

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA WORLDWIDE

Journal

92 YEARS MARCH 2026





24

Features

6 Las Vegas Festival Workshops
By Twila Bourlon

10 Enjoying Photography and the Simple Life in Costa Rica
By Carol S. Sheppard

16 Into the Wild: A Year of Leopard Photography at Yala National Park, Sri Lanka
By Prasad Siriwardena

19 Camargue Horses
By Pascal Meerpoel, GMPSA, EFIAP/s

24 Distinctive Image
Featuring Jingru Luo, MPSA2 and Richard Bailey, EPSA

36 High and Mighty
By Paul Halphen

Columns

4 On My Mind

39 ROPA Distinctions

39 Passings

40 Chapter News

41 Star Ratings

42 Executive Committee Report

43 Division News, Activities, Announcements

46 PAA News and Updates

47 Print of the Quarter



19



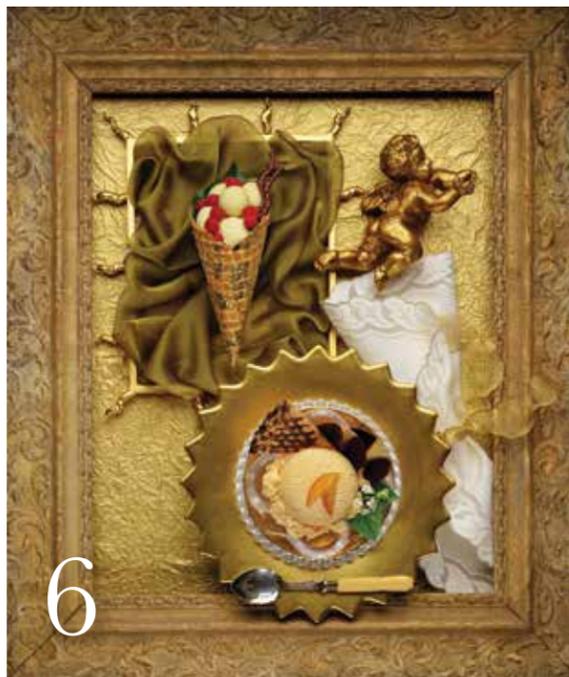
10



36



The cover photo, is from the Distinctive Image article featuring Jingru Luo, MPSA2, and Richard Bailey, EPSA. It is titled *Cute* and is by **Richard Bailey, EPSA.**



6

PSA Journal (U.S. ISSN 0030-8277, USPS Pub #448540) is published monthly by the Photographic Society of America Worldwide, Inc. (PSA), 706 N. Broadway Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73102. Subscriptions are included in membership dues. Founded in 1934, the society is for casual shutterbugs, serious amateurs, and professional photographers. As a member of PSA, you are eligible to participate in a multitude of services to help you improve your photography and increase your enjoyment of it. To join PSA, email hq@psa-photo.org; write to PSA Headquarters at 706 N. Broadway Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73102.

Submissions: *PSA Journal* welcomes editorial submissions on all aspects of photography. Most of the feature articles published are between 800 and 1,200 words. All material must be original. Note if previously published. Manuscripts must be submitted electronically. While all possible care will be taken, we cannot assume responsibility for lost or damaged submissions. Payment is in copies plus points toward PSA Bronze, Silver, and Gold Star Medallions.

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Postmaster: Send address changes to *PSA Journal*, 706 N. Broadway Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73102. Periodicals postage is paid at Oklahoma City, OK.

CORRECTION: On page 14 of *Who's Who in Photography* an image entitled "Wild Horses in the Water 6" was incorrectly attributed. The image was made by **Pascal Meerpoel, EFIAP/g, GMPSA.**



16

On My Mind



Fred Doerfler, QPSA, AFIAP
Vice-President
execVP@psa-photo.org

Looking Ahead to Our Centennial

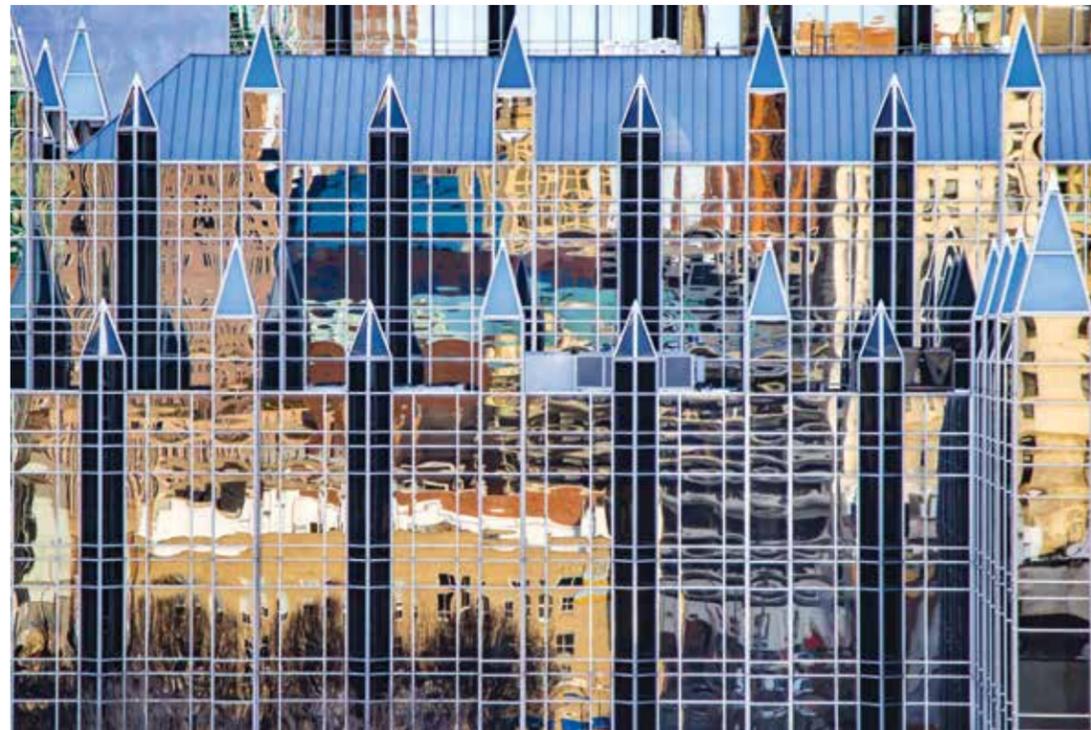
From time to time, it is important for an organization to pause, look back, and also look ahead. The Photographic Society of America Worldwide will reach an important milestone in 2034, when we celebrate our 100th anniversary. While that date may seem far off, meaningful centennial planning cannot begin at the last minute. It requires time, care, and thoughtful preparation.

