

Padre Trails Camera Club

Pictorial (Pink) - 6/18/25

Judged by: David Archer



Meet David Archer:

David's love for photography started around 1979, back in the film days. It was a hobby that got put aside for twenty or more years and was rekindled once digital cameras came onto the scene.

During a successful career as a professional musician (bandleader and guitarist/vocalist), David was bitten by the photography bug and it quickly became an all-consuming endeavor. As it turns out, gaining proficiency at photography was a very similar process to becoming proficient on a musical instrument.



He is probably best known for his wildlife and bird photography, but he also enjoys landscape and night photography as well during his travels. He also enjoys creating short wildlife videos.

He currently is a co-leader and instructor on photography workshops around the world with Hudson Henry Photography.

Shown here are the images submitted for this competition from all three groups, Blue, Green, and Red followed by David's selection for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mentions in each group.

Padre Trails Camera Club

Pictorial (Pink) - 6/18 - Group Blue Submissions



01 - Anna's Hummingbird (Calypte anna)

Sara Courtneidge

STAR RATING: 2

COMMENT: Beautiful Hummingbird showing the colorful lores as they catch the light. I know how tough Hummingbirds can be to photograph. The image would have been rated higher if the Hummingbird had been sharper around the eye and the wings not obstructed by vegetation. The buds on the back of the flower draw my eye away from the Hummer and the colorful parts of the flower. Darkening these areas slightly may help.



02 - Bern Switzerland Carnival

Ken Jones

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Really fun shot of a great moment in the beautiful city of Bern. I've been there during a similar event. You nailed the pink theme! I believe you could have gotten a more compelling image by getting ahead of them and shooting them walking toward you. May not have been possible if large crowds were present.



03 - Hard To Match

Julie Chen

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Very well thought out and perfectly executed shot. Perfect for the theme. The paintbrush and all the other lines lead the eye right to the blob of paint. Well done!



04 - Hydrangea Deconstructed
Chris Johnson

STAR RATING: 5

COMMENT: Wonderfully creative and perfectly executed. Well processed, sharp image. I love this shot! You may have overlapped them a bit tighter to avoid those white hot spots, but it is still nice as it is.



05 - Jumping Spider on Pink Petals
Chris Johnson

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: What an interesting contrast between the scary looking critter and the soothing pink of the flower! It works.



06 - Mary Kay Downsizing
John Drum

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: Nice use of the pink theme with a very clever title!



07 - Photographing in Cuba

Lillie Grossman

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: Nice capture of a fun moment. I will often suggest selecting a wider aperture to blur the background, but this one conveys a sense of place and I think it is OK as it is. It also doesn't bother me particularly that the subjects are all facing away and moving out of the shot. I would have liked to have seen a similar shot with them coming towards you, but I understand that may not have been possible.



08 - Pink Buttons

Julie Chen

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Very creative idea, expertly executed with the perfect depth of field selected. I like the leading line of the thread and how beautifully everything was arranged. I probably would have not cut the buttons on the right in half, but that's me. It's a very nice image.



09 - Pink Dogwood Blossoms

Carol Silveira

STAR RATING: 5

COMMENT: Beautiful floral photo demonstrating a firm grasp of the technical elements needed to pull this off. Great processing as well! I would probably have darkened the lighter areas in the out of focus background as they do draw my eye to them, but that's a small thing to consider in an otherwise great image.



10 - Pink Mystery
Ken Jones

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Just goes to show that an artistic photo can be found in unexpected places. I'd be OK with the yarn being sharp or soft, depending on your vision. It does have a crunchy look to it, which leads me to think it was globally sharpened. Perhaps an extreme crop gives it that texture...hard to tell. It works for the theme either way.



11 - Pink Rose
John Drum

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: Nice floral portrait utilizing an uncluttered background to draw attention to the main subject. Try cropping it in a bit from the bottom right corner and see how you like the effect.



12 - Pink VW Bug in Mexico
Carol Silveira

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: A fun shot, keeping with the theme, and artistically showing a sense of place in the photo.



