



TAPC Shutter Bug

www.trinityartsphotoclub.org

SEPTEMBER 2017 Issue

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Monday, September 25th

Program Speaker: Bill Conly; Bill's presentation will be on Accessing Your Creative Brain.

Bill began his photography career in the early 1970s while living in the New Mexico mountains. He enjoys both the technical and artistic aspects of photography.

His photographic experiences encompass a broad realm of subject matter from medical and microscopic images to industrial photos, advertising, and wedding photography.

Competition Results: We will hear our judge's, Sam Tarrel, comments/critiques on the August Competition in the "Unusual Angle" category.

SEPTEMBER COMPETITION

Topic: OPEN; Anything goes

Entry Deadline: September 28th; Photos are always due by midnight on Thursday after the meeting.

Judge: Sharon Sturgis; Sharon is always focusing on the creative and artistic side of photography. She has worked and 'played' in the photography industry for years; and after retiring from the workforce, she taught photography classes at TCC for 10 years.

**NOMINATION
COMMITTEE**

It's that time of year again when our Club is gathering nominations for next year's Officers. This year, the Nomination Committee is made up of the Committee Chair, Jay Gosdin, and committee members, Mark Lenz and Beth Wasson.

They are asking our members to help the Club this year by volunteering for Officer and Chair/Committee member positions. If you are interested in a certain position or your skills fit a certain area, please be sure to let the committee know.

If you need more information about any of the positions, please contact Jay Gosdin at jgosdin@sbcglobal.net

**SAVE THE DATE
DECEMBER 5, 2017**

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**TAPC Christmas Party
December 5, 2017
6:00pm - 9:00pm**

Our Christmas Party last year was a great success and we expect to make it even better this year. We will meet for dinner at Los Vaqueros Restaurant in Fort Worth (near the Stock Yards)

We will have a large private room with lots of space to socialize and talk to all. We invite everyone (Yes, that includes your date) to bring your favorite photo to be displayed during dinner. Everyone will vote for their favorite image and a top prize will be awarded.

We will celebrate our Photographer of the Year in both the A and B categories.

There are still some things in-progress to make this the best Christmas Party ever.

Stay Tuned - More details to follows.

PHOTO CONTEST TIPS FROM JUDGES

(an excerpt from an article by David Schloss)

For full article, click this link: <https://www.dpmag.com/how-to/shooting/photo-contest-tips-from-the-judges/>

Photo Contest Tips From Judges (an excerpt from an article by David Schloss)

Photo contests are a wonderful way to challenge yourself. Nothing motivates a photographer to create beautiful images more than the thought of submitting them to a panel of judges, and the chance of winning a prize doesn't hurt, either. Even if you don't win, the experience will make you a better photographer.

Judges of photo contests have a unique perspective because we see so very many photos. Sometimes the difference between being a finalist in a contest and being rejected comes down to minute differences in technique, composition and tone, and sometimes it's much less subtle.

While judging a contest, a few common themes come up, a set of tips we wish we could transmit to our submitters—some thoughts about the process of capturing images, in general, and some things that judges are looking for, things that can help your photography, whether you're entering a contest or not.

Intent is Everything

There's a marked difference in photography between seeing and looking. Snapshots see the world. Selfies see the world. Good photographs look carefully at it. They pick out the details of a scene, they look for the contrasts, the beauty and the humor in everyday life. The winning photos often hit us the second we see them. The job of the photograph is to carry the emotion of the creation of art, and we can *feel* if a photograph is missing that intent.

Understand What the Contest is About

If the contest is a portrait contest, don't submit a landscape with no people. If the photo is for a macro contest, don't submit urban street scenes (unless they show how nature breaks through that landscape).

Make Sure Your Photo is in Focus

This rule seems so obvious that most people will skip past this, but stick with me. Not only do we get photos that are completely out of focus—there isn't a focus point anywhere in the photo—we get them where the wrong thing is in focus.

**PHOTO CONTEST
TIPS FROM JUDGES**
(continued)

Will the Subject Matter to Anyone Else?

A huge problem with most submissions is that the subjects chosen are often personal to the photographer, but meaningless to anyone else. Your cat, your child, your parakeet—they aren't interesting by themselves to anyone but you and your immediate family. This is perhaps the most heartbreaking part of judging a contest—we see photos of kids or pets that are obviously packed with love, but the photos are meaningless. If there's no unique perspective on a cat, then it's just another cat photo.