At its recent meeting, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors approved the creation of an Ad Hoc Centennial Planning Committee. The purpose of this committee is not to plan a single event, but to begin shaping a long-range vision for how PSA will

mark this historic moment. Over the coming years, the committee will explore ideas related to historical preservation, member engagement, partnerships, and legacy projects that reflect PSA's global reach and century-long commitment to photography.

One early focus of the committee will be the preservation of our institutional memory. Many longtime members have witnessed extraordinary changes in photography and in PSA itself. Their experiences and perspectives are an important part of our history. Capturing and preserving these stories now will help ensure that future generations understand how PSA evolved and why it continues to matter.

The centennial is not only a celebration of the past, but also an opportunity to think carefully about our future. By beginning this work now, we can approach 2034 with intention rather than urgency. I look forward to sharing updates as this planning progresses and to working with many of you as we prepare to honor a century of photographic excellence.



Daily Thanks © Fred Doerfler, QPSA, AFIAP

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PSA and its Board of Directors thank all donors for their generous contributions to the organization.

Photographic Society of America Chapters, Clubs, and Councils Contests for 2026

Jim Bodkin, APSA, PPSA, Chapters, Clubs, & Councils Vice President

PSA Chapters Showcase:

Open to all PSA Chapters
Projected photography showcase for PSA Chapter members
Entry submission opens February 1 and closes April 15
More information can be found on the PSA website
Or contact: **Roger Crill, APSA**, Chapters Showcase Director
chapters-showcase-director@psa-photo.org

PSA Councils Challenge:

Open to all PSA Councils, Associations, and Federations
Projected photography showcase for Council's club members
Entry submission opens March 1 and closes June 15 (no extension)
More information can be found on the PSA website
Or contact: **Taraknath Dey, GMPSA/B, EFIAP/G**, Councils Challenge Director
staff-council-challenge-director@psa-photo.org

PSA Newsletter Contest:

Open to all PSA Chapters, Clubs, & Councils
Entry submission opens April 1 and closes June 1
More information can be found on the PSA website
Or contact: **Debbie Durham**, Newsletter Contest Director
newsletter-contest-director@psa-photo.org

PSA Website Contest:

Open to all PSA Chapters, Clubs, & Councils
Entry submission opens January 15 and closes March 15
More information can be found on the PSA website
Or contact: **Bill Rose**, Website Director
website-contest-director@psa-photo.org

PSA Youth Showcase:

Open to all PSA Chapters, Clubs, & Councils as Sponsors
Print and projected photography showcase for high school youth
Entry submission open now and closes April 12
More information can be found on the PSA website
Or contact: **Signe Emmerich, HonPSA, EPSA**, Youth Showcase Director
youth-showcase-director@psa-photo.org

Contact: **Jim Bodkin, APSA, PPSA**, cccvicepres@psa-photo.org

PSA Journal Mission Statement

The PSA Journal pursues fine original work for an ever-improving publication for the members of the Photographic Society of America and other readers. The Journal is committed to offering material of interest to classic photographers as well as digital photographers and in so doing, strives for quality submissions from Society members of both persuasions.

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PSA Journal published monthly

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LAS VEGAS

Festival Workshops

1 Food Photography Workshop

by Chuck Lohman



Chuck Lohman

Chuck Lohman is a Las Vegas-based Educator & Program Director of Photography at the College of Southern Nevada. With 40+ years of experience, and a Fortune 500 client history that includes American Express, Chevy, Disney, Honda, Microsoft, & Warner Bros., Chuck specializes in refined lighting and visual design with people and products in the studio and on location. He earned his BFA from ArtCenter College of Design and MFA from the Academy of Art University and remains dedicated to inspiring photographers through hands-on education and professional insight.

