



The FLASH!

JULY 2008

Newsletter of the Plano (Texas) Photography Club



Digital image of the year 2007-2008

By David GROSSMAN

I am surprised that "Cream of the Crop" won digital image of the year because it only took second place the month it was entered and was outscored by several images from the Masters' category. If nothing else, it shows how subjective judging can be.

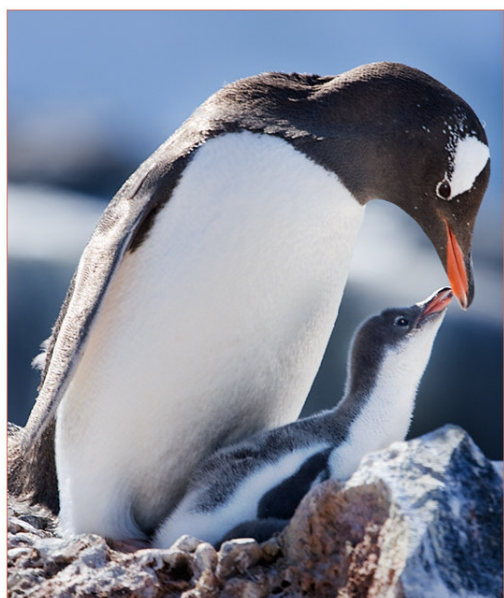


This shot was a fortunate find. I was headed South on I-45 accompanying my wife for a funeral the next day (not the type of trip where I would expect to find photo opportunities). In any event, I had my old Nikon N-80 and a roll of Fuji Velvia in the car when I spotted a rusty old shed set against a beautiful field. Landscapes have never really been my thing, but the shed offered a decent twist, and I saw potential.

After taking a few shots of the shed and the landscape that I wasn't completely satisfied with, I noticed a rusty old Chevy sitting in the middle of the field. Bingo! I stepped out onto the field, pulled a few stalks out of the way and decided to go wide. Some people complain about the distortion you get at the wide end of the Nikkor 18-105, but I really love using the distortion. I find that a touch of distortion adds a bit of a dynamic feel without being too obvious as with a fish-eye. So I got low to the ground and close-up to the subject – and made the exposure, bracketing because of the harsh light coming off the chrome.

When I developed the slides I found that while the Velvia beautifully saturated the orange and red rust against the blue sky with the green stalks, it just didn't have the feel I wanted. After the image was scanned, I tried a b/w conversion, but it still wasn't quite right. With a bit of a levels adjustment and a trick using the channel mixer in mode, I finally got the contrast and pop that you see in the final image.

See other 2007-2008 winners' names and year-end party pictures on Pages 2 and 3 of this issue of The Flash!



“FIRST KISS”
By DAN LEFFEL

Photographer of the Year (based on highest total judges' points) **DAN LEFFEL**

Masters' Category: DAN LEFFEL
283 judges' points

Advanced Category: DAVID GROSSMAN
252 judges' points

Beginners' Category: SVATAVA STRNAD
228 judges' points

See Page 1, this issue, for Digital Image of the Year by David Grossman. See Page 4, May Flash, on the PPC website for recent image by Svatava Strnad. See Page 4, January Flash, for Print Image of the Year by Kevin Moody.



PHOTOS BY JOSE ARTILES: Above, Party Panorama. Below, Winning Images Combo



Handshakes, plaques and picture posing at PPC 2007-2008 year-end party

President James T. Stover and immediate past-presidents Bernie Pysz and Bob Frank presented these awards:



DAVID GROSSMAN, Winner, Advanced Category and artist, Digital Image of the Year (see Page 1)



KEVIN MOODY, artist, Print Image of the Year



DAN LEFFEL, Photographer of the Year and Winner, Masters' Category



JOHN A. LOVELACE, above, and LeDON BECKER, below, Winners, Presidents' Award for Outstanding Service (editor and webmaster respectively).



Best of Show, May ‘Weather’ Competition

By **DANETTE VOLKMER**

Life had been hectic, and we were sorely in need of a break, so the occasion of our 10th anniversary in May seemed to provide the perfect excuse. We found a last-minute opportunity to spend a week in Big Sky, Montana, so we decided to be adventurous and visit a place new to us..

We departed on a Saturday morning flight to Salt Lake City and drove the remainder of the way. After airport delays, a seven-hour drive and a stop for groceries midway, we arrived to our destination late at night and could see nothing, which lent an air of mystery to the adventure.