13 - Sunset, Amboseli National Park, Kenya
Sara Courtneidge

STAR RATING: 5

COMMENT: Very beautiful and calming photo. This is an often photographed location, but for good reason. This image was perfectly composed and edited. I wouldn't change a thing!

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Judged by: David Archer



Top Three Winners - Blue Group



**First Place - Sunset, Amboseli National
Park, Kenya**
Sara Courtneidge

**Second Place - Pink Dogwood
Blossoms**
Carol Silveira

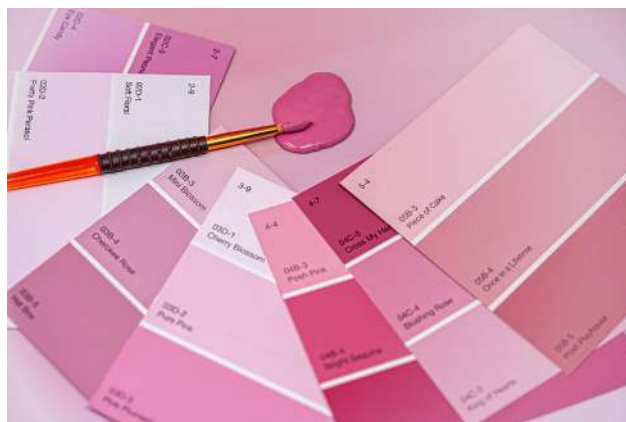


Third Place - Hydrangea Deconstructed
Chris Johnson

Winning Images Group Blue Honorable Mentions



Jumping Spider on Pink Petal
Chris Johnson



Hard To Match
Julie Chen



Pink Buttons
Julie Chen

Padre Trails Camera Club

Pictorial (Pink) - 6/18 - Green Group Submissions

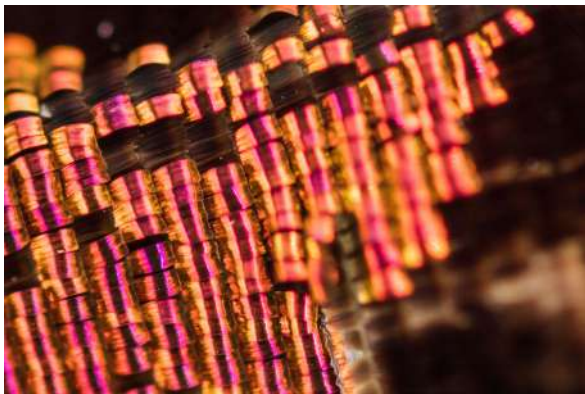
Judged by: Ivonne Saed



01-Bands of Pink
Joni Zabala

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: Nice rock formation. I would have cropped in to really make the pink bands of rock the main subject. I find the sky and the person in the background to be distracting. The focus could have been better. A plugin like Topaz Photo AI could have made it sharper and upscaled it a bit.



02-Butterfly Wing Up Close
Brian Spiegel

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Pretty cool...I would never have guessed what this was. Personally, I would crop this from the right side to eliminate most of the out of focus elements on the right side of the photo. The main subject, it seems to me, should be the sharp parts of the wing.



03-Cosmos with Pink Trim
Charlie Gibson

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Beautiful flower and nice, soft background to call attention to the subject. Good job on having what should be in focus to be in focus.



04-Dusk Through the Mist
Janet Azevedo

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: You captured a nice moment there. Well done. It makes me want to be there.



05-Fallen Petals
Janet Azevedo

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: Creative shot, although the background draws the eye away from the subject. A more shallow depth of field may have given different results.



06-Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary
Bill Shewchuk

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: You really hit the pink theme in an unexpected way. I love the title!



07-One Day Desert Bloom

Karen Schofield

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: Interesting and pretty flower. I wish the background was a little less crunchy and more blurred and that the tip of that top petal wasn't cut off. It's always a good idea to do "border patrol" on your images so that things aren't cut off or any distracting objects remain.