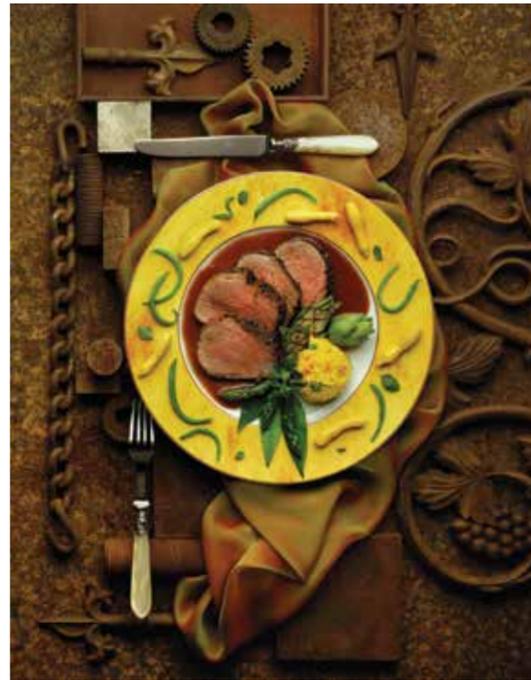
“The Menu”

Learn how to light food and create stunning culinary masterpieces. For your pleasure you will get to photograph a beverage, an appetizer, the main course and a dessert. The workshop will focus on two types of lighting:

Window Light. Minimum equipment needed and easy set up.

Refractive Lighting. This advanced technique is great for still life photography as well.

Any type of camera, digital, film or phone, is welcome.



Beef © Chuck Lohman



Dessert2 © Chuck Lohman



Popcorn © Chuck Lohman

Springs Preserve Model Workshop and High-Fashion Model Shoot at Red Rock Canyon

by Jerome Hamilton



Jerome Hamilton is a professional photographer. He has been creating images for over 30 years both in the studio and on location with a vast experience, diverse portfolio, and an expansive publication list showing a testament to the dedication and passion he has for the field of photography.

Jerome Hamilton has been awarded several titles from “Photographer of the Year” in Nevada to “Portrait of the Year” worldwide by the Photographic Society of America. Jerome was also featured in *Popular Photography* magazine with a full-page spread for winning awards in the “Fashion and Glamour” category. With industry experience in nearly every facet of photography, Jerome is an unparalleled resource for anyone looking for beautiful and imaginative professional photographs with specializations in commercial, fine art, and stock photography.



Springs Preserve Photographer Setup in Garden

2 Springs Preserve Model Workshop and Photo Tour

This workshop combines a model shoot with a photo tour. The model session takes place in Boom Town 1905, where Las Vegas’ early history comes alive. Meet a Showgirl, a Mobster, a Visitor, and a Star as you explore the town’s colorful past. Four model stations will be available, and participants will rotate through each one. One station features a star of yesteryear at the outdoor Majestic Theatre—a highlight you won’t want to miss.

Your adventure continues at the 180-acre Springs Preserve, home to the largest collection of Mojave Desert cacti and succulents. Recognized as one of the “Top 10 North American Gardens Worth Traveling For,” the Preserve showcases hundreds of rescued native plants, including more than 400 mature trees and species transplanted from local development sites. It’s an exceptional setting for both macro and landscape photography.

A complimentary train ride to Boom Town is included with admission and departs every 20 minutes.



Las Vegas Tourist at Train Station



Springs Preserve Boom Town Street View of Arizona Casino with Show Girl

3 High-Fashion Model Shoot at Red Rock Canyon

Prepare for an unforgettable high-fashion photography experience set against the breathtaking backdrop of Red Rock Canyon. This exclusive workshop brings together professional models, a dedicated makeup artist, and a skilled stylist to create polished, editorial-ready looks that shine in the desert light.

Your shoot will take place at a private location within Red Rock Canyon Park, offering dramatic landscapes, rich textures, and warm desert tones that elevate every frame. Both male and female models will be featured, giving you a diverse range of poses, styles, and creative opportunities.

This is your chance to capture high-fashion imagery in one of the most stunning natural settings in the Southwest—an inspiring blend of couture and canyon beauty.



© Jerome Hamilton



© Jerome Hamilton



© Jerome Hamilton

4 Explore, Learn, Shoot: A 10-Station Camera Challenge

by Ed Stiglitz and Allan Duff



Ed Stiglitz



Allan Duff

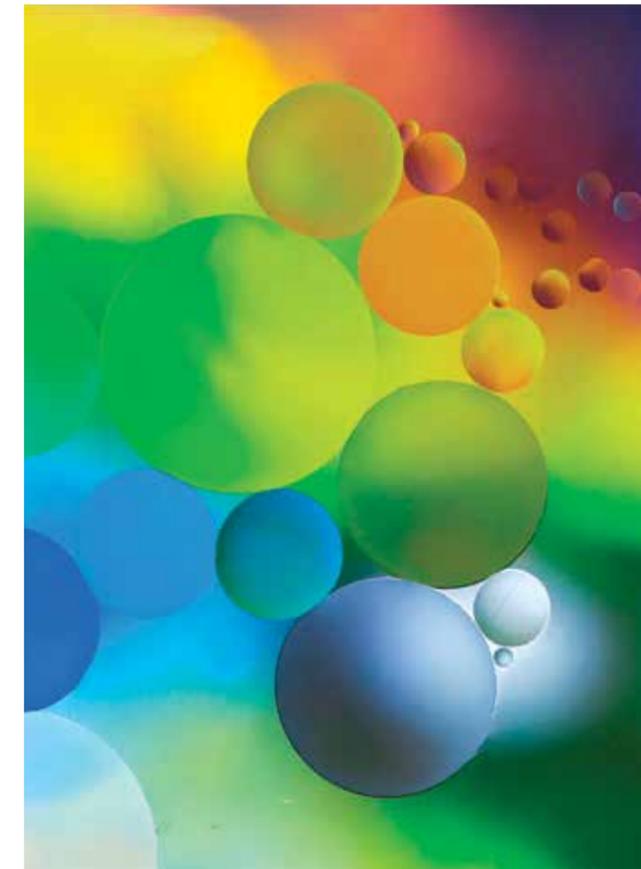
Edward Stiglitz is the current President of the Nevada Camera Club. This award-winning photographer has been teaching workshops and lectures for over 20 years on Astrophotography, Light Painting, and Close-up Photography. His favorite images to create are Special Effect images. His photography has been shaped by decades of exploring the Nevada desert and discovering remote corners of the American Southwest. Ed enjoys making solar filters and is learning how to use his new Benro Star Tracker.

