

Photos in this issue are from last month's 'Abandoned / Decay' competition.

Get better at B&W

This month's Program will help you to better visualize and shoot B&W images. Many modern digital cameras have a B&W mode built in. Do you use it? Should you use it?

Get answers to these questions and more from Cole's presentation.

The next few months are prime time for wildflowers in Colorado. Whether you are looking for alpine meadows or park trails in places like Roxborough State Park there are many online lists for good locations.

Start with [this one](#) and [this one](#) to find them.

Competitions make you better

I've resurrected something I wrote a few years ago. And it still applies today. [Read it here...](#)



Central Havana at Dusk by Jeff Hochwalt

Hey!! Are you a fan of the nik Collection? DXO just released the new and improved 2018 version and are offering it for under \$50. [Hit the DXO website](#) for details.

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Focus Camera Club Officers and Committee members

Officers
 President: Joe Bonita
 Vice President: Clint Dunham
 Treasurer: Alicia Glassmeyer
 Secretary: Laura Moran

Committee Chairs & Members

Executive: Joe Bonita, Clint Dunham, Alicia Glassmeyer, Laura Moran, and the Committee chairs listed below
 Competitions: Larry Hartlaub
 Programs: Dick York
 Membership: Kim Ross

Our Mission

The purpose of the Focus Camera Club is to further its members' enjoyment, knowledge and mastery of photographic skills through cooperative efforts and fellowship.

Focus Camera Club Monthly Meetings

Meetings are held the Second Friday & Fourth Wednesday of each month. Our meeting place is Lone Tree Civic Center, 8527 Lone Tree Pkwy, in Lone Tree. Meetings start promptly at 6:30 PM and will end by 9:00 PM after we breakdown the chairs and tables in the room. Get a Google Map by [clicking here](#).

Competitions Make You a Better Photographer

By Karl Peschel

When I joined Focus Camera club I was placed in the f5.6 group, like so many photographers before me. I thought to myself, "Hey...wait a sec. I've been shooting since I was a teen and 25 years later I'm starting at square one? How's that possible?"

After attending a few competition meetings, and seeing the work of others in all the groups, I came to realize it wasn't personal. It wasn't due to experience, or what camera I had, or how much I knew about lighting and composition. It was nothing more than a way to level the playing field in the competitions.

And many of those folks in the f11 and f16 groups had put in years of time and effort to get to where they were. They had proven themselves – I had not.

To get a group assignment I had shown a sampling of my work, which I thought was the most awesome stuff anyone had ever created, but I had **NEVER** entered any competitions. The rules and criteria for what is awesome or mediocre are far different in competitions than it is when showing off images to friends and family. (Best advice I got about this – On competition night, leave your ego at the door!)

The images of a special trip I took, or a moment in time that reminded me of an event, may have held great meaning for me - but not so much in the eyes of other people judging the images. They looked (and looked real hard) at composition, lighting, color fidelity, emotional impact, critical sharpness, and many other factors I perhaps glossed over or felt were "good enough" for me.

It made me view my images with a more critical eye. When choosing competition images I became more aware of all those elements and it forced me to not only shoot differently, but to "see" differently.

And I got better

I learned. I improved. I had a desire to do better, work harder, and prove to myself (and to others, admittedly) I was a good photographer. As I started scoring 1st and 2nd (we didn't have the number system back then) my confidence grew.

I attended more Programs. Talked with other club members. Went out shooting with other members in order to learn and see what they did differently than me. I read more and watched tutorial videos online. And then I went out and shot images using my newly acquired knowledge.

Ya know what? It worked!

We all have simple beginnings

Most of the people in the F16 group started in the f5.6 group. Years later, they have progressed to the higher groups, and it's well deserved. They all experienced the same thing I did – learning, growth, and the reward of working to improve their photographic skills.

We all start as Newbies, not knowing an aperture from a hole in the ground.

But nothing says you have to stay there.

Go. Shoot. Learn. Then shoot some more. And enter all the competitions you can.

Program & Competition Meetings

Program Schedule		Competition Schedule	
06/08/18	Program – Why Black and White by Cole Thompson	06/27/18	Subject – Open
07/13/18	Program – Small Strobes, Big Results by David Tejada	07/25/18	Subject – Clouds
08/10/18	Program – Composition – No More Rules! by Colleen Miniuk-Sperry	08/22/18	Subject – Landscapes and Nature
08/29/18	Member Critique Meeting		

June 8 Program with Cole Thompson

For Cole “color records the image, but black & white captures the feelings that lie beneath the surface.”

In Cole’s presentation he will make the case for black and white as the perfect medium for all subjects and genres. Showing images from his various portfolios (The Ghosts of Auschwitz, Harbinger, The Lone Man, Melting Giants, The Faroe’s and others), he intersperses them with the lessons he’s learned about Vision, listening to himself, the role of equipment, the rules of photography and others.

Following his lecture, he will take questions and then give away three of his prints.

After a short intermission Cole will then demonstrate his simple b&w conversion process using Photoshop and only six of its tools.

