

Bits & Pixels



Second Quarter 2024 (April - June)

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P.O. Box 51154, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

www.padretrailscc.org



“Brown Pelicans Posing on Pipe” by Chris Johnson - Honorable Mention in May’s Human Hand in Nature Competition

Three competitions highlighted our 2nd Quarter. They challenged our members to capture images that emphasized the creative use of light in April, explore the interaction between humans and nature in May, and present the beauty of reflections in June. Our judges’ selections are presented beginning on page 3. Members also participated in a number of Pop-Up challenges, Scavenger Hunts and a Group Shoot at *Lake El Estero* in Monterey.

Inside

Meet Our Second Quarter Judges	Page 2	Second Quarter Highlights.....	Pages 10
April 17 th Creative Use of Light Winners	Pages 3-4	Members’ Shout-Out	Pages 10
President’s Message: My Two Bits by Ken Jones.....	Page 5	June 19 th Pictorial/Reflection Winners	Pages 11-13
2024 Summer Mixer Information	Page 5	PSA Snapshot by Carol Fuessenich.....	Page 14
In the Spotlight: Judi Clayton	Page 6	Third Quarter Group Shoot, Pop Up, and Submission Dates	Page 14
May 15 th Human Hand in Nature Winners.....	Pages 7-9	PTCC Organizations.....	Page 14

Meet Our Second Quarter Competition Judges

April 2024: Pictorial - Creative Use of Light - *Meredith Mullins*

Meredith Mullins is an internationally exhibited American photographer and journalist currently living bi-continentially—in Paris and in Pacific Grove. Her work is in museums and private collections throughout North America and Europe, including the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, Willem Photography and the Weston Gallery on the Monterey Peninsula. Her photographs also appear in several publications and printed photography collections. She is the recipient of international photography awards, including the Grand Concours Photosur Paris, the Paris Prix de Photographie (Px3), the Worldwide Gala Awards, the Julia Margaret Cameron Awards, and Photographers Forum. Meredith has been a writer/photographer for National Geographic School Publishing, Paris Magazine, and Carmel Magazine and currently writes and photographs for Bonjour Paris, France Today, Eye Prefer Paris, OIC Moments, and Brown trout Publishing. She is the author of the award-winning photography book “In A Paris Moment.” Her philosophy is one simple phrase: “Vive la photographie!”



Photo © Jim Buongiorno

May 2024: Human Hand in Nature - *Chris Cassell*



Chris has been photographing since the late 70's and, in the earlier years, had a home darkroom and experimented with medium-format and 4x5 as well as 35mm film-formats. He's since gone all-digital. His photographic interests have focused on landscape, abstract compositions, Photoshop montages, and photojournalism. He has a special fascination with the juxtaposition of human elements with those of nature. Chris was president and had other roles for the Light and Shadow Camera Club of San Jose, before that club disbanded in 2021 due to low membership. He is currently Judge Chair for the Los Gatos-Saratoga Camera Club, and has been judging for camera clubs since 2011. In 2017 he became a photographer for Pro-Bono Photo (www.probonophoto.org/) through which he's provided free

photo services to social justice and environmental organizations in the Bay area since the first San Jose Women's March. Professionally, Chris is a Ph.D. aerospace engineer (possibly retired) and aspiring asteroid miner.

June 2024: Pictorial (Reflections) - *Cara Weston*



Born January 28, 1957, photographer Cara Weston continues to live and work in the community of Carmel, California – a landscape that has inspired her parents, Cole Weston and Helen Prosser Weston, uncle Brett Weston and grandfather Edward Weston – recognized as leading visionaries in modern photography.

Having worked and studied with father Cole and uncle Brett, as well as photographer Rod Dresser, assistant to Ansel Adams, Cara walks the path of her heritage, creating a body of work that respects artistic tradition, while also creating her own eloquent voice within the Weston family.