His advice for photographers attending this workshop: “Bring your tripod and your camera instruction book with you. I will help you find the correct settings.”

By career, Allan Duff is a retired Senior Vice President with Morgan Stanley where he worked for 43 years, but he is a photographer by passion. He has changed with the technology of photography and over the years has transitioned from film and darkrooms to completely digital today. He has four married children and 14 grandchildren.

Allan served as President of the Nevada Camera Club for two years and as Program chair for four years and continues to serve as a judge for photo competitions. He loves all types of photography and describes his passion for photography as an “Addiction to the Click.” His favorite subjects are landscape, nature, wildlife and action.

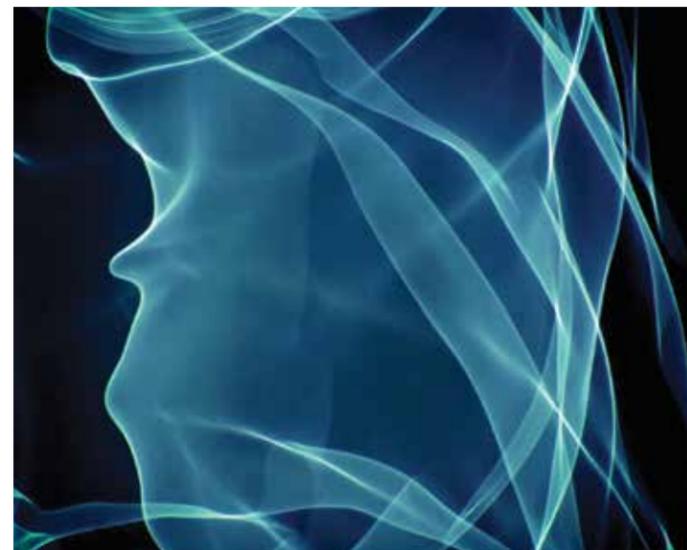
This hands-on workshop features ten creative workstations designed to strengthen your understanding of camera and lens functions. Each station offers a



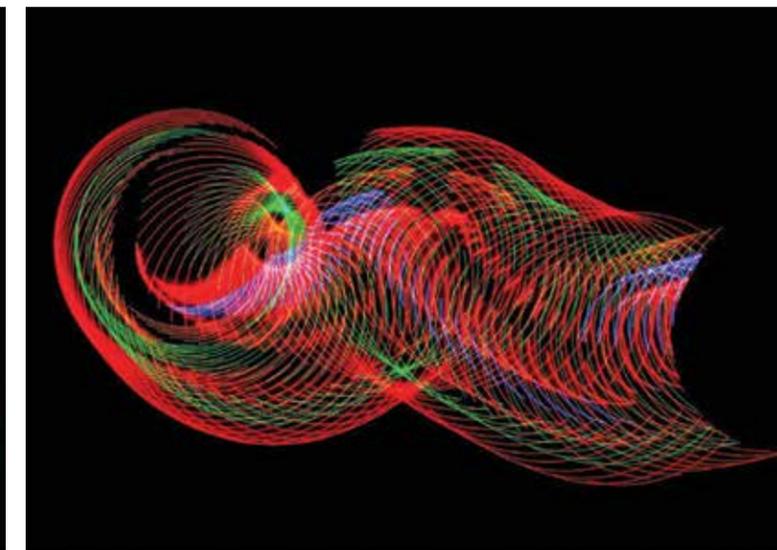
© Alan Duff

unique photographic challenge, including Macro, In-Camera Movement, High-Speed Shutter techniques, Water Droplet photography, and other special-effects setups. Tripods and cable releases are encouraged to help you get the most from each experience.

Work at your own pace as you explore the stations. Every setup includes a step-by-step guide to help you achieve the image you’re aiming for, and assistants will be available throughout the workshop to support you along the way.



