



REFLEX NEWS

Houston Photochrome Club

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March 2009

www.houstonphotochromeclub.org

PROGRAM for MARCH NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY IN COSTA RICA



The March program on nature photography in Costa Rica will be presented by Carlos Hernandez, a former member of the Houston Photochrome and photographer of the year 1986.

Carlos has been leading nature and photography trips since the 80's to Costa Rica and Mexico. His knowledge of birds and butterflies makes it easy to photograph these creatures in their natural habitats.

tats.

A native of Costa Rica Carlos has accumulated a large collection of pictures of his native country. Lately, he leads private tours for professional photographers eager to add nature pictures to their portfolio.

Publications: Back in the late 90s; Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas Highways, Audubon Calendars and Sierra Club. Several

Member of the Costa Rica Photo Club, State College (PA) Photo club and The Woodlands United Methodist Church where he teaches a workshop to the members once a month, —provided he is in town

A Canon user, his favorite lens: 400mm f/5.6L allows him to move swiftly around the rain forest. The laptop is part of his camera bag. Photoshop has opened a new dimension in photography, which he considers an art form.

Enjoys seeing old friends and the best place to learn photography (a never ending cycle) is to belong to a digital photo club.

We will meet on Thursday March 12 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

Visitors and New Members

We had two visitors at the February Meeting, Dr. Gerard Gaal who joined at the workshop meeting and Jane Smith, wife of our speaker Joe Smith. Glad to have you both.

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP REPORT

**BY Philip Tan,
Field Trip Chairman**

The Rockport trip went pretty well. From our club, Bill and Rachel Burychka, Cindy Cox. John and Susan Reeves, myself and my wife Janet went. The only disappointment was the weather: Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning were very cloudy, so there was no chance for sunrise or sunset pictures.

The boat trip Saturday morning was great, the captain was really accommodating to photographers. He tried to get as close as he could to the whooping cranes and stopped the engine so there was no vibration. But, close as we were, it was still too far for my 500mm, and I didn't setup my tripod on the top of the deck so most of my pictures were definitely not sharp! There were lots of other birds along the way also, pelicans, great blue herons, and cormorants.

On Sunday, we went to the Aransas NWF, took pictures of an armadillo that was scurrying around, oblivious to our presence, rooting around looking for insects. We also saw more than a dozens of feral hogs, gators and turtles in addition to the wading birds. We also found a secluded beach littered with skeletons of oak trees that really made interesting graphic images. We didn't leave until after 5:00 in the afternoon and got back to Houston around 10:00. All in all, it was a good trip. Wished you were there too.



Field trip Photos

by Philip Tan

March Field Trip

The field trip for March 14th is to the Houston Zoo.

We will meet at the main entrance at 9:00 AM.

Admission tickets for adults are \$10.00 or \$8.00 if you buy your ticket at the Fiesta courtesy booth, or, if you are a Zoo member, it is free.

Ticket price for seniors 65+ is \$6.00.

Philip Tan

Workshop for March LIGHTING WITH FLASH

By Bill Burychka

March 26, 7:00PM

At Tracey Gee Community Center

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.

FEBRUARY 2009 COMPETITION

Judges: Ray Bookwalter, Wendy Geng, Jerry Pan

Nature Assignment – Insects & Spiders

King of the Mountain	Cliff Segerstrom	24.0
Having Lunch	Ron Towe	24.0
Brown Bug	Carmen Sewell	23.0
Argiope Aurantia Spider	Joe Smith	22.0
Eastern Amberwing	Don Pederson	21.0
Spider on Web	Scott Meyer	18.0
Orchard Spider	Ernie Wales	18.0
Ugly Bug	Eric Westling	17.0
Spider in Web	C.T. Edwards	16.0

9 entries 20.3 avg.

