



REFLEX NEWS

Houston Photochrome Club

Volume XLII No.2

February 2009

www.houstonphotochromeclub.org

PROGRAM for FEBRUARY BOSQUE del APACHE By Joe Smith

Bosque del Apache is one of the most spectacular national wildlife refuges in North America. Tens of thousands of birds—including sandhill cranes, Arctic geese, and many kinds of ducks—gather each autumn and stay through the winter. Snow geese erupt in explosions of wings each morning and when frightened by a stalking coyote. At dusk, flight after flight of geese and cranes return to roost. All of these activities are easily observable and can be photographed at the refuge.

The Refuge is located along the Rio Grande



Sandhill Cranes

Photo by Joe Smith

River, about 20 miles south of Socorro, New Mexico. The heart of the Refuge is about 12,900 acres of moist bottomlands--3,800 acres are active floodplain of the Rio Grande and 9,100 acres are areas where water is diverted to create extensive wetlands, farmlands, and riparian forests. The rest of Bosque del Apache NWR is made up of arid foothills and mesas, which rise to the Chupadera Mountains on the west and the San Pascual Mountains on the east. Most of these desert lands are preserved as wilderness areas.



Snow Geese

Photo by Joe Smith

Come and see a digital slide show of Joe Smith's images from his December 2008 trip to the refuge. You will see sunrises, including pre glow, crane take offs, flight shots, and other interesting images. Photography is especially good this year as the refuge allowed volunteers to cut down brush in key locations affording excellent photographic opportunities.

We will meet on Thursday February 12 at 7:00 PM at the Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 West-center Drive, which is one block inside Beltway 8 between Westpark, and Richmond. *Scott Brooks*

Visitors and New Members

We were delighted to have Sigi Lavella and Grace Hewett visit with us at the January meeting.

We hope you will come back again soon.

JANUARY FIELD TRIP REPORT

Bayland Nature Center

Generally, our January field trip was not too successful – the weather just refused to cooperate. A few of us decided to go on to Anahuac, and the weather front just followed us – it was raining. We did see what Ike did to the visitor center: the front side is gone and the visitor center is no more.

One of us was smarter: Ed Printz decided to go back to the Baytown Nature Center and was rewarded with a much better weather and saw a lot of birds. So we have to go back to the Nature Center sometime in the future and hopefully the weather will be better.

Also, for a few of us that went to the Bayland Marina to take the bridge picture, there was a nice sunrise on the Ship Channel, but the bridge itself was covered in mist.



Osprey

by Ed Prinz

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP

Weekend of February 13-14-15

Rockport and Choke Canyon

As mentioned in the January newsletter, we will be going to Rockport for our February field trip on Friday February the 13th, going on a boat trip aboard the Skimmer on Saturday the 14th at 7:30 to look for the whooping cranes, stay another night and drive back to Houston on Sunday the 15th. The Houston Camera Club also will be going to Rockport on the same weekend, and they have been able to secure a lower rate for us, but as of January the 23rd, they only had 10 rooms left. I have sent emails to everybody on the 23rd, and those of us that decided to go have made our reservations for the hotel and the boat trip at this time, but if anybody still wants to go, here again is the link to the hotel where we will be staying:

<http://www.lagunareef.com/reservation.htm>

Ask to talk to Allison and see if they still have any room available, please remember that there is a 72 hour cancellation policy. We have also reserve the boat trip -

<http://www.whoopingcranetours.com/3.html>

and this one has a 24 hours cancellation policy. Hope to see more of you in Rockport.

The Houston Camera Club is also going to Choke Canyon the same weekend. If you would like to go also the rate at the Best Western in Three Rivers is \$85, plus tax and again under the Houston Camera Club rate-with a 48 hour cancellation. Their number is 1-800-248-1057.

Philip Tan



Egret

by Ed Prinz

Workshop for February LIGHTING WITH FLASH

By Bill Burychka

With some recent digital cameras offering ISO settings up to 25,600 ISO, one might think the need for flash is about to become a thing of the past. Indeed, that day may be coming, but it's not here yet, and there are many occasions where we need to supplement available light with a controllable light source.