About Cole:

Cole Thompson has been shooting black and white since he was 14 years old, but it’s only been since 2004 that’s he’s been creating black and white images. With his discovery of Vision, his world changed.

A resident of Laporte, CO, Cole spends his time traveling, photographing and sharing with others his passion for Vision and black and white.

This Month's Competition is Open

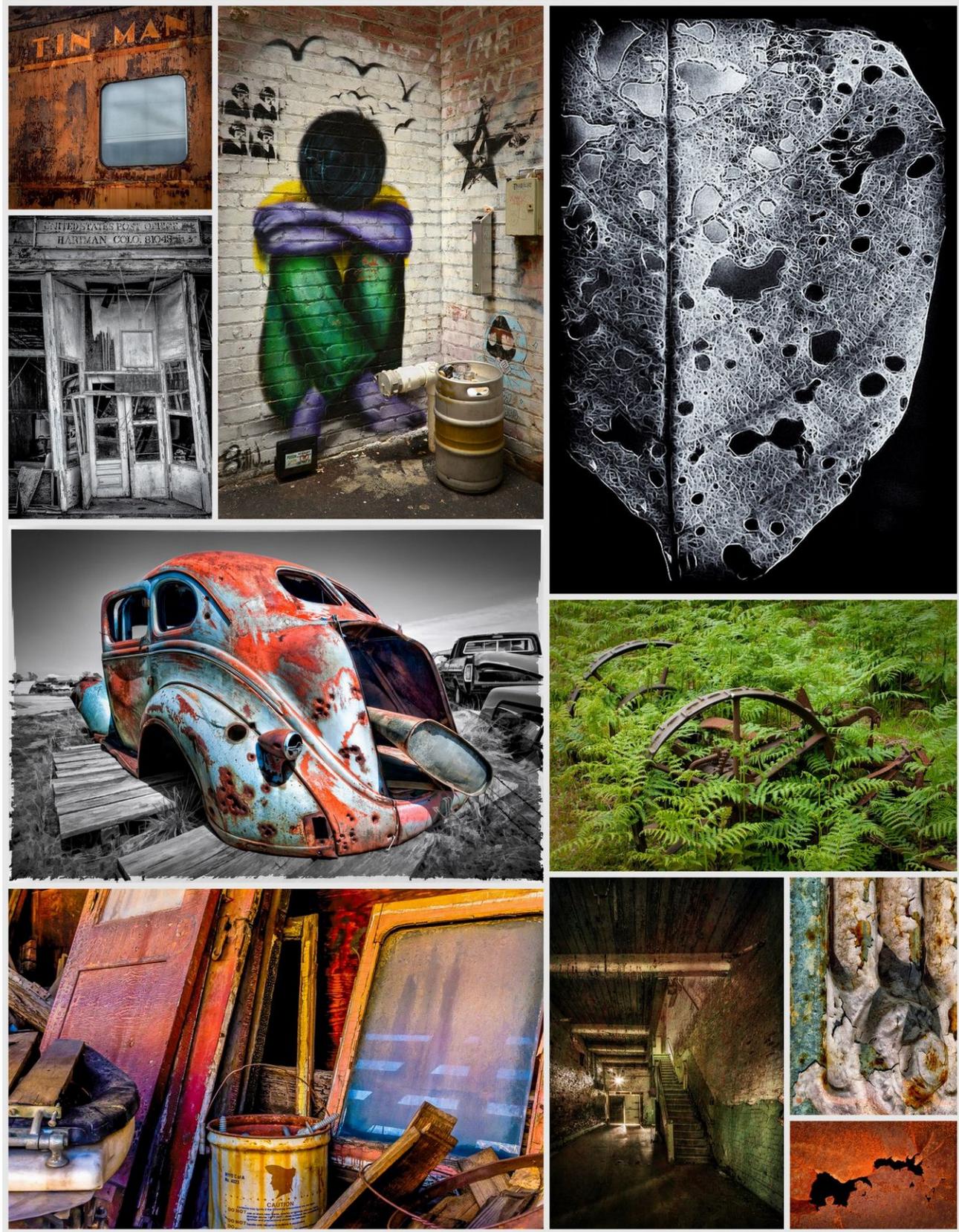
You know it and love it – *“The Open category allows photographers to submit images of any subject matter. Members are encouraged to explore photographic techniques and subjects outside their usual style.”*

The world is your oyster – in fact, you could submit an image of oysters. Or street scenes, or a glorious sunset over the mountains, or some abstract image that will have people guessing what it is. Be free.

Judge will be **TBA**

If you need the Competition Entry forms or the template for the stick-on labels, you can get both [from the Focus website on the Competition Rules page.](#)

Images from last month's competition...



