

**01 - Bean Hollow Beach.jpg**

*Jeff Hobbs*

Wonderful nature story of erosion. Works beautifully in B&W. Great detail, texture, sharpness, and depth in the image. Such an interesting formation!

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**02 - Black Oak Bark.jpg**

*Jeff Hobbs*

I really like the concept and the composition. I think it would be a much more dramatic image and emphasize the pattern in the bark if the light was coming more from the side of the trunk. That would provide better contrast that could be accentuated in software to really make the pattern pop!

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**03 - Brown Pelican.jpg**

*Jerry Loomis*

This is a beautiful composition. A lot of the time, patterns can really be emphasized by using B&W. However, in this shot, I think it would benefit from including the color. The colors on a Brown Pelican are beautiful and the symmetry and detail of the image would be accentuated even more with the different colors included. As it is right now, it lacks impact and doesn't grab me as a viewer.

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**04 - Close up of a Waratah, a Flowering Australian Shrub.  
jpg**

*Chris Johnson*

Well, these colors certainly reach out and grab you! You notice the intensity of the color first and that draws you into the image where you can then focus on the beautiful pattern of the flower head. As it is now, the shot provides good identification qualities. For a more abstract image, you could get closer to the flower and fill the frame with the curved flower parts.

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**05 - Flower with water drops.jpg**

*David Eisen*

This looks like a Douglas Iris, a native plant here in CA. Normally, with Nature Division competitions, descriptive titles with species identified are important. Since this competition is focused more on Patterns in Nature, I'm not considering the titles as important, although they do help a bit. These are tough flowers to photograph because you need a small enough aperture to get all the flower parts looking sharp; however, you don't want the background too sharp to where it's distracting. I think this shot could be improved by using a slightly larger aperture to blur more of the background. If you also cut the exposure back by 1/2 to 2/3 of a stop, that would tone down the highlights slightly and darken the background a little more.

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**06 - Frozen.jpg**

*Bill Shewchuk*

This is an amazing pattern! It's technically excellent with regards to focus and exposure. It's very enjoyable to get lost in the lines and curves of your photo.

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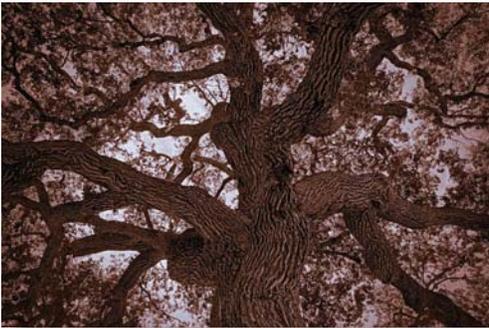


### 07 - Great Blue Heron.JPG

*Jerry Loomis*

This is a very creative photo. The ripples of the water provide a great pattern by themselves but the reflection of the heron really adds to the interest. There's something about the photo that doesn't look sharp and I can't tell for sure what it is. Perhaps it was shallow depth of field or maybe this image was cropped significantly and it's just lost some resolution as a result.

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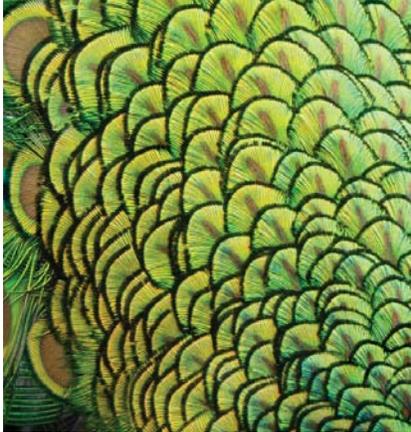


### 08 - Hand of Nature Reaching Skyward.jpg

*David Thon*

All I can say is, "WOW!" An exquisite shot! I think it works really well in the sepia tone as opposed to straight B&W.

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### 09 - Mayura Back Feathers.jpg

*Judi Clayton*

The colors and the pattern grab the viewer and focus their attention on the image. Speaking of focus... It's a bit soft; perhaps from handholding the camera at too slow a shutter speed (slight vibration registered) or perhaps it's just from the quality of the lens itself. It's hard to tell. Anyway, it's a very nice shot, just not critically sharp.

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### 10 - Mushrooms-1.jpg

*David Eisen*

This is a nice shot to identify these mushrooms and it evokes a pleasant mood of being in a moist, dense forest. I like the way the mushrooms pop against the dark background. It's a wonderful photo, it just doesn't have the visual impact for "Patterns in Nature" that others in this group have.

