

## PTCC 2017 - NATURE #2 - "BACKYARD" NATURE

GROUP A

43 IMAGES FROM 15 MEMBERS

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**01 - Barn Owl - Tyto alba.jpg**

*Beautiful animal. The image is sharp. I think I would have cropped it in from the left and right if it were my image.*

**02 - A sea otter in a divers float.jpg**

*Very cute image. This embodies the intent of this competition.*

**03 - Agave.jpg**

*Nice image but I wish your depth of field was deeper and you need a point of focus.*

**04 - American Bison (Bison bison) Enjoying Springtime in Yellowstone .jpg**

*Well I don't quite know what to say. My net nanny had a heck of a time with this image. I definitely think there is a political message here.*

**05 - American Green Tree Frog (Hyla Cinerea).jpg**

*This is a very unique capture. This image not only shows the suction cup like toes that it uses to hold on to smooth surfaces but also how the frog uses its sticky abdomen to hold on as well. It is well lit and very sharp.*

**06 - Barn Cat.jpg**

*Very cute kitty. Lighting is great and it is very sharp. I think I would have cropped it a bit.*

**07 - Butterfly and iphone.jpg**

*Good idea but a bit contrived. The highlights are a bit blown out and it is a wee bit over sharpened.*

**08 - Butterflies feeding at trough.jpg**

*The lighting is good but the horizontal line at the top bothers me. Also the image is not sharp.*

**09 - Carmel Beach High Flying Dog.jpg**

*Man that sucker can jump, Unfortunately, the pup is a bit soft and I think I would have cropped in quite a bit.*

**10 - Chilean Flamingo (Phoenicopterus chilensis) Feeds Baby at San Francisco Zoo.jpg**

*This is a great capture and very cute. I just wish you had gotten the feet. Remember if there are legs you need feet.*

**11 - Chives - Allium schoenoprasum.jpg**

*Nicely done. Good capture. Lighting is good and the two blooms in the*

*middle are sharp.*

**12 - Female Anna's Hummingbird (Calypte anna) Drinking Nectar.jpg**

*Nice capture. Lighting is good and it is sharp. Well done.*

**13 – Finger Sized Grey Tree Frog (Hyla versicol)**

*The eye is extremely sharp. I just wish you had gotten the ear end of the frog.*

**14 - Fox squirrel at picnic table.jpg**

*Very cute. Sharp. You handled the tough lighting situation very well. This image captures the intent of this competition.*

**15 - garden rose after a soft morning rain.jpg**

*This is a beautiful rose. Unfortunately it is cropped too tight and the highlights are blown out.*

**16 - Gazanias at Fort Ord National Monument.jpg**

*Gazanias just grow anywhere. You got to love them. I think you were a bit heavy handed with the split neutral density filter as the top of the image doesn't blend with the lower portion.*

**17 - Green Onion Flower Pod.jpg**

*A very simple image. It is sharp but unfortunately your highlights are blown out on the top of the bud. This could have been taken care of in Lightroom with the highlights slider.*

**18 - Harbor seal mother's smile.jpg**

*Very nice and exposure is right on. Vignette is a bit heavy. Even though this is a "Backyard Nature Competition" cutesy titles don't get it. What is the scientific name of the animal. It is (*Phoca vitulina richardii*).*

**19 - Hawk eating a ground squirrel.jpg**

*I would like the scientific name. I am glad I am not that squirrel. I am not too sure about the catch light in the eye however. The image is nice if you are a carnivore.*

**20 - Helmeted Guinea Fowl - Numida meleagris.jpg**

*Thank you for supplying the scientific name. I just got tired of looking them up. Nice capture. Your blacks are a wee bit blocked up. These are one odd bird and they make the most horrid noise.*

**21 - Hydrangea Macrophylla.jpg**

*Nice exposure. Sharp.*

**22 - Kahn Ranch big leaf maple fall colors (Acer macrophyllum).jpg**

*This is a very nice image. I think it would do better in pictorial but I really like it. The upper left corner could use a little burning in to tone it down a bit.*

**23 - Lobelia erinus - Volunteer.jpg**

*Very nicely captured. Nice leading lines. I would remove the distracting highlight "scratch" on the left side. It is sharp and the exposure is dead on.*