Composition, Composition, Composition

The winning photos in contests are well composed, either through purposeful setup or through simply having a good eye when the photo is captured. Be wary of distracting elements in a photo—tree limbs, lampposts, stray hairs (that's really important in portrait and wedding contests), other people, etc.

Learn about the Rule of Thirds, and when to break it. Many times, the winning photos in a contest are those that successfully flout conventions, but do so in a way that's intriguing, not off-putting. A crooked horizon works if it adds to the photo, it doesn't work if it's accidental.

Master Lighting

Many photographers are afraid of utilizing light, either on-camera or off-camera. That's a shame, because a lot of the best photos we see are masterfully lit.

Good lighting doesn't always mean using flash lighting or even man-made lighting. Sometimes it's a matter of successfully using a diffuser or bouncing light off a reflector. Sometimes it's just a matter of facing subjects toward the setting sunlight or a campfire or a car's headlights, and not shooting them with the sun behind them and shadows on their face.

Think of Your Competitors

When you're entering a contest, think about your competitors and what they might be offering, and ask yourself if what you're submitting is likely to be better than that of the other entrants. In one landscape and travel contest I judged, several entrants did beautiful shots of bridges; in fact, I saw more than half a dozen bridges. The one that went to the round of finalists had the most masterful use of lighting and composition of the bunch, but the margin was narrow.

**PHOTO CONTEST
TIPS FROM JUDGES**
(continued)

Don't Drop In or Remove Elements Unnecessarily

Don't use Photoshop to place a moon over a building. And, if you *should* use Photoshop to drop in a moon over a building, be sure to do it well. I've seen moons in photos where the selection wasn't smooth enough and the 'shopped moon had jagged edges. The moon doesn't have jagged edges, and contest judges know that.

I've also seen images where the Clone Stamp is used improperly to remove something, and it leaves an incongruous, large, blotchy spot behind. That's an immediate reject. If something is removed (like dust), there should be no trace of it.

Enough of HDR Already

HDR photography disasters are aplenty in photo contests, especially those with landscapes and travel themes. HDR (high dynamic range, if you're not familiar) photos combine a number of shots at different exposures to create an image with a more natural and vibrant representation of a scene than a single exposure can capture. It's very handy for bringing out both the highlights and the shadows in a scene.

However, HDR is often used to create images with hypersaturated colors and unrealistic tonal range, and these super-tonal photos usually go right to rejects.

Enough of the Filters Already

A corollary to the HDR rule—we know there are some impressive filters for Photoshop. It's not necessary to show us that you found some cool ones, unless it actually improves your images. Most egregious are portrait shots that are smoothed out by retouching software past where they should be used, and the result is someone who looks like they're made of rubber.

Follow the Rules

The tips for making a winning contest entry are, of course, the same as the rules for making good pictures, in general: authenticity, simplicity, emotion and composition. That's what people are looking for in a good photograph, whether it's for a contest or not.

For the full article, click this link: <https://www.dpmag.com/how-to/shooting/photo-contest-tips-from-the-judges/>

**REMAINING
2017 COMPETITION
TOPICS**

October - Procrastinator's Delight - the topic will be assigned at the September meeting and the photo must be taken between the September meeting and the entry deadline for October

**2018 COMPETITION
TOPICS**

(There are no definitions given for the topics in 2018)

November - Blur or Motion

January - Open

February - It Makes Me Feel

March - Procrastinator's Delight

April - Backlit

May - Open

June - Cell Phone Shot

July - Water

August - Simplicity

September - Open

October - In the Still of the Night

**2017 OFFICERS AND
CHAIRPERSONS**

President - Dick Graves

Vice President - Janet Cunningham

Secretary - Debby Hoover

Treasurer/Membership - Misti Lange

Officer at Large - Lynne Harris

Officer at Large - Bill Webb

Web/Media Chair - Bruce Hutter

Competition Chair - Nancy Abby

Program Chair - Jay Gosdin

Newsletter Editor - Lynne Harris

Refreshments - Lana Macko

ITEMS FOR SALE

If you have items for sale, please send all pertinent information (including photos if you have them) to Lynne Harris at lynne5477@swbell.net

Many thanks to those members who contributed information and articles to this newsletter.

Let us hear from you. If there are things you want to hear about in the Shutterbug newsletter, please let us know.

DEADLINE TO HAVE ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE NEXT EDITION OF THE SHUTTERBUG IS OCTOBER 10TH. SEND YOUR INFORMATION TO: lynne5477@swbell.net