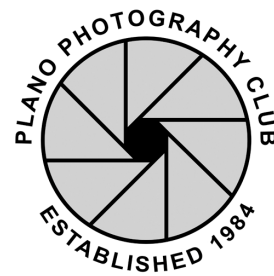




The FLASH!

FEBRUARY 2008

Newsletter of the Plano (Texas) Photography Club



Best of Show, November 2007 — 'Nature'

By ELEANORE AVERY

I had always wanted to visit the Gorillas in the wild but thought I could not because of difficult trekking for hours involved, plus a bad back that limits what I can do.

While in Tanzania I met a family that had just come from Rwanda, home to Mountain Gorillas. They informed me that there was an "easy" group each day to see the Gorillas. Thus I ended up in Rwanda in summer of 2007.

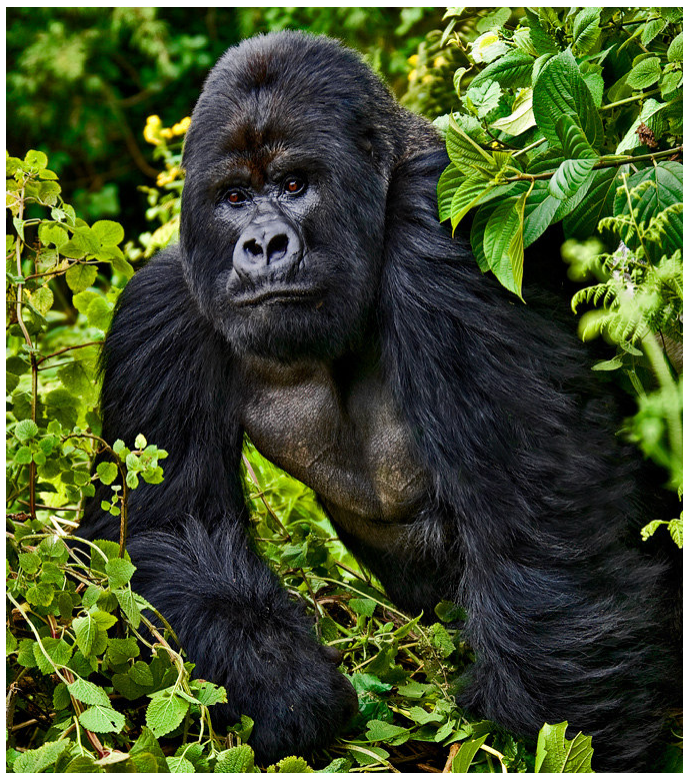
The first day of visiting the Gorillas of the Virunga Mountains was an easy 50-minute trek. Unfortunately the Gorillas were in deep forest and the shooting was almost impossible with black subjects in deep shadow, resulting in ISO from 800 to 3200!

The second day appeared to be the same but to view a different group. We trekked easily for about an hour to where Gorillas had been, but they had moved! We kept trekking; Gorillas kept moving up the mountain. Trekking was becoming increasingly difficult since the greenery is about waist high and the bottom ground is wet and muddy. Porters carry your backpacks to a certain point, but at the anticipated point of viewing, all packs must be left behind and only cameras can be carried.

We finally reached a point when there were no more paths. To our right was a straight drop over the side of the mountain; to our left was a wall of green straight up. I asked our guide (thankfully we had two guides and several porters) if we would ever see the Gorillas, and what now? He said, "Oh, yes, we will find them!" I asked how was that possible from our seeming dead end. He replied "We go up there!" When I said, "That is impossible!" he said "No, we go!" He smiled, grabbed my camera, grabbed my hand and up we went!

After 2 1/2 hours of tough trekking we emerged out in the open because we had gone straight up! I was so excited at finally seeing the Gorillas that I stepped forward to get a better shot, and the deceptive high grass had no bottom! I was about to tumble down on top of two Gorillas when my guide grabbed my arm and pulled me back.

However, our reward was great. The largest Silverback in all of Virunga Mountain was feeding less than 20 feet away and out in the open sunshine! This is where I got this shot



and many others.

