

IN FOCUS



August 2020
Volume 18: Issue 8



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello fellow club members.

I hope that you had a safe and happy month of June. I have been thinking a lot about my photography during this virus pandemic. It has given me a time to reflect on some of my work and why I did what I did. I've come to the conclusion that many times I have spent too much time on the technical aspect of photography and have not concentrated enough on my photography itself. Let me explain.

I have spent time with some very wonderful photographers watching their techniques and asking questions. Much to my dismay I have found that I've been asking many of the wrong questions. What lens, aperture, What camera etc. I thought if I have the same gear and use the same settings I will get the same results when I go out and shoot. Wrong!!!! Knowing what pen Longfellow used will not make me a great poet. Or using Rembrandt's shade of yellow wont make me a great painter.

It is natural for us to want to improve our technique to create more impactful work but rarely would knowing the optimal settings or owning the most advanced gear actually make our images better. While there is often overlap between technical proficiency and beautiful images, ensuring the former does not guarantee the latter.

So I invite you to join me in changing things up a bit. Lets expand our horizons. Let's not concentrate on gear as much as on seeing and feeling. I'm sure our images will be a little different and maybe that will be a good thing. Happy shooting.
Jack



"Self Reflection"
©Dan Schafer
Theme "Garden"

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Member Gallery:July	Page 3-6
Dan's Aussie Travels	Page 7
Another View	Page 8
ZOOM Program Night.....	Page 9
Themes for 2020	Page 10
Classifieds.....	Page 10

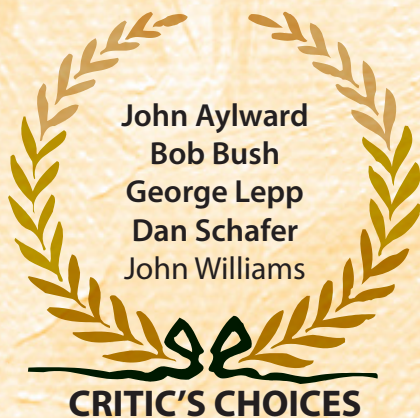
Welcome to **IN FOCUS**, newsletter of the Cascade Camera Club, located in Bend, Oregon.

Our meetings are usually held at the Bend Senior Center, 1600 SE Reed Market Rd, the First and Third Monday of each month (except September). Currently do to the Covid19 virus, the Senior Center is closed. Our monthly critiques are being held online. See website for instructions. We will resume our normal meeting routine when possible.

Website: cascadecameraclub.com
Email: cascadecameraclub.com/contact/

July Critiquer
Bev Murphy
Theme Was "Gardens"

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
11:59 p.m. ON THE WEDNESDAY
PRIOR TO CRITIQUE NIGHT



JULY SUBMISSIONS

Theme:

Robert Agli	Nature's Garden
John Aylward	Water Garden
Bob Bush	Giverny
Ralph Delamarter	Lilies
Blanche Feekes	Carin's Garden
Julie Furber	Pagoda
Joe Hudspeth	A Hummer's Delight
Larry Hudspeth	Sunbathing
George Lepp	Curve 22
Shellie Littau	Poppies With Lupine
Rich Marrocco	Vineyard Garden
Brian Russell	Poppy
Ken Sandine	Oregon Garden Rock Garden
Jack Schade	Lily Pond
Dan Schafer	Self Reflection
John Stewart	Succulent Garden
Jeff Tilley	Hummingbird Moth
Greg Waddell	Papiliomulticaudata on Dianthus Caryophyllus
John Williams	Floating Beauty

Open:

Kent Miller	Sultry Duck
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Critiquer for August
Larry Teague



©George Lepp



©Rich Marrocco



©Bob Bush

July Theme Images
"Garden"



©Shelie Littau



©Julie Furber



©Joe Hudspeth



©Robert Agli

July Theme Images
"Garden"