Cara says about her heritage and how it has influenced her own work: *“More than anything, there is a shared predisposition of spirit; to see the world with a sense of wonder and a drive to distill its essences of light and shadow into a moment that is transformed into a collective experience – one that transcends its fleeting nature to become eternal. The desire for peace that exists in each of our hearts can find refuge in the beauty captured by my family's images, and you can stand as more than an observer, but also, like I have, as an artist whose own creativity is refreshed and inspired by it – I am grateful for their lessons.”*

April 17th Pictorial Winners - Creative Use of Light

Group Blue



1st "Urban Solitude"
Denice Loria Woysk



3rd "Delicate Ranunculus"
Chris Johnson



HM "Feather Duster"
Julie Chen



2nd "Into The Light"
Carol Silveira



HM "Jasmine With a Spot of Light"
Chris Johnson



HM "Light Painting with Milky Way"
John Drum

April 17th Pictorial Winners - Creative Use of Light

Combined Groups Green & Red



1st "Life Guard Tower - Paint with Gels"
Lillie Grossman (Group Green)



3rd - Tie "Lue"
Bill Shewchuck (Group Green)



2nd "Circles of Light"
Ken Jones (Group Green)



3rd - Tie "Oak Woods"
Sandie McCafferty (Group Green)



HM "Waterscape"
Janet Azevedo (Group Green)



HM "Starry Night in Newport State Park"
Bill Shewchuk (Group Green)



HM "Tea Time - Paint with Gels"
Lillie Grossman (Group Green)

My Two Bits A Gaggle of Photographers Group Shoot Fun by the Lake

by Ken Jones

On the very first day of June, a few PTCC members met up at *Lake El Estero* in Monterey for a Group Shoot. Even though the group was small, it qualified, and we had a fine time. What makes Group Shoots fun isn't necessarily the size of the group, but the spirit of it. There are subject categories to find and capture in your own unique way traveling in twos or threes, sometime going your own way, or sometimes sticking together. I find it amazing how two people at the same spot can see things so differently. (That describes life, as well as photography I guess.) At mid day, we drifted back together for a sack lunch near the paddle boat pavilion. A food truck magically appeared for those who hadn't packed a lunch. It was fun to sit, surrounded by a few dozen curious and hungry geese, and talk about the morning's finds.



Speaking of geese, the lake and its surrounds must be home to over 200 of the things. There were dozens of goslings too, in various stages of fuzziness from balls of feathers to gangly adolescents, all watched over by their wary parents. We'll see the images taken during the shoot at our July 3rd regular meeting.

Chris Johnson planned and organized the Lake El Estero outing and our upcoming group shoot to *San Juan Bautista* on August 3rd. Personally, I'd like to see Club members out for group shoots at least once a quarter. The Club used to have a very active group shoot schedule, and our website displays past shoots. Click on "In the Field" on the site's main menu. I'd really like the Club to get back to that level of group activity.

If you have an idea for a location that would provide fun and photographic challenges to the members, please let us know and we'll see if we can put it together.

On another subject, please repeat after me:

"Change is Good"

For several years, pre-COVID, we enjoyed the use of the beautiful board room at the Pebble Beach Community Services District (PBCSD) complex on Forest Lake Road in Pebble Beach. Sadly, a recent policy change by the PBCSD has made it impossible for us to continue to use the room.

We all know how the pandemic ended in-person meetings, and in the aftermath of the lock down, there were camera clubs across the country that simply went out of business. Fortunately, PTCC adapted quickly to the virtual environment, and Zoom meetings helped keep the Club together and functioning. Zoom eases the logistics of meetings, and allows remote attendance and presenters. The one thing it lacks is personal, in-person interaction.

Steps the Club will take to bring us together more:

- More group activity outside of regular meetings.
- More frequent casual mixers.
- More meet-ups at special events.
- More in-person member skills workshops.
- Any other thing we can think of. Ideas?

Nobody can see the future, but for now, we're OK!

Take your lens cap off...

Ken



Padre Trails Camera Club's
'24 Summer Mixer
Saturday, July 27th
Noon to 3pm

Contact info@padretrailscc.org or
visit <https://padretrailscc.org/> for details.

- Get reacquainted and catch up
- Shake off the Zoom Blues
- Share ideas about the hobby we all love
- Bring your laptop and share tips and tricks in post
- There will be demos of various layering tricks
- Relax and enjoy!