Pictorial Assignment Still Life/Table Top

Candles	Helen Weng Pan	21.0
Glasses	Philip Tan	21.0
Table Top	Ernie Wales	21.0
Sweet Muscatel	Ed Printz	20.0
Ornament	Eric Westling	20.0
Art	Jerry Pan	19.5
Still Life in Window	Jane Ashley	19.0
Three Glasses	C.T. Edwards	19.0
Lone Star	Carmen Sewell	19.0
How's Dem Apples?	Ed Printz	18.0
Photo Ready	Ron Towe	18.0

11 Entries 19.6 avg.

Black & White		
Storm is Brewing	Cliff Segerstrom	20.0
Full Moon with Clouds	Joe Smith	20.0
Eagles on Post	Jane Ashley	19.0
Curves & Contrast	Scott Meyer	19.0
Glass	Ron Towe	19.0
Narrow Way	John Breaux	18.0
Feeding	Helen Weng Pan	18.0
Mykonos Gate	Carmen Sewell	16.0

8 entries 18.6 avg.

March Assignment

Nature – Sunrise/Sunset

Pictorial - Sidelighting

Feb. '09 entries – 60

Feb. '09 average – 20.1

Nature General

Clowning Around	Cliff Segerstrom	24.0
Yellow Rumped Warbler	Don Pederson	23.0
Tiger	Helen Weng Pan	22.5
Landing	Jerry Pan	22.5
Cranes at Sunset	Joe Smith	22.0
Tree Frog	Joe Smith	22.0
Cranes in Morning Light	Cindy Cox	21.0
Snowy Egret	Wendy Geng	21.0
Possum Puss	Eric Westling	21.0
Flowers	Helen Weng Pan	19.5
Spider Web	Downs Matthews	19.0
Shift Change	Scott Meyer	19.0
Mono Lake 4893	Dianne Segerstrom	19.0
Cypress Tree Reflection	C.T. Edwards	18.0
Long Tailed Skipper	Carmen Sewell	17.0
Plum Tree Shadows	Jennifer Wen	17.0
Snowy Egret	Ernie Wales	16.0

17 entries 21.4 avg.

Pictorial General

Sandhill Crane in Flight	Cindy Cox	22.0
Dune Study	Scott Meyer	22.0
Rudy	Philip Tan	22.0
Underwater	John Breaux	21.0
Architecture	Jerry Pan	21.0
Orange Tarantula	Downs Matthews	20.0
Monument Valley	Cliff Segerstrom	20.0
Sky Lanterns Going Up	Jennifer Wen	20.0
Adobe	John Breaux	19.0
Crane Operator Abstract	Don Pederson	19.0
Aspen Grove 4971	Dianne Segerstrom	19.0
Green Glassware	Jane Ashley	18.0
Flies	Ron Towe	18.0
Dunluce Castle	Jane Ashley	17.0
First Dance	Wendy Geng	16.5

15 Entries 19.6 avg.

Deadline for digital submission...

All digital entries must be submitted to [Cliff Segerstrom cseger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cseger@sbcglobal.net) by March 8. Entries received after that will not be eligible for March competition. **FYI... the deadline is always the Sunday before the regular monthly meeting.**

COMPETITION ASSIGNMENTS MARCH 2009

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.

Looking ahead to APRIL

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



Above: Jane and Helen Weng Pan sighting a shot.

Above right : Donna Boyer focusing on a camellia blossom

Right:: New Member, Gerard Gaal mulling over his exposure.time.

COMPETITION ASSIGNMENTS 2009

	Nature	Pictorial
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

February Workshop

The workshop was on a special technique involving photographing objects through sparking water in an aquarium.

The workshop was held at Jane Ashley’s home. Since it required some special equipment and a substantial amount of time to set up, it was easier for Jane to set up at home.

There were 14 attendees and everyone got a chance to photograph a number of different subjects before the evening was over.



