

HEARD

Nature Photographers

www.heardnaturephotographers.com



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November, 2016

PRESIDENT'S LETTER by Jim Ross

At our October meeting we recognized Larry Petterborg and Terree Stone with Honorary Life Membership awards! Both have made substantial, out of the ordinary contributions to our photo club for at least eight years.

Larry Petterborg has been an active member of the club since 2004. He has a real passion for nature photography both in the US and abroad. He has shared his work and tips for creating better images at multiple club meetings and tabletop workshops. For years he has gathered club images, tracked them in a library and submitted them on behalf of our club to the Gulf States contests. He did a great job as our Vice President. Each month he generates an excellent, colorful newsletter for our club, jammed full of photography tips and info! Thank you Larry!

Terree Stone has been an active member of the club since 2005. She also has a real passion for nature photography and has led many of us around the state taking photos! She is hard working – often supporting the behind the scenes tasks that make our photo club successful. Over the years she has lined-up many interesting presenters for our club as Vice President, organized and championed many exciting photo outings as our Field Trip Coordinator, and helped showcase the club's talent with her monthly "Just One Photo" presentations. Thank you Terree!



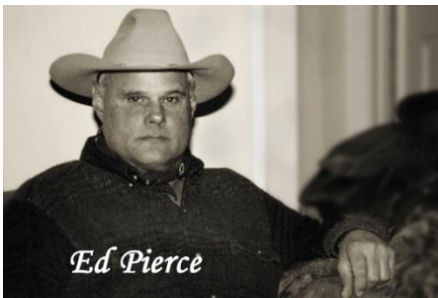
Honorary Life Membership – History

Several decades ago our club established the Honorary Life Membership award to recognize and honor members who had made substantial (out of the ordinary) contributions to the photo club and to nature photography, spanning over a number of years (in many cases 8 or more years). Since its inception, we have honored the following people with this award:

- 1) Ernestine Freeman, one of the early club members, who was an excellent photographer in her own right, but probably contributed more by encouraging others and by promoting the Photographic Society of America.
- 2) Dr. Harold Laughlin, founding director of the Heard Museum, who early-on recognized the value of nature photography. He was instrumental in the birthing and nurturing of the Heard Nature Photographers club and in starting the annual photography contest.
- 3) Harold Green, for his outstanding contributions to the club, including Newsletter Editor and Publisher, Treasurer and Secretary, for over two decades.
- 4) Kay Griffith, who served the club in many capacities including office positions and in helping with the photo contest.
- 5) Rob Hull, who served as President for a number of years, and who still runs our web site, Member's choice, MC's our Photo Contest, and for serving in many other ways.
- 6) Ron Marabito, served as our Field Trip Coordinator, presented numerous programs and field trip presentations, & who helps fellow club members to learn (awarded 1/2011).
- 7) Jim Ross, served as VP 1 year, President 7 years, and is our current President – mentor, cheerleader for our club, coordinated many behind the scene activities (awarded 2/2012).
- 8) Ed Pierce served as our Refreshments Coordinator for 12+ years, procured snacks and drinks, called members monthly to remind them of their commitment (awarded 3/2015).
- 9) Larry Petterborg, served as VP 2 years, Gulf States Camera Council Representative for 8 years, presented at meetings, is currently our Newsletter Editor (awarded 10/2016).
- 10) Terree Stone, served as Vice President 5 years, Field Trip Coordinator 3 years, Just One Photo Champion 3 years, coordinated many behind the scene efforts (awarded 10/2016).

Below are the November refreshment volunteers:

Anita Oakley, Tom Murto, & Peter Gilbert



Be sure to sign up at the next meeting to bring snacks to a future meeting. If you would prefer to just give some **money** for refreshments, that's ok too. Please make donations to the club by way of Ron Marabito, Treasurer. Thanks to all that contribute to making our meetings more enjoyable!

HEADS UP!!

In November we will accept Officer Nominations for the 2017 calendar year and in December will hold officer elections. A brief description of each office is provided below. Let us know if you are interested. Also, if you wish to nominate someone for a position, please feel to contact anyone on the board. Email addresses can be found at the end of this newsletter. The club is only as good as the volunteers that do the work. Join in.

HNPC OFFICER DISCRIPTIONS

President: Manage club affairs and allocate resources to help each office to be successful.

