



REFLEX NEWS

Houston Photochrome Club
Volume XLII No.4
www.houstonphotochromeclub.org

April 2009

PROGRAM for APRIL Photographing Tropical Birds By Katy Adams Clark



Kathy Adams Clark will present April's program on photographing tropical birds. Photographing birds in the tropics holds some real challenges and she'll talk about those challenges and how to overcome them. She will also discuss what the tropics does to equipment and how to protect it.

Kathy has been a professional nature photographer since 1995.

She runs a stock agency that represents the work of fifteen outstanding nature photographers. Her work has been published in many places including the covers of Texas Parks & Wildlife and Texas Highways, Nature's Best, New York Times, and Birder's World. Her photos have also appeared in a numerous books and calendars. Her photos appear every week in the "Nature" column in the Houston Chronicle written by her husband, Gary Clark. Kathy and Gary have published four books and have two more in the works that combine their photography and writing skills.

Kathy teaches photography at local and national events. She will lead photo workshops to Costa Rica, Ecuador, and other locations through Strabo Tours.

Kathy is Past-president of the North American Nature Photography Association

In addition to presenting the program Kathy will also be the sole judge of the April competition.

We will meet on Thursday April 9 at 7:00 PM at the Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Drive, which is one block inside Beltway 8 between Westpark, and Richmond.

Scott Brooks

Suggestions Needed for Banquet Venue

Our club president is seeking suggestions for the venue for the annual banquet in September.

The basic requirements:

- Good food and adult beverages
 - Per person dinner prices (non vegetarian) in the \$30 to \$50 range inclusive of tax and gratuity
 - Menu should have some variety, and include low-fat and vegetarian choices.
 - Seating capacity for 60 (just in case we double our attendance from last year.)
 - Ability to darken the banquet room separately from the main dining room.
 - Room should have the floor plan dimensions and access to an electrical outlet that will enable the projection and viewing of the contest images.
- Minimal sound transmission from adjacent dining areas.

Please submit your suggestions to Mark Farrior by April 10.

April Field Trip

Thanks to the dedication of the members of the Audubon Society, despite the devastation that the place took from Hurricane Ike, after the clean up work they did, yes, the egrets and the roseate spoonbills are back at the Smith Oaks Rookery in High Island, so we are going there for our April field trip. Here is a link to the rookery:

<http://www.houstonaudubon.org/index.cfm/MenuItemID/369.htm>

Click on the 'Map' link, and it will give you direction in addition to the map of the area. There is a \$5 admission fee to the rookery.

We will go on **Saturday** afternoon April 11th. High Island is anywhere from 1.5 to 2 hours from Houston – depending on where you live. For those that would like to share a ride, we can meet at the Northwest Transit Center at 1:00 p.m. and leave some of our cars at the Transit Center parking lot. Here is the link to the Transit Center:

<http://www.ridemetro.org/SchedulesMaps/TransitCenter/NorthWest.aspx>

It takes about 1.5 hours from there to High Island, so for those that want to go directly on their own, we can meet at the Rookery parking lot around 2:30. Remember to bring your bug spray also!



Roseate Spoonbills at High Island .(Site for April Field Trip}
By Eric Westling

MARCH FIELD TRIP REPORT

**BY Philip Tan,
Field Trip Chairman**

Well, I have to say that the zoo trip was not too successful. The weather was pretty bad, it was cloudy all morning long, with prediction of rain, that actually came around noon. Only Joe Smith, Ernie Wales and myself showed up for the field trip.

We did get some drops during our trip, but not heavy enough to stop us. It was rather cool and damp; and I learned a lesson: don't go into the tropical bird house when the weather is cold outside! My lens fogged up, and my filter actually was dripping wet!

Some of the animal was active enough, except for the birds in the duck pond area. The meerkats kept going back and forth into their burrows, not staying outside for very long. It seems that our field trips had met resistance from mother nature lately!

Philip

March Field Trip Photo by Philip Tan



Workshop for April

Photography As a Tool for Marketing By Henrique Baldwin

Henrique C. Baldwin will present a fresh look at photography as a tool of marketing and selling real estate. He will talk about how he prepares for his shots, share the do's and don'ts of real estate photography and showcase some of his works

**“things I would want to get across are:
how difficult it is to have quality photos;
how they can make a listing stand out;
basic techniques I use and equipment I
use”. ~ Henrique**

The first step is to take better photos so you can showcase the property better than the competition.

