

Group AA - Nature #1
Judges Comments

Group AA Images

1. A Desert Beauty

Nice contrast of flowers and harsh environment.

2. Acorn Woodpecker Chick Gets Fed

Nice image and interaction of subjects, good job

3. Bald Eagle-Haliaeetus Leucocephalus

The Eagle itself is a strong image, however it's a little lost in all the surroundings, a tighter shot would help with the separation without giving up much.

4. Banana Slug out on a wet day

Nice presentation of subject, good separation of background. Good overall photo.

5. Barking Elephant Seal

Happy, happy, happy, Nice portrait image, should be on a postcard. Your image is even reflected in his eye.

6. Bathing California Brown Pelican

Lots of movement, this image would be better if the water was in sharp focus.

7. Blood Bath

Great image of Alpha males battling framed with the blue ocean.

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8. Bloody Battle

Another great image of battling Alpha males, I like this background as well, both have merit on their own. This one looks like the far seal just received the 1 – 2 punch.

9. Cheek To Cheek

Very interesting mirror image, each seal pup watching you with one eye open. Good work. Exposure is good

10. Colorful Caterpillar

You've captured this Caterpillar very well. The leaf as a surface and background works nicely. It would be nice to know what type of caterpillar this is.

11. Egret Arising

Very elegant in its simplicity, only the bird and its reflection altering the surface. A portfolio image.

12. Excuse Me While I Land

Nice timing, strong image, the rocks are a little bright, and draws you eye away from the subject briefly.

13. Flaps down

The darker rocks help balance the image. Very nice interaction with chicks and parent. The blue ocean and green on the rocks go well together.

14. Giant Horsetail in Spring

I'd like to see more of the plants and a little less of rocks. you won't give up any detail in background while giving the "hero" a stronger position. The image is almost half plants and half rocks.

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15. Grey Heron Lands a Japanese Eel

This is a great image. Well done.

16. Least Sandpiper-Calidris Minutilla-looking for breakfast

This could use less background and larger image of Sandpiper. The image is a bit soft.

17. Life and Death in the Desert

The flower needs to be larger in the frame, the contrast of green and dried up plant on each side would still hold up well.

18. Marbled Godwit pair-Limosa fedoa-patrol the surf line

Very nice image, in this case having a little more of the reflections would improve your photo.

19. Monarch Butterfly Cluster

Nice light and composition, having just a few of the Butterflies showing their brighter colors helps bring the image out.

20. Mushrooms

Nice separation of mushroom, the dirt distracts a little. I think taking a can of air or a make up brush and cleaning it up a bit would improve the image.

21. Power Under The Pier

This is the hand of man and is therefore not considered a nature image..

22. Sunning Chuckwalla

Nice strong direction adds to the harsh rock and Chuckwalla. The small spot of yellow from the flower adds nicely to the image. I wish you had captured his entire tail.

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23. The Early Bird-House Finch - *Carpodacus Mexicanus* - with fall colors

*So much of the rocky perch takes away from your shot.
Having the bird a little larger would make a big difference.*

24. Western Sandpipers-*Calidris Mauri* - flock at Asilomar

*Very nice visual holding the viewer eyes, the darker
background at the top and bottom helps keep the birds
movement across the frame.*