It is true what they say: It is harder to go DOWN the mountain than it is to go UP. It took another tortuous 2 1/2 hours to go down. The porters took us by our arms and handed us through impossible muddy, slippery very steep areas. We could never have made it on our own. It was the most physically difficult thing I have ever done, but I doubt that I could do it on purpose again. Actually, I challenge my grandchildren to trek where grandmother has!

Tech data: ISO 400... f5.6 ...shutter 1/100...Canon 5D camera...28-300mm IS lens....shot at 100mm focal length

Judge's comment: "Amazingly sharp and beautifully framed. Fantastic lighting on the subject. So much detail in the blacks, one of the absolute hardest thing for any nature photographer to do. Gorilla looking into the camera creates emotional connection that makes this image so special. I could never get past this image. It just kept rising above! Brilliant job!"

February speaker promises 'no questions off limits'

In the summer of 2007, Dallas photographer Tom Maddrey drove to Alaska and back in a 35-day search of wild country and open road. Utilizing images from this journey and drawing from his extensive stock and commercial archives, Maddrey will discuss creativity, vision and implementing your dreams into your photography as the Plano Photography Club speaker Monday, Feb. 25.

Questions will be encouraged, and no topic is off limits. No matter your skill level or aspirations, this talk will ignite your creativity and passion for photography. To see Tom's work or to learn more about his workshops and events, visit www.tommaddrey.com.

Maddrey co-founded The Blue Square Art Gallery in Dallas, a photography-based fine art gallery. He also began stock.bluesquareart.com, the premier nature and wildlife stock site on the web.

Of his Alaska trip, Maddrey said, "These lengthy road trips have always been my first love. The ground I covered and the locations I visited are the most beautiful places I have experienced."

2008 Winners' Exhibit, City of Richardson Photography Contest

Congratulations to these winning members: Debbie Conard, Billy Erwin, Bob Frank, Priscilla Killion, Ron Marabito, Stewart Musket, Katherine Robertson. Their winning images are on display (February 4 - 26) at the Richardson Public Library (3rd floor). The library is on the southwest corner of Central Expressway and Arapaho Road in Richardson.

FLASHbacks

March 1994: Among the visitors to the January 1994 meeting were Priscilla Killion and John Lehman. Priscilla joined that February and John soon after.

March 1995: The Texins (Texas Instruments) Camera Club and the PPC collaborated to present a Table Top Workshop on April 1, 1995. The event was held at the TI rec center. About 4 stations were featured: studio lights, blacklight still lifes, mylar abstracts, and close-up flowers.
-- Cindy Vaillancourt, PPC Historian

Showcase display in Plano Centre to end Feb 27

Christine Eubanks, Plano's Cultural Programs Coordinator, has confirmed that Feb. 27 will be the take-down date for our exhibit at the Plano Convention Centre. We can use help that morning at 9 a.m. to remove our images. Also, anyone who can swing by long enough to pick up their art that morning would assist in preventing Ed Auger's home from being reclassified by the City of Plano as a warehouse facility

**--Ed Auger, PPC
Showcase co-chair**

UPCOMING Saturday, March 22 — Dallas Arboretum

**Saturday, May 10 —
Model Shoot**

Newest members

Membership chairperson Debbie Tigh says these people joined or renewed memberships Jan. 26 at the Photoshop workshop:

Charles Henthorne, Michelle Barrett, Edward Tang, Angela Harwich, Ken Hatley, Debbie Conard, Ruth Morgan and Nolan Bailey.

Debbie Tigh also said the following persons joined or renewed memberships at the Jan. 28 monthly meeting:

Carlos Saenz, Jennifer Shipley, Marty Frachiseur, Don Hooton, Ramesh Chandiramani, David Earney, Barry Jackson, Peter Staxen, Kent Taylor, Scott Cummings, John Yates and Ed Maxwell.

These names do not include those who joined or renewed at the Tablesop Workshop Feb. 23. Those will be reported later.