A built-in or popup flash is one option, but these are limited in both power and flexibility, so most of us resort to an external flash attachment, usually made by the maker of our camera, and we proceed to become disappointed with the results. Some photographers use a flash attached to a stand and bounced by an umbrella, triggered by wireless infrared or radio transmitters. That approach can yield excellent results but is bulky to set up, tedious to carry, and pretty much immobile.

We've also seen what can be done in a studio, and many favor the control and power offered by a studio setup. For most of us, though, neither of those options are available or practical most of the time, and for most occasions, so we use an external flash attached to a camera, and we would like to get better results than we do with that most portable--and challenging--of lighting systems.

That brings us to our workshop/lab. I have spent several years and a couple hundred dollars looking for the ultimate flash add-on. While I have yet to find it, I have tried many of these add-ons as well as various techniques for plain and modified flash, but I've never actually set up laboratory conditions to compare them, so that's just what we're going to do.

We'll need only three volunteers for our group subjects. I'll provide the camera, tripod and external flash--Canon 20D and 580EX--and some modifiers (see below). One by one, we'll take the exact same shot with the various options available. I'll provide a note paper for recording the various options we test and the filenames of the test results. After running the tests, we'll look at and discuss the results projected on a screen.

What I'll bring in addition to camera and flash:

- Sto-fen diffuser
- Lumiquest mini softbox
- Lumiquest softbox
- Lumiquest 80/20 reflector
- Lightsphere (knockoff)
- Stroboframe Press-T flip bracket and
- Canon off-camera cord

What you need to bring: a clipboard or something else to write on and a pencil and any questions you may want to present to the group. Also, anyone who brings along a USB flash drive can take copies of the files to study the results later. Our objective is to figure out a good one-person, totally portable flash system, one that a person could carry around at a party, reception, or other event without an assistant.

Bill Burychka

A REMINDER

To all competition participants.:

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.

JANUARY 2009 COMPETITION

Judges: : Joe Smith, Carmen Sewell, Eric Westling

Nature Assignment – Butterflies or Moths

Butterfly	Philip Tan	22.0
Ethereal Swallowtail	Joe Smith	19.5
Butterfly 2	Eric Westling	19.5
Monarch	Scott Meyer	19.0
Butterfly	Cliff Segerstrom	18.0
Butterfly to Be	Jane Ashley	17.0
Many Colors	John Breaux	17.0
Butterfly 3665	Carmen Sewell	16.5
PeekABoo	Donna Boyer	14.0
Peckerwood Garden	Ninfa Palazzolo	14.0
I'm Going to Fly	Ron Towe	14.0
11 entries	17.3 avg.	

Nature General

Snake	John Breaux	22.0
Sandhill Cranes	Cindy Cox	22.0
Symmetry at Take Off	Joe Smith	21.0
Bull Elk in Grass	Jane Ashley	20.0
Sandhill 4769	Charleen Baugh	20.0
Flying Sandhill Cranes	Jerry Pan	20.0
Sandhill Cranes	Don Pederson	19.0
Bosque Sunrise	Charleen Baugh	18.0
Mohave Point Sunset	Scott Meyer	18.0
Crane in Grass	Joe Smith	18.0
Fast Food	Eric Westling	18.0
11 entries	19.6 avg.	

Pictorial Assignment-- Doors/Window

Stein on Rhine	Cliff Segerstrom	21.0
Garden Door	Carl Tonberg	21.0
Eye Window	Wendy Geng	20.0
Window in Door	Eric Westling	19.5
Temple Door	Helen Weng Pan	19.0
Pink Door	John Breaux	19.0
Santa Fe Window	Don Pederson	19.0
Swiss Window 0790	D.Segerstrom	19.0
Door 0706	Charleen Baugh	18.0
Venice Windows	Donna Boyer	18.0
Temple Door	Jerry Pan	18.0
Red Door	Ninfa Palazzolo	17.0
Church Door	Ron Towe	17.0
Door	Jennifer Wen	17.0
Blue Door with Pot	Carmen Sewell	16.5
Dog in Window	Jane Ashley	15.0
Tiled Mesilla Windows	Philip Tan	14.0
17 entries	18.1 avg.	