© Alan Duff



© Alan Duff



Enjoying Photography and the Simple Life in

Costa Rica

by Carol S. Sheppard

Hummingbird in Flight © Carol S. Sheppard



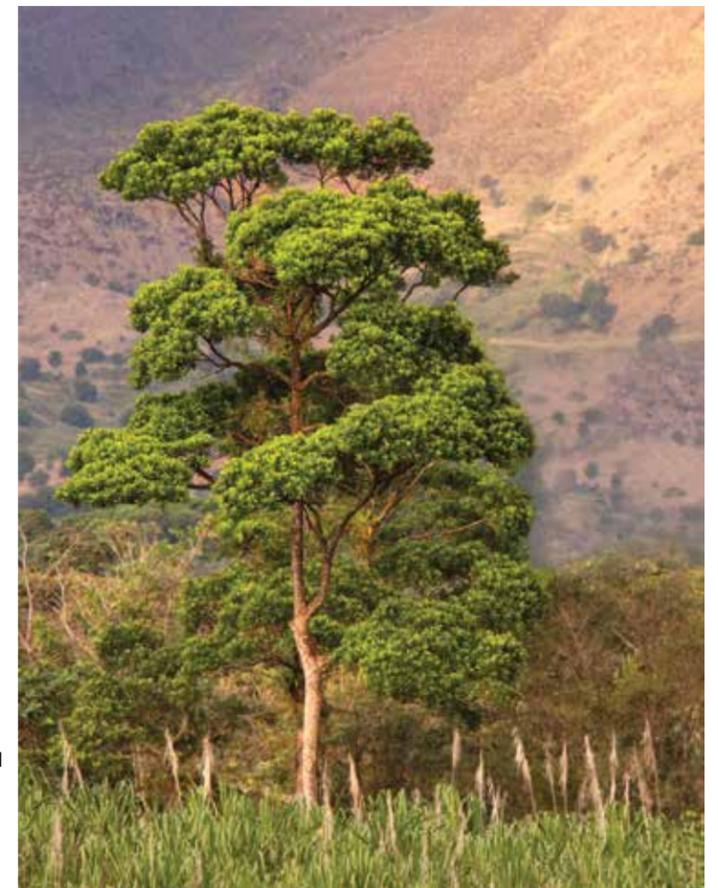
Blue Heron in Flight © Carol S. Sheppard

Pure Vida translates as “pure life” or “simple life,” and chances are that if you’ve been to Costa Rica, you know that it is a term often used to greet tourists. I can personally confirm that this phrase is apropos of the travel atmosphere, the culture, and the people of that country.

I first saw parts of Costa Rica as part of a photography group trip organized by my friend, Darcy Pino. She and photographer John Mariana co-hosted a small group, providing a very comfortable small bus, a local driver, and Darcy’s language skills to navigate us from one scenic location to the next. John was a wonderful teaching companion, and I still attribute my “photography epiphany moment” to John. Prior to the trip, I enjoyed photography, but didn’t feel that I was using my camera as the amazing tool that it is designed to be. In particular, I was still struggling with my comfort level on quickly determining appropriate camera settings to fit each situation I encountered.

John was the first to encourage me to shoot fully on Manual on the camera body. On this trip, I captured two images that later joined my arsenal of first-place award-winning images.

Last Whisper of Dusk © Carol S. Sheppard



Biodiversity is part of the allure of Costa Rica, which is home to an enormous variety of flora and fauna. There are not only multiple types of birds (including the elusive Quetzal), hummingbirds, butterflies (including the Glass Butterfly), iguanas, sloths, and monkeys; but also within each category, there are multiple variations. For instance, there are several types of herons, and many permutations of iguanas. Rounding things out for photographers is colorful architecture, welcoming residents, great lodging options, and several types of climates from cloudforest to rainforest—even active volcanoes.



Great Tiger Heron © Carol S. Sheppard



Iguana Square © Carol S. Sheppard



Teatro de Nacional © Carol S. Sheppard



Glass Butterfly © Carol S. Sheppard

The places you might want to visit are too numerous to name, but the La Paz waterfall, the Peace Park, the Arenal or Poas volcanos, the Selvatura Park butterfly sanctuary in Monteverde and The Joaquin Chaverri Oxcart Factory in Sarchi are just a few that I would suggest. The Ruinas de Ujarras have some beautiful ruins to photograph.



Poas Volcano Pano
© Carol S. Sheppard

Our first night in San Jose began with a walk to the local open market. San Jose has lots of interesting statues and street scenes, but the local farmers' market offers incredible opportunities for all types of indoors shots and candid portraiture. San Jose is a busy city, so follow the normal rules for safely photographing in a city you are unfamiliar with. At the time, we all were mostly shooting with Canon or Nikon. These days, you might see more mirrorless cameras with a smaller profile, along with high-end cell phones with the new generation of camera technology available in some of the "smart phones." A bit of advice which might seem obvious: know your equipment before you go; this is not the place to be fumbling around with your basic camera settings.



Ruins © Carol S. Sheppard



La Paz Waterfall © Carol S. Sheppard

If you can't hook up with a private tour group, renting a car is your next best option. Unlike Europe and many other countries, mass transportation around Costa Rica is not generally available. The best way to see things is to create a loop that starts and ends with San Jose. Many people enjoy the Eco-lodges; eco-tourism is very popular in Costa Rica and will provide you with access to loads of local birds and hummingbirds without ever leaving the grounds of your lodging.

For equipment, I suggest that you take a tripod, cable release and auxiliary lighting if you are planning to photograph hummingbirds. They are often located under dense foliage and adjacent to shaded overhangs. The sheer numbers and types of hummingbirds is astounding, however, so it is unlikely you will return without at least one great shot of a hummingbird. Without flash, you will need to keep your shutter speed very high, another reason that flash can be helpful. It won't harm the hummingbirds and it might assist in freezing the motion. Remember, though, that some cameras require you to set your camera to high-sync to allow it to work at shutter speeds over 1/200 to 1/250.

Because I don't like to be weighed down with equipment when I travel, I pare my lenses down to zoom lenses, extenders and one good macro lens with some reach. I also now carry a Xenovo lens kit for my Iphone, but this will mainly be helpful only for flowers or other things that keep very still. Focusing with this is tricky. My Iphone shoots in RAW, so I don't feel I lose anything by occasionally defaulting to my Iphone, especially in dark interiors and when a camera would be too cumbersome or too intrusive within a tight space.