Becker, 'gurus' share basics-plus at Photoshop 'shop

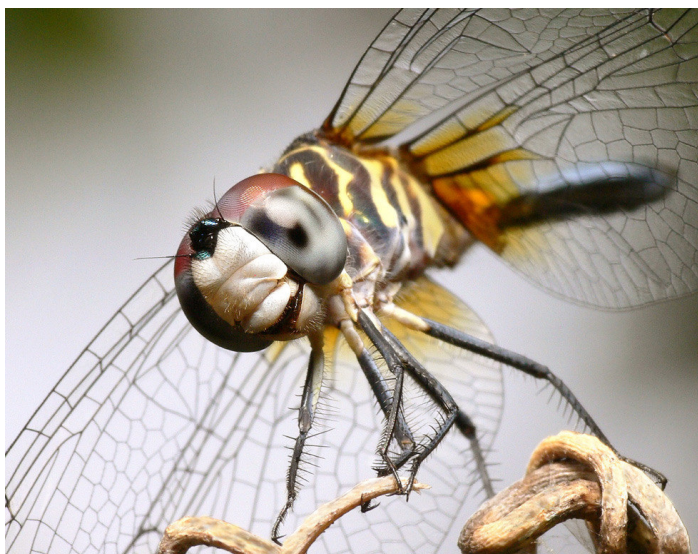
PPC Webmaster LeDon Becker (at computer below) staged a one-man workshop Saturday morning, Jan. 26, on Photoshop #101. Then several hand-chosen "gurus" adjourned to separate tables and computers for one-on-one training for PPC members who wanted to learn or perfect skills beyond the basics. Membership chairperson Debbie Tigh said eight persons joined or renewed club memberships that morning. Photos by Bernie Pysz and Vern Winchester.



Webmaster LeDon Becker (above) and Photoshop "gurus" Ed Auger (upper right), Bob Frank (center right), Michael La Point (below right) and Kevin Moody (below left) upgraded Photoshop skills for some 35 members Saturday, Jan. 26.



Winners in November 2007 competition — Nature



First Place, Beginners
“Portrait of a Dragon”

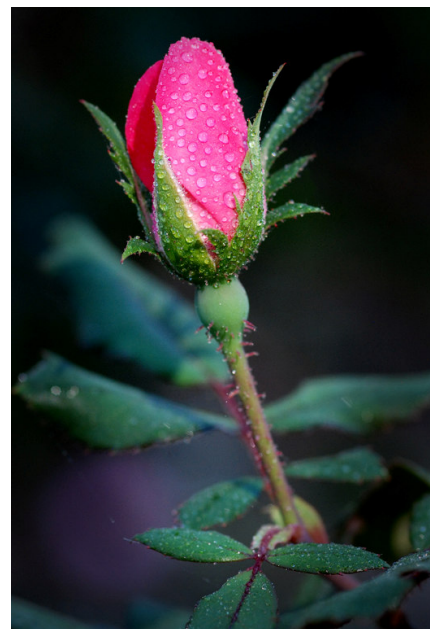
Billy Erwin
15 [points]



Second Place, Masters
“Mushroom & Flower”

Jose Artiles
15 points

Beginners			
1	15	Billy Erwin	Portrait of A Dragon
2	13	Billy Erwin	Syrphid Fly on Crape Myrtle
3	11	Svatava Strnad	Ready for Take off
HM	11	Aida LaPoint	Surreal Glide
HM	9	Svatava Strnad	Colorful Monarch
HM	9	Aida LaPoint	Butterfly
Advanced			
1	12	Irwin Lightstone	Cactus Flower Interior
2	12	David Grossman	It's Not Polite to Stare
3	12	Tatyana Bessmertnaya	Monahans Sandhills
HM	12	Kevin Moody	Morning Mist in Glacier N.P.
HM	12	Marie Hansen	Atlantic Sunrise
HM	11	Ron Marabito	Glowing Aspens
Masters			
1	15	Eleanore Avery	Silverback Mountain Gorilla in Rwanda
2	15	Jose Artiles	Mushroom & Flower
3	15	Bob Frank	Wet Rose
HM	13	Dan Leffel	Got One
HM	13	Elizabeth Szilagyi	No Escape
HM	13	John Lehman	Wind on Prairie



