FOCUS CAMERA CLUB

InFocus Newsletter

November 2024

Photos in this issue are from last month's 'Shallow DOF' competition.

Into the Home Stretch...

The final Program and Competition of the year are happening this month. Hope to see you at both. Get your best work into the competition so you can boost your annual average.

December 11 is our Awards Dinner and everyone got emailed all the info this past week. Make sure you get your reservations in to Gwen by November 30.

2024 Survey

A summary of the recent survey, including some changes we'll be making for 2025.

Read more here...

Acorny Picture by Terry Hanford

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Focus Camera Club Officers and Committee Chairs

Officers

President: Karl Peschel

Vice President: David Bessen

Treasurer: Cecilia Zapata

Secretary: Bill Williams

Committee Chairs

Executive Board: Karl Peschel, David Bessen, Cecilia Zapata, Bill Williams, and the Committee chairs listed below.

Competitions: Karl Peschel

Programs: Co-Chairs David Bessen and Kyle Durlam

Membership: Todd Lytle

Mentoring: Gwen Paton

Communications: Karl Peschel

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 & Fourth Wednesday of each month. Hybrid meetings – locally at Lone Tree Civic Center and via Zoom. Meetings start promptly at 6:30 PM and normally end before 9:00 PM .

Survey Results / Club Changes

2024 Survey Synopsis and changes agreed upon by the Executive Board

- 50% would do away with Ribbons and Awards; *Printable PDF certificates will replace Ribbons for those scoring a 10, Media awards and POTY will now be framed certificates. We will also be displaying the POTY (Photographer of the Year) winners on the website.*

- 80% voted to do away with the Print part of competitions. *In 2025 we will be digital only, which we have basically been doing for a few years now.*

- A few club members volunteered for Mentoring and Program presentations. 65% want member presentations/travelogues. *(Thanks to those of you who have committed to these)*

- Only 20% of respondents (4 people) worked with a Mentor. *We understand Mentors may be helpful for new members and new photographers, but they are available to everyone. Don't miss out on the expertise and guidance our Mentors can offer you on a wide variety of topics and techniques.*

- Going Zoom only was an overwhelming No. A number of folks want to see more in-person participation. *(club members themselves have to make this happen and go to LTCC instead of Zoom)*

- 85% want combined meetings with other clubs. *We'll be exploring those possibilities in 2025.*

- Macro Photography was a popular choice for a Program topic. *Let me remind everyone we had a presentation last year on that very topic. We have nearly 5 years worth of recorded presentations on our YouTube channel! Look there first when you want to learn something new about photography. But also know we'll try to get Programs next year for the popular topics on the survey.*

- Outings / Social Aspect scored rather low, which is understandable. *But **every** member could make a difference there. Volunteer to lead an outing; show up at Lone Tree; use the email list to connect with other members and go out and shoot (as I know some people already do). The club leadership can't force anyone to "participate" – that's up to each of you. Make it a New Year's resolution to be more involved in the club.*

At the Executive Board Meeting we decided to raise Membership dues for 2025 to $60. (We are slow to change. We held on to $50 for 4 years, and $40 for 7 years before that.)

And our January 29, 2025 5th Wednesday meeting will be all about what Focus has to offer to both new and current members. We'd love to see **everyone** attend, so mark your calendars.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's survey. Your answers and comments will help us shape the club for the next few years.

— Karl

Program & Competition Meetings

Program Schedule

11/13/24	**Program** – B&W Photo Editing by Ben Hernandez
12/11/24	**Annual Awards Dinner**
01/08/25	**Program –** TBA by David Johnston

Competition Schedule

11/26/24 **(TUESDAY)**	**Subject** – Workers / People at Work
	Enjoy the Holidays!
01/22/25	**Subject** – Open

November 13 Program with Benjamin Hernandez

Ben will talk about how the club has helped him improve his photo editing skills, to the point where he was awarded Silver in the reFocus awards competition this year. (see the October newsletter for details)

Join us for this presentation of one man's journey to better B&W images.

Melody - Wind at her Back by Steve Wilton

This Month's Competition is Workers / People at Work

The official definition - *"Pictures of a person or multiple people either involved doing their job, or portrayed wearing the uniform and/or with the special equipment relating to their job. We see people every day doing their jobs; find some interesting people, jobs, or situations and capture them."*

Judge will be **Jeff Johnson**

And remember, we are limiting to 2 images per person for all Competitions judged via Zoom.

NOTE: Our November competition is the 26th...a Tuesday, since it's Thanksgiving week and very few would show up if it were on Wednesday. **This will be Zoom only,** as we have done in past years.

October "Shallow DOF" Competition Results

	Media	Artist	Image Title	Score
F8	Color Digital	Joy Lindholm	Hello Friend	9
		Joy Lindholm	The Devil's in the Dahlias	10
F11	B&W Digital	David Bessen	Hangin' in There	9
		Steve Wilton	Melody - Wind at her Back	9
		Steve Wilton	Waiting for the Lineman	10
	Color Digital	Terry Hanford	Treasure at Its Feet	9
		David Bessen	Settling the Score	10
		Terry Hanford	Acorny Picture	10
F16	Color Digital	Ally Green	Just landed	9
		Dan Greenberg	Searching Eyes	9
		Dave Hull	Cottonwood Leaf	9
		Oz Pfenninger	Water Droplets on Wire Mesh	9
		Ronald Schaller	Calypso Orchids	9

Judge for this competition was Jamie Davidson.

See all the winning images in the Online Gallery.

Watch it here https://youtu.be/hBEWMazXLF4

This was posted to our FB page...something everyone should consider I think.

Some people quit social media for mental health reasons, or to gain back a few hours a day/week usually spent mindlessly scrolling. Photographers leave because the platforms are not as useful or effective as they used to be.