Vice President: Select / coordinate meeting presenters, venue, and oversee officer elections.

Secretary: Record Officer meeting minutes and document key internal club communications.

Treasurer: Manage the financial affairs of our club and keep an updated membership roster.

Membership Coordinator: Welcome new members and provide Name Badges.

Refreshments Coordinator: Organize and coordinate refreshments at monthly club meetings.

Field Trip Coordinator: Organize and coordinate Field Trips, Photo outings, and Learning events.

Contest Coordinator: Manage / coordinate the annual Photo Contest for the Heard Nature Center.

Webmaster: Update, maintain and manage the club's website.

Newsletter Editor: Champion generation / distribution of newsletter and club communications.

GSCCC Representative: Coordinate club's participation in the Gulf States Camera Club Council

Magnetic Name Badges

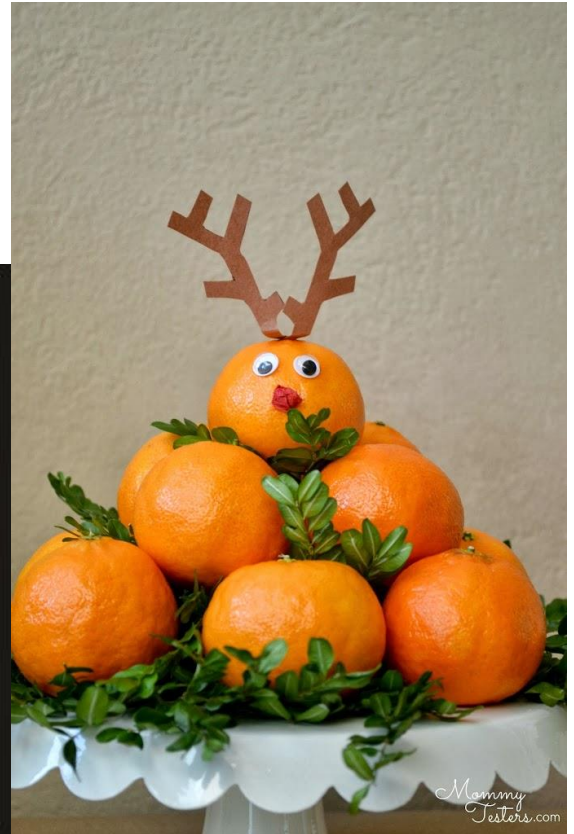
There appears to be 3 or 4 folks who have received their magnetic badges over the past few months, but have yet to pay the \$9 cost for them. If you could, **please pay Anita Oakley or Peter Gilbert** at the next meeting, thank you. In the future, new name badges must be paid for in advance of being ordered.



www.shutterstock.com - 212689939

“JUST ONE PHOTO” by Terree Stone

November & December



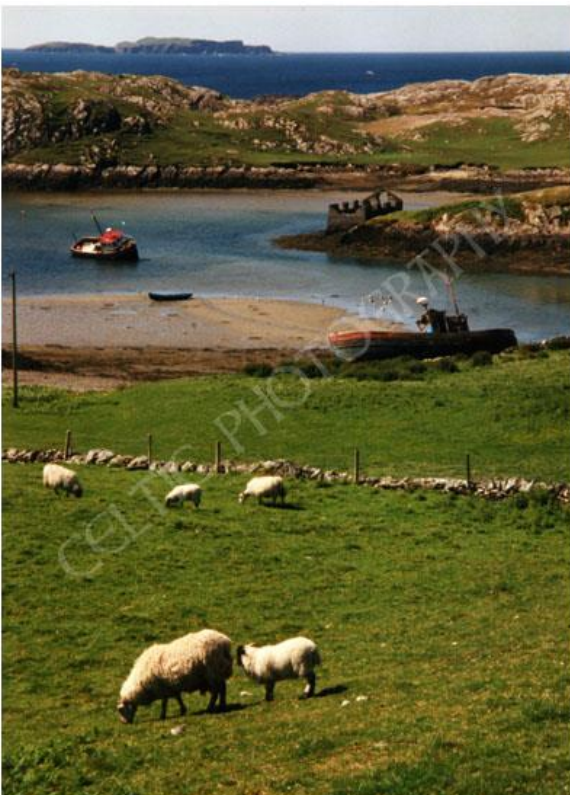
Since December's meeting will feature our **Member's Choice** contest, I decided to do a two month "One Photo" that we will show in January. This time of year seems to bring out the spirit of cooking and eating. There always seems to be a lot of goodies everywhere you look. Use your creativity to photograph **FOOD** – it can be the items before they become a delicious treat or the final product. Since it is a two month subject you can ***send me "TWO" photos***. I need the photos emailed to me by midnight of December 31st. You can put your name or initials on the photos if you'd like. This is not a contest to be judged, just an opportunity to show off your talent. **Make sure you send your photo in a ".jpg" format.** If it isn't in the .jpg format I can't use it. Email to: t.stone3@sbcglobal.net