Third Place, Masters
“Wet Rose”
Bob Frank
15 points

More winners in November 2007 Nature contests



TOP LEFT: First Place, Advanced
"Cactus Flower Interior"
Irwin Lightstone
12 points

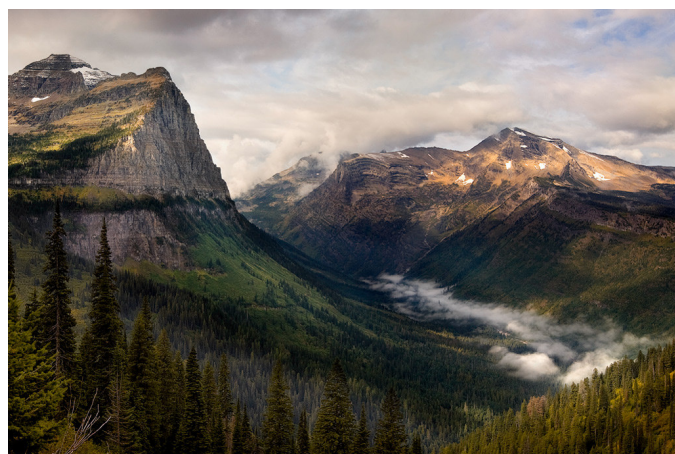
MIDDLE LEFT: Second Place, Advanced
"It's Not Polite to Stare"
David Grossman
12 points

MIDDLE RIGHT: Third Place, Advanced
"Monahans Sandhills"
Tatyana Bessmertnaya
12 points



BELOW LEFT:
"Atlantic Sunrise"
Marie Hansen
12 points

BELOW RIGHT:
"Morning Mist in Glacier National Park"
Kevin Moody
12 points



Club competition standings as of November 2007

Beginners

Name	Place Points	Judge's Points
Svatava Strnad	21	142
Linda L. Grigsby	10	123
Paul Rimka	18	79
Jean Karlik	14	78
Clint Hastings	6	68
Eran Spigelman	20	47
Aida La Point	6	43
Sanaa Diab	3	41
Nicci Ackermann	10	33
Billy Erwin	16	28
Billy Erwin	10	26
Ron Hasty	0	19
Gary Schweiker	0	15
Debbie Tigh	0	15
Phil Lewellen	0	14
Joe DeVincentis	0	12
Meirie Rusly	0	10
Gwynne Schweiker	0	7

Advanced

Name	Place Points	Judge's Points
David Grossman	27	162
Dennis Fritsche	3	148
Stewart Musket	14	144
LeDon Becker	11	144
Danette Volkmer	3	141
Jim Berry	0	139
Alistair Wilson	0	139
Tatyana Bessmertnaya	23	135
Kay Griffith	6	133
Harry Rumberger	0	122
Andrew Hibma	9	117
John Lovelace	0	109
Terree Stone	0	103
Bill McMurray	0	96
Marie Hansen	0	93
Bernie Pysz	0	91
Anne Hargreaves	0	78
Irwin Lightstone	20	76
Barry Grossman	0	59
Fred Grossman	0	57
Kevin Moody	17	51
Anita Oakley	0	43
Bud Barlow	0	37
Laura Farnham	0	36
Ken Morton	0	25
Paul Spencer	0	25
Jerry Green	3	23
Jay Goode	0	23
Jeff Kearns	0	22
Marian Green	0	20
Ron Marabito	0	20
Jim Spencer	0	20
Ken Bynum	0	15
Carol Barlow	0	14
William Sun	0	14
Will Gunadi	0	8

