

# PTCC – Nature #1 Nov 28, 2017

## Group AAA

22 images from 8 members

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### 01-African Lion.jpg

*Beautiful headshot. Hard to take a BAD portrait of such a handsome animal.*

### 02-African Lions at water hole.jpg

*This is extraordinary! It says “family” in the strongest possible way. I’d love to see a little subtle dodging, burning and selectively increased contrast to strengthen what is already a wonderful picture. I’m attaching an edit to show you what I’m talking about..*

### 03-Awe of Being.jpg

*“Awe” is the operative word here – the landscape is truly awe-inspiring. For me personally, the tree on the right is unnecessary and a bit distracting. If it were possible, I wonder if the composition might have been improved by moving a few feet to the left and up a bit to minimize the foreground and get a more panoramic view of the mountains.*

### 04-Barking Birch.jpg

*Nice abstract! I think an oversize (larger-than-life) print of this would be very impressive if there’s enough detail when you blow it up that big.*

### 05-Black Oystercatcher.jpg

*The contrast between the birds and the background is absolutely wonderful. I would have liked to see more background, especially on the top. And I know it’s not permitted in this contest, but just for yourself, if you’re handy with Photoshop, try retouching out the third crow on the left. All you really need is the two center ones for a striking, beautifully composed picture. I’m attaching an illustration – crudely done, but you get the idea.*

### 06-Blanket Flower (Gaillardia x grandiflora) with Honey bee. jpg

*This is just about perfect. I’ve seen lots of similar pictures but this one can take its place among them as one of the best.*

### 07-California Sea Lion, Monterey Harbor.jpg.

*OMG, is this real??? It’s hilarious and fascinating and impressive all at the same time. I wish I had taken it myself. That green leaf isn’t adding anything to the picture; you can’t do anything about it for this contest, but just for yourself, try retouching it out.*

### 08-Dinner for two- (1 of 1).jpg

*Very intriguing picture; the problem is, I don’t quite know what it is. Looks like the remains of some animal after it’s been eaten, but even then, I needed the title to clue me in. I’m assuming it’s underwater; even that is open to question, however. Without something recognizable in the image to give a sense of scale or context, it’s a beautiful image, but difficult to make sense of.*

**09-Gentoo Penguins Antarctica.jpg**

*This is adorable! For me, more surroundings would have made it a stronger image. Sometime you have to resist the temptation to zoom in close. More surroundings might have made it about warmth and tenderness in a desolated environment – a even stronger statement than just warmth and tenderness alone.*

**10-Heart of Flame (Bromela Balansae).jpg**

*Beautifully done. The depth of field is exactly right – the red leaves and center are in perfect focus, the green parts just soft enough so as not to compete. A little more contrast and luminance in the center of the flower would improve the composition (Photoshop to the rescue!) I'm attaching an edit that you might think is too extreme, but you'll get the idea.*

**11-Indian Chipmunk (Funambulus pennatii).jpg.**

*Hilarious! I love it! Unfortunately, the chipmunk is a little out of focus, and if anything is in focus, it should be him.*

**12-Juvenile Black-crowned Night-heron (Nycticorax nycticorax) Perched at Neary Lagoon**

*This is an almost-perfect picture - composition, pose, tonal values, everything. Your post-processing is so masterfully done it is virtually undetectable. I'd like to see a tiny bit more contrast in the heron. Is the bird in perfect focus? Can't quite tell from this small JPEG – the chest feathers seem a bit soft...*

**13-life goes on.jpg**

*Nice! composition. The image of new life arising from old has been done before, of course (I'm thinking of Ansel's picture of new grass in front of a burned tree trunk) but it never grows old. I wish the leaves in this photograph were a tiny bit sharper...*

**14-mushroom at garland - 1.jpg**

*That is the gnarliest mushroom I have ever seen! Beautifully done – the background is a bit distracting – a bit of Photoshop dodging and burning to lower the contrast of the background and subtly increase the contrast of the mushroom itself is the only improvement I can think of.*

**15-mushroom at garland - 2.jpg**

*I can understand the temptation to zoom in close on a subject like this, but as a stand-alone picture it's hard to tell what it is, and the out-of-focus area diminish its impact.*

**16-Naked Lady (Amaryllis belladonna)..**

*This is beautifully done – the values are perfect, the composition is perfect. Personally, I would have desaturated and lowered the contrast on the out-of-focus flower in the background a bit and increase the contrast in center of the foreground flower to place more emphasis on the foreground, but that's just me. I'm attaching a version with those edits.*

**17-Northern Elephant Seal Trio ...**

*If any picture would make you fall in love with elephant seals, this one should. I would have liked to have seen it not cropped in so close; a little more context would make it even stronger.*

**18-PTCC-Big Horned Sheep Ovis canadensis.jpg...**

*Great! portrait, perfectly composed. And yes, I know how it's almost impossible to get a super-telephoto picture like this in perfect focus – but to be the flawless picture you want it to be, it has to be super-sharp...*

**19-Shadows of Flight.jpg**

*I love the idea in this image – the drops of rain stand out in perfect contrast to the leaf. The extreme crop, however, is distracting. I'd like to see a more traditional aspect ratio, provided that the background could be as dark as the one here is.*

**20-Tenacity (1 of 2).jpg**

*Wow. Glad I'm not one of those palm trees! Very effective picture – I think including more of the water on top, effectively putting the shoreline lower in the overall composition would make it even stronger. Also, some subtle dodging to bring out details in the rocky foreground would enhance it as well. I'm attaching a version with those edits to give you an idea.*

**21-Three Hump-backed Whales.jpg**

*WOW!!! Not too many people ever have, or ever will see a sight like that! I can't imagine any way you could improve this picture.*

**22-Wild horse of Chincoteague Island Equus ferus .jpg...**

*I love the horse and the bird and the reflection is wonderful, but for me it's cropped in so close I have very little sense of "place." I don't know what the scene looked like in real life, but I would have loved to see the horse and bird in a much wider shot.*

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**WINNING IMAGES:**

**Honorable Mention:**

Black Oystercatcher

**Third Place:**

Juvenile Black-crowned Night-heron

**Second Place:**

Three Hump-backed Whales

**First Place:**

African Lions at water hole