In The Spotlight: Judi Clayton

Photos by Judi Clayton, text by Judi Clayton and Ken Joenes



Judi Clayton grew up in rural southern California where her appreciation for the beauty of nature had its beginnings. Her family settled in Scottsdale, Arizona where Judi finished high school and then received her degree in accounting from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, despite spending every available moment on the slopes of the Snow Bowl

ski slopes with her future husband, John Clayton. Arizona's desert beauty, and the grandeur of the San Francisco Peaks near Flagstaff, helped ingrain Judi's love of the outdoors.

After graduation, and a family vacation in Europe, Judi began work with Price Waterhouse in San Francisco. She lived in the Bay Area for a time before moving to Fresno where her daughter, Kristin, was born. She began her own CPA practice there, and it was there that her growing love of nature came together with photography. In the late '70s, she began taking photo classes, including photography history, composition, and darkroom operations, at local junior colleges. At first, Judi's photographic interest went to portraiture. She tried wedding and family group assignments, but the pressure involved put an end to that.

Realizing a life-long dream, Judi, John and Kristin moved to Carmel. In the early 2000s, Judi found Padre Trails Camera Club just as it was making the transition to digital photography. In her own words:

"My love of nature photography started in Yosemite National Park and expanded when we bought property in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. There I loved searching out Bald Eagles, Elk, Antelope, and wild horses to photograph. I even got chased while trying to take a shot of a moose in Rocky Mountain National Park. The Monterey Bay Area has provided me with a new version of nature photography. My new focus is on big waves, ocean mammals, Osprey, backyard birds and even some manual digital enhancements (not AI). These have sustained me through my difficult times."



May 15th Human Hand in Nature Winners

Group Blue



1st "Osprey with Catch"
Chris Johnson



3rd "Brown Pelican in Moss Landing Harbor"
Julie Chen



2nd "Sunset at the Beach"
Carol Silveira



HM "Highway 25 San Benito County"
Patricia McKean



HM "Brown Pelicans Posing on Pipe"
Chris Johnson



HM "Baby Fox in Pipe"
Julie Chen

May 15th Human Hand in Nature Winners

Group Green



1st "Yellowstone Thermal Pool"
Carol Fuessenich



3rd "Lone Fisherperson"
Janet Azevedo



2nd "Fences"
Janet Azevedo



HM "Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)"
Bill Shewshuk



HM "Wharf"
Ssandie McCafferty



HM "Daisies Downtown"
Charlie Gibson

May 15th Human Hand in Nature Winners

Group Red



1st "Unusually Pretty Pelargonium"
Brooks Leffler



HM "Golf Course"
David Eisen



2nd "Sand Art"
Rick Verbanec



HM "Generations"
Rick Verbanec



3rd "The Forest Hides the Blinds"
Brian Spiegel



HM "Durango Silverton-1"
David Eisen

Second Quarter Highlights



Photo by Charlie Gibson

On April 27th, PTCC Pro Member *David Gubernick* conducted a macro flower photography workshop. A full day of in-the-field shooting with

Zoom follow up and commentary provided an extraordinary learning experience, even for seasoned macro shooters.

Our April 13th Board meeting focused on stimulating competition participation, and increasing the number of in-person get togethers.

In May, members went on a Scavenger Hunt at Monterey's historic Adobes. Ten locations were highlighted that gave members a chance to visit, and revisit Monterey's past. One objective was to capture these iconic buildings in a new and creative way.



Photo by Ken Jones
Larkin House garden entrance

Over seventy images were submitted and shared at our June 5th meeting.

Members gathered on June 1st for a Group Shoot at *Lake El Estero*. The 10 target categories provided a busy morning of scouting and shooting. A sack lunch by the lake capped the day perfectly.

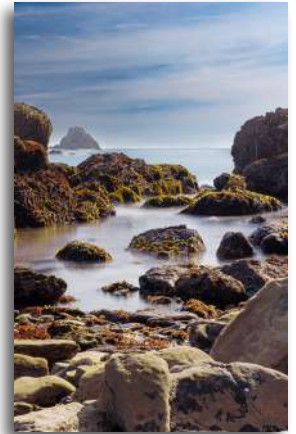


Members' Shout-out Achievements Beyond PTCC



Chris Johnson took several 1st and **Best of Show** honors with her Delicate Ranunculus at the *2024 Carmel Valley Garden Club's Show* in May.