Pictorial General

The Landing	Cindy Cox	22.0
Ashcroft Hotel	Scott Meyer	21.0
Old Faithful	Jerry Pan	21.0
90 HP Wake	Don Pederson	20.0
Ready to Board 4734	D.Segerstrom	20.0
Red Door	Carmen Sewell	19.5
Bless the Children	Wendy Geng	19.0
Tulips	Helen Weng Pan	19.0
St. Mary's	Mark Farrior	18.0
Christmas Tamales	Mark Farrior	18.0
Water Lily 1	Wendy Geng	18.0
Dancers	Helen Weng Pan	18.0
Big Advertisement	Ron Towe	18.0
The Great Wall	Jennifer Wen	18.0
Venice House Reflections	Jennifer Wen	18.0
Oakland Bridge	Donna Boyer	17.0
Annisquam Lighthouse	Nina Palazzolo	17.0
Abandoned 4549	Dianne Segerstrom	17.0
Butterfly and Bee	Cliff Segerstrom	17.0

19 entries

18.7 avg.

Black & White

Church and Rail Fence	Jane Ashley	21.0
Louvre	John Breaux	21.0
Snowy Egret	Scott Meyer	20.0
Church Windows	Ninfa Palazzolo	20.0
Bristlecone 5134	Dianne Segerstrom	20.0
Malta Alley	Carmen Sewell	19.5
Ancient Mansion	Helen Weng Pan	19.0
Hidden Eyes	Charleen Baugh	18.0
Take Off at Dawn	Joe Smith	18.0
Resting	Ron Towe	13.0
10 entries	18.9 avg.	

February Assignments

Nature – Insects/Spiders
Pictorial – Still Life/Table Top

Jan. 09 entries – 68

Jan. 09 Ave. – 18.5

Cookies For February

Donna Dexter

COMPETITION ASSIGNMENTS

January 2009

Nature — Insects and Spiders: The best way to get the most visual impact with these subjects is to capture these creatures close up and in their natural environment.

Pictorial — Still Life/ Table Top: This should depict mostly inanimate subject matter, typically commonplace objects which may be either natural (food, flowers, shells, etc.) or man-made (drinking glasses, books, vases,) in an artificial setting.

The emphasis in these images should be on composition and lighting of the inanimate objects.

Looking ahead to March

Nature —Sunrise/Sunset Capture the beauty of the rising or setting of the sun and its effects on the clouds and sky. People, manmade things or evidence of the “hand of man” should not be visible in the image.

Pictorial— Sidelighting – Submit images where the light illuminates your subject from its side; at approximately 90 degrees to the line of your lens. Subjects with interesting shaded areas can be dramatic when lit with sidelighting.

2009 MEMBERSHIP

DIRECTORY & HANDBOOK

The 2009 Membership Directory and Handbook is here. Be sure to pick up your copy from Carmen Sewell at the February Meeting

Deadline for digital submission...

All digital entries must be submitted to [Cliff Segerstrom cseger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cseger@sbcglobal.net) by Feb 8. Entries received after that will not be eligible for February competition.

FYI... the deadline is always the Sunday before

COMPETITION ASSIGNMENTS

2009

	Nature	Pictorial
February	Insects & Spiders**	Still Life/Table top
March	Sunrise/Sunset	Side Lighting
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
	* May Include Larval Forms	** No Butterflies allowed

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

MEMBER SHOWCASE



Left: *Shan Ming Bowling* by Mark Farrior

Below Left: *Old Faithful* by Jerry Pan

Right: *Temple Door* by Helen Pan

Below Right: *Minard Castle, Dingle Peninsula, Republic of Ireland* by Allan Philaba