*images from google free images

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

CRAIG SCOTLAND

Craig Scotland has traveled all over the world, seeing most of it through the lens of his camera. His eye for composition and detail can turn a lovely landscape into a dramatic, often inspiring piece of art. Craig was born in Dunfermline Scotland, he has traveled extensively, to Russia, Africa, and Europe before moving to Ireland in 1996. Craig has always been inspired by the beauty of nature, often capturing the offbeat and unusual or turning the ordinary into something extraordinary. Now living in Texas, Craig is enjoying discovering the beauty of his new home and chasing the light all over the United States.

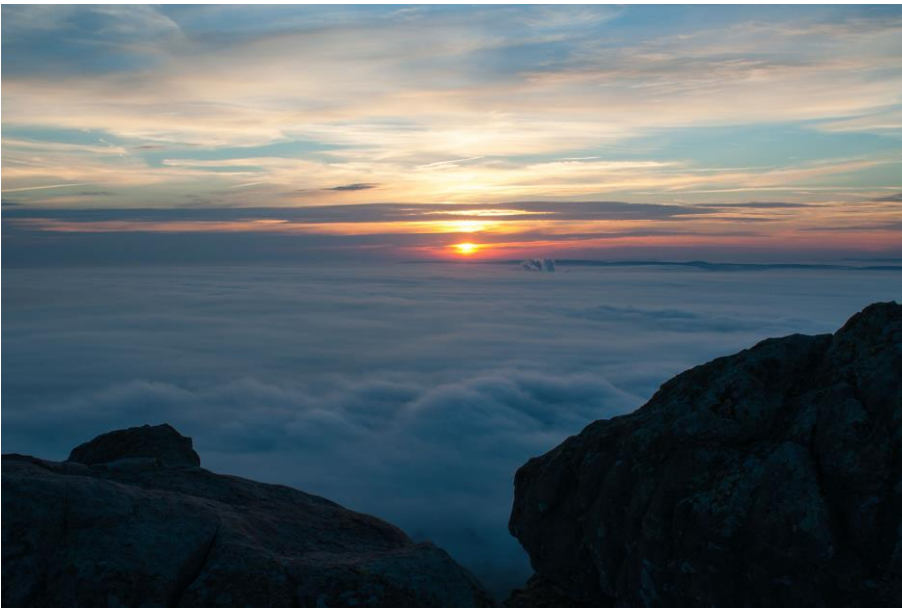


FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Petit Jean State Park, Arkansas Trip, October, 2016

Three club members visited Petit Jean State Park, Arkansas late in October: Nancy Koop, Liv Schad and Tom Heath. Nancy and Liv arrived on Monday and left Friday morning, I arrived on Tuesday and left Sunday morning. We were immediately disappointed as there was no fall color and the Cedar Falls was just a couple of thin streamers of water due the lack of rainfall recently. We decided to stay and work the trails for small interesting things. We were rewarded with great sunrises at Petit Jean Gravesite/Overlook and sunsets at the CCC Overlook on Red Bluff Drive. On Saturday I visited Holla Bend NWR that is about 15 miles west of Petit Jean SP. It was dry and dull as Petit Jean and it was too early in the season for the waterfowl to arrive. It was interesting that Dallas, Plano and Heard clubs were at Petit Jean this weekend so we had a lot of Texans at the sunrise and sunset locations.

Tom Heath



How to Take Lightning Shots

by Lee Hatfield



When lightning storms come our way many of us put our cameras away. Making sure you are in a safe area is a first concern with all storms and you should never take chances with your life or your camera gear just for a photo. However, when you are at a safe distance from lightning, taking photos of the storm can be rewarding and fun.