The next day, after sleeping in, we arose to check out our surroundings. I was surprised and pleased upon opening the patio blinds to discover that we had been blessed with the scene in this photograph right outside our sliding doors! I had been hoping to find something on our trip which would fit the upcoming “weather” competition theme and was delighted to see a partially frozen lake, a new sight to this native Texan. Another surprise was that it snowed nonstop for two days while we were there, all providing a most unusual experience for late May!

Since I was captivated by the “backyard” of our condo, I found myself taking photos of it in all the different lighting and weather conditions of that week. The scene was shot in daylight, during and after snowstorms, in cloudy conditions, in the rain, with the moonglow and during sunny conditions. I ultimately chose this clear-weather “Spring Thaw” shot as it seemed to provide a good “picture” of the week’s experience -- spring pushing for its way even as winter was reluctantly giving up its territory.

Technical data:

Canon EOS 5D Camera, Canon EF 24-105mm F/4 L IS USM Lens. Manual Mode, ISO 100, F/16 at 1/200 Shutter Speed, Focal Length 40 mm.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Photograph hawks, falcons and owls up close positioned/perched in natural settings. Birds will be grouped by family. Focus on one or two species or see all. Shoot till you fill your memory cards. Saturday, August 16, 7:30 a.m. through 11:00 p.m. WHERE: Brockdale Park at Lake Lavon (Lucas, Texas) cross streets: Lucas Road (FM 3286) & Brockdale Park Road. Space is limited to the first 100 registrants at \$5 per person. Pre-registration available at www.bpraptorcenter.org by using the Donation page for payment. Type "Registration for BOP Photo Day" in the Comments section.

Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, site of a major exhibit of French Impressionist painting June 29– Nov. 2, invites you to submit your photographic image of what Impressionism would look like today. For entry details and a list of monthly prizes, visit www.kimbellart.org/impressionists.

Beginners winners May 2008 'Weather' images



1. Linda Grigsby - Desert Storm (15 points)

HM Brett Buchmiller - Days End (12 points)
HM Betty A. Johnson - Snow Movin' In (12 points)
HM Jean Karlik - Clouds, Sunset and Boats (12 points)



3. Ron Hasty - Sun Dogs and Jet Whispers (13 points)



2. Bob Johnson - Winter Storm (14 points)

Advanced winners May 2008 'Weather' images



**Best of Show and First Place, Advanced
Danette Volkmer - Spring Thaw
(15 points)
(see article on Page 4)**

HM Jerry E. Schlesinger -
Eye of the Storm (13 points)
HM Mary J. Baker - Ahead of
the Storm (12 points)
HM Tatyana Bessmertnaya -
Rain (12 points)



2. Andrew Hibma - Prairie Rain Clouds (15 points)



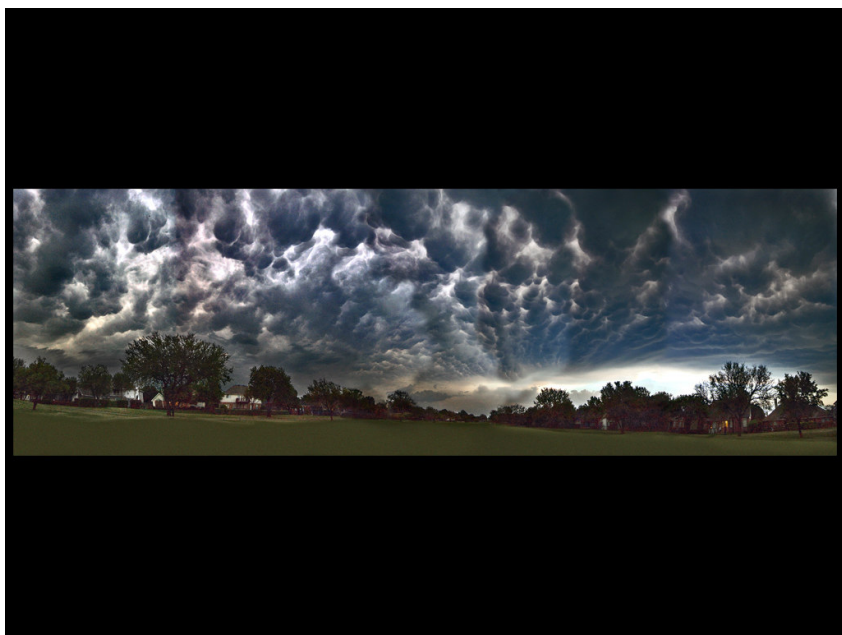
**3. Lewis Sheriff - Storm at Sea
(14 points)**