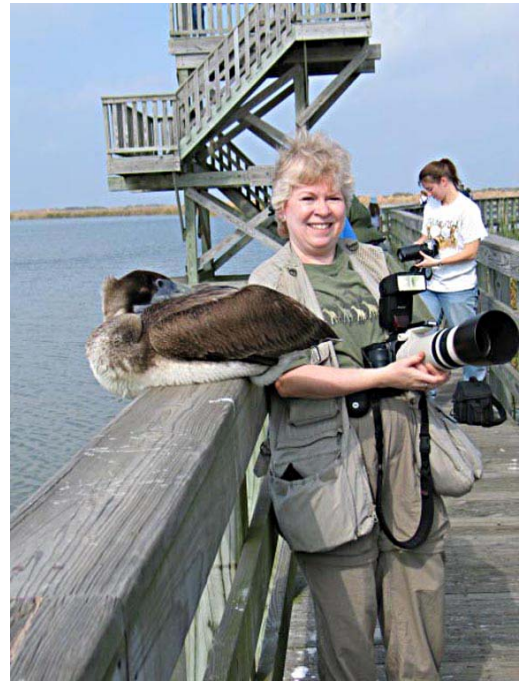
Each month Reflex News will publish some of our members favorite shots in the Members Showcase.

Requirements for submission are found on page 5 of this issue.





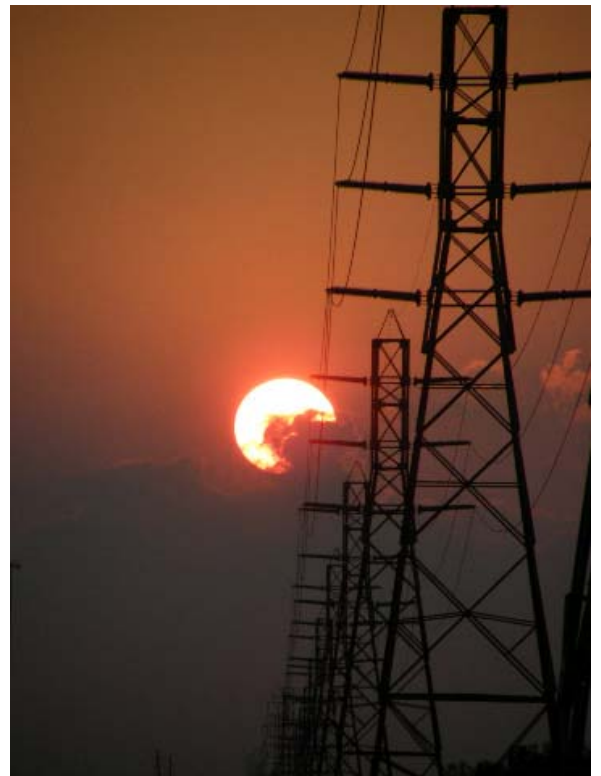
Above: *Anole on Plant Stake* by Henrique Baldwin



Right: *Cindy & Pelican* by Jane Ashley

Below: *Lost Maples* by Charleen Baugh

Below Right: *Power Lines at Sunset* by C.T. Edwards



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Editor.

Interclub Results

Here are the results of the December 2008 competition:

GSCCC Interclub Competition, December 2008, Pictorial Projected Austin Shutterbugs

Image Title	Maker	Score
Lotus Blossom	Pederson, Don	13
Galveston Sailboat and Sunrise	Ashley, Jane	10
Urban Reflections	Printz, Ed	12
Skyscrapers	Pan, Jerry	15 First Place

Many thanks to all of you who sent me images for consideration .
Joe Smith

GSCCC Interclub Competition, January 2009, Pictorial Projected Hope Camera Club

Image Title	Maker	Score
2 of a Kind	Baugh, Charleen	9
Lost Maples Fall reflection	Cox, Cindy	10
Evening under the F Hartmann Br	Dwarakanath, Kaydee	10
Sunset at Apache	Pan, Jerry	7

August 2008 makeup

Beaver Dam & Fog	Baugh, Charleen	8
Skyscrapers	Pan, Jerry	11
Winter Brrr 3638	Segerstrom, Dianne	13
Bosque del Apache Sunrise	Smith, Joe	9