Gear

For the shots I took in the parking lot at Lake Elmer Thomas at the Wichita Mountains NWR, I set up my D800e Nikon camera with my Nikon 24-70mm lens on my tripod just outside my car window. I also connected my cable shutter release to my camera.

Composition

I adjusted my camera to be level with the horizon and for the best composition allowing for a few shrubs in the foreground and for reflections of the hills in the lake. I kept the lens nearly open all the way to 25mm to capture as much of the lake and the storm as possible.

Camera Settings

I initially set my shutter speed to take an image for 25 seconds (25" on the setting) but realized that it was still too light since the sun had not set behind the storms and changed it to 15 seconds (15") instead. I had my ISO at 100 and my aperture at f22 for maximum sharpness.

I moved my focal point to be about 1/3 of the way into the frame and after the first image, double-checked for sharpness by enlarging it to full size on the back of the camera. Then, being careful not to touch the already focused lens, I turned both my lens and camera to manual focus so neither of them would continue to try to focus with each shot.

Then I got back in the car with the window down and just kept using the cable release button to take images one after the other as the storm progressed across the area. I could hear when the shutter closed each time and pushed the cable release button immediately for the next shot.

I continued taking images until the lightning got too close and it began to rain.

Developing Images

I uploaded images to my computer and viewed them via Bridge software. I found three that I liked that had lightning strikes in various areas of each image.

I selected all three images at once (hold Alt Option/Shift for Mac while selecting each image).

Images do need to be sequential in your filmstrip and you can move them around in the filmstrip or just delete any you do not want before selecting your favorites.

Then, still in Bridge, under Tools, select Photoshop and then select Load Files in Photoshop Layers.

Once Photoshop opens, you should be able to see your three images in the Layers palette. Select all three images again, and then select Edit, Auto Align Layers. Once PS has completed the alignment, select Edit, Auto Blend Layers and Stack Images.

The final image will be a combination of your first three images and should show several lightning strikes. It is only at this point that I make any necessary adjustments in Levels, Shadows and Cropping, plus I add my Copyright line, trim line and borders.

FUTURE FIELD TRIPS

November 19, John Bunker Sands Wetlands, Seagoville, TX

We'll arrive at 9:00 a.m. when they open. Fee is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors.

For info: <http://www.wetlandcenter.com/index.html>

December 17, Japanese Gardens/Botanical Garden, Ft. Worth, TX

Should be great fall foliage opportunities.

Opens at 9:00 a.m., **no tripods**. Fee is \$7.00 for adults, \$5.00 for seniors.

Looking ahead for next year, if anyone is interested in visiting Grand Island, Nebraska next March to see and photograph the Sandhill and Whooping Cranes plus geese, check out this webpage: <http://www.nebraskaflyway.com/the-spring-migration-of-the-sandhill-cranes>
Check out the Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary, Kearney, Nebraska
<http://rowe.audubon.org/visit/plan-your-trip>. For a different experience: <http://cranetrust.org>

Please sign up for field trips in advance so that we know who plans to attend, leeatfield@me.com.

NORTH TEXAS NATURE NOTES

In this space, I plan to highlight things for North Texas nature photographers to see and do. Please feel free to send me items of interest to share with the club. Thanks.

1. Tips for winter photography: <https://www.dpreview.com/techniques/5439811667/winter-is-coming-here-are-some-tips-on-what-and-where-to-shoot-when-it-gets-cold?slide=7>
2. Comparing B&W processing programs: <http://www.lightstalking.com/silver-efex-pro-2-vs-lightroom/>
3. Tips for landscape photography: <http://digital-photography-school.com/pros-landscape-photography-tips/>
4. Online image critique: <http://petapixel.com/2016/10/08/keegan-online-photo-coach-critiques-photos/>
5. Need inspiration? Check out <https://thepanoawards.com/>
6. TEXAS PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY presents, FotoTexas: People, Places & Culture, Juried by Dan Burkholder, Hangs at Brazos Gallery, Richland College, Through November 11 in Dallas, Texas
7. From friend of the club and contest judge, Jeff Parker, <http://exploreinfoocus.com/>

7 Tips for Bosque del Apache

1 Time your trip right.

Bosque's big attraction is its huge numbers of wintering geese & cranes. Find them at the NWR mid-November through mid-February. However, as the season progresses, refuge managers cut back corn fields & by late-December the birds feed far from the road. That makes good photos tougher to get. An early-autumn visit can result in shots with cottonwood color, but often the bulk of the birds haven't yet arrived. And timing your trip for the turning of the leaves can prove tricky.