Sara Courtneidge's Weston Beach image made the cover of the *Spring/Summer Point Lobos Foundation magazine*. *Jerry Loomis* also had an image in the issue.



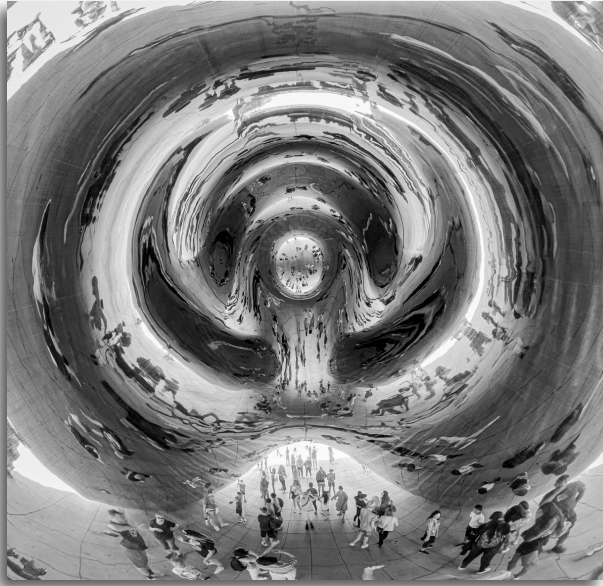
Jim Lambert's image, "Mouth of Little Sur River" was awarded first place in the *Arts Habitat exhibit at the Avery Gallery*.



Carol Silveira's image of an abandoned car was selected for the *Bodie Historic State Park's 2025 Calendar*.

June 19th Pictorial (Reflections) Winners

Group Blue



1st "The Underbelly of The Bean, Chicago"
Joni Zabala



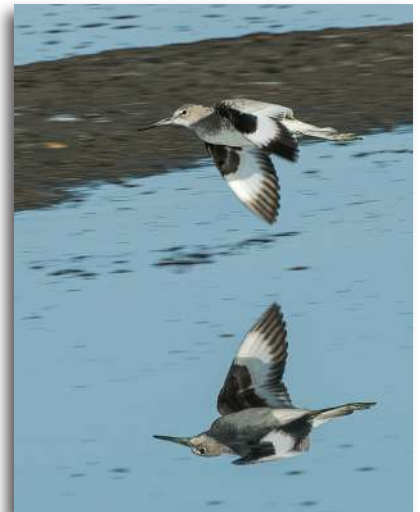
2nd "Picking Up Sticks"
Julie Chen



3rd "Mirror Lake Reflection"
Jared Ikeda



HM "Municipal Wharf II Reflections"
Christene Johnson



HM "Willet's Reflection"
Jeff Hobbs



HM "Winter in Yosemite"
John Drum

June 19th Pictorial (Reflections) Winners

Group Green



1st "Hearst Indoor Pool"
Lillie Grossman



2nd "Winter Reflections at Convict Lake"
Don Eastman



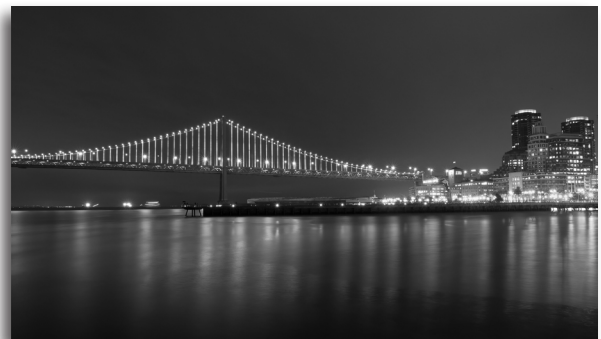
HM "Bodie State Historic Park"
Bill Shewchuk