Take control of your photos and have them work for you and your marketing. Pictures are what everyone sees first. Have good ones. They help you serve your client.

These techniques can be used to improve all your architectural photography.

Henrique's work can be viewed on the web at <http://albums.phanfare.com/7552734/3563507#imageID=64017840>

March Workshop Report

There was good attendance when Bill Burychka presented his workshop on using flash in which he presented several methods for using various soft boxes and angles of bounced light to produce pleasing results. Using his computer and projector with direct connection to the camera he was able to graphically demonstrate the effects both pro and con of each method demonstrated to the group.

Emphasis was on methods that can be used without an assistant, including camera brackets and the effect that brackets have on flash control. He also showed some good and not so good small on-flash attachments which are on the market.

ATTENTION:

All Competition Participants

Images **must** be submitted according to club guidelines or your image may not be included in the the monthly competition. Please follow the sizing instructions carefully:

A horizontal image cannot be longer than **1024 pixels along the horizontal side**;

A vertical image cannot be longer than **768 pixels along the vertical side**.

(Vertical images cannot be sized 1024 pixels along the vertical side!)

The size of the JPEG image needs to be **300 KB or smaller**. Rename the image according to the guidelines below

It is important that the guidelines for naming files be followed when submitting images for the monthly competitions otherwise you run the risk of not being credited with your entries. Images that are not easily identified will be discarded.

To refresh your memory the file labels should have the category initials first, image name second and the last name and first initial last. For example:
A Nature Assignment of birds by John Brown would appear as

NA_Bird_BrownJ.jpg

First names only, nicknames or initials will not suffice for identification.

Also, use the shortest **title** possible when naming slides.

Full guidelines are found in both the 2008 and 2009 Membership Directories.

MARCH 2009 COMPETITION

Due to technical difficulties, the competition for March has been delayed until the May meeting.

COMPETITION ASSIGNMENTS APRIL 2009

Nature Leading Lines – Submit a composition that leads the viewer's eye into the picture with its linear perspective or diagonal lines of elements within it.

Pictorial Birds – Have you ever wanted to submit into competition that shot you have of a bald eagle nesting next to your chimney? Well here is your chance. Any bird or groups of birds in any setting are eligible entries. Being in a pictorial category, domesticated or birds in the wild may be submitted as subject matter. As with all pictorial assignments, the hand of man may be included in the competition.

Looking ahead to MAY

Nature —Fog/Mist/Dew/Rain

Create an image with one or more of these as either subject matter (example: reflections in dew drops) or as the environment for the subject matter (example: a stand of trees in the fog). As with all nature competition submissions, people, evidence of the "hand of man", domesticated animals, cultivated flowers or cultivated plants cannot be visible in your entries.

Pictorial -Landscapes – This is an expansive view of inland scenery. This is a pictorial category, so people, man made things, and evidence of the "hand of man" may be included in the composition.

Deadline for digital submission...

All digital entries must be submitted to [Cliff Segerstrom cseger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cseger@sbcglobal.net) by April 5. Entries received after that will not be eligible for April competition.

COMPETITION ASSIGNMENTS 2009

	Nature	Pictorial
April	Leading Lines	Birds
May	Fog/Mist/Dew/Rain	Landscapes
June	Wildflowers	Backyard
July	Cacti	Spot of Red
August	Backlit/ Silhouette	Blurred
September	Patterns & Textures	Lights at Night
October	Seascapes	Sunrise/Sunset
November	Landscapes with Wildlife	People at Work
December	Natural Sculptures	Montage/Manipulation

Interclub Results

GSCCC Interclub Competition, February 2009, Nature Projected Lions Field Camera Club

Image Title	Maker	Score
Paradise Divide in Clouds	Cox, Cindy	13
Butterfly	Tan, Phillip	13
Dysdercus Mimulus	Sewell, Carmen	11
Cranes at Take off	Smith, Joe	11

MEMBER SHOWCASE



Top Left: **Pink Cactus** by Jane Ashley

Bottom Left: **Downtown Church**
by Henrique Baldwin

Top Right: **Cambodian Dancer**
by Carmen Sewell

Bottom Right: **Lighthouse**
by Helen Weng Pan



Each month Reflex News will publish some of our members favorite shots in the Members Showcase.