Masters winners May 2008 'Weather' images



HM James t. Stover - Rays
Over The Plains (12 points)
HM Eleanore Avery - First
Snow (12 points)
HM Larry Petterborg - Sun-
set Shower On The Tetons (12
points)

1. Eleanore Avery - Gers in Mongolian Winter (15 points)



2. Jose Artiles - Bad Weather in Frisco (14 points)



**3. Mitsuka Iwahiro
Branches (13 points)**

PPC Master Petterborg to talk travel at July 28 meeting

By **LARRY PETTERBORG**

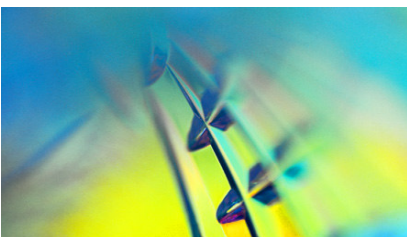
As a University Professor, I look forward every year to a little time off during Spring Break. The past two years I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to travel with a group from Texas Woman's University. These trips are planned as part of a biology class for the purpose of studying plants and animals not normally seen in Texas.



In 2007 we went to Costa Rica (see image at left) and this year it was the Galapagos Islands (see image at right). My program for the club's July 28 meeting will be a collection of images from these two wonderful locations.



Editor's Note: Larry Petterborg is a former PPC president and coordinates the current free image critiques by members of the club's Masters' Category. See website for details.



What's Abstracts? It's July's contest topic

Photographers are usually concerned with the realistic representation of some subject. However with abstract images, our club contest topic for July, the less realistic an image looks the better (example at left). The abstract is an exploration of the variation and arrangement in color, shape, line, pattern, and texture. The rules of composition and design still apply. But rather than an identifiable subject, the emphasis is on artistic principles and emotional qualities (pleasing, exciting, mysterious, somber, etc.). Unfortunately, this makes an abstract image more difficult to evaluate and judge.

You will find abstract images everywhere. The club's annual Tabletop Workshop is always a source for abstract imagery with cross polarization, blacklight, textured glass, and other effects. A macro look at small objects will often create an abstract composition. Infrared photography, blurring or moving the camera during exposures, distortion with a wide-angle lens, or isolating small parts of a scene are just a few techniques that can result in abstract images. This Abstract contest is an excellent exercise for photographers. Because once you begin seeing the abstract qualities in a scene before you recognize the subject, you will notice a vast improvement in all of your photographic compositions.

Club Contest Topics 2008-2009

July 2008: Abstracts (departure from realistic representation)

August 2008: Open

September 2008: Framing (a compositional technique whereby any object at the edges of your image surrounds or directs the viewer's eye to the main subject)

October 2008: Open (prints only; no digital images)

November 2008: Up

December 2008: No contest or monthly club meeting

January 2009: Sound of Music

February 2009: Open

March 2009: Spirit of Texas (prints only; no digital images)

April 2009: Open

May 2009: Special Effects (either digital manipulation of your image or in-camera special effects)

June 2009: Open

July 2009: Action (using fast or slow shutter speed techniques)

Upcoming activities: Scavenging Cowtown, shooting fashion, pool

July 26, Saturday

Tourist-for-a-Day Scavenger Shoot in Fort Worth

Scavenger Shoots have always been popular and exciting events in our club's life. It's half adventure and half competition-on-the-spot.

A Scavenger Shoot is an activity where you will have to take pictures of the given subjects in a certain period of time. The subjects will be determined by the judges. After the shoot you will have to select one image for each category and enter the images to be judged. The judges will select the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each category.

This year, instead of staying in Plano as we did in the past, we will venture to Fort Worth. Why Fort Worth? July 26 is the National Day of the American Cowboy and it's going to be celebrated by people throughout the country. So where else would a Texan celebrate this day than in Fort Worth?. You can pretend that you are a tourist and enjoy all the activities that will be offered there.

We will have a get-together during the day at the Stockyard so we can meet and talk strategy. The time of the get-together will be determined according to the timeline that the Stockyard will post on its website. By making this outing a Scavenger Shoot you will go home with a bunch of pictures that represent the essence of Fort Worth.

