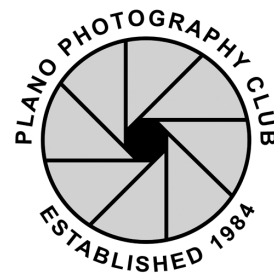




The FLASH!

OCTOBER 2009

Newsletter of the Plano (Texas) Photography Club



‘The time was right, the place was right’ for BOS shot

By **BILL McMURRAY**

A good friend and fellow photo enthusiast once told me, “All you really have to do to capture a truly exceptional photograph is be in the right place at the right time.” For my photo “Running Cougar,” that won Best of Show for August, the right place was the mountains outside Bozeman, Montana and the right time was a cold and snowy morning in early January.



It was the right place because I knew I would see some big cats as well as grizzly bears and wolves. The photo tour I took guaranteed me of that.

The time was right because I know that by mid-winter these animals have grown thick, luscious coats to protect them from

their harsh environment. Also, I know they would be more energetic in the cold than in warmer weather.

Usually, in animal photography, you want to be on the same level as your subject or lower. The ideal position for this shot was to sit or lie on the ground. As I have a seriously injured left ankle that prevents either, we went to plan B: We set up the shot with the cat some 30-40 yards up hill from me. When I was ready, the animal handlers tossed a raw chicken wing down

in front of me, all the incentive the cougar needed to charge down the hill directly at me. As he reached the point where he was approximately level with the camera, I managed only two shots before he was too low on the hill.

Taking the picture was a snap (please pardon the pun). I used a Nikon D80 with a 200-500mm, f5.9/f6.0 Tamron lens, zoomed out to 330mm. Shutter speed was 1/1000 second; aperture, f6.0; and ISO 220 (I set ISO to automatic for this shoot). The camera was hand held, and both focus and exposure were in manual mode.

Ironically, I entered this photo a few months ago, and it didn't so much as raise an eyebrow from the judge. This time I cropped it a bit less and lightened it ever so slightly in Photoshop. I also saturated the red and yellow in the cat's coat by about 10% and lightened and saturated the eye colors a little more.

Now, meet Charlie, the 6 year old, 140 pound model of this photograph. Charlie is a male cougar (a.k.a., puma; a.k.a., mountain lion) and the star of various films for the National Geographic, Animal Planet, and Discovery channels. He's done many re-enactments of mountain lion attacks that have taken place in the U.S. and participated in loads of still photo shoots, the images from which keep popping up all over the place; magazines, billboards, brochures, etc....and now as BOS in a PPC monthly photo contest!

Charlie resides near Bozeman, Montana at a place called Animals of Montana. To see more of Charlie and some of his furry friends, check out his web site: animalsofmontana.com.

(Editor's Note: The judge for PPC's August contest said this image was so realistic it almost made him want to run each time he saw it.)

Club Meeting	Meeting Date	Program Theme	Speaker
May	25-May	Night	David Wille
June	22-Jun	Underwater Photography	Barry Guimbellot
July	27-Jul	Pug Mark Park	Tom Hicks
August	24-Aug	Photo Journalism	Vernon Bryant
September	28-Sep	Landscape Shooting & Post Processing	Charles Lai
October	26-Oct	Creativity and Growing as an Artist	Larry Lourcey
November	23-Nov	Photographer of the Year Presentation	Eleanore Avery
December	NA	NA	NA
January	25-Jan	TBD	Jeremy Woodhouse
February	22-Feb	Panoramas	Peter Poulides
March	22-Mar	Composition	Ron Marabito
April	26-Apr	TBD	Mark Rogers
May	24-May	TBD	Dan Leffel
June	28-Jun	TBD	Sean Fitzgerald

Others in the works

Sun to Moon

Plano - travel

Members Share

Scot Miller

Jody Reed

Heads up!

Tentatively, club Christmas Party Saturday, Dec. 5 at Grace Presbyterian Church, Plano. Watch for e-mail confirmation. Volunteers needed for setup starting at 3 p.m. Party 4-7 p.m. Club provides meat, you and your family/guests provide potluck item such as vegetable, dessert, appetizer, etc. Also bring a CD or USB Flash drive with some favorite images to share. Pre-made slideshows welcome, too. No club meeting and no competition in December.

More heads up!

Jan. 25, 2010, club meeting will be in the Grace Presbyterian Church Education Building, second floor. Regular time: 7 p.m.

