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SEPT
2020

The Shutterbug
a newsletter of Trinity Arts Photo Club

Mastering Birds in Flight



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www.trinityartsphotoclub.org



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September VIRTUAL Meeting

Monday, September 28, 7 p.m.

Program Speaker:

Randall Patterson

Join us this month to learn from Randall Patterson about bird photography. He'll begin by going over the gear he uses and discuss settings in depth. Then he'll share some basic tips and strategies for getting started and move to more advanced techniques for catching fast birds in flight. He plans to share many tips and ideas for landing birds and will end with his hummingbird techniques.

The presentation is a mix of video and slide show, so participants can better understand how he captures such great images.



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Randall was only six years old when his grandfather gave him a book about birds. He was instantly fascinated listening to him talk about every bird in the book. Through the years, this fascination developed into a passion for photographing birds.



© Randall Patterson

Mastering birds in flight

Techniques from beginners to advanced



© Randall Patterson

Randall soon realized he had a specific desire to capture birds in flight—not just to capture them flying but to capture every detail of every feather as the bird moved through the air.

Acquiring the right gear was just the first step, gaining the skill to freeze the wings in extreme motion and capture them without blur was a must. He spent hours developing a quick-draw method, allowing him to catch nearly perfect shots time after time.

Randall works constantly to learn everything about his gear and mastering his craft. Along with continued learning himself, Randall is eager to share the knowledge he has acquired so far. See more of his photograph online.

www.birdsviewtexas.com



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© Bruce Rosenstiel

Meet our September judge: Bruce Rosenstiel

Bird watching, cultural travel, and photography have taken my wife and me to six continents and more than fifty countries. I particularly enjoy the challenges and joys of nature and street photography. Exploring the world has also helped me greater appreciate the diversity and unique beauty of our home in Grapevine, Texas.

I offer group and private photography classes through both the Grapevine and Southlake Park and Recreation departments. Visit my website for more information.

www.smallworldphotos.net

Trinity Arts Photo Club Competitions

September Topic: Open

October Topic: Golden Hour Images

Entry Deadline: **October 1**

This month is Procrastinator's Delight. The topic chosen at the August meeting was Golden Hour Images. Photos must be taken between drawing and the October 1 competition deadline. No shooting ahead. No looking through archived photos. You have a limited window of time to take this competition topic.

What is the golden hour? It's the first hour of light just after dawn and the last hour of light just before sunset. These windows of golden-hour time in the morning and evening caused by the low angle of the sun provide photographers with a magical quality of light that makes their photos pop. See article on next page.

Upcoming Competition Topics

November – Patterns in Nature

Look for repeated patterns and geometric shapes in nature.

December – No contest

January (2021) – Open

February (2021) – Still Life

March (2021) – Architecture (Inside or Out)

April (2021) – High- or Low-Key Images

May (2021) – Open

June (2021) – Images That Say Texas!

July (2021) – Composing with Curves

August (2021) – Long Exposure Images

September (2021) – Open

October (2021) – Procrastinator's Delight

November (2021) – Portrait (People or Animals)



Photo by Anton Darius from Unsplash.com

Just after sunrise and before sunset, light refracting through extra atmosphere creates the “golden hour.” It’s named for the color of light, but the warm, soft glow may also add some value to your images. Here are a few things to keep in mind for this month’s contest.

The Golden Hour

How to get the most value out of this precious time

1. Be ready to work fast.

This is no time to wander around looking for something to shoot. Know when the sun sets ahead of time and have a plan. Check the chart for the sunrise and sunset times in our area for the rest of the month.

Also, technically, the golden hour may not be an hour long. The quality of light is based on the sun’s location in the sky, so latitude and the time of year figure in to the equation. According to [this website](#), the golden hour in the DFW area currently lasts 33 minutes. But it’s 57 minutes if you want to shoot in Alaska.

2. Check the weather.

While some clouds at sunset can create exciting drama in the sky, too many can block out the light and greatly reduce the effect of golden hour.

3. Adjust your white balance.

If you have your camera set to auto white balance, it will probably shift the color temperature of your shot. So the golden hour’s beautiful hues will end up looking a little bluer.