Fifteen (15) subjects will given to you in an e-mail at 5:00 pm on July 25th, and every image has to be taken on July 26. You can start as early as you want to and you can stay as late as you want to. And, thanks to the digital age, you can take as many pictures as you have energy for.

After the shoot you will have to select one image per subject and enter those images via e-mail to me. You will have one day to make your selections. The deadline to enter your images is going to be midnight on July 27.

To participate in the Scavenger Shoot is truly great fun and an event not to be missed out on!

To enter the Scavenger Shoot, contact Elizabeth Szilagyi.

E-mail: szilagyi@aol.com

Tel: 214-520-8827

August 16, Saturday

Fashion Show in the Galleria Dallas

The Galleria Dallas is organizing an exclusive Fashion Camp for fashion-forward teens between August 11-15. During that time the campers will put together a Back-To-School Fashion Show that will be held at 3:00 pm in the Galleria Dallas. If you have ever wondered what it's like to be a fashion runway photographer this would be a great time to put that curiosity to the test.

There are not many places around town where you can just click away to see how hard or how easy it is to photograph runway models, so come along and have fun with us.

We will meet at the main entrance of the Galleria Dallas at 12 noon. Why that early? These events are always packed and we want to claim our spot in time at the end of the runway which is the best spot to shoot from.

To sign up, please, contact Elizabeth Szilagyi.

E-mail: szilagyi@aol.com

Tel: 214-520-8827

August 23, Saturday

Posing Mermaids Underwater Model Shoot

Several members from the club have been wanting to try to shoot models under water for a long time, so this day will be dedicated to satisfy our playful side in and around the water - without splashing. We will work on several ideas to create beautiful images, and every participant will have ample opportunity to get the most out of the day.

We will start with an orientation at 2:00 pm and then we'll keep shooting in small groups well into the night. You can stay as long as you have energy for but you have to be there for the orientation at 2:00 pm to make the day go as smoothly as possible for everybody.

This shoot will be held at a private pool, so space is understandably limited.

To sign up, please, contact Elizabeth Szilagyi.

E-mail: szilagyi@aol.com

Tel: 214-520-8827

Plano Photography Club Officers

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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.

First-month standings for 2008-2009 competition

NAME	PLACE	SUM
Beginners		
Linda Grigsby	15	26
Bob Johnson	14	24
Ron Hasty	13	23
Brett Buchmiller		22
Betty A. Johnson		21
Nick Tovell		17
Ray Daberko		16
Svatava Strnad		16
Michael Losurdo		16
Jim Shannon		16
Jean Karlik		12
Charles Henthorne		10
Aida LaPoint		9

Masters		
Eleanore Avery	15	27
Jose Artiles	14	25
James t. Stover		22
Mitsuka Iwahiro	13	22
Larry Petterborg		21
Jamie Hilbig		20
Michael LaPoint		20
Lois Lehman		20
Elizabeth Szilagyi		20
Priscilla Killion		18
John Lehman		18

PPC members score high with GSCCC FROM STEWART MUSKET

PPC did very well in the recent Gulf Coast Council of Camera Clubs latest contest on Nature. We won 1st and 3rd place and one other didn't place, but had 14 points.

1st: Billy Erwin

3rd: Dan Leffel

14 Points: Eleanore Avery

It is worthy of note that Billy Erwin is in the Beginner class!

In the June Pictorial Projected Digital category, Stewart Musket won 3rd place for Arches

Artiles images on display

"Eclectica", a collection of images by PPC member Jose Artiles (see Pages 2-3 of this issue), is on display through Aug. 2 at George's Frame and Art Gallery, 7130 Campbell Road, Dallas.

Advanced		
Danette Volkmer	15	25
Andrew Hibma	15	24
Lewis Sheriff	14	23
Jerry E. Schlesinger		23
Alistair Wilson		22
Mary J. Baker		22
Tatyana Bessmertnaya		22
Dennis Fritsche		21
LeDon Becker		21
Jim Spencer		20
Kent Taylor		20
Bernie Pysz		20
Terree Stone		19
Anne Hargreaves		19
Paul Spencer		19
Bill McMurray		18
John A. Lovelace		18
Carol Barlow		18
Stewart Musket		18
Harry Rumberger		18
Andrew L. Hoiander		10