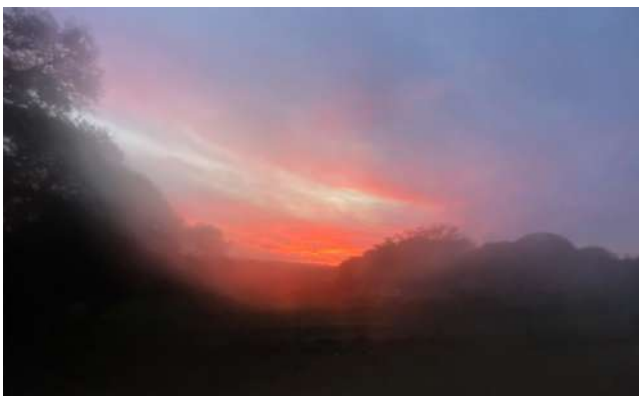


08-Passion Pink Hibiscus

Charlie Gibson

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Beautiful flower portrait. Very nice job on the composition and depth of field is perfect. I suspect it was focus stacked, but the result is beautiful either way.



09-Pastoral Pictorial

Sandie McCafferty

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Nice capture of a beautiful moody moment. I'm intrigued by the hint of a fence in the shadows and I want to know more.



10-Pink Iceplant

Jared Ikeda

STAR RATING: 2

COMMENT: Interesting use of selective color, which I admit, is not my favorite style. The fact that there are a number of petals that should have also gotten the color treatment, cost you a star. I would also have liked to see this in full color. It may have been better that way.



11-Pink Magnolia Stellata

Jared Ikeda

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: I really like the water droplets and would like to see this cropped more tightly to emphasize the miniature waterfall within this flower. I would back off on the global sharpening and only selectively sharpen the areas that are the main focal point of your image. It seems a bit underexposed so I would try adding a bit more light.



12-Pink Stripe Mini Orchid Up Close

Brian Spiegel

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: Lots of interesting colors in this flower. The image seems a bit chaotic and a different angle might have been better to highlight the parts of the flower that you want to emphasize. It feel like my eye doesn't know where to land here. By contrast another image in this group, the Passion Pink Hibiscus has a clearly defined focal point. Maybe, you just wanted to show the entire flower and there isn't a focal point.



13-Prickly Pear Lemonade on a Hot Day

Karen Schofield

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Very colorful photo and good use of depth of field to emphasize the subject.

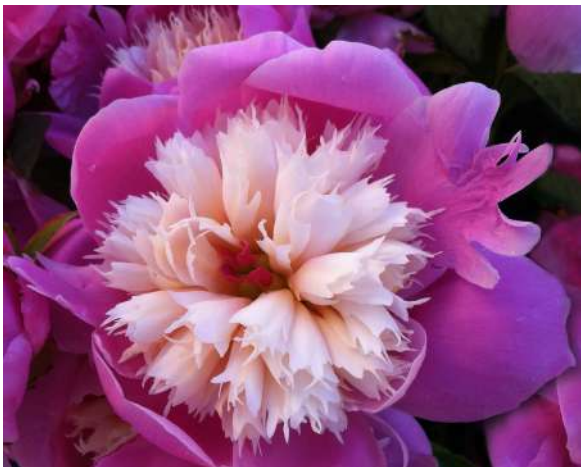


14-Rose Petals

Joni Zabala

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Very pretty shot, creating a nice mood. It doesn't bother me that only a couple of lines in the image are sharp...it's fine as it is. Maybe, try cropping in a bit from the left side and see if you like the results.



15-Shades of Pink

Carol Fuessenich

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Very pretty flower and photo. Other than adding some noise reduction and a touch of contrast, I wouldn't change a thing other than cropping in a bit from the top right corner.



16-Tired Little Ballerina
Carol Fuessenich

STAR RATING: 5

COMMENT: Most excellent photo of a cute and photogenic subject. I like the lighting and the composition. Bravo to the photographer as well as the tiny ballerina. This is one of my favorite images in this competition!



17-Tulip
Bill Shewchuk

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: Nice photo of a pretty flower. Background is distracting and should not have been globally sharpened, but instead shot with a wider aperture to soften and blur it. Darkening the background a bit more might help.