2 Crowd control.

Bosque belongs on many a bucket list. That means peak season crowds can be big. Being part of a tour helps minimize some crowd-induced stress since your leader will know just where you need to go & how to jockey for position. The refuge/region hosts an annual Festival of the Cranes during prime photography time --- festival's fun, but super crowded. Doing Bosque in January or February might help avoid some of the masses, but you also won't get the best bird action nor witness the dramatically large flocks.

3 Reserve lodging far ahead of time.

Socorro --- about a 20 minute drive from Bosque --- is your best bet for lodging. Hotels there fill quickly for the autumn peak season so if you're planning a Bosque trip book that room early! When you do, ask when breakfast is served (*most now offer free breakfast*). You want your tripod in place on the refuge long before sunrise. Many hotels do not start serving breakfast until 7:00 a.m.--- that's way too late. (*Mary O. treats our clients to coffee & hot cocoa on site to help keep you warm while waiting for sunrise.*)

4 Prepare for the cold.

Get the very most from your Bosque experience by getting set up for dawn's "blast off" while it's still pitch dark. Winter in the high New Mexican desert typically means morning temps in the teens. Even if you use a carbon fiber tripod like me (*helps reduce cold transmission*) your

equipment will still convey the cold after hours out there shooting so gloves are crucial! You want a pair that protects from the cold while allowing you to quickly adjust settings. Dress in layers so you can unpeel as the weather warms. Afternoon temps usually rise at least into the 50s.

5 Bone up on your flight photography skills.

Want to perfect your flight photography skills? Bosque's the place to do it! Just a couple days on the refuge provides countless opportunities. And don't stop when that light fades as slower shutter speeds & panning with the subject can yield some surprising results.

(LEARN MORE: [7 Tips for Flight Photography](#))

6 Know bird behavior.

The more you know about the birds you'll photograph at Bosque del Apache the more prepared you'll be to capture the moments that create the best images. Examples: birds take off & land into the wind; ducks usually give a photogenic wing flap after bathing; and, of course, there's that lean cranes do just as they're about to take off.

7 Don't overlook Bosque's other photo-worthy subjects.

Bosque's Canadian Geese & Sandhill Cranes may star in its show, but the refuge provides many other great photo subjects, too. Wildlife abounds here including: waterfowl, raptors, song birds, roadrunners, Gambel's Quail, coyotes (*donning gorgeous winter coats!*), mule deer, & bobcats. Its landscapes --- especially those dramatic sunrises! --- result in the sorts of images that make great wall canvases.

2017 ANNUAL HEARD NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST: February 4 – 26, 2017

Calling all nature photographers! Just a reminder that we are quickly approaching the 2017 nature photography contest with plenty of time left to review your past images and to plan future photography outings. Wondering what to submit? The categories for the Adult and Youth Divisions are listed on the last pages of this newsletter and are available on our website (www.heardnaturephotographers.com). As always, there are lots of choices!

With 2017 submissions being accepted between February 4 and February 26, detailed contest information on the website is ready for your review now. There's even a page explaining how to prepare your images for submission (especially the part about metadata). Please review this information before submitting images. Metadata is especially important for those of us who prepare the images for the award presentation and for displaying images on the website.

Quick note though: the actual page for submitting images won't be showing until February 4 !!!

If you have questions about the contest, please contact anyone on the contest committee: Ron Marabito, Peter Gilbert, Terree Stone, Anita Oakley, Jackie Ranney, Mary Binford or Rob Hull.



<http://www.psa-photo.org/>

<http://www.gulfstatesccc.org/>

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Jim Ross
Co -Vice – President: Terree Stone
Co -Vice – President: Anita Oakley
Secretary: Peter Gilbert
Treasurer: Ron Marabito
Membership: Peter Gilbert
Refreshments - Ed Pierce
Field Trips – Lee Hatfield
Field Trips: Jack Harrison
Field Trips: Jack Twiggs
Contest Coordinator: Jackie Ranney
Webmaster: Rob Hull
Newsletter Editor: Larry Petterborg
GSCCC Representative: Larry Petterborg

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lpetterborg@gmail.com

Monthly Meeting

NOVEMBER 12, 2016

1:30 PM

Heard Natural Science Museum
1 Nature Place
McKinney, TX

<http://www.heardnaturephotographers.com/>.