©John Williams

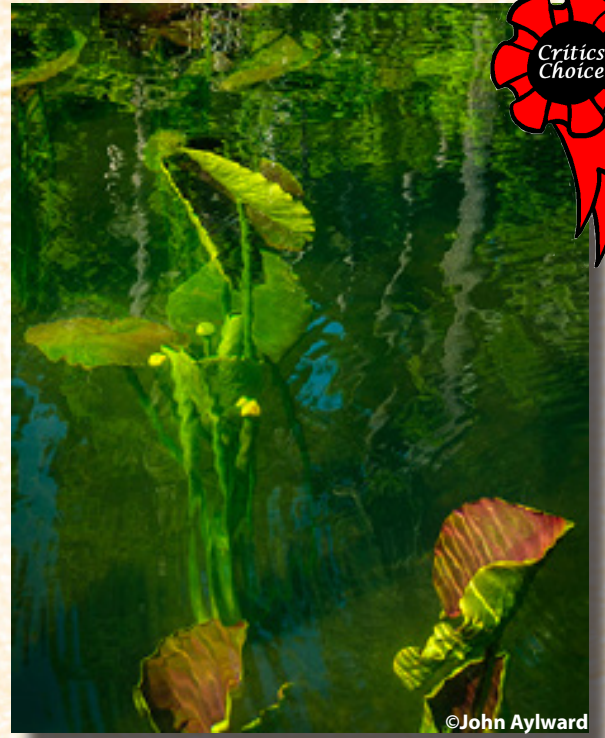


©Ken Sandine



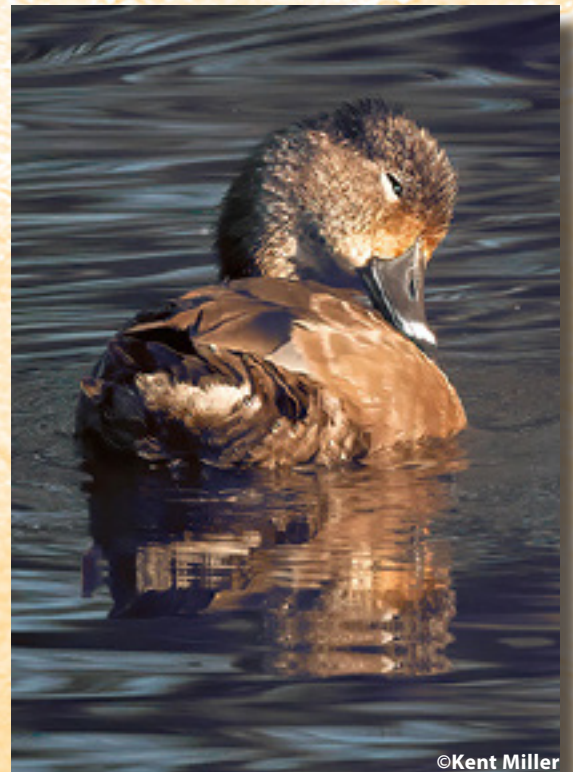
©Blanche Feekes

July Theme Images
"Garden"





July Theme Images
"Garden"



July Open Image

DAN AND JEANNIE'S AUSTRALIA JOURNEY

We were originally scheduled to be in Karajini National Park and to start following the wildflower display down the coast of Western Australia right about now. I'm told it's healthy these days to grieve for what you miss, even if it's relatively petty, so...Sigh; I was really looking forward to that stretch.

Of the 7 states and territories in Australia, five have had no coronavirus community transmissions for several months, one (New South Wales) has had a small but persistent community transmission (with 0 to 15 new community transmissions per day), and Victoria has had a major outbreak (with 200 to 500 new cases per day). The states and territories all differ in their degree of border closure, but none of the others is currently permitting access to Victorians.

Because of the new concern about a second wave and the worry that we might not be allowed into Queensland, Jeannie and I cancelled our plan to resume travels last week and arranged to keep our Batemans Bay rental until at least August 14. We still have thoughts about going to Queensland then, but it's a tough decision. We'll see what happens.

Recently, two entertaining but punishing storms hit the south coast of New South Wales, with howling winds, pummeling waves, floods, and major beach erosion. The storm noise awoke us during the nights, driving rain found its way under our front door, and a tree fell on a neighbor's roof. The ocean has reclaimed tons of beach sand, leaving amazingly colorful and jagged rocks exposed in places that used to be beach. The weather finally cleared today.