Instagram used to be the place for photogs - now it's much more video centric and single images don't get the "love" they used to. (IG did nothing for our club and we dropped it after almost 2 years)

Here's some food for thought.

Photo Contests

Tamron User 2024 Photo/Video Contest

Deadline: November 30, 2024

All entries must be shot/filmed with a current Tamron lens. There are 4 Photo categories and then Video. Photos for Landscape, Portrait, Wildlife and Macro must be lightly edited, color or B&W, not AI generated, and with EXIF data intact. (there are many other criterion for entries – be sure to read them carefully). Cash prizes and new Tamron lenses are up for grabs.

Hello Friend by Joy Lindholm

Visit the official Tamron site contest page for all the details and to enter your images.

Hangin' in There

14th Annual "Nature" Online Art Competition

Deadline: November 27, 2024

Light Space & Time Online Art Gallery announces their 14th Annual "Nature" Online Art Competition. 2D and 3D artists from around the world are called upon to make online submissions for possible inclusion into the Gallery's December 2024 online group exhibition.

The "Nature" theme is the artist's interpretation and depiction of nature art. Nature subjects include geographical subjects, landscapes, natural objects, wildlife and natural environments.

Head over to the LightSpace Time contest page for details, a link to the Judge's rules, and to enter your image submissions.

35th Memorial Maria Luisa Photo and Video Contest

Deadline: December 1, 2024 (this is an international site, so most dates are dd/mm/yy format)

The 35 edition of the Memorial Maria Luisa de Photography and video is about to begin. This time the contest is made up of fourteen thematic categories on the Mountain, Nature and Adventure, in addition to the specific category of videos. In addition, on this occasion, a Thematic Category dedicated exclusively to portrait photography is also being convened.

Year after year photographers from all over the world take part in this contest, having done it already from more than 100 different countries.

A rarity for an international contest...your first image submitted is free. Visit the contest page here and the links for the Rules and to Enter are midway down the page.

Local Photo Opps & Events

Historic Denver Walking Tours

It's nice to go to an area of Denver and wander around for a few hours, taking photos as you go. But if you really want to get to know an area, a guided tour is a better way. Then you can learn about the history and architecture of an area from someone "in the know." Grab your camera and walk around Lo-Do, Larimer Square, Curtis Park, 17th Street, or many other areas they offer.

Historic Denver works every day to promote and protect Denver's historic places and spaces. Founded in 1970, Historic Denver believes Denver's historic assets are part of its cultural fabric and essential to a diverse, dynamic, and distinctive city - and that everyone should see themselves in the story of their city through its places.

Check out their website here and book directly from the site.

Register for MOP Denver Portfolio Reviews

MOP = Month of Photography and it happens in March of 2025.

Are you looking for opportunities to exhibit, publish, or sell your photography? Do you need feedback or advice about an ongoing project? If so, Month of Photography Portfolio Reviews are an excellent opportunity to advance your photography practice and career.

Over two days, you'll have an opportunity to meet one-on-one with about 30 of the most important people in the field of photography, including museum curators, gallery owners, publishers, collectors, and other industry leaders from Colorado and the United States.

Registration opens November 8, 2024 for CPAC members and the 15th for the general public. Pop over to the DenverMOP website for details. Pricing starts at $330.

Water Droplets on Wire Mesh by Oz Pfenninger

Calypso Orchids by Ronald Schaller

Frame #37

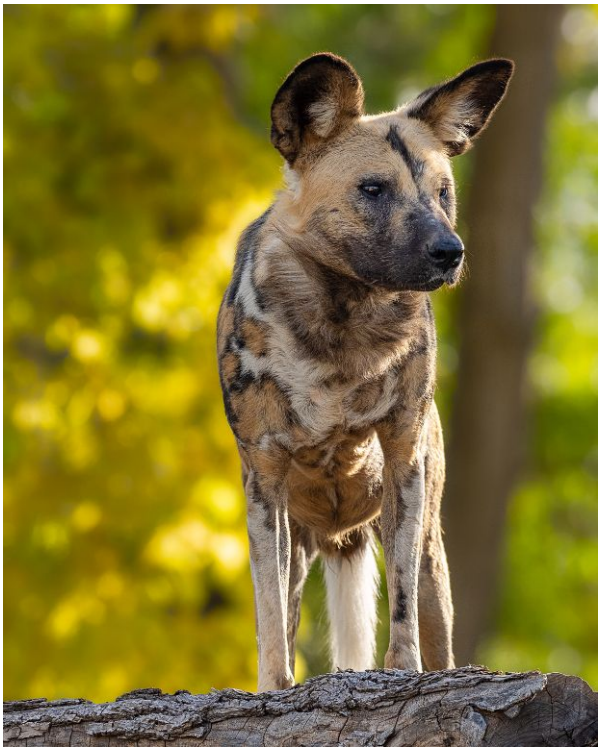
A collection of extra tidbits discovered during the past few weeks.

— What is the highest ISO you can "safely" shoot on your camera and still get acceptable results? Don't rely on online charts – do your own testing and find your own go / no-go numbers.

— Don't forget...the Photoshop Virtual Summit is this month, the 11th to the 15th. It's 5 days, 23 top instructors teaching 40 classes - that you can watch for FREE. You can get all the details and sign up by visiting the summit page: https://www.pssummit.com/

— The wonderful shot you envision in your mind isn't always easy to capture. *"...achieving the perfect photo is about showing up and trying again, even when past attempts have come up short."*

> I have been photographing the portrait of an end of an era, as machines and computers replace human workers. What we have in these pictures is an archeology.
>
> — Sebastiao Salgado



Searching Eyes by Dan Greenberg

Cottonwood Leaf by Dave Hull

Just landed by Ally Green