MEMBER SHOWCASE



Top Left: Romantic Rendezvous
by Helen Weng Pan



Top Right: Painted Bunting
by Downs Matthews



Bottom Left: Sky Lanterns
by Jennifer Wen

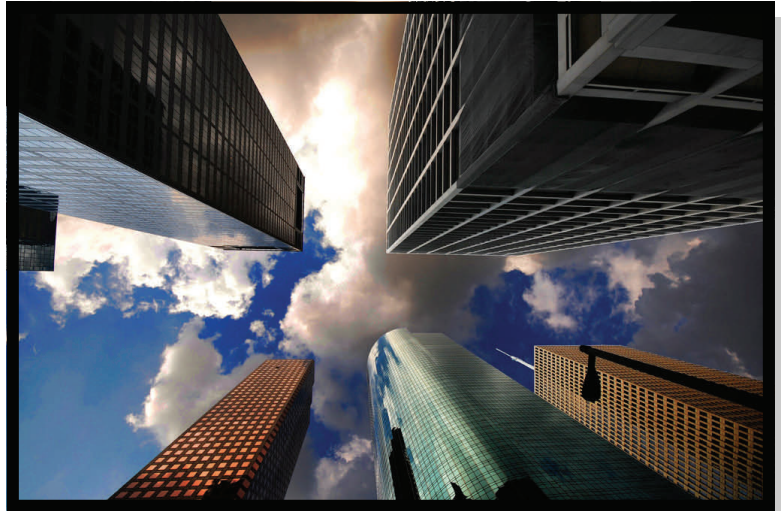
Bottom Right: High Dynamic Range
by Henrique Baldwin



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.

MEMBER SHOWCASE



Top Left: Radiant Smile
by Kaydee Dwarakanath

Left: Nest Building Egret
by Eric Westling

Top Right: Skyscrapers
by Jerry Pan

Bottom : Monument Valley
by Cliff Segerstrom



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Editor.



MEMBER SHOWCASE



Top Left: Robin Portrait
by Ed Printz

Bottom Left: Female Cardinal
by Joe Smith

Bottom Right: Sandhill Cranes
by Jane Ashley



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

Interclub Results

Here are the results from the PSA Color Projected Image Division Competition, February, 2009

PSA--Color Projected Image Division -- February 2009

Image Title	Club Member	Score
Ashcroft Hotel	Meyer, Scott	11
Santa Fe Window	Pederson, Don	10
Louvre	Breaux, John	9
Symmetry at takeoff	Smith, Joe	9
Urban Reflections	Printz, Ed	8
Watercolors0306A	Baugh, Charleen	7

Thanks for all of the great images.

Cookies For March

Bruce Horn

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.

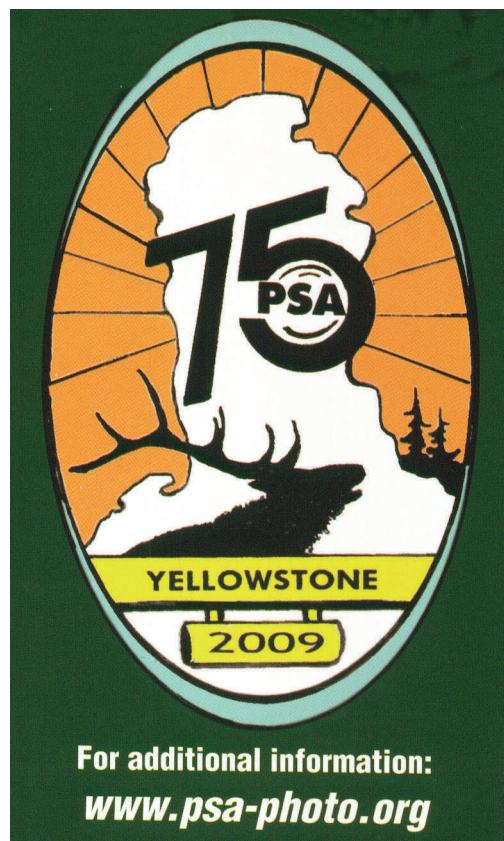


Photo Gumbo 2009

**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.

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**