18-Vertigo
Sandie McCafferty

STAR RATING: 5

COMMENT: Great use of slow shutter speed to create something otherworldly. I also enjoy altering reality with shutter speed and have done similar shots at my local fair. Ferris wheels also become magical during long exposures. Good job in creating something that can't be seen with the naked eye!

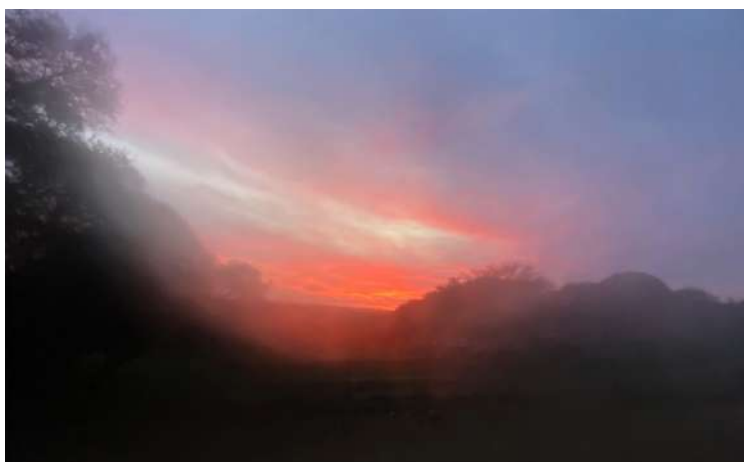
Top Three Winners - Green Group



First Place - Tired Little Ballerina
Carol Fuessenich



Second Place - Vertigo
Sandie McCafferty



Third Place - Pastoral Pictorial
Sandie McCafferty

Honorable Mention - Green Group



Passion Pink Hibiscus
Charlie Gibson



Dusk Through the Mist
Janet Azevedo



Pink Magnolia Stellata
Jared Ikeda



**Prickly Pear Lemonade on a
Hot Day**
Karen Schofield

Padre Trails Camera Club

Pictorial (Pink) - 6/18 - Red Group Submissions

Judged by: David Archer



01-Candy Shop on Fisherman's Wharf
David Thon

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: Looks like a fun place to visit! I would have liked this shot more if the edge of the ice cream cone had not been cut off.



02-Carnival at Sunrise
David Thon

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: I like that you've chosen a creative angle of view for this subject. Carnivals and fairs can be a great place for creative shots. It makes me curious how you gained access to this place at sunrise.



03-Cooper-Molera Garden
Don Eastman

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Nice colors and your wise choice of depth of field got almost everything in focus. It would be a stronger image if you had been able to move a bit to your right to minimize the distraction of the tree from the subject, but I understand it may not have been possible.



04-Cranberry Glassl
Andrea Madsen

STAR RATING: 3

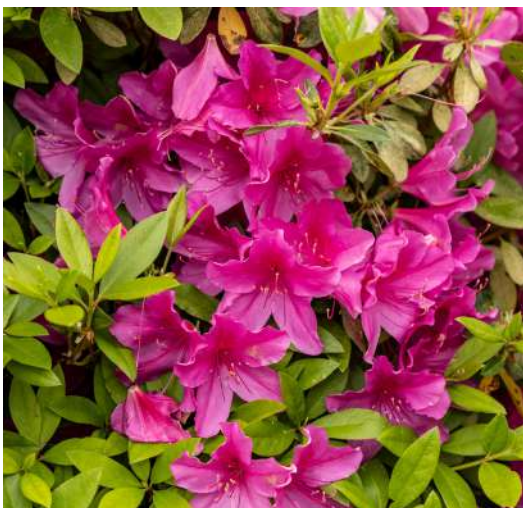
COMMENT: The shape and color of the glass is beautiful. I would prefer that the background was darker and more blurred as it distracts my attention from the subject, if the intended subject is, in fact, the cranberry glass at the top of the image. It looks like perhaps the background behind glass as there are faint lines and I'm not sure what I'm seeing.