Try setting your camera’s white balance to “shady” or “cloudy.” And shoot in RAW to make it easier to do additional adjustments in post.

date	sunrise	sunset
9/11	7:10 a.m.	7:40 p.m.
9/12	7:11 a.m.	7:38 p.m.
9/13	7:12 a.m.	7:37 p.m.
9/14	7:12 a.m.	7:36 p.m.
9/15	7:13 a.m.	7:34 p.m.
9/16	7:14 a.m.	7:33 p.m.
9/17	7:14 a.m.	7:31 p.m.
9/18	7:15 a.m.	7:30 p.m.
9/19	7:15 a.m.	7:29 p.m.
9/20	7:16 a.m.	7:27 p.m.
9/21	7:17 a.m.	7:26 p.m.
9/22	7:17 a.m.	7:25 p.m.
9/23	7:18 a.m.	7:23 p.m.
9/24	7:19 a.m.	7:22 p.m.
9/25	7:19 a.m.	7:21 p.m.
9/26	7:20 a.m.	7:19 p.m.
9/27	7:21 a.m.	7:18 p.m.
9/28	7:21 a.m.	7:17 p.m.
9/29	7:22 a.m.	7:15 p.m.
9/30	7:23 a.m.	7:14 p.m.

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4. Explore your options.

You can't position the sun, but you should photograph your subject with the sun's location in mind.

Front lighting: At this time of day, the light is directional but very soft. People and animals can often look toward the sun without squinting, and the light is very kind to faces.

Back lighting: Keeping the light behind your subject will often create a warm hazy glow around your subject. Consider using a reflector to fill in the shadows.

Rim lighting: If the sun is directly behind your subject, you might get a bright outline that separates it from the background, especially if the background is dark.

Silhouette: To accentuate the shape or profile of your subject, you can expose for the light behind it, making the subject go dark.

Photo by Joshua Earle from Unsplash.com



Photo by Rodolfo Sanches Carvalho from Unsplash.com

5. Play with the light.

Shooting toward the sun opens up some other possibilities for your image.

Flares: Position the sun just outside your camera frame and see where the sun creates spots of light in your lens. Putting the sun on the very edge of your subject can also create interesting streaks of light in your image.

Haze: If the sun hits your lens directly, you may get cloudy overexposed areas in parts of your image (like the sunflower image on this page). This is usually something to be avoided, but it can also create a beautiful glow that works well for some images.

Bokeh: If you widen your aperture and shoot toward the sun, you will increase your chances of getting little geometric spots of light in your image. This can really increase that magical feeling and make an average shot really special. See the effect it had on grass on the previous page.

6. Accept the challenge.

The whole point of Procrastinator's Delight is to force ourselves to try new techniques and just get shooting. Go have some fun, and good luck in the contest!

Beginner

August Contest Winners – “Down Low”



© Kathleen Bezold

“Taking out the garbage early one morning after watering the night before I noticed the mushrooms and grabbed my point & shoot Nikon. Getting down on the still wet grass I knew this was my shot. It looked like an umbrella. Getting back up... not so easy anymore! (ISO 125, F3.8, 1/250) - Kathy Bezold

1st Place *Umbrella Up* Kathleen Bezold



© Frances Clements

3rd Place
Moss on the Ruins at Dan
Frances Clements

Honorable Mention
Crystalized Sun Mahannah Pike



© Mahannah Pike



© Greg Richards

2nd Place *Honey Bee Heaven* Greg Richards

People’s Choice Award
I Can Fly Robert Wertz



© Robert Wertz



Advanced

August Contest Winners – “Down Low”



© Darren Wiedman

“It took a lot of attempts to get the bug sharp and the flower soft. Finally got lucky, in more ways than one, based on the superior quality of the other images on this page.”
 (f/7.1, 1/500, ISO 400, 105mm)
 - Darren Wiedman

1st Place
Getting to the Point
 Darren Wiedman



© Lana Macko

2nd Place *Tulips Down Under* Lana Macko

3rd Place
Covered Wagon Lynne Rogers Harris



© Lynne Rogers Harris



Honorable Mention
Under the Fungi
 Bill Webb



© Bill Webb

The Story Behind the Photo

"I was in east Texas with family walking through the woods. I never would have seen these little guys if my sister-in-law, an A&M grad and school district science coordinator, hadn't followed a slender spider thread to a tiny spider hanging between trees. It looked like an armored smiling jewel or shield. (They are called the Spiny Orb Weaver or spiked spider.)"

"Once one was discovered, it was fun finding others, in several different colors, including bright orange."

"Photographing one successfully was difficult. They are so small that auto-focus doesn't see them, and manual focus was pretty hard hand-held. They tend to move in the breeze and it's hard to stand still enough to get one in focus."

"I'm looking forward to returning in a few weeks to the family farm with some better equipment to take close-up photos. I may see how many color varieties I can capture!"

- Larry Marx



© Larry Marx

Skeleton Grin Larry Marx (Canon EOS 5D Mark III, f6.3, 1/250, ISO 800, 300 mm)