CONTEST CATEGORIES – ADULT DIVISIONS

- Adult - Beginner/Intermediate
- Adult - Advanced
Comfortable with the technical aspects of the camera. Proficient in the concepts of composition, exposure, lighting and post-processing techniques for creating images. May be skillful in more than one genre of photography (for example: landscape, portrait, macro, photojournalism, still life, etc.)

Note: There is no limit to the number of submissions but payment must be received via PayPal within 72 hours of PayPal Invoice. Checks and cash will not be accepted.

NOTE: In all categories, the “hand of man” is acceptable as long as it is incidental and not the subject of the image.

Please note that the Youth Division categories are listed separately and are not all the same as the Adult Division categories.

ANIMALS - CAPTIVE

Images of animals in a controlled setting (i.e. farm, zoo, ranch, etc.). May include mammals, marine life, reptiles and amphibians. Does not include pets.

ANIMALS - WILD

Non-captive animals.

BIRDS

Wild or captive birds.

CREATIVE INTERPRETATION

Nature-related images intended to express the photographer’s impression of the subject (i.e. creative blurs, abstract and digital manipulation.) Not to be judged on amount of manipulation but on artistic end result.

FLORAL

Images of natural or cultivated flowers, plants or gardens.

INSECTS, BUTTERFLIES & ARACHNIDS

Wild or captive insects, butterflies and arachnids.

ABSTRACTIONS IN NATURE

Naturally occurring patterns, lines, shapes and forms of animals, objects, or plants in nature; also may include macro and extreme close-up images in cases where the patterns, lines, shapes, etc. are the principal subject.

SCENICS

Expansive views that may include landscapes, cloudscapes, mountains, forests, deserts, etc. Nature should be the subject of the image.

WATERSCAPES

Images primarily featuring water such as seascapes, oceans, waterfalls, lakes, streams and rivers. Water is to be the primary subject.

BLACK & WHITE (New category!)

Black & white images of any nature subject consistent with any of the other contest categories.

FEES

Adult - Beginner/Intermediate – \$10 for each image

Adult - Advanced - \$10 for each image

Note: It is the responsibility of the photographer to read through the category descriptions carefully and to choose the appropriate category for each image. Keep in mind that the image could fit into more than one category. The photographer’s selection will be final. Anything not meeting the criteria will be ineligible for judging

CONTEST CATEGORIES – YOUTH DIVISIONS

- **Junior Youth** – Up to age 14
- **Senior Youth** – Age 15 - 18

Note: There is no limit to the number of submissions but payment must be received via PayPal within 72 hours of submission. Checks and cash will not be accepted.

NOTE: In all categories, the “hand of man” is acceptable as long as it is incidental and not the subject of the image.

Please note that the Adult Division Categories are listed separately and are not all the same as the Youth Division Categories.

ANIMALS (including Pets)

Images of animals in a controlled setting (i.e. farm, zoo, ranch, etc.). May include mammals, marine life, reptiles and amphibians

ANIMALS – WILD

Non-captive animals.

BIRDS

Wild or captive birds.

CREATIVE INTERPRETATION

Nature-related images intended to express the photographer’s impression of the subject (i.e. creative blurs, abstract and digital manipulation.) Not to be judged on amount of manipulation but on artistic end result.

FLORAL

Images of natural or cultivated flowers, plants or gardens.

INSECTS, BUTTERFLIES & ARACHNIDS

Wild or captive insects, butterflies and arachnids.

WATERSCAPES & SCENICS

Expansive views that may include seascapes, oceans, waterfalls, lakes, streams, rivers, landscapes, cloudscapes, mountains, forests, deserts, etc. Nature should be the subject of the image.

BLACK & WHITE (New category!)

Black & white images of any nature subject consistent with any of the other contest categories.

FEES

Youth Junior/Youth Senior - \$5 for each image

Note: It is the responsibility of the photographer to read through the category descriptions carefully and to choose the appropriate category for each image. Keep in mind that the image could fit into more than one category. The photographer’s selection will be final. Anything not meeting the criteria will be ineligible for judging.