

REFLEX NEWS

Houston Photochrome Club
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www.houstonphotochromeclub.org

October 2018

October Meeting

The competition and critique meeting will be 7:00 PM October 11 at Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Drive, which is one block inside Beltway 8 between Westpark and Richmond.

Wings Over Houston

Big Airshow is set for Oct. 20 & 21

The 2018 CAF Wings Over Houston Airshow is proud to host the **United States Navy Blue Angels and some of the best military and civilian aviators in the world** on October 20th & 21st at Ellington Airport, Houston, Texas. This will be an extraordinary airshow.

<https://wingsoverhouston.com>

Ticket Prices Increase THIS Sunday – September 30th!

Deadline for digital submission...

All digital entries must be sent to

Philip Tan
ptchromer@gmail.com

by October 8

Entries received after that will not be eligible October Competition

FYI... the deadline is always the Saturday before the competition meeting.

October Program

Jeff Parker, nature photographer, will talk about photographing the seven big cats, particularly jaguars and pumas, and the animals that inhabit their environments.

Jeff leads photo tours throughout North and South America. He also holds workshops on a variety of nature photography topics at his property in Texas.

The cover story for the April issue of 2018 *Outdoor Photographer* magazine showcases some of his puma shots in Patagonia.

In 2016, he and his wife, nature writer Mary O. Parker, released their book, *Explore Texas: A Nature Travel Guide*. Their book received an "Excellence in Craft" award from the Texas Outdoor Writers' Association.

You can see more of his work and tours at exploreinfoocus.com. Please join us for this exciting program.

Thursday October 25, 7:00 PM at Tracy Gee.

Cookies for October
Donnie Walton

Inter Club

The Sept. GSCCC Nature Projected competition was judged by the Slidell Photo Club. Our images and scores were as follows:

Pink Spotted Lady Beetle – Jane Ashley – 10
Northern Cardinal – James Gamble – 9
Nap Time – F. Joe Schmitt – 9
Ladybug on Bluebonnet – Julie Cheng – 8

Jane Ashley, Inter Club Chair

Nelson's Water Garden Winners Announced

The winners of the Nelson Water Gardens Competition, which was judged by Bill and Rachel Burychka, are: First place was Janet Chung for her *Antares WaterLilies*, Second place was to Julie Cheng for her *Snake on Water Lily Leaf*, and Third place went to Jane Ashley for her *Pink Lily with Bee*.

The winners will each receive a print of their winning shot and a print of the first place winner will be presented to Nelson's for allowing us to come and photograph there.

Judges Comments

First an overall comment. We've been looking at photos with a critical eye since about 2002, in Photochrome Club, Houston Camera Club, and Houston Photographic Society. We both served as competition chair in Photographic Society (me twice, Rachel once)—where we recruited a different professional to critique prints every month and three to judge year end competition. (Continued page3.)



First Place

Antares Water Lily

by Janet Chung



Second Place

Snake on Water Lily Leaf

by Julie Cheng



Third Place

Pink Lily with Bee

by Jane Ashley

Judges Comments (continued)

We've also participated in a number of interclub judgings

One thing that stood out in my mind here, and which Rachel agreed, is that it is rare for a group of photo club competition photos to not include one or two that made one ask, "Why did they enter that photo. I would have just deleted it."

This group of 24 pictures was unusual, in that every photo looks like a competition picture. While that was really refreshing to see, it made picking the top three a little harder, since there were no instant eliminations.

The charge was to select 1-2-3. Had Honorable Mentions been added, we'd have had at least three or four HM's, which were nipping at the heels of the 3rd place selection, and all almost equal contenders for that ribbon.

Our procedure. We reviewed these on a 24" monitor profiled with Color Munki, and since Photochrome is normally a big screen projected image club, we also displayed the pictures on our big screen HD TV, in order to get the impact of the pictures at a distance more like they would be displayed in a club meeting.

3rd Place. "Pink Lily with Bee".

We saw this as a very nice blend of nature and art. Even though the bee said nature, the soft pastel-ish colors are soothing, and the picture has an almost 3D look on the big screen. The digital noise and a few spots were not visible on the big screen from 10-12 feet, like a 3x3 foot canvas wrap. Only minor thing that bothered me (Bill) on this one was that it was not quite a square. 1050x1031—the difference I found obvious on the big screen. I couldn't resist resizing to see the effect (resize with "constrain proportions" unchecked, to 1050x1050), and I liked it even better. FWIW.) This was third place WITHOUT my experimental resizing. Very nice.