I also recommend that you try to book a river cruise; many of my shots of birds and iguanas were taken from a boat. We saw everything from ospreys to kingfishers during our river cruise. The point is that no matter what you choose to cover while visiting Costa Rica, it has something to satisfy every photographer. **What are you waiting for?**



Red-Eyed Tree Frog © Carol S. Sheppard



A Painterly Stack © Carol S. Sheppard

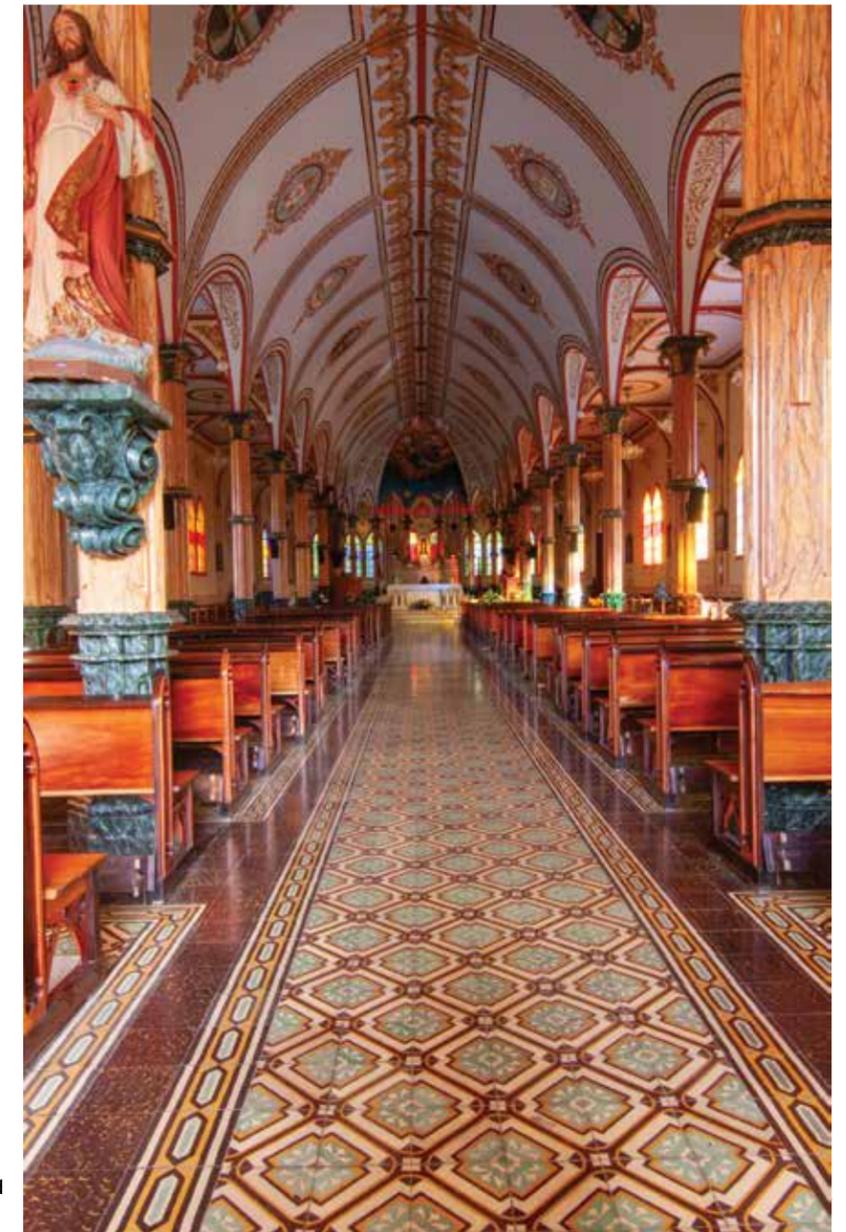
Carole Sheppard

From attorney to photographer and educator, I have always thrown myself completely into my endeavors. My interest in photography is more on overall techniques, including creative ones, than in photographing one specific subject. From my images taken in my travels in the U.S. and abroad, I've created numerous slideshows and have self-published two books.

Since 2012, my print work has been exhibited at multiple U.S. venues and received several awards. Several years ago, I began teaching classes in mixed media art for both public and private organizations and added photography along the way. While serving four years as Club President for the Bellingham Photography Club, I was also a guest instructor for several camera clubs, the local Community College, the Senior Center, and at conferences for both the Northwest Council of Camera Clubs (NWCCC) and the Photographic Society of America. My articles have been published in the *Northwest Nature Photographers'* quarterly magazine along with the *PSA Journal* and *PSA Travel* publications.



Cathedral Interior Vertical © Carol S. Sheppard



Pause for a Kiss © Carol S. Sheppard

Into the Wild

A Year of Leopard Photography at Yala National Park, Sri Lanka

By Prasad
Siriwardena

In the heart of Sri Lanka's southeastern dry zone lies a wilderness sanctuary where time slows and nature reigns supreme. Yala National Park is more than a protected landscape—it is a living testament to biodiversity and the allure of the wild. For photographers, it offers unmatched opportunities to document the island's iconic apex predator: the Sri Lankan leopard.