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### 11 - Oceano Beach Sand Dune Pattern.jpg

*Mary Ann Avera*

Although patterns in the sand at low light tend to be somewhat cliché, I never tire of them when they're done well. This is done very well. It's unique in that it includes the drop-off and juxtaposition of the smoothness against the ripples.

Technically, it's executed perfectly, being super sharp and beautifully exposed throughout the frame.

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### 12 - Oceanview Shallows.jpg

*David Thon*

A beautiful mix of colors and lines that tell a wonderful nature story of biodiversity in the kelp forest. I think using a polarizing filter in this situation might cut through some of the glare on the water and really richen the colors.

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### 13 - Pacific Sardines (*Sardinops sagax caeruleus*).jpg

*Bill Shewchuk*

An amazing pattern created by a mass of living things! This is a nice shot and good nature story. However, it doesn't appear real sharp and there are some weird blue ghost images around some of the fish. I'm not sure what that's from. Perhaps this was shot through glass at the aquarium and the glass reduced the crispness of the image and created the blue ghosting around the fish towards the top right. Or that could be due to digital noise from edge sharpening in the photo editing software. Anyway, it would be truly spectacular if it was crisper and didn't have the ghosting. \*\*\*\*



### 14 - Pyritized Ammonite (*Quenstedtoceras*).jpg

*John Avera*

Perfection in every respect! Sharpness, exposure, composition, subject matter, and lighting are all perfect! An amazing combination of curves and lines are all in beautiful balance with each other.

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### 15 - Rear View Mayura.jpg

*Judi Clayton*

This is beautifully composed and really emphasizes the symmetry of the feathers. The lighting is rather flat though and lacks impact. I do love how it's so perfectly symmetrical, even in the wings at the bottom of the frame. Very precise!

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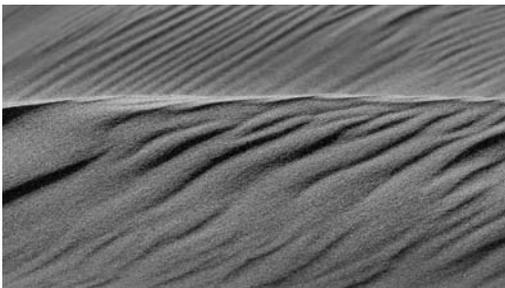


### 16 - Sand Dune Ripples.jpg

*Chris Johnson*

This was obviously photographed from a tripod! The composition is so precise and it's so sharp throughout the frame. That can really only be achieved with a wide angle lens and a pretty small aperture of f/22 or smaller. The compression of the ripples as you travel back into the image is spectacular. You include just the right amount of sky in this composition and the placement of the sun is ideal. You can feel the texture of this photo.

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### 17 - Sand Waves.jpg

*Bill Brown*

This is a very nice shot and well executed technically. I love the detail and texture in the sand in the foreground. I like how you can see some of the sand blowing over the crest of that front dune. It just lacks the drama and visual impact of some of the others in this group.

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### 18 - Sky Waves.jpg

*Bill Brown*

This is a beautiful image! It's very ethereal and soothing to look at. The colors are subtle but very pleasing. It's a very unique photo.

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### 19 - Tafoni Pattern.jpg

*Mary Ann Avera*

What a find! Excellent photo in all regards! I can't help but think that all those cute little pebbles look so cozy tucked away in their little caves! Beautiful shot and really cool story of erosion!

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### 20 - Wing Scales of Forest Butterfly (Nymphalide-Euphaedra).jpg

*John Avera*

As I mentioned in my judging intro, when judging nature and wildlife photos, I always try to take into account the difficulty of creating a particular image. I've shot lots of high magnification macro work myself and I know how difficult and tedious it can be. Your field of view is miniscule. Your depth of field is practically non-existent. You need GOBS of light to compensate for the extension you use between your lens and camera. The slightest vibration registers as a magnitude 9 earthquake in the viewfinder. You can't just use a super small aperture or you get diffraction in the image, which reduces the sharpness. Therefore, you have to be exactly perpendicular to your subject, as in this photo or you have to use focus stacking, as I've referenced in some prior comments. This was a very difficult photo to create, especially for it to be so well composed on such a small scale (pun intended). This image is spectacular! \*\*\*\*\*



### 21 - Fractured Granite - Reflection in the Eastern Sierra.jpg

*Patricia McKean*

This is a lovely image and it's well crafted both aesthetically and technically. However, compared to the other images in this group, it doesn't quite have the impact that some of the others have in emphasizing the Patterns in Nature.