2nd Place. "Snake on Water Lily Leaf". In the wild, we generally prefer to see a snake only from the rear, *as it is moving away*. However, for a snake photo, we want a face and preferably two eyes looking more or less in our direction. If possible, other compositional aspects are nice, too. Diagonal lines, S-curve (yeah, I know...it's a snake!), and limited competing things in the picture. Most of the snake is sharp, including the head. The setting is better than where we normally see water snakes, which is typically in dark water. The lily pads provide good contrast without competing for attention. I might have tried darkening the leaves ever so slightly. Also might have tried cropping a little from the bottom. There are not many snake pictures I would feel comfortable hanging on the wall, but this is one.

1st Place. "Antares Waterlily". Water lilies in general are a mature photo subject (or paint artist subject for that matter...can we all say Monet?) Like national park pictures or photos of a homeless man, in order to stand out, you need a *park* picture that's rarely or never seen, or you need a different kind of *homeless man*. Same with water lilies. Pick a photographer at random. Chances are that person has photographed water lilies. So, there are a lot of good water lily photos. Lotus flowers, too. This group of pictures has some excellent water lilies. In the end, we both, independently, liked the Antares Water Lily best. The lighting is just about perfect, and the dynamic range retained in the picture is retained from the bright edges of the stems to the lily pads in shadow. While I'm not generally a fan of borders, the magenta border here works well. Our first choice.

Bill and Rachel Burychka

Our thanks to Bill and Rachel for their time and expertise.

ATTENTION:

All Competition Participants

Images **must** be submitted according to club guidelines or your image may not be included in the monthly competition

Please follow the sizing instructions carefully:

NEW INFORMATION 6/14/2018

Please follow the sizing instructions carefully:

A horizontal image cannot be longer than 1400 pixels along the horizontal side;

A vertical image cannot be longer than 1050 pixels along the vertical side.
(Vertical images **cannot** be sized **1400** pixels along the vertical side!)

The size of the JPEG image is not to exceed 1MB.(See above for pixel size.)

Rename the image according to the guidelines below.

For example:

An Assignment image by John Brown would appear as

AS_Assignment_BrownJ.jpg

(Use “M” for Monochrome and “O” for Open categories.)

DO NOT use first names, nicknames or initials only, for identification.

Also, **the size of the title is limited to 35 characters when naming images.** 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.

Assignment Categories 2018-2019

The Assignment list is:

October 2018 Beautiful Bokeh

November 2018 What's Cooking? (Images of prepared meals)

December 2018 Autumn Colors

January 2019 Night view

February 2019 Wildflowers

March 2019 City scape

April 2019 Portraits

May 2019 Travel (outside of Harris County)

June 2019 Your Favorite Color (the color is to be the dominate theme of the image)

July 2019 Leading line/S curves

August 2019 Tell a Story

Remember that assignment images must have been shot within 12 months, prior to competition meeting for that assignment .

Because of this restriction, we will now choose the categories a year in advance of the category date ,for your convenience.

NOTE: Images may not be submitted more than once regardless of the category. Color images may not be submitted as mono-chrome if they have been used in another category and vice versa.

What Is Bokeh?

"Good bokeh is smooth and pleasing, whereas bad bokeh produces a jagged and discordant effect. ... The quality of bokeh is largely dependent on the construction of the lens. For this reason, lenses that provide high-quality bokeh are prized."
—Harold Davis

Bokeh is not just any blur.

(Reprinted from Dec '17 Reflex News)

The assignment for October is Bokeh and some folks have been asking just what that is.

Bokeh describes the rendition of out-of-focus points of **light**.

Bokeh has been de-fined as "the way the lens renders out-of-focus points of light".

Differences in Lens aberration and aperture shape cause some lens designs to blur the image in a way that is pleasing to the eye, while others produce blurring that is unpleasant or distracting—"good" and "bad" bokeh, respectively.

Bokeh occurs for parts of the scene that lie outside the depth of field. Photographers sometimes deliberately use a shallow focus technique to create images with prominent out-of-focus regions.