**24 - Lone Photographer In Surf - Carmel River Beach.jpg**

*I think this image belongs more in pictorial, this isn't even a backyard nature image.*

**25 - Male and Female House Finch.jpg**

*This is an interesting image. I love how you have the Mr. and Mrs. on top of the NO sign. Very good. They are slightly over sharpened as there is a halo around the birds.*

**26 - Male Belted Kingfisher.jpg**

*These are tough little buggers to get. Nice capture. He could use just a little Shadow/highlight to improve the feathers and eye.*

**27 - Male Yellow Headed Blackbird (Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus) in Full Breeding Plumage .jpg**

*Beautiful bird but I think it is a wee bit over sharpened as there is a halo around the bird. Again I'm not too sure about the catchlight in its eye.*

**28 - Meerkat Stares Down the Photographer.jpg**

*(Suricata suricatta) Nice capture. Again thank you for the scientific name. If you use the shadow/highlight adjustment tool you could bring its eyes out significantly more and it would improve the image.*

**29 - Monarch butterfly feeding on bottlebrush.jpg**

*Nice seeing but I wish you had used a diffuser to soften the light. The image is too contrasty.*

**30 - Mountain Goat lives a life of leisure at the Seattle Zoo.jpg**

*This is a difficult capture. The white fur is blown out as are the leaves on the left side. The shadows are almost blocked up. It is easy to say but the image may have been better if taken at a different time of day.*

**31 - Northern Cardinal on deck.jpg**

*(Cardinalis cardinalis) These are beautiful birds. Cropping the image would make the bird stand out more after all it is about him. I'm being picky here but if you use the shadow/highlight adjustment tool you could bring out its eye a bit more.*

**32 - Ranunculus bouquet.jpg**

*The image appears a bit under exposed and it is too contrasty.*

**33 - Rose after Rain Shower.jpg**

*It looks like you used a flash for this and I find the specular highlights distracting*

*and it is cropped too tight for nature.*

**34 - Scarlet Ibis - Youth -Eudocimus ruber.jpg**

*This is absolutely beautiful bird but the lighting is not helping you here. Again it was taken at the wrong time of day. The image is a too contrasty,*

**35 - Sea Otter Monterey Aquarium.jpg**

*This is a great idea but the poor little guy is soft. I know he is under water but there are reflections in the glass.*

**36 - Shrike eating a Jerusalem Cricket.jpg**

*(Lanius ludovicianus) with a (Stenpelmatus fuscus) This is a lucky catch. I would have used Shadows/highlights adjustment to lighten the eye area. The image is slightly over sharpened as there is a halo around it.*

**37 - Weed in the Backyard.jpg**

*This is actually a flower. The difference between a weed and a flower is that a flower is a plant you want. This image has been manipulated a bit too much, the vignetting is overdone and therefore doesn't fit the nature category even for this competition..*

**38 - Western Fence Lizard ( Sceloporus occidentalis).jpg**

*Unfortunately, you cut his poor tail off. Also your left side is a bit blown out. It is too contrasty.*

**39 - White Wolf keeps watch on zoo visitors.jpg**

*Gorgeous animal. The hot spots are distracting. If you crop the righthand side you will get rid of the most distracting ones and then if you did a little cloning you could take care of the others,*

**40 - wildflower field in bloom near vineyard.jpg**

*This is a nice landscape image. What kind of wild flowers are these? I think this would be better in pictorial.*

**41 - another fine mess.jpg**

*This looks just like my backyard, awesome!*

**42 - humming bird bath.jpg**

*Looks like he is having fun. Your shallow depth of field really helps this image and the exposure is good. Nice.*

**43 - loving the hand of man.jpg**

*Well its nose is sharp. I wish you had captured his entire head and I wish his eyes were sharp.*

## **Winning Images:**

**1st Place:** Fox squirrel at picnic table

**2nd Place:** American Green Tree Frog (*Hyla Cinerea*)

**3rd Place:** Helmeted Guinea Fowl

**Honorable Mention:** Meerkat Stares Down the Photographer

**Honorable Mention:** Chives - *Allium schoenoprasum*

**Honorable Mention:** Female Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) Drinking Nectar