

# PTCC - 2016 NATURE #1 GROUP AA

*18 images from six members*

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01. Big Horn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) feeding at Earthquake Lake, Montana, after long winter **Good use of F stop to make the background blur but still give it nice texture. Big horn offset to make him look into the frame. Nice framing with the greenery in the corner and on the tip of horn.**

02. Coquina Beach Formations **Nice division of incoming wave, the foam, with the rock form. I would have stopped down more to blur the water and make it more like mercury flowing. A bit darker would have made it more dramatic.**

03. Cottonwoods at Fremont's Peak **The use of light and dark is wonderful. I especially like the diagonal angles. Depth of field is really good with everything from the rock in the left corner to the line of greening the top.**

04. Drought-stricken Upper Yosemite Falls **Keeping a bit of blue sky helps accent all the warm colors. there is a nice balance with the trees at the top and the greenery at the bottom right. I may have gone darker and a bit more contrast to set off the colors in the granite.**

05. Early Autumn in Yosemite National Park **I really like closeups. The leaves are wonderful but could have been darker to really emphasize the coloring and texture and veins. The blurring of the background is perfect and I like the abstract patterns. I like the layout with the stem coming up diagonally and the placement of the levels is just the way I would done them.**

06. Fog Rolling in at McWay Falls **Great use of fog to create a mystery images. The subtletness of the hill to the right, the use of lighting on the falls and the rock form, and the darkness on the left of the falls makes this very dramatic.**

07. Goldenrod Crab Spider (*Misumena vatia*) camouflaged to catch butterfly **I'm a big fan of macro. Really nice detail in the butterfly. I almost didn't see the spider. Placement of the butterfly and keeping the orange framing around it is nice. I wish the flower in the foreground wasn't so distracting.**

08. Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) with catfish catch **Capturing a moment is time is tricky. Right place right time and quick on the shutter. I like the haloing affect with the dark on left side. Helps set of the fish. A different F stop would have given more depth to focus the fish as well. and of course chaining ISO to get the right speed.**

09. Humpback Whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) Lunge Feeding, Pt. Lobos **You really captured the moment. Good depth of field and lighting. The baleen and throat grooves really stand out.**

10. Mt. Toro from Fort Ord **Framing and layout are really nice showing the depth of the valley. Nice contrast with the fall colors in the lower right and the blue sky with thin clouds. I like the way you captured the subtle angles of the rolling hills.**

11. Pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*) run as a herd across the Wyoming range **Wonderful use of depth of field to capture the long line of antelopes with the vista. Especially having the line in the extreme foreground. Love the landscape in the background and parallel lines throughout.**
12. Startled Pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*) take off at a run **Nice action shot. Good balance with the antelopes in the top portion with the brush in the foreground. Nice detail and focus while capturing the escape.**
13. Stingray Stare **I really like this as an abstract. If you hadn't labeled it I wouldn't have known what it is. I liked the guessing. The layout and cropping is wonderful with the different angles and curves. I especially like the dark edge of the ray on the right.**
14. Taton Rock Formation - Pebble Beach Bean Hollow State Beach **This is spectacular. Reminds me of Minor White images. Incredible detail and depth in the forms. The leading line from bottom to top and the different sections melding together is really nice. I love the balance between the simplicity at the bottom and the complex form at the top.**
15. Territorial Spat - 3 swallows **Right place right time. I spent lots of time trying to capture these kinds moments. Great action, Great detail, Great drama. Nice placement of post on right and the balance of the two birds in the top third. I'm jealous!**
16. Coquina Beach Formations **Too much like the other image. I would have chosen a different angle. I would have stopped down more to blur the water and make it more like mercury flowing. A bit darker would have made it more dramatic. The foreground in the real image the water doesn't work this time.**
17. Young Male Elk (*Cervus elaphus*) has shed an antler while overwintering in the Teton Valley **I like the story but it would have been better if the discarded antler was in the original frame in stead of an insert. They were probably too far apart. I like the almost monotone feel to the elk against the prairie. Nice depth of field. Nice detail in the elk.**
18. Young Panda (*Alluropoda melanoleuca*) eating bamboo **Really nice layout and framing of the panda with all the greenery. Perfect depth of field keeping the bamboo in the foreground in focus and the background blurred. I like the profile instead of a direct on shot.**

### **Winning Images:**

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#### **Honorable Mentions:**

- # 18 Young Panda – Bill Shewchuk
- #3 Cottonwoods at Femont Peak – Jared Ikeda

#### **Winners:**

- Third place # 11 Pronghorn run Shelley Nemeth
- Second place # 15 Territorial spat Margret Cordts
- First place # 14 Taton Rock Formation Janet Beaty