Yala's Legacy and Landscape

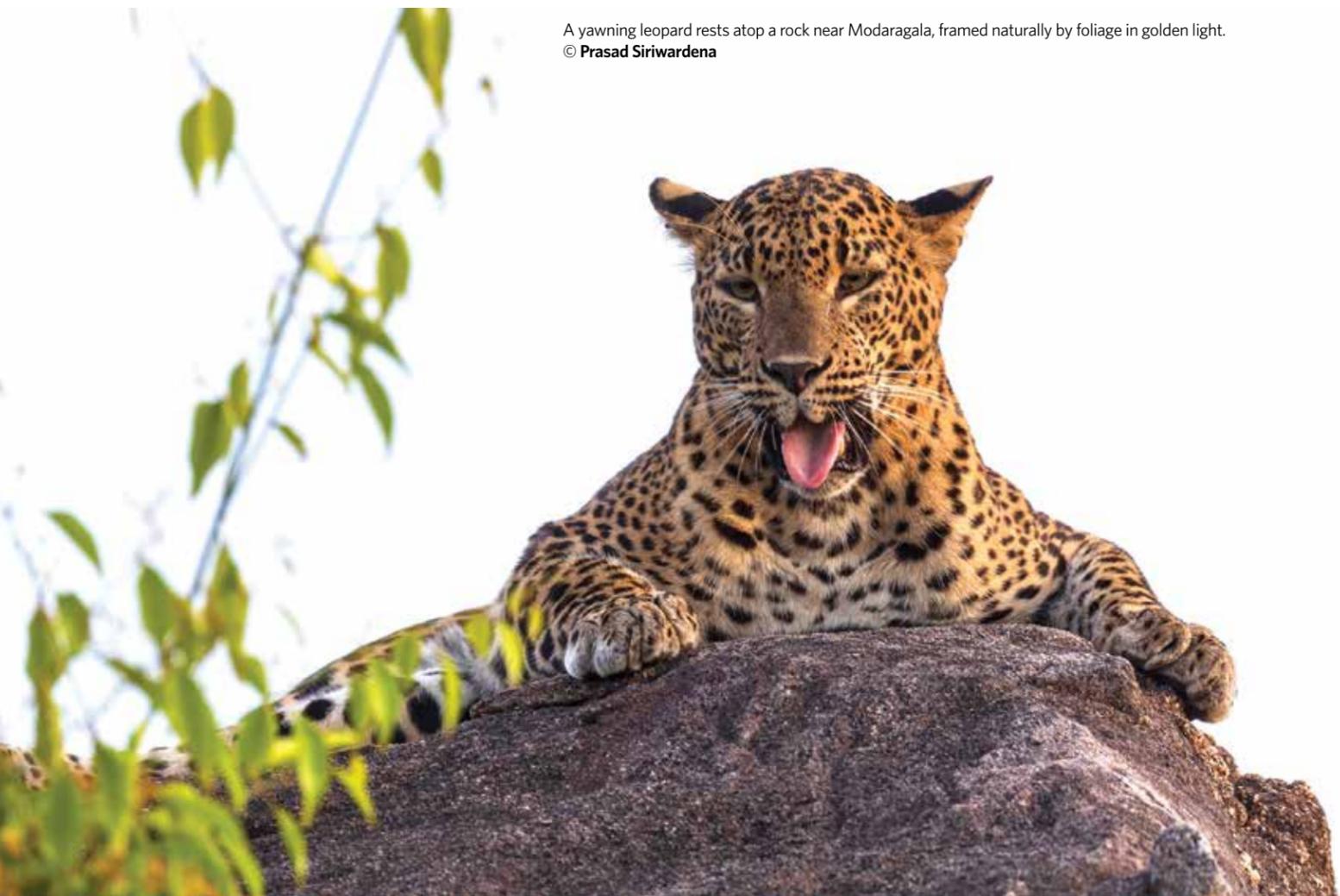
Established as a wildlife sanctuary in 1900 and designated a national park in 1938, Yala is one of Sri Lanka's oldest and most ecologically significant conservation areas. Spanning over 970 square kilometres, the park is managed by the Department of Wildlife Conservation and divided into five blocks, each with its own distinct ecosystems.

Its blend of dry forests, scrubland, wetlands, and coastal lagoons creates an exceptional photographic canvas—where dense jungle meets the Indian Ocean, and wildlife thrives in dramatic landscapes. Block I is renowned for leopard sightings, but Block V has recently emerged as a promising location as well.

A Leopard Stronghold

Yala holds one of the world's highest recorded densities of leopards (*Panthera pardus kotiya*), an endemic subspecies. Alongside leopards, the park supports elephants, sloth bears, jackals, crocodiles, and over 215 species of birds—many of them endemic. This diversity of species, habitats, and lighting conditions makes it one of Asia's most rewarding destinations for wildlife photography.

A yawning leopard rests atop a rock near Modaragala, framed naturally by foliage in golden light.
© Prasad Siriwardena



More Than Six Visits, Many Encounters

Over the past year, I visited Yala more than six times, always opting to stay inside the park at Department of Wildlife Conservation bungalows such as Old Buttawa, Paranatotupola, Warahana, Talgasmankada, Heenwewa, and Weheragala in Block V.

Staying within the park provided early access to trails, reduced tourist congestion, and allowed me to photograph wildlife in the golden light of dawn. Remarkably, I encountered leopards on every single visit—a testament to Yala's thriving leopard population and the benefits of immersive, respectful fieldwork.

Field Highlights

Each leopard encounter was unique—an interplay of patience, timing, and field awareness. Among the most memorable:

- A confident male lounging on a rocky ledge at Talgasmankada, his rosetted coat glowing in golden light.
- A shy female navigating the scrub near Modaragala at first light, silhouetted against rising mist.
- A mother and cub engaged in gentle interaction—offering a rare glimpse of maternal behaviour in the wild.