‘Storytelling’ defines October speaker’s images

Storytelling has always been the hallmark of Larry Lourcey, speaker for the PPC’s Oct. 26 meeting.

Since earning his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1992, continuing education has been a priority for Larry. Countless art classes and photography workshops have helped mold his style and technique. In 2001, Larry earned his Certified Professional Photographer designation from the Professional Photographers of America, followed by his Master Photographer degree in 2007. In 2009 he became a PPA Approved Juror.



Larry is a member of the Professional Photographers of America and the Texas Professional Photographers Association. He is also a past president of the Dallas Professional Photographers Association.

Recent Achievements

2009 4 for 4 at SWPPA (Sept. 2009)

4 for 4 at PPA (Photographer of the Year)

PPA Loan Print

Judges Choice Ribbon (State)

Best Overall Illustration (State)

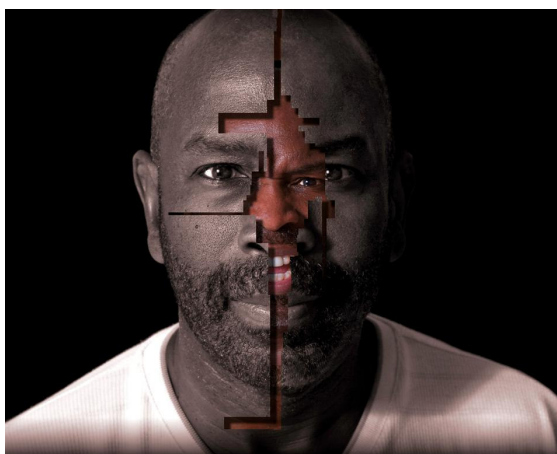
Best Illustrative By A Master (State)

Speaker/Judge at Montana and Virginia state conventions

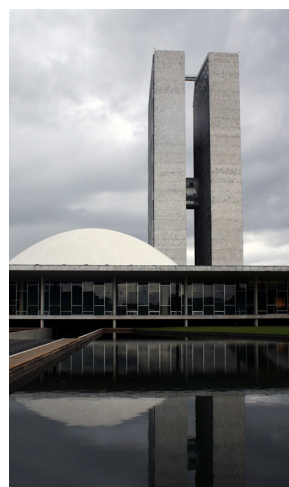
Speaker at Texoma, Heart of Texas and East Texas Guilds

August winners Beginners

Willie Baker	Confined Emotions	1st	13
Jean Karlik	Brasilia Reflections	2nd	13
Michael Losurdo Jr	Very Draining	2nd	12
Nicholas Tovell	Animal or Vegetable?	3rd	12
Liz Graves	Best Friends	HM	12
Sharlott Hasty	Holland Canal	HM	12



WILLIE BAKER



JEAN KARLIK



MICHAEL LOSURDO, Jr.



NICHOLAS TOVELL



LIZ GRAVES



SHARLOTT HASTY

August winners Advanced

Bill McMurray	Running Cougar	1 st ,BOS	13
Ron Hasty	Last light on the Serengeti	2nd	13
Lucy Huffstetter	A New Start	3rd	13
Lucy Huffstetter	Sun and Moon Rendez Vous at the Mittens	HM	13
Bill McMurray	A Ray of Sunshine	HM	13



BILL McMURRAY
(see Page One)



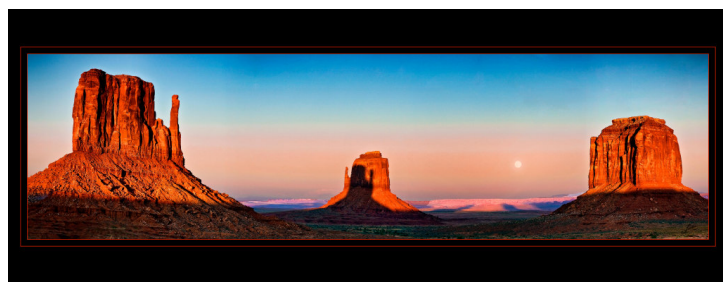
RON HASTY



LUCY HUFFSTETTER



BILL McMURRAY



LUCY HUFFSTETTER

August
winners
Masters

Lois Lehman	Southwest Roof Top	1 st	13
Jose Artiles	'37 Ford Slant Back	3rd	12
Lois Lehman	Cactus	HM	12



