



Padre Trails Camera Club

Monterey, California

Padre Trails Nature # 2 Macro Group AAA

01. banana slug sunning.jpg

The does look like a banana. Unfortunately, the subject was in bright sun blowing out the highlights. If you ever get the chance to shoot one again try using a diffuser as it will soften the bright sun. Also, you may have waited a bit longer until it's "eye stalks" were fully erect.

02. Black ant on coneflower.jpg

This images if very well done. The lighting is tough, perhaps a diffuser would have helped. Your composition is good and the exposure is good. I think you could have brought out more detail in the ant with Viveza.

03. Bumble Bee Feeding-Bombus Hymenoptera.jpg

This is a great nature story. Unfortunately, it is a little soft. Fill flash would have helped here.

04. Bumble bee on coneflower.jpg

Very nice! My only suggestion is to crop in a little from the right side. This is a case where in the middle is fine.

05. Carpenter bee (Xylocopa) and genus Lavandula.jpg

This image shows the veining of the wings beautifully and there is a nature story. I think the image could be improved by increasing the contrast and then bringing up the shadows in ACR or Lightroom. Tjhis would bring out the red highlight in the Bees legs.

06. Cleaning Crew Awaits a Customer.jpg

This is an interesting nature shot. Unfortunately, the coral surrounding the shrimp is blown out. I would try to work this image over again by darkening the surrounding coral and then using your shadows slider in ACR to bring up detail in the little cave.

07. Cushion Seastar.jpg

Actually this as an image showing the surface texture and color of a Cushion Star. The image is very interesting but I am bothered by the bright area in the upper right. This can easily be toned down in Photoshop.

08. Dirty_Ladybug_(cycloneda)_in_Yosemite.jpg

My this is a dirty little bug isn't it? The image would have more interest and effect if you had come around from the right hand side to capture it's head and eyes. This would benefit from a darker vignette.

09. Fishing bait.jpg

This appears to be the image of either the north or south end of a night crawler. I would have liked to see the entire worm or at the least have the end I am looking at identified. The exposure is good.

10. Gathering Pollen.jpg

A good nature story. It would be nice to know what type of bee this is. This is a tough capture in bright sun. You handled it well.

11. Hanging Pine Sap-Monterey Pine-Pinus radiata2.jpg

This is an interesting subject and your exposure is good. Unfortunately, it is soft.

12. Honey bee (Apis mellifer) coming in.jpg

This is a great catch. Composition is good and your exposure is good. You can actually bring in more detail of the bees body with the shadows slider in ACR or Lightroom and then tone down the bright petals in the upper left with Photoshop. However you did a nice job.

13. Ice Forming Around Sulphur Springs Water Fall in Winter.jpg

This is a very nice capture. It is sharp and the exposure is very good

14. inside barnacles.jpg

I don't dive so you folks that do underwater photography always impress me. The only underwater things I have ever shot were in aquarium tanks. Now having said that your exposure here is good but the image is soft.

15. Ladybug (Coccinellidae) on Cornflower (C. Cyanus) bud.jpg

Well you did get closer to the front of your ladybug than the other one. The composition works well. If you use Viveza or a curves layer in Photoshop you could lighten the head a little and make a more interesting image as it

would make the yellow “eyebrows” stand out more. Your image is nice and sharp and the exposure is good.

16. LBM Mushrooms.jpg

This is a great view of the underside of these mushroom. Exposure is fair but could use more contrast.

17. Limpets_and_Mollusks_(gastropods)_at_Low_Tide.jpg

Nice soft light, very good. I think this images should have been a vertical and the area on the right hand side is wasted. The limpet on the top is touching the edge of the image. It would have been a more interesting image if it were shot vertical with a little more room on the top. I think your image could also benefit from a little more contrast, clarity and vibrance.

18. Living Sculpture-Zantedeschia.jpg

Cala Lilies are beautiful but they are not the subject of a Nature Competition. This image would be more at home in a Pictorial competition. Your depth of field is really too shallow. However, the exposure is vey nice.

19. Mating Monarchs.jpg

This is a great nature story. The competition is very good. Exposure was difficult because of the bright sun but you handled it well. I know by now I sound like a broken record but if you used the shadows slider in ACR or Lightroom it would improve the contrast of the image allowing more detail of the head.

20. Milk Cap-Lactarius Deliciosus.jpg

Well now we have moldy fungus. I like this shot very much. The lighting is great and your composition is very good. However, for your title I would have mentioned that these Milk Caps are being invaded by another fungus. This is the nature story.

21. Moth on coneflower.jpg

I think I have seen this cone flower before. I guess the old saying “plant it and they will come” is true. You image is sharp and the lighting is great. Your composition is good. However, this is not a moth. It is a Skipper Butterfly (Family Hesperidae)

22. Mouth - Red Abalone - Haliotis rugescens.jpg

Now I think this image is from an aquarium but I could be wrong. Unfortunately it is soft.

23. On_a_Wing_and_a_Prayer_at_Cone_Peak.jpg

I would have preferred the image of the Shallow Tail butterfly to be in color as it better tells the nature story. This may be a personal thing. Your image is sharp and the exposure is good.

24. Pink offering.jpg

These look like apple blossoms to me. I don't think they are a native plant although I could be wrong. This is one reason why the title for a nature image is so important. You could increase your depth of field by getting back a little from your subject.

25. Point_Lobos_Thistle_(silybum)_in_Full_Bloom.jpg

This name of this must have been another taxonomist's practical joke (silybum). Anyway this thistle Milk Thistle is an introduced species. Your image is pretty and the exposure is very good. The image is sharp. However, it really does not belong in a nature competition.

26. Remnants- Mastocarpus papillatus.jpg

This is an interesting image. The texture of the leaves is very interesting and that really is the nature story of this image. Your exposure is pretty good for the bright light. A diffuser would have helped.

27. Risking a Closer Look-Opuntia engelmannii.jpg

The image is well exposed. The nature story is the ants looking for pollen or nectar in and on the cactus flower.

28. Snail eating a leaf.jpg

These nasty devils were introduced into California in the 1850's as a food source. Well I guess we didn't eat enough of them because now they are everywhere. This is an introduced species from Europe. The image could benefit from some shadows, clarity and vibrance adjustments.

29. Spiny Urchin & Arrowcrab on Shipwreck.jpg

This is a very nice image. Good job. Now you know what I am going to say: use your shadow slider it will make this very nice image even better. Try it.

30. Staghorn velvet.jpg

I like your composition and the exposure is good. The image is sharp. I wish you had the botanical name.

31. Sunflower bud.jpg

This is a beautiful image. I wish you had more room on the left and less on the right. Your exposure is very nice. Is the sun flower a domestic plant? It is native to the Americas.

32. Unique.jpg

This is a very pretty image. I do find the one leaf stalk on the right annoying. Your exposure is good. I would like to know what kind of leaves these are.

33. Where are the cucumbers.jpg

This image is of a Spotted Cucumber beetle *Diabrotica undecimpunctata*. Which can be a serious pest as it can be a vector for plant diseases. This image would benefit from a shadows adjustment in ACR or Lightroom.

34. Yellow Line Arrowcrab.jpg

Another very interesting underwater image. I think your exposure is handled very well. However the bright area in the Upper left is very distracting and would improve the image if it was toned down. The crap could be a little sharper and I know that is easy for me to say. Over all a very nice image.

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