I often photograph the beach at sunrise. It's the best time for watching dolphins and seagulls, and for photographing the rising sun and the glowing rocks. I also chat with my fellow 'sunrisers'. "Morning's are the best, eh?" I've also taken videos and made time lapse clips, both of which I find challenging and enjoyable. I've tried to get in the habit when I'm photographing wildlife, for example, of switching to video once I'm happy with my still images. (If you're in a rut with your photography, think about starting a video or time lapse project. It's a fun way to expand the creativity you've already developed for still photography, but with some different creative challenges and different kinds of results to share.) I'll be sharing some time lapse tips in a coming blog post if you're interested.

I was motivated to make a collection of my recent clips because of a mesmerizing piece of music I heard on ABC (which is like Australian BBC) radio, which Jeannie and I always listen to while playing a game called rummikub before dinner. I just thought it would be a great piece to go with some artsy videos. I managed to put my clips together to go with the three and a half minute song, and am really happy with how the music and video work together. (To be honest, the music drives the emotional impact of the video and I feel a bit guilty about that.) If you're interested, I put a version on You Tube here: <https://youtu.be/kGGOWh0-y5I> I've enjoyed my communications with those of you I communicate with. It's been fun to see photos of beautiful Central Oregon and to get inspiration from the things that you are doing. Keep it coming! I look forward to someday seeing you all again at the Senior Center. Cheers! Dan.

Little Things, Big Impact

ANOTHER VIEW by ROBERT AGLI

Life has definitely tossed out a bushel or two of lemons this covid year for us photographers. I'm reluctant to do anything more than day trips and spend most of my photographic time in my own yard or fairly close to home. My "lemonade" is a bunch of wild critters that share my property giving me some camera time but I was recently reminded that there is also a whole realm of photography that I need to get back into – the world of macro.

Canon just published a very nice article on Macro photography written by Matthew Cicanese. It's an easy read and just might inspire a few people to try their hand at photographing the closeup world. What was particularly appealing about this article was a number of tips on how to use ordinary household products as light shaping tools. Another master of macro photography and Canon Explorer of Light is our very own club member, George Lepp. Those subscribing to his "spam mail" are regularly treated to George's endless litany of ways to photograph in the macro world. His extended depth of field work (focus stacking), particularly at high magnification, is incredible. You may also want to steal a page out of George's playbook by purchasing flowers at the local markets. Now your subjects becomes infinitely mobile and allow you to place them in the most advantageous light and at a more convenient working height.



I'm sure there are a great number of people who have avoided macro photography under the erroneous belief that you need a dedicated macro lens. It's a mighty nice lens to have and my Nikon 105mm Macro sees service for more than just macro thus helping to justify the healthy price tag. However, before I made that rather serious investment I used something called close up diopters or close up filters. These screw-on optical magnifiers are usually designated with a numeral that indicates the level of magnification. They can be attached to virtually any lens but typically are used in conjunction with lenses in the 50 to 200mm focal length. The image captures with these filters are excellent and I doubt there are more than a handful of people who could see any difference between a closeup diopter and a dedicated macro lens. There is a downside. These adapters completely whack your autofocus so you are relegated to manual focus. Your investment of well under \$100 for most high quality diopters is far less than that almost \$1K you pay for a 100-105mm Macro so a little manual tweaking is no big deal.

I have also discovered that the new Nikon Z lenses have incredibly close focusing capability. I hesitate calling them true (1 to 1) macro lenses but they certainly can get in tight. I suspect the other manufacturers mirrorless cameras have similar capability.

Speaking of mirrorless and many of the DSLR's, they have articulating LED screens. This is an incredible asset for all of those shots that are best captured at ground level. For those of you lucky enough to have something like the CamRanger, a remote transmitter that allows you to see your image on a smart phone or tablet and fire the camera from the same device. Virtually all late model cameras also let you tether to a computer. For some reason wilderness macro photography always seems to border on an exercise in contortionist moves. By tethering a laptop you can do away with all the contortionist nonsense and view in relative comfort any image you want to capture. Furthermore, having only your camera intruding into the world of insects without the huge hulking beast behind it (you) greatly increases your success rate. I also find it delightfully decadent to sit in the shade on my lounge chair and tap a key to fire the shutter when I approve of the view on screen.