LOIS LEHMAN



LOIS LEHMAN



JOSE ARTILES

Cumulative competitive scores as of August 2009

	TOTAL PLACE POINTS	TOTAL JUDGES' POINTS		TOTAL PLACE POINTS	TOTAL JUDGES' POINTS
Beginners			Advanced		
Willie Baker	32	88	Bud Barlow	9	93
Michael Losurdo Jr	6	77	Linda Grigsby	10	91
Jean Karlik	9	76	Danette Volkmer	0	90
Jennifer Carrick	10	73	Dennis Fritsche	0	89
Nicholas Tovell	3	64	Bernard Pysz	3	88
Danny Fyffe	0	57	Peter Staxen	10	87
David Ringrose	3	55	Jim Spencer	3	86
Sharlott Hasty	0	52	John Lovelace	0	83
Liz Graves	16	49	Stewart Musket	0	83
Ron Deage	3	41	Ron Hasty	6	82
Mike Konczal	0	38	Ken Morton	0	81
			Jerry Schlesinger	0	80
			Andrew Hibma	0	78
			David Philips	0	75
			Ernie Tacsik	0	74
Masters			Lewis Sheriff	6	68
Eleanore Avery	0	96	Carol Barlow	13	67
Jose Ariles	6	95	Hal Mayfield	0	64
Jamie Hilbig	21	93	Bill Boyd	0	62
Russell McGuire	6	92	Jim Shannon	0	61
John Lehman	9	91	Paul Spencer	0	55
James Stover	3	84	Billy Erwin	0	47
Larry Petterborg	0	80	Marie Hansen	6	47
Lois Lehman	16	74	Bill McMurray	10	40
Mitsuka Iwahiro	10	63	Kim Clack	0	33
Ed Auger	0	22	Lucy Huffstetter	0	26
			Diana Jaramillo	0	20
			Katherine Robertson	0	18

PPC member's gorilla shot rates cover story

Eleanore Avery's picture of this 38-year-old silver-back gorilla named Sabinyo, native to the moun-



tains of Rwanda, garnered both the front cover and the lead spot in a five-page article in the August 2009 issue of the PSA Journal.

As part of a tour group limited to 20,

she tells of climbing a steep mountain trail to reach the gorillas' home area. She continues: "The reward was great. The largest Silverback in all of the Virunga Mountains—weighing over 450 lbs.—was feeding less than 20 feet away and out in the open sunshine! Falling to my knees with my camera on a shortened monopod, ISO was set to 400 and I kept shooting, and shooting. . . . Alas, one is restricted to just 1 hour with the gorillas, and despite much pleading after such a long trek, the [park] rangers said "No more," with a big smile. Of course they were right, and one was glad to see that they really enforced this rule, which protects the gorillas from stress from human presence."

Club activities coming up

Oct. 23: PPC Showcase reception, 7 p.m., Plano Municipal Center

Oct. 26: Showcase images come down, about half to be moved to Plano Convention Centre

Nov. 21: Night shoot on Trinity River levee west of downtown Dallas. \$10 security fee payable in advance.

Tentative Dec. 5: PPC Christmas party (see Page Two for details).

September judge holds 5 PJ stars

From Hal Mayfield

Vice President, Contests

John Larson, judge for PPC's September competition in Photojournalism, tells us a bit about himself:

Age 65. A retired engineer now teaching math at Southeastern Community College and married to Ruth. For years an engineer with both General Electric and Marathon Electric. Responsibilities included managing all engineering computer efforts, primarily CAD and CAM. Own and shoot Canon 40D and, for snow skiing, a Canon A720. Joined PSA in 1994. Has three PSA stars in Color, five in PJ, three in electronic imaging. Website www.bigjohnlarson.4t.com describes ability to convert digital files to slides.



Contest Topics by month 2009-2010

October 2009: Open (prints only; no digital images)

NOTE: See club website, www.planophotographyclub.com, for complete details on entering prints

November 2009: Night

December 2009: Christmas party. No meeting, no contest

January 2010: Yellow

February 2010: Open

March 2010: Selective Focus (prints only; no digital images)

April 2010: Open

May 2010: Opposites

June 2010: Open



*Mix and match:
PPCers take
their best shots
at balloons
and models*



Piece of advice: 'Get a buddy who will tell you the truth'

Editor's Note: This is another in a series of articles designed to help PPC members get to know more about one another. The interviewer is Bill J Boyd.

Give us some background information, i.e., name, how long have you lived in Texas, and anything else that you think your fellow club members would like to know about you.