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**22 - Wild Lupine, Carmel Valley.jpg**

*Patricia McKean*

This a beautifully composed image. I really like how the one flower is isolated and sharp and the others provide information about the scene in the background but are out of focus and not distracting. In a situation like this, it might be nice to try an even wider aperture to further blur the background into non-descript blotches of green, blue, and white.

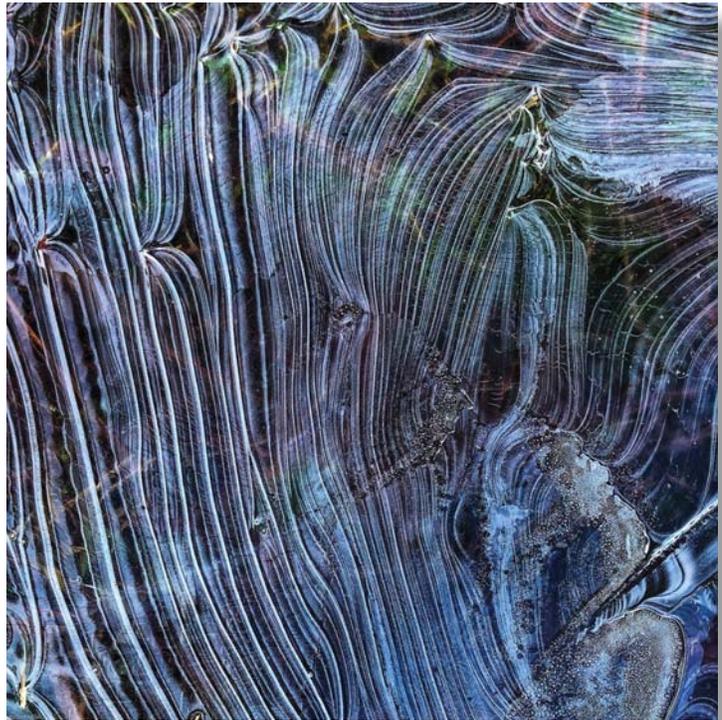
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## Winning Images:

### Honorable Mentions:

**Frozen**  
*Bill Shewchuk*



**Tafoni Pattern**  
*Mary Ann Avera*

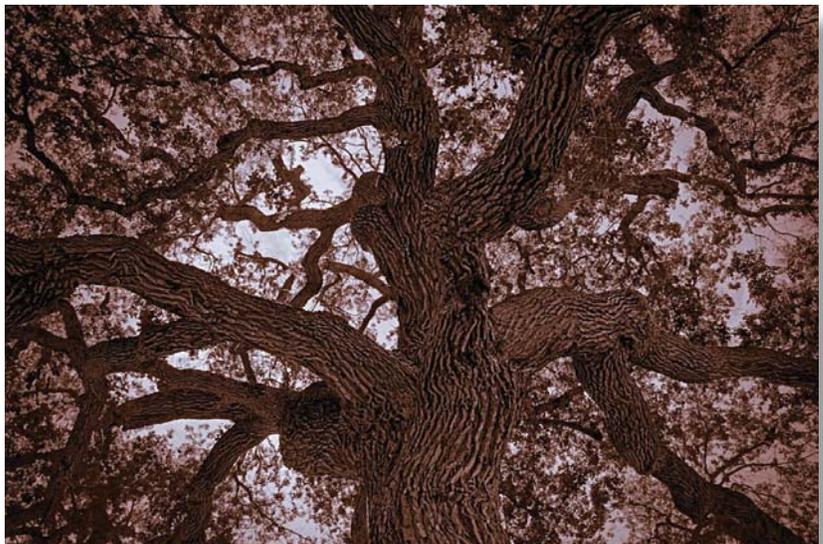


**Sand Dune Ripples**  
*Chris Johnson*



Third Place:

**Hand of Nature Reaching  
Skyward**  
*David Thon*



2nd Place:

**Pyritized ammonite  
(Quenstedtoceras)**  
*John Avera*



First Place:

**Wing Scales of  
Forest Butterfly  
(Nymphalide-  
Euphaedra).**  
*John Avera*