Bokeh is often most visible around small background highlights, such as specular reflections and light sources, which is why it is often associated with such areas. However, bokeh is not limited to highlights; blur occurs in all out-of-focus regions of the image.

Bokeh describes the appearance, or "feel," of out-of-focus areas. Bokeh is *not* how far something is out-of-focus, bokeh is the character of whatever blur is there. Differing amounts of spherical aberration alter how lenses render out-of-focus points of light, and thus their bokeh. The word "bokeh" comes from the Japanese word "boke" (which literally means "blur" or "haze", or boke-aji, the "blur quality." Bokeh is pronounced BOH-Kə or BOH-kay.

Fig. 1. Poor Bokeh. This is a greatly magnified blur circle showing very poor bokeh. A blur circle is how an out-of-focus point of light is rendered. Note how the edge is sharply defined and even emphasized for a point that is supposed to be out-of-focus, and that the center is dim.

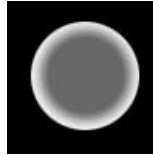


Fig. 2. Neutral Bokeh. This is a technically perfect and evenly illuminated blur circle. This isn't good either for bokeh, because the edge is still well defined. Out-of-focus objects, either points of light or lines, can effectively create reasonably sharp lines in the image due to the edges of the sharp blur circle. This is the blur circle from most modern lenses designed to be "perfect."

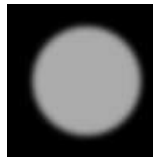
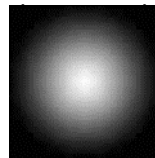


Fig. 3. Good Bokeh. Here is what we want. This is great for bokeh since the edge is completely undefined. This also is the result of the same spherical aberration, but in the opposite direction, of the poor example seen in Fig. 1. This is where art and engineering start to diverge, since the better looking image is the result of an imperfection. Perfect bokeh demands a Gaussian blur circle distribution, and lenses are designed for



September Competition

Judges Janet Chung, James Gamble, Joe Smith

Assignment-Alphabet

Lower Case e	Jane Ashley	24
Art Sculpture, Arrecife, Spain	F. Joe Schmitt	21
Favorite Jellyfish	Julie Cheng	21
Letter G	James Gamble	21
Rocking e g	Tim Bimler	21
W Pelican	Joe Smith	21
Hawaii by Night	Dat Lien	20
Letter U	Janet Tan	20
Letter Q	Philip Tan	18
Block Letters	Charles Edwards	17

10 images Avg. 20.4

Monochrome

Abstract Reflection 1	Julie Cheng	24
Morning Fog	Janet Chung	24
Kiwis in Black & White	Jane Ashley	21
Rio de Janeiro	F. Joe Schmitt	21
Beach Walk at Sunset	Joe Smith	20
Great White Egret	Carmen Sewell	20
Veins of Life	James Gamble	20

7 images Avg. 21.4

Open

Biker Race Abstract	Janet Chung	24
Green Jay	Philip Tan	24
Portrait in Paradise	James Gamble	23
Rufous Hummingbird	Julie Cheng	23
Tulips after the Dutch Masters	Carmen Sewell	23
A Different Perspective	Carmen Sewell	22
I Said Bud Light	Dat Lien	22
Orange Cactus Flower	Julie Cheng	22
Acceptance	Philip Tan	21
American Kestrel	Jane Ashley	21
Back Together	Tim Bimler	21
Go Home	Janet Chung	21
Gulf Fritillary on Gayfeather	Jane Ashley	21
Sea Oats	Joe Smith	21
Bay Storm	Joe Smith	20
Cardinal in Brazos Bend Park	F. Joe Schmitt	20
Tandem Skydive	James Gamble	20
Ancient Theater	Charles Edwards	19
Batak Ceremony	Janet Tan	19
Inbound	Tim Bimler	19
Watch Your Step	Charles Edwards	19
Eagle Has Landed	Dat Lien	18
Moss Over Stone Wall	Janet Tan	18
Path in Brazos Bend SP	F. Joe Schmitt	18

24 images Avg. 20.8

Total Images - 41

Sept. Avg. - 20.8

Photographers - 12

**Watch this space for the announcement
of the location and dates for the 2019 PSA
Annual Conference**



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