May 'Abandoned / Decay' Competition Results

	Media	Artist	Image Title	Score		
f8	Digital	Victoria Ashby	Box Car Left Behinds	9		
		Gwen Paton	Beached in the Bay	9		
		Todd Soderstrom	In my humble old pinion	9		
		Todd Soderstrom	Portrait of picnics past	9		
f11	Digital	Larry Hartlaub	Call the Furnace Man	9		
		Jeff Hochwalt	Wrong Exit	9		
		Ronald Schaller	Unemployed	9		
		Larry Hartlaub	No Mail Today	10		
		Jeff Hochwalt	Central Havana at Dusk	10		
		Lorenzo Landini	Haunted House	10		
		Lorenzo Landini	Terminal Stores	10		
		Monochrome	Elmer Paetow	Out of Service	9	
		f16	Color	Cliff Lawson	Shoulda Used Sunscreen	9
			Digital	Nancy Myer	Nature Reclaims the Machine	9
Nancy Myer	The Fading of Lost Dreams			9		
Mary Paetow	Door, Hampden Barn			9		
Mary Paetow	Abandoned Boat Detail			9		
Oz Pfenninger	Societal Decay			9		
Gwen Piña	Age Spots			9		
Brian Donovan	Drained of Life			10		
Dan Greenberg	Colorful Relic in a Monochrome World			10		
Todd Lytle	Malecón de Havana			10		
Oz Pfenninger	Rusty Iron			10		
Gwen Piña	My Aching Back			10		
Leander Urmy	Slightly Used			10		
Gary Witt	In Need of More Than Oil			10		

Judge for this competition was Trish Sangelo. See all the winning images in [the Online Gallery](#).

Remember to send your winning Print images to Webmaster@FocusColorado.com for the online galleries.
And please use the same naming conventions as we do for Digital Submissions.



Terminal Stores by Lorenzo Landini

Photo Contests

Magnificent Monochrome

This month's GreyLearning Photo Contest is sponsored by Alien Skin Software, and the Grand Prize is a copy of Alien Skin Exposure X3 (a US\$149 value).

Submit your best monochromatic photo no later than Monday, **June 25, 2018**.

Visit [this website](#) to enter your image. Learn more [about Tim Grey here](#).

Aesthetica Art

The Aesthetica Art Prize is now open for entries, presenting an opportunity for emerging and established artists to further their involvement in the art world. The award is an internationally renowned prize presented by Aesthetica Magazine and judged by industry experts.

Enter for your chance to win £5,000 and showcase your work to wider audiences!

Categories for entry: Photographic & Digital Art; Three-Dimensional Design & Sculpture; Painting, Drawing & Mixed Media and Video, Installation & Performance.

Deadline for submissions is August 31, 2018. Visit: www.aestheticamagazine.com/artprize

Documentary – The Independent Photographer

Deadline: June 30, 2018

Documentary photography is much more than the chronicle of events and environments. It offers us the possibility to develop and share our ideas through telling the stories of others.

Capturing the essence of a situation, be it through professional photojournalism on social issues, or through artistic interpretation, allows us to engage and communicate our vision.

This month we are looking for visual artists aiming to captivate; unique voices willing to share their stories with conviction and awareness.

Visit [the IP website](#) for entry and prize info.

Local Photo Opps & Events

Russ Burden Photo Tours

www.RussBurdenPhotography.com

303.791.9997

2018 Upcoming Tours and Dates

Aug 18 – 24, Goats and Gods

Sept 4 – 17, Tanzania Safari, Mara River Crossing

Dec 1 – 7, Bosque Del Apache / White Sands

Mount Goliath

Gardens, trails, Bristlecone pines, and beautiful views of the surrounding mountains.

“Here in this fragile alpine environment Denver Botanic Gardens oversees the highest cultivated garden in the U.S., managed in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service. Visitors can enjoy the garden, the Dos Chappell Nature Center and/or hike the M. Walter Pesman Trail.”

Visit the [DBG website for Mount Goliath](#) for more info about it and guided tours of the gardens.

Evergreen Rodeo

When: June 16-17

The Evergreen Rodeo is a Pro Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA) event that takes place in the beautiful mountain community of Evergreen, Colorado, every summer on Father's Day weekend. Members of the all-volunteer Evergreen Rodeo Association work year-round to ensure that our rodeo is one of the best.

Our Rodeo Weekend includes a fabulous Saturday morning parade through downtown Evergreen, an evening rodeo performance on Saturday and an afternoon performance on Sunday. Come celebrate our western heritage and join in this Colorado mountain tradition.

Full details, schedule, directions, etc is at the [Evergreen Rodeo website](#).

■ **Frame #37**

A collection of extra tidbits I've discovered during the past few weeks.

– Earlier this year the US Copyright office changed some rules about submitting images for copyright. Now they are considering raising the fees. You can [read more about it here](#). They are accepting public opinions thru July 23 via [this webpage](#).

– Do your images stem from original ideas? Yes – No – Maybe. [Watch this](#) and then answer.

– Would you like to do expensive looking product shots without having to buy 4 or 5 lights? All you need is one – and some help from software. [Watch the short video here](#) on how to shoot and use blending modes to make it happen.

Unlike any other visual image, a photograph is not a rendering, an imitation or an interpretation of its subject, but actually a trace of it. No painting or drawing, however naturalist, belongs to its subject in the way that a photograph does.

– John Berger