Requirements for submission are found on page 11 of this issue.



MEMBER SHOWCASE



Top Left: **Spoonbills Dancing**
by Jerry Pan

Bottom Left: **Monument Valley**
by Cliff Segerstrom

Top Right: **Walk on the Wildside**
By Downs Matthews

Mid Right: **Cardinal** by Joe Smith

Bottom right: **Lolita and Bebo**
by Ninfa Palazzolo



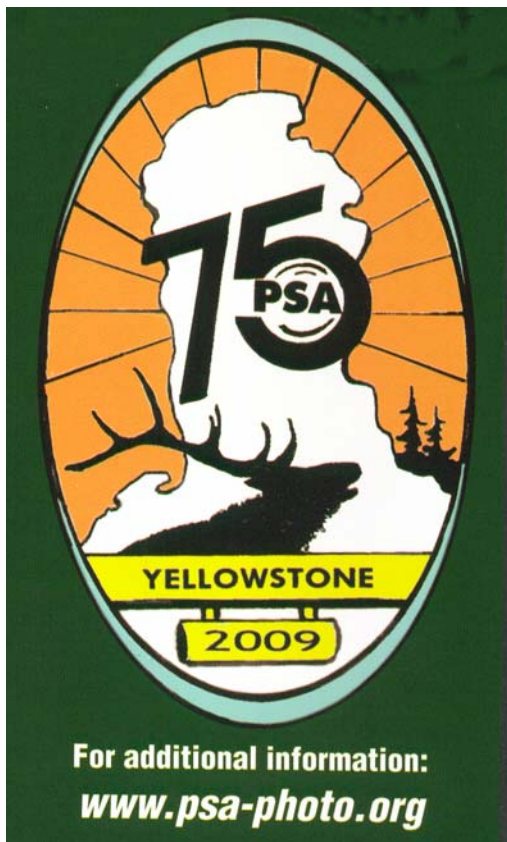
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PSA IS 75

PSA will be celebrating its 75th anniversary at the Annual Conference at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort in West Yellowstone, Montana September 20-26, 2009.

The conference will include Photo showcases and PSA Division programs, tours to the marvels of Yellowstone National Park, classes and the PSA International Exhibition. Speakers will include John and Barbara Gerlach, George Lepp, Julieanne Kost, Barry Wilkins and Jill Sneesby and Art Wolfe.

The time to start making your plans is now. More information at www.psa-photo.org



New from PSA

Beginning April 1st Color Projected Image Division will be starting an Individual Portrait Competition.

For each competition there will be an award for the Best Female and the Best Male Portrait Award plus 2nd and 3rd place and HM's. The cost is FREE this year!!! The Fee for this competition this year has been waived for the 75th Anniversary of PSA!! You must be a PSA Member to enter.

The Limit is two entries per person per competition. Entry size is 1024 x 768 with the height no larger than 768 px; width 1024 px.

The competitions will be held this year on April 1st, June 1st, and August 1st. Selected Winning Images will be available to be viewed at the Yellowstone Conference in September.

Entries are to be sent via link online. Please contact

Susan Cowles @ photosby-susan@charter.net for more information.

Entries need to be submitted by April 1st.

Visitors and New Members

We were delighted to have four visitors at the March Meeting. Our visitors, Pat Mahoney and Wendy Creasey joined as Houston Photochrom Club Members at the meeting.

Two other visitors are Done Delong and Anita Hernandez, wife of our speaker Carlos Hernandez. We hope you will come back soon. *Helen Weng-Pan*

Cookies For April

Charles T Edwards

IMAGES WANTED Your Favorite Shot

Pick a shot you would like to share with the club and email it to me. It need not have been entered into competition, in fact, this is the venue for those good images that don't fit a category. Submit no more than **one image per month per member**, please. Each month up to six images, dependent upon available space, from the submitted images will be selected and published in the newsletter. If your favorite doesn't get published right away and you really would like to see in print (or online) feel free to request that it be considered again the next month. Deadline is the 20th of each month.

Carmen Sewell, Editor



**Houston Photochrome Club is a member of
the Gulf States Camera Club Council and the
Photographic Society of America**