

PADRE TRAILS CAMERA CLUB

Nature #3 - July 27, 2014
Judged by: Sande Parker
JUDGES COMMENTS

GROUP AA

01. Ten-lined June Beetle in purslane plant
Nice capture, light and selective focus. Prefer more of the environment to tell more of the nature story.
02. adult and young american bison - Bison bison – graze
Nice shot and good of bison family. Need a stronger story line, slightly soft.
03. alert juvenile blue heron siblings - Ardea Herodias **HM**
Great eyes, clear sense of environment and great nature story. Waiting....just waiting for the folks to get back....
04. An Evening Listening to the Rocks Roll
Fun title, but needs point of interest/story.
05. A baby West Indian Manatee (Trichechus manatus) or “Sea Cow” swims to the surface for air
Nice manatee. Would prefer more of the environment to confirm location.
06. Humpback Whale (Megaptera novaeangliae) plunges on its back after breaching through the surface of Monterey Bay
Just being there, seeing this, must have been a wonderful experience.
07. Humpback Whale (Megaptera novaeangliae) breaches the surface in Monterey Bay
Same comment as above!
08. Buddy Devil’s Club (Oplopanax horridus) in Sitka, Alaska **HM**
Good selective focus, excellent detail, nice story.
09. Clustering Blue Metallic Flea Beetles (Altica pagana)
Watch post-processing on nature images. Lighter area evident around cluster of beetles, fewer individuals may tell a clearer story.
10. Dozing harbor seal, Friday Harbor, WA habitat (P. vitulina)
Nice expression. Need something to relieve the monotone, perhaps a wider angle lens?

11. Gopher Snake (*pituophis catenifer*) **HM**
Great capture. Glad it was you and not me.....
12. Hitch Fish (*Lavinia exilicauda*)
Yes, there are fish, but I'm not sure of the story
13. Honeybee gatherin corn tassel pollen (*Apis*)
Nice light, depth of field, and hard to capture. Another composition might have stronger impact.
14. Hovering Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*) **HM**
Oh, this was a very hard decision. A beautiful capture, perfect shutter speed.
15. Juvenile Bald Eagle eating on the fly (*H. leucocephalus*)
Just being there was another great moment. Lacking light in the face there is a merging of food and body.
16. Sea Otter with Kelp (*Enhydra lutris*)
Fun shot. The catch-light is missing in the eye.
17. Mating Monarchs
Difficult composition with overly busy background.
18. Milk Vetch from Bud to Pod (*Astragalus nuttallii*)
Lighting was a challenge for this image.
19. Nectaring Western Tiger Swallowtail (*P. rutulus*) **HM**
Nice capture.
20. Partington Creek, on its way to Pirates' Cove, Big Sur, CA
Nice, slow water
21. Probing for Crustaceans **HM**
Nice light, positioning, nature story
22. Reflections in the eye of a Red-Tailed Hawk **THIRD**
Sharp, great eye reflection, great nature story and capture.
23. Scratching Ground Squirrel at Point Pinos (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*) **SECOND**
Timing is everything. This image has great action, nice light and composition.
24. Sea Lion Point with Indian Paint Brush, Point Lobos
Nice sunset.
25. Sea Palm (*Postelsia palmaeformis*)
Story is in the mussels and the lower sea palm. Upper sea plams detract from the story.

26. Soboranes Landscape, Carmel Highlands

Nice low light. Nice landscape.

27. Sunset at Seven Pines, Big Sur, CA

Too much silhouette/black space, but great idea.

28. The Eyes of the Eagle, Sitka, AK (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) **FIRST**

Doesn't everyone wish they had taken this shot. Feathers are sharp, eyes and beak in total focus. Wonderful! Congratulations!

29. Trentepohlia on Cypress Trees at Point Lobos State Reserve, Carmel, CA #1

Interesting moss on the cypress but would like ore of a story.

30. Trentepohlia on Cypress Trees at Point Lobos State Reserve, Carmel, CA #2

Overly busy for me.

31. well-camouflaged american alligator - *Alligator mississippiensis* **HM**

Close enough to even get a catch-light in the eye!

32. western gull - *Larus occidentalis* - feeds on beached giant squid – *Architeuthis* **HM**

Nice nature story.

33. Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) swims beside our ship in Monterey Bay

The sharpest whale photo of this group. Would like more of the story.

34. Yellow Warbler eating sunflower

Lovely, partial sunflower is distracting. Otherwise, terrific image.

Winners recapped on following page...

1st Place 28. *The Eyes of the Eagle, Sitka, AK (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) - Brooks Leffler*

Doesn't everyone wish they had taken this shot. Feathers are sharp, eyes and beak in total focus. Wonderful! Congratulations!

2nd Place 23. *Scratching Ground Squirrel at Point Pinos (Otospermophilus beecheyi) - Brooks Leffler*

Timing is everything. This image has great action, nice light and composition.

3rd Place 22. *Reflections in the eye of a Red-Tailed Hawk - Jeff Hobbs*

Sharp, great eye reflection, great nature story and capture.

HMs

03. Alert juvenile blue heron siblings - Ardea Herodias - **Ken Jones**

Great eyes, clear sense of environment and great nature story. Waiting....just waiting for the folks to get back....

08. Buddy Devil's Club (Oplopanax horridus) in Sitka, Alaska - **Brooks Leffler**

Good selective focus, excellent detail, nice story.

11. Gopher Snake (pituophis catenifer) - **Jim Lambert**

Great capture. Glad it was you and not me.....

14. Hovering Allen's Hummingbird (Selasphorus sasin) - **John Drum**

Oh, this was a very hard decision. A beautiful capture, perfect shutter speed.

19. Nectaring Western Tiger Swallowtail (P. rutulus) - **Frank Penner**

Nice capture.

21. Probing for Crustaceans - **John Drum**

Nice light, positioning, nature story

31. Well-camouflaged american alligator - Alligator mississippiensis - **Ken Jones**

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Nice nature story.