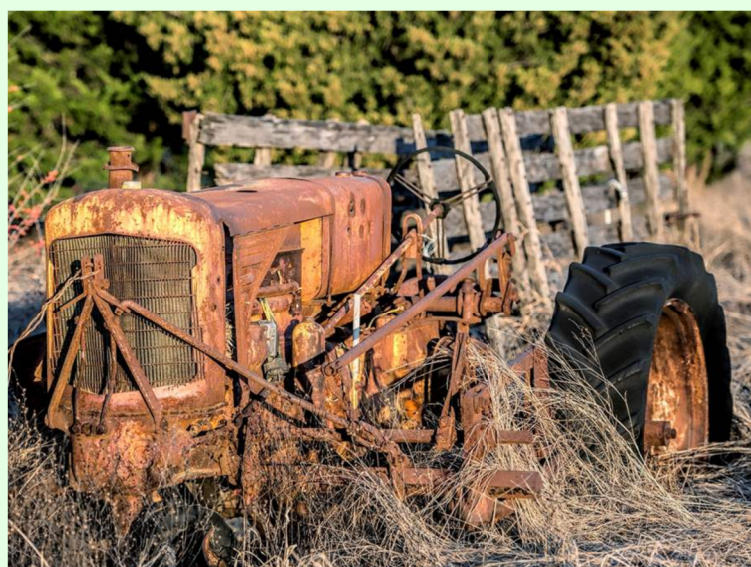
**Wenchi Lee**



**Alan Daniel**



**Katherine Moulton**



**Walter Brock**







Jack Hwang



Aaron Leshner



Carol Barlow



James Walsh



Linfen Hwang







Larry Petterborg



Danette Volkmer



Linda Grigsby



Sharlott Hasty



Dennis Fritsche





## Upcoming Competition Themes

June	Open	October (Print)	Open	February	Open	June	Open
July	Perspective	November	Cemeteries	March (Print)	On The Road	July	Motion
August	Open	December	No Contest	April	No Contest	August	Open
September	Geometric	January (2018)	Special effects	May	Diagonals	September	

## Competition Standings\*

Photographer	Image Points	Place Points	Total Points	Photographer	Image Points	Place Points	Total Points
<i>Entry</i>				<i>Advanced</i>			
Lee, Wenchi	118	58	176	Walsh, Jim	120	51	171
Johnsson, Carina	117	39	156	Johnson, Valerie	114	39	153
Daniel, Alan	106	33	139	Lin, Ron	102	31	133
Ratzlaff, Randy	95	21	116	Yang, Ming	99	27	126
Sarembock, Jeff	101	15	116	Barlow, Carol	107	19	126
Farmer, Denny	99	16	115	Spencer, Jim	102	22	124
Griffin, Lorretta	88	1	89	Hwang, Linfen	102	10	112
Moulton, Katherine	83	4	87	Schlesinger, Jerry	94	3	97
Wan, George	56	0	56				
Duggu, Krishna	38	6	44				
Wan, Ying-Bee	41	3	44	<i>Intermediate</i>			
Shang, Ping	36	4	40	Mack, Nancy	116	44	160
Barlow, Bruce	10	0	10	Leshner, Aaron	110	31	141
Cruise, Shannon	10	0	10	Brock, Walter	108	23	131
Bennett, Martha	9	0	9	Lin, Cathy	98	30	128
Kundumkar, Deepak	7	0	7	Stiles, Parvin	112	11	123
				Mangum, Joyce	101	14	115
				Davenport, Janet	103	8	111
<i>Masters</i>				Johnston, Leslie	95	12	107
Gribsby, Linda	122	43	165	Hwang, Jack	97	7	104
Petterborg, Larry	117	22	139	McKeen, David	89	9	98
Fritsche, Dennis	115	18	133	Dailey, Daniel	88	1	89
Artiles, Jose	108	18	126	Jaco, Sherry	77	0	77
Hasty, Ron	106	13	119	Losurdo, Michael	72	0	72
Lehman, John	104	14	118	Carroll, Vincent	71	1	72
Volkmer, Danette	102	12	114	Conard, Debbie	58	10	68
Champlin, Don	85	28	113	Blevins, Mary Jean	58	1	59
Carrick, Jen	98	12	110	Zumbar, Bryan	56	0	56
Staxen, Peter	97	7	104	Moulder, Retha	47	0	47
Wilson, Sam	98	4	102	Haynes, James	35	10	45
Hansen, Marie	100	2	102	Hytken, Louise	44	0	44
Hasty, Sharlott	100	1	101	Otto, Richard	36	3	39
Lehman, Lois	94	6	100	Rogers, Mark	36	0	36
Stover, James	89	0	89	Huntley, Guy	32	0	32
Edward, James	68	12	80	Warren, Lulu	30	0	30
Barlow, Bud	68	0	68	Bernthal, Mark	23	0	23
				McCallister, Thomas	18	0	18
				Gray, Paul	11	0	11
				Gardner, Paul	9	0	9
				DeRouen, Robin	7	0	7

**\* Annual 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards in each Class is based on Image Points. Photographer of the Year is based on Total Points.**







## President's Message: Hello Everyone

I will be back for the May meeting this month and the back surgery went well. I'm still waiting for results in the long term, which will still take a while to determine. I'll just have to wait and see. I did mention that we do have some new board members who have now started with us. At our most recent board meeting, it was apparent that they are going to do well as board members.

We are starting to set up a number of new activities that I think club members will enjoy. We also have some good presenters coming up in the next few months, so look for those. I am in process of getting the awards together for our end of year on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Don't forget to bring your slide shows of any recent work to show at the party. This is a good time to show other members what kind of work you have been up to, which doesn't always come across in the monthly contest shows. Looking forward to a new year, and seeing everyone at the party in June.

Richard Vestyck

### Plano Photography Club Officers & Volunteers

Title	Officers & Volunteers	Email Address
President	Richard Vestyck	<a href="mailto:ppc@planophotographyclub.com">ppc@planophotographyclub.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres./Secretary	Peter Staxen	<a href="mailto:secretary@planophotographyclub.com">secretary@planophotographyclub.com</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres./Programs	Aaron Leshar	<a href="mailto:programs@planophotographyclub.com">programs@planophotographyclub.com</a>
Activities	Mary Jean Blevins / Sam Wilson	<a href="mailto:activity@planophotographyclub.com">activity@planophotographyclub.com</a>
Membership	Greg Jones	<a href="mailto:membership@planophotographyclub.com">membership@planophotographyclub.com</a>
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Tabletop Equipment	Cindy Vaillancourt	<a href="mailto:table_top@planophotographyclub.com">table_top@planophotographyclub.com</a>
Slideshows	Lulu Warren	<a href="mailto:clubphotos@planophotographyclub.com">clubphotos@planophotographyclub.com</a>
Training	Dennis Frische	<a href="mailto:training@planophotographyclub.com">training@planophotographyclub.com</a>

### About The Club

The club meets the third Thursday of each month (no meeting in December) at West Plano Presbyterian Church 2709 Custer Road, Plano TX. Training sessions start at 6:00 PM and the main meeting starts at 7:15 PM. Visitors are welcome! Officers meet at 7 PM on the first Thursday of each month (except December) at our regular meeting location. Open to all members.

The club is a member of: *Gulf States Camera Club Council (GSCCC) & Photographic Society of America (PSA)*



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JAMES T STOVER

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EDITOR