05-CV Creamery 3-2025
WL Salmon

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: The colorful balloons draw me into the scene and make me wonder what was going on there. I'd prefer a different composition that didn't have that white car shown so prominently. As shown, my eye is drawn to the car, and I don't think that is your intended focus of this image.



06-Formosa Azalea
Dick Light

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: Those azaleas are pretty flowers. It might be better to crop in tighter on a few blooms to have less distractions around the edges of the photo.

07-Heart of the Flower

Patti Gilbert

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: Very pretty and interesting flower. I'd like to see a version that was cropped in more tightly to exclude the background which is competing against your subject for attention. I would process this image again, and only add sharpening to the areas you wan the viewer to notice...most likely the flower and some of the leaves...not the distant background, which you want blurry without any sharpening added.



08-Japanese Garden

Soaring Uyematsu

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Nice scene, but the entire image is a bit soft. I like the composition and the leading line of the pathway that draws your eye into the scene. Have you considered trying a crop that excludes most of the sky? It's a nice sky, but it does tend to draw the viewer out of the scene a bit because it is brighter than most of the rest of the scene. I also like the composition as it is.



09-Lily

Soaring Uyematsu

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: This is a clever way to approach the theme and leaves me interested in knowing was this a tablecloth, a dress, etc.





10-PG&E in Capitola
Brooks Leffler

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Cool shot. Good eye in spotting this unexpected scene and composing this image.



11-Pink Azalea
Don Eastman

STAR RATING: 3

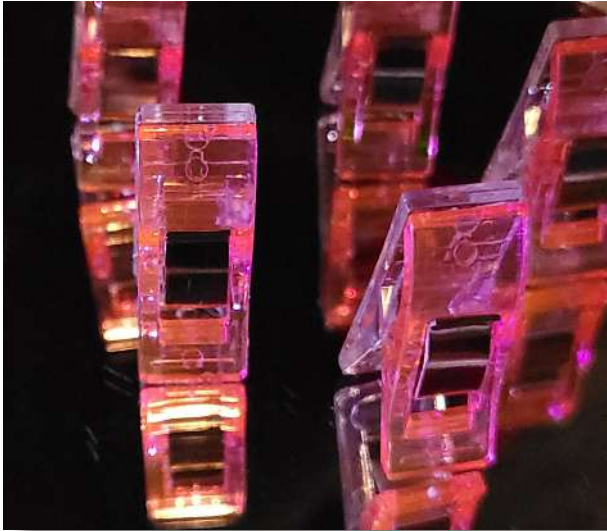
COMMENT: Beautiful pink azaleas, but the entire image is soft. The concrete steps and the white siding tend draw the eye away from the subject, so perhaps a tighter crop might be a bit stronger from a compositional perspective. A vignette might help as well.



12-Pink Bonsai
Dick Light

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Interesting subject and good technical execution.



13-Pink Clip

Elke Ikeda

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: Interesting subject and a creative way to approach the theme. I would caution against globally sharpening as it makes the soft out of focus areas too crunchy. This could have been composed differently and you might have chosen one clip as the subject, with it being sharp and the others blurred with a shallow depth of field. a longer shutter speed could have helped get the light needed and help eliminate some of the noise in the shadows.



14-Pink Prunus

Andrea Madsen

STAR RATING: 2

COMMENT: Interesting subject, but the severe processing detracts from the image. Sharpening is better applied selectively to the subject instead of globally as was done here. You want the background to be out of focus, not artificially sharpened in post.



15-Pop of Color

Patti Gilbert

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Lots of over saturated colors here, but it works with the theme. Good isolation of subject from the background.



16-Self-Portrait in Red, Pink, and Mauve
Brooks Leffler

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: This is a very creative shot. I like the leading line and the way it was composed. I might try a version where it was cropped in a bit from the bottom left to see if you like it better. It's OK as it is, though.

Top Three Winners - Red Group



First Place - Self-Portrait in Red, Pink, and Mauve
Brooks Leffler



Second Place - Cooper-Molera Garden
Don Eastman



Third Place - Carnival at Sunrise
David Thon

Honorable Mention - Red Group



Japanese Garden
Soaring Uyematsu



Pop of Color
Patty Gilbert