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

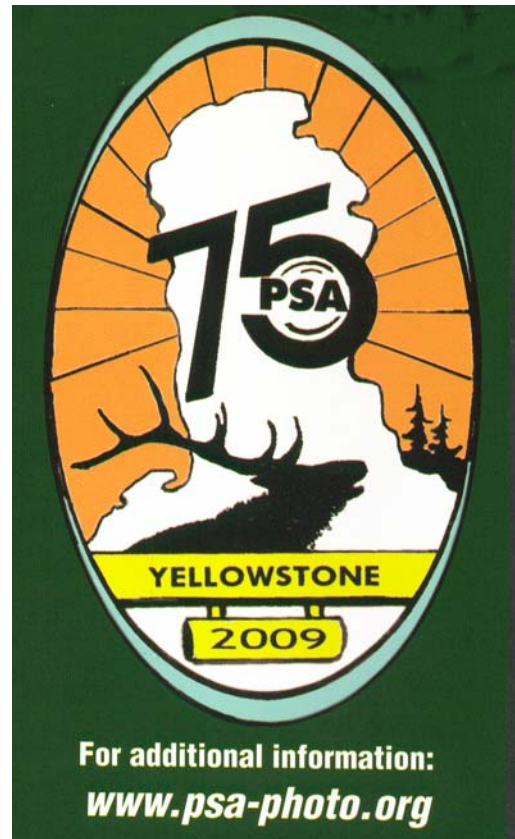
New from PSA

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 @ photosbysusan@charter.net for more information.

Entries need to be submitted by April 1st.



For additional information:
www.psa-photo.org

JANUARY WORKSHOP REPORT

The subject of the January workshop was Photographing Glassware, which is the assigned pictorial category for February.

Eighteen members took part in the shoot. Three different set ups and a large selection of possible subjects for the participants to use in their own compositions were provided by Jane Ashley and Carmen Sewell, who conducted the workshop.

The participants learned about light placement and the use of color in creating pleasing images.



Two treatments of the same subject .
Left byt Jane Ashley: by Don Pederson



Ernie Wales & Ray Bookwalter waiting their turn at the Workshop Photo by Don Pederson



Ed Printz concentrating
Photo by C Sewell



Angel with Orchids
by Don Pederson



John Breaux ...Camera ready Photo by Don Pederson



Ninfa Palazzolo setting up her shot ... And reviewing her image with Cindy Cox Photos by C Sewell



Photo Gumbo 2009

Gulf States Camera Clubs Council Convention hosted by The Greater New Orleans Photographic Society April 2, 3, and 4 2009

Make your plans now for the GSCCC convention in New Orleans.
You can get additional information on the speakers and field trips at the website:
www.photogumbo2009.com

It is important to stress that any GSCCC members caring to stay at the Homewood Suites need to make their reservations NOW. Cancellations can be made up to 24 hours prior to arrival. Their link is Homewood Suites New Orleans-PhotoGumbo 2009-Room Reservations. The code will automatically pop up when going to this site.

Should there be a problem booking a room, contact Lacey Lemon, the sales coordinator. Her contact info is below. Lacey Lemon

Sales & Convention Services Coordinator
phone: 504-581-5599 Ext.523/ 581-9133 fax
email at: lacey.lemon@dimdev.com
Homewood Suites by Hilton - New Orleans
901 Poydras St.
New Orleans, La 70112

If you are planning to stay over an extra day, the city's 72nd Spring Fiesta concludes the weekend of the convention. Just click onto the link below.

<http://springfiesta.com/>

The Spring Fiesta has its second weekend of tours on the weekend of the convention, April 4-5. This is a rare opportunity to see homes and gardens of the French Quarter. You can view the home page, the event schedule page, the about us page, and the ticket sales page to find out if you would be interested.

Staying a day later for the convention would allow you to see the tours on the Sunday. Any other questions concerning the convention can be directed to

photogumbo2009@cox.net.



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