These moments were earned through observation, restraint, and deep familiarity with leopard habits—using knowledge, not bait, to find the perfect frame.

Gear and Technique

My equipment setup includes two full-frame Canon bodies: the Canon EOS R5 mirrorless for fast, silent shooting and superior autofocus tracking, and the Canon EOS 5D Mark III DSLR, a reliable workhorse known for its dependable performance and dynamic range.

Lenses & Support:

- Primary: 800mm prime lens for reach and clarity
- Secondary: 100mm macro and 16–35mm wide-angle for close-ups and environmental shots
- Support: Bean bag for vehicle-based stability

Settings & Approach:

- Shutter Speed: 1/1600 or higher
- Aperture: f/5 for subject isolation
- ISO: 800–1600 depending on light
- AF Mode: Continuous with back-button focus

My photographic philosophy prioritises natural behaviour and ethical distance. I rely on behavioural cues—such as scent marking, elevated scanning points, and movement at dawn and dusk—to anticipate action without disrupting it. I avoid flash, artificial sounds, or excessive movement. For me, wildlife photography is about authenticity, not intrusion.

Ethical Field Practices

Respecting wildlife is fundamental. I adhere to these principles:

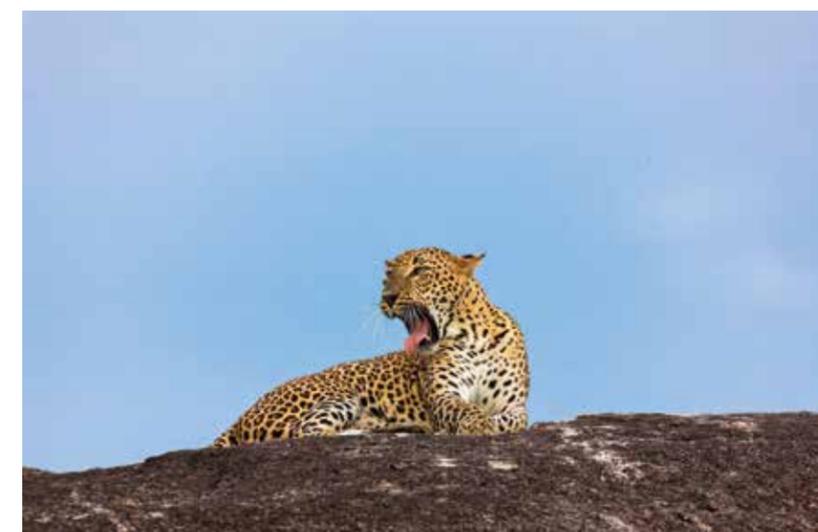
- Maintain safe distances
- Never interfere with natural behaviour
- Avoid crowding or blocking animals' paths



A dominant male leopard strides confidently along a Yala trail, asserting his territorial presence.
© Prasad Siriwardena



A truly rare moment with two leopards drinking together at a single Yala waterhole.
© Prasad Siriwardena



A yawning leopard rests atop a rock near Modaragala.
© Prasad Siriwardena



A leopard mother and her cub crouch on a rock, alert and focused — a glimpse into wild intimacy.
© Prasad Siriwardena



A stretching leopard greets the morning sun on a granite outcrop — a moment of elegance and energy.
© Prasad Siriwardena



Prasad Siriwardena

Prasad Siriwardena is a passionate Sri Lankan wildlife photographer whose work spans the rich biodiversity of Sri Lanka and iconic wilderness regions around the world. With deep roots in Yala and Wilpattu National Parks, Prasad has also photographed wildlife in Kenya's Masai Mara and Amboseli, India's Ranthambore, and natural habitats across Australia, Japan, China, Europe, and Southeast Asia.

What began as a personal passion has evolved into a lifelong journey of capturing the untamed beauty of

nature through ethical, immersive photography. Prasad is a proud member of both the Photographic Society of Sri Lanka (PSSL) and the Photographic Society of America (PSA). He credits much of his development to the mentorship of Mr. Panduka De Silva and the environmental guidance of Dr. Kalinga Padmalal.

His work is a celebration of nature's diversity and an invitation to appreciate and protect the world's wild spaces. He is often accompanied on his journeys by his wife Damitha and daughters Ama and Emma, who share in both his adventures and his passion for conservation.

- Do not feed or provoke wildlife
- Leave no trace—physically or digitally

Ethical photography helps preserve the fragile trust between wildlife and humans, ensuring that these encounters remain sustainable.

Conservation Through Imagery

Each image captured in Yala is a story of survival, adaptation, and natural beauty. Wildlife photography is a powerful tool for conservation awareness. Through compelling visuals, we can inspire others to value, protect, and support the preservation of these ecosystems.

Why You Should Visit Yala

If you're planning a wildlife photography trip, Yala National Park should be high on your list. Here's why:

- Wildlife Density: High chances of leopard sightings
- Diverse Habitats: Forest, scrub, wetland, and coastal landscapes
- Golden Light: Ideal shooting conditions during early morning and late afternoon
- Unique Access: On-site bungalows offer immersive experiences

Tips for Visiting:

- Yala is rewarding year-round when open to the public
- Book wildlife bungalows early via the Department of Wildlife Conservation
- Bring at least a 400mm lens for wildlife photography
- Spend multiple nights to increase your chances of sightings
- Always prioritize respect for wildlife and park regulations