In Cicanese's article he is a big advocate of scrims (diffusers) but he failed to mention reflectors and backdrops. An effective reflector can be as simple as a sheet of paper. In terms of backdrops I use black gator board or other colored cardboard to eliminate distracting backgrounds. While I would look strange carrying a huge rigid backdrop on a hike in a wilderness area, a couple of square feet of cloth and a few clips can do wonders. That rigid backdrop is right at home for your backyard macro work and turns your mediocre cluttered close up into an awesome "pro" image.

The bane of all macro photography is wind. All of the various light shaping devices can easily take flight. It's great to enlist the aid of a family member to hold this stuff or find a foolproof way of securing your gear to prevent it from finding a new home in your neighbor's backyard.

Time to make your own lemonade, give macro a try!

ANNOUNCING OUR FIRST EVER ZOOM PROGRAM NIGHT!

5 by 5

Now is your chance to emulate all the photographers who have graced our pre-Covid program night. You can submit up to 5 images of your choosing and speak about them up to 5 minutes. Your images can be anything you like and you can provide as much or little back story as you like and, of course within a total of 5 minutes.

We haven't quite worked out the repository for your work but you can plan on submitting your images using the same size and details as our exhibition night. You can also submit video but just remember both the video and your comments will have to be under 5 minutes.

The entire program will be held via Zoom. I will act as moderator and depending on our final setup, Ralph Delamarter may be the administrator. Not much different than most evenings at our physical meetings.

The plan is to host the Zoom meeting on what use to be our regular 3rd Monday of the month at 7pm with an absolute end time of 9pm.

There are a few advantages to this format over our regular meeting. First off, your computer chair is going to be way more comfortable than the chairs in our meeting room. You have the luxury of getting up for bathroom breaks or snacks without bothering anyone. You can also have other members of your household view the program at their leisure. We may also record the event – TBD.

If you have never used Zoom now is the time to get on board. There are numerous tutorials so ignorance is no excuse. Start thinking about the images you want to submit and we will notify you with more details very soon. Space will be limited to around 20 submissions.

Standby, the big date is August 17th.

Robert Agli

ZOOM

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale, 2 of Nikon's premier lenses.

I am parting with 2 of my absolutely favorite lenses. Sadly, they are now redundant with my move to Z cameras. They work great with the Z cameras and adapter but I have comparable Z lenses.

Nikon 24-70mm f/2.8 - \$850 firm, with original box, manual and goodies
Nikon 14-24mm f/2.8 - \$995 firm, also with all original materials

These are, of course, in pristine condition.
Call or email Robert Agli,
541-408-3772 or robert@robertaglyphotography.com.

FOR SALE

Tenba "Rodie II" shoulder style camera case.

Large (20" long x 13" wide x 12" high) case that has room for a full size professional video camera, or 2 full size DSLR with several lenses and accessories. I had 2 bodies, 5 lenses and 3 hot shoe flashes plus some miscellaneous parts in it. www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaVEHwOaiNg

Excellent condition: \$50

Tenba shoulder sling bag camera case.

If you prefer the one shoulder sling style bag this is perfect. Space for a full-size body, 2 - 4 lenses and accessories.

Excellent condition \$30.

Tenba conventional back pack camera case.

This is a standard 2 shoulder back pack style bag. Large enough for a full size body 2 or 3 lenses and accessories. Zippers are water sealed and comes with a rain cover. \$30.

Hoodman focusing hood.

This is for achieving critical focus using the rear screen of a DSLR or mirrorless camera. <https://tinyurl.com/y4zg9rfn>.

"As new" condition with a case.- \$20

Savage Background Port-A-Stand

Kit consists of two black folding upright stands that can rise to a height of 8' 10", a crossbar that can expand to a width of 9' 5", and a travel case with handle.

Contact

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CASCADE CAMERA CLUB 2020 OFFICERS

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MONTHLY THEMES

Aug	Harsh
Sep	Under
Oct	Odd Couple
Nov	This Changing Planet
Dec	Joy