



Padre Trails Camera Club

Monterey, California

Padre Trails Nature # 2 Macro Group AA

01. Coast Banksia (*Banksia Integrifolia*)

This is a native of Australia. The exposure is good. I feel the composition could use a little something though. Your depth of field is too shallow.

02. Coast Paintbrush - *Castilleja Affinus*

I love Paintbrush. It is a beautiful wildflower. You have captured a single stem with flowers and your images shows the tiny hairs all over it. The image gives us a glimpse of the environment. However, I really think you should crop this image a lot. The title of you competition is macro so you should get in close. You don't need all the empty space on the right and especially the left. The paintbrush flower is your subject. Celebrate it and get in close. This image is tack sharp and will allow you to crop a lot.

03. Death Cama (*toxicoscordion venenosum*)

I like this image very much. Your exposure is very nice with the soft light. Your depth of field is a little too shaiiow.

04. Eucalyptus seed (*Eucalyptus Cinerea*)

This is a nice capture but unfortunately the Eucalyptus is not a native unless you took this image in Australia. If you did then I apologize. Your exposure is great and the image is very interesting.

05. Fly Amanita (*Amanita Muscaria*)

This is a very difficult shot. Your are looking at a very close up view the business side of an Amanita mushroom. Unfortunately, the image is soft. Also the lighting is not working for you here. To improve this image you

could use a reflector off to the side to show detail and texture. To increase your depth of field you could get back further and then crop the image or use focus stacking. This can be done in Photoshop or there are other programs on the market that will allow you to do this.

06. Jumping Spider, *Habronattus agilis* species

Jumping spiders make amazing subjects. They are very fast and I think hard to capture. Once they stop moving you usually don't have a lot of time to shoot. Your composition is good. However, the most fascinating part of the critter is its' eyes and unfortunately they are soft.

07. lichen mosiac-*Lecanora soralifera-actophila-and-albescans*

Just beautiful colors. The composition is great. Exposure is pretty good. I think the image could be improved a little by toning down the contrast. Again a diffuser would have helped here. The image appears a little soft of pixilated. Maybe it was taken from a larger image.

08. Manroot Tendrils - *Marah Fabaceus*

This is a great nature story. These plants can be very tenacious. I like your composition but if you had used a diffuser I don't think your highlights would be blown out. This is a very difficult shot to get in the bright sun.

09. Mating Monarchs - *Danaus Plexippus*

A great nature story. Your dep[th of field is good and the exposure is good, especially in the bright light. I like your darker vignette around the edge as it focuses the viewer to the subject. Nice job.

10. mixed mineral deposit erupts from gravel bed in Death Valley California

This is a very difficult subject in my opinion. Maybe if you could have gotten down lower to show the texture. Your exposure is good but I find the bright area at the top distracting.

11. New Growth - Monterey Pine - *Pinus Radiata*

This image has a nature story. The image is sharp. The exposure is very good and the composition is handled well. Nicely done.

12. red kelp washed ashore in Asilomar California -*Rhodymenia_pseudo*

The image is interesting. The shadow detail is interesting and the colors are great. It is sharp. Your depth of field is excellent.

13. Soldier Beetle, Coleoptera

This is a very good capture of a soldier beetle. It appears pretty sharp and the exposure is good. However a diffuser would have really helped here. I really do wish you were in closer.

14. spotted tussock moth caterpillar traverses a log - *Lophocampa maculate*

Ok I'm sorry but I can not help this, you have got to get rid of the bird poop. The image of the caterpillar is sharp, the exposure is great. The bird poop has got to go as it is very distracting. All you need to do here is crop the image. Or you could have picked the little guy up and moved him before you clicked the shutter.

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