



**01 - Arctic Polar Bear.jpg**

**Dick Light**

Always a plus when you can capture an image while your subject is intent on looking straight at you, creating that connection that pulls in the viewer. I like that the bear is showing his one uplifted paw. Good composition, simple and nicely balanced. It looks to be an overcast day and I love the soft effect it creates in the image. Maybe bring the exposure up by 1/2 stop or so. \*\*\*\*



**02 - Feather and Sand.jpg**

**Charlie Gibson**

An unusual nature subject, one that causes pause for reflection perhaps. Stuck vertically in the sand, it becomes much more interesting than if it was lying flat on the ground. I like the contrast in textures and colors. Looking at this from ground level and close up adds interest. \*\*\*\*



**03 - Calandrinia spectabilis.jpg**

**Charlie Gibson**

A beautiful flower, yet commonly found in gardens throughout the northwest. If there was a bee on this flower, then I think it could qualify as a nature image because the flower would be considered within the bee's natural habitat. By itself, it's a nice image of a flower and I think I would prefer to see it in Pictorial. The composition is good and the background is softly blurred. \*\*



**04 - Cup lichen, a species of Cladonia.jpg**

**Amy Sibiga**

This title is very helpful because it identifies the plant. It is a nice grouping of lichen that nearly fills the frame and the detail keeps the viewer's attention. That said, I think the image could be sharper. \*\*\*



**05 - Galapagos Giant Tortoise.jpg**

**Dick Light**

I like the blade of grass hanging from the mouth of the tortoise. The grass coming up in front however, is a bit distracting. Perhaps moving to the right a little would put that piece of greenery off to the left of the tortoise's face. I do like that you got in close and I might think about getting in even closer (or cropping) to get the full effect of the detail that you might find in the tortoise's face. \*\*\*



**06 - Hope Valley Aspens in Fall.jpg**

**Dale Thies**

Aspen tree trunks and fall color work so well together. I enjoy these kinds of compositions. One of the things that pop out for me is the high contrast between light and dark. Reducing the shadows in the tree trunks would help to even out the exposure. Secondly, my eye travels up almost immediately to the small section of blue sky. It's not a deal breaker for me, but you might try re-composing the image (perhaps use a 16:9 aspect ratio) so that it isn't there, allowing only the trees trunks and fall color to be the story. \*\*\*



**07 - Moaning Caverns, Vallecito, CA.jpg**

**Kent Van Vuren**

Geological formations can be fascinating and this is no exception. The textures combined with the shapes of these formations have a graphic appeal. Good exposure, in fact it looks like a flash was possibly used. \*\*\*\*



**08 - Pebble Beach Sunset.jpg**

**Dale Thies**

I like that you kept the tree silhouetted against the sunset. In this case, I wouldn't try to bring out anything in the shadows. The silhouette effect enhances the simplicity of the image. I appreciate the straight horizon. \*\*\*\*



**09 - Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pt. Lobos State Reserve, CA.jpg**

**Kent Van Vuren**

Nice capture of this nuthatch doing what they do best, hopping around in trees hiding their seeds. The colors are quite nice, blending in well with a blurred background with no distractions. The blurry branch that the nuthatch is sitting on however, is not that interesting and really takes up a lot of space in the image. I'd like to see a vertical crop from the right along with some cropping from the bottom. You should still have enough of his habitat showing while making the nuthatch more prominent in the image. \*\*\*



**10 - White-lined Sphinx Moth (Hyles lineata).jpg**

**Amy Sibiga**

Great capture of the sphinx moth with the proboscis actually in the flower. Very well done! \*\*\*\*\*



**11 - Beautiful My Valley.jpg**

**N Asselborn**

I'm honestly a bit confused by the title. I love the color, the flowers really pop against the blue sky. Again, possibly a better contender for Pictorial rather than Nature. \*\*



**12 - Dragonfly.jpg**

**N Asselborn**

Congrats on capturing this dragonfly in flight. Not an easy thing to do! You usually have to be using a long lens while tracking their flight path. Good depth of field, the body is sharp throughout, and the wings show nice motion. Great background as well. \*\*\*\*\*

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## Winning Images:

*Due to limited number of entries, only first and second places have been awarded.*

2nd Place:



**Dragonfly**  
*Nicole Asselborn*

First Place:



**White-lined Spinx Moth  
(Hyles lineata)**  
*Amy Sibiga*