Masters

NAME	PLACE POINTS	JUDGE-POINTS
Dan Leffel	12	174
Eleanore Avery	31	170
Jose Artilles	30	167
Larry Petterborg	16	165
David Willie	3	165
Dawn Attebery	3	162
Priscilla Killion	0	161
Bob Frank	15	144
Jamie Hilbig	0	136
Elizabeth Szilagyi	0	129
James Stover	6	116
Michael La Point	9	114
John Lehman	0	107
Lois Lehman	11	102
Ed Auger	0	71
Mitsuka Iwahiro	0	33
Cindy Vaillantcourt	0	25

Two members win in Gulf States Photojournalism competition

Stewart Musket, PPC representative to the Gulf States Camera Club Council, said PPC member Jean Karlik won 2nd Place for "Never Forget" and Clint Hastings won Honorable Mention for "Allen CFA in Action" in GSCCC January photojournalism competition. He adds, "It is worthy of note that both photographers are in the PPC Beginners classification."



80 'shooters' make Tabletop Workshop 'roaring success'



Images by Bernie Pysz and John Lovelace



Monthly Club Contest Topics 2007-2008

February 2008: Open
March 2008: Portraits (prints only)
April 2008: Open
May 2008 (start of new contest year) Weather
June 2008: Open
July 2008: Abstracts

Who's ready for leadership next year?

Again it is good to talk to all the PPC Members, and you will notice that we have welcomed a great many new members during the year.

We completed the much awaited "Tabletop Workshop," and it was a roaring success. About 80 members attended, which was a great attendance on a rainy Saturday. That included 14 new members who signed at the membership desk. What a great turnout and everybody had a great time. We hope you got some fantastic shots. Thank you, members, for coming and we welcome the new members. And three big cheers for Priscilla Killion for handling it!



BOB

As you may recall, the current term for the board of officers expires on April 30, 2008. A new board has to be nominated and elected between now and April to assume office in May. So we will talk to the members about starting this process at the PCC meeting on Feb. 25. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the executive board in some capacity will be asked to privately let his or her wishes known at the meeting. Some have made their wishes known, but we invite any and all members to consider serving on the executive board.

During this current term of 2007/2008 we have tried the practice of co-presidents, and it worked fine. All current board officer positions are listed below. The club membership is getting so large that it helps to share the load with additional people. Therefore if you desire to be an assistant to a position, please let us know that, also. We would like at least one or two assistant positions for each executive position, and the club needs your help. It really helps to have more than one person in case one is not available, and it is great training. We will discuss this in more detail at the meeting so please consider your willingness to participate.

We have had great activities and great photography fun, but remember: Someone had to do the work of organizing the activities.

We look forward to seeing you and hearing from you at the meeting.

Thanks,

Bernie and Bob



BERNIE

Plano Photography Club Officers

Co-Presidents
Vice President — Programs
Vice Presidents — Activities
Secretary
Treasurer
Contests

GSCCC Representative
PSA Representative
Historian
Light Rental
Membership
Newsletter Editor/Publisher
Webmaster
Exhibits
Model Shoot Coordinator

Bernie Pysz, Bob Frank
Michael La Point
Jack Dickson, Reuben Mendiola
James Stover
P.D. Killion
Elizabeth Szilagyi, Laura Farnham
Tatiana Bessmertnaya
Stewart Musket
Carol Bohnstengel
Cindy Vaillancourt
Don Pool
Debbie Tigh, Don Pool
John A. Lovelace
LeDon Becker
Ed Auger, Jamie Hilbig
Ken Guthrie

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secretary@planophotographyclub.com
treasurer@planophotographyclub.com
E-contest@planophotographyclub.com

Gsccl-rep@planophotographyclub.com
Psa-rep@planophotographyclub.com
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membership@planophotographyclub.com
newsletter@planophotographyclub.com
webmaster@planophotographyclub.com
exhibits@planophotographyclub.com
modeling@planophotographyclub.com

The club meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month except December at Grace Presbyterian Church, 4300 W. Park Blvd. Officers meet at 7p.m. on the second Monday of each month except December at Schimelpfenig Library, 5024 Custer Road.