3rd "Out For A Walk"
Janet Azevedo



HM "Honfleur Harbor"
Ken Jones



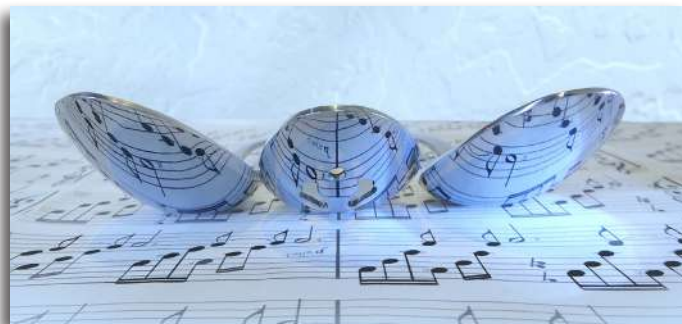
HM "Bayscape Reflections"
Charlie Gibson

June 19th Pictorial (Reflections) Winners

Group Red



1st "Sculpture on Wires"
Andrea Madsen



2nd "Spoon Reflections"
Clarissa Conn



HM "Gabby"
David Eisen



3rd "Bodie in See-through Reflections"
Rick Verbanec



HM "Sunset Over the Linyanti River, Botswana"
Sara A Courtneidge



Group Shoots, Pop Ups, or Scavenger Hunts: What's in a Name?

by Carol Fuessenich

The first memories I have of Padre Trails is participating in a Group Shoot at *San Juan Batista*. It was a beautiful sunny day and I was ready to take stunning photographs. However, when I got there I wasn't sure what to take pictures of or how to handle various shooting situations: (What settings do I use when there is both shadow and sun in the picture I want to take?). I didn't know much about composition or what would make an impactful picture. I was new to Photoshop so had limited knowledge of what other members were talking about. In fact, I began that Group Shoot not knowing anyone. By the end of day, however, I made new friends, and felt comfortable with other members.



There was a lot of casual conversation during lunch, and when we were out in the street again, I asked numerous questions. The members were all quite patient in explaining things to me. even when I asked why they'd selected a particular subject to photograph.

At our meetings, I was able to learn even more about the computer programs I was learning to use, and about the programs other members used. I went home and tried some of the things I learned.

Another advantage of participating in our Group Shoots, or Pop Ups, or Scavenger Hunts is that they're good, no-stress practice, and they start a collection of photos you can use for competitions. Remember that the more you get out the more you will see to photograph.

I know there are a number of new members since we started using Zoom when Covid hit. Since we still Zoom, I look forward to meeting new members when we are out in the field shooting! So check the Padre Trails web site and read about the upcoming shoots. If you have questions feel free to contact any of the officers. Or, better yet, attend the Summer Mixer on Saturday, July 27th at Ken's home (12 PM to 3 PM).

Key 3rd Quarter Dates Pop-Up Challenges & Group Shoots

Full year's schedule available at our website: Member Resources

- Submit: *Shades of Gray Pop Up* - July 27th
- Submit: *Carmel Mission Scavenger Hunt* - July 31st
- Group Shoot - *San Juan Bautista* - August 3rd
Submit Group Shoot Images by August 24th
- Submit: *Texture Pop Up* - September 25th

Group Shoot & Pop Up details will be sent out well in advance of the event.

Padre Trails Camera Club

Meetings: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 7:00PM - 9:00PM
Currently via Zoom

All Officers and Activity Chairs can be reached via email at: info@padretrailscc.org

Membership information can be found here: www.padretrailscc.org/ptcc/ptccmembership.html

2023 - 2024 Officers

President - *Ken Jones*
Vice President - *John Drum*
Secretary - *Dick Light*
Treasurer - *Judi Clayton*

Activity Chairs

Awards & Hospitality - *Chris Johnson*
Competitions - *John Drum* and *Bill Brown*
Judge Coordination - *Joni Zabala*
Media Relations - *Bill Brown*
Membership - *Chris Johnson*
Newsletter (Acting) - *Ken Jones*
Publicity - *Amy Sibiga*
Points Accounting - *Carol Fuessenich*
Star-rating Accounting - *Rick Verbanec*
Submission Review - *Bill Brown, Jared Ikeda, and Brooks Leffler*
Website - *Jared Ikeda*



Member Club Since 1948



Upcoming Competition Submission Dates

All competition submissions are due by midnight.

- Sunday, July 28th: Open Nature
- Thursday, August 1st: County Fair Registration Deadline
- Sunday, August 25th: Travel
- Sunday, September 24th: First FY'25 Comp. TBD