I am a native Texan and have lived out of the state for less than a year over the past 62 years. I grew up in Beaumont and received an engineering degree from Lamar. I went to graduate school at Rice and stayed in Houston for 16 years where I was introduced to photography in the '70's. I worked for a small company in Houston for seven years where I met my wife, Lynne, and then Texas Instruments in Houston, Temple, and Dallas for 32 years. I retired in February. Lynne is a talented and avid quilter. Lynne and I have two sons, John and Steven.

How long have you been a member of Plano Photography Club (PPC)? Are you a member of any other photo organizations and/or clubs?

I have been a member of PPC for two and a half years. I joined the Dallas Camera Club this year. I am a member of PSA.

Tell us something about your very first camera and how you got interested in photography.

My first camera was a Minolta rangefinder – don't remember the model in the early '70's. I moved on to a Nikomat EL SLR which I still have. A friend introduced me to photography in that time. From the late '70's through the rest of the century, I put my creative energies into raising a family, engineering, and starting the DLP projector business within Texas Instruments. I bought a Nikon D100 in 2000 and started competing in two contests a week at the on-line site dpchallenge.com. This really kick-started my second life in photography.

What is in your camera bag? Describe the odd-

est item in your bag (if any).

I am paring down my equipment (and have some things to sell). I often carry just one or two lenses with my Nikon D3. For instance on the Route 66 Road-Trip, I had only the D3, Nikon 24-70/f2.8 and Zeiss 100/f2.0 lenses with polarizing and neutral density filters, and a Gitzo Traveler Tripod with Really Right Stuff BH25 head, and cable release in a LowePro backpack. Other lenses I carry when not constrained are the 70-200/f2.8, 12-24/f2.8, 24mm tilt/shift. I have a Speedlight SB600 flash but rarely use it.



Describe your photography interests, i.e., what do you like to shoot, how often do you shoot, etc.

I like a variety of subjects – outdoor, water, flowers, rusty cars, old buildings. I don't have the patience to shot animals in nature and am shy about shooting people. I like stuff that doesn't move around and doesn't talk back. I try to shoot 2-4 times a week. In the summer this goes down.

Describe any photo shoots and/or photo trips you want to do in the next few months.

I want to go to East Texas and shoot around my mother's home town of San Augustine. I am anxious to get back into the creeks to work on my Water Abstracts – need the poison ivy and snakes to go in for the winter.

What lens to you use most often?

Toss-up between the Nikon 24-70 and Zeiss 100.

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What software do you use for post-processing your images?

I sort RAW images in Adobe Bridge, RAW process in Nikon Capture NX, Fine tune in Photoshop CS4, and use the suite of tools from Nik Software – noise reduction, black and white conversion, and image enhancement. I highly recommend Nik Software Color Efex 3 – the tonal contrast filter in that plug end is worth the price of the package. I use Lightroom to look at the whole portfolio when I am choosing images for a particular purpose and will use it for non-critical RAW processing such as for an event.



I print on an Epson 4880 and use Harman gloss paper for final output and Red River UltraPro Satin 2.0 for initial output.

Describe any photography highlights, i.e., awards, honors, anything published, etc.

I have had three images selected in the Black and White Magazine Single Image Contest – two in 2005 and one in 2008.

I was just notified that I am a Showcase winner in Color Magazine Portfolio Contest. I will have an 8 to 10 page spread in one of the issues next year – I am not sure which one. This is for my Water Dreams series that I showed at the year-end party. You can check these out on dennis-fritsche.com.

Any photography advice for our club members?

Shoot lots of images – practice, practice, practice. Enter contests. Get a buddy who will tell you the truth. I have such a friend and we review each other's work almost every week.

Shoot what you know. You can stay close to home and find great subjects – all three of my winning images in Black and White Magazine are from my own yard and two are of the same plant in different years!

Tell us about some of your non-photography interests.

I like to cook, read, and do a little gardening.

(Editor's Note: Dennis Fritsche is the PPC's Vice President for Programs for 2009-2010).

Plano Photography Club Officers

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Vice President — Activities	Ron Marabito, Ed Auger
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PSA Representative	Eleanore Avery
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Webmaster	David Ringrose, Ernie Tacsik
Exhibits	David Lerry, Katherine Robertson
Model Shoot Coordinator	Ken Guthrie
Tabletop Equipment	Jamie Hilbig
Publicity	Open

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 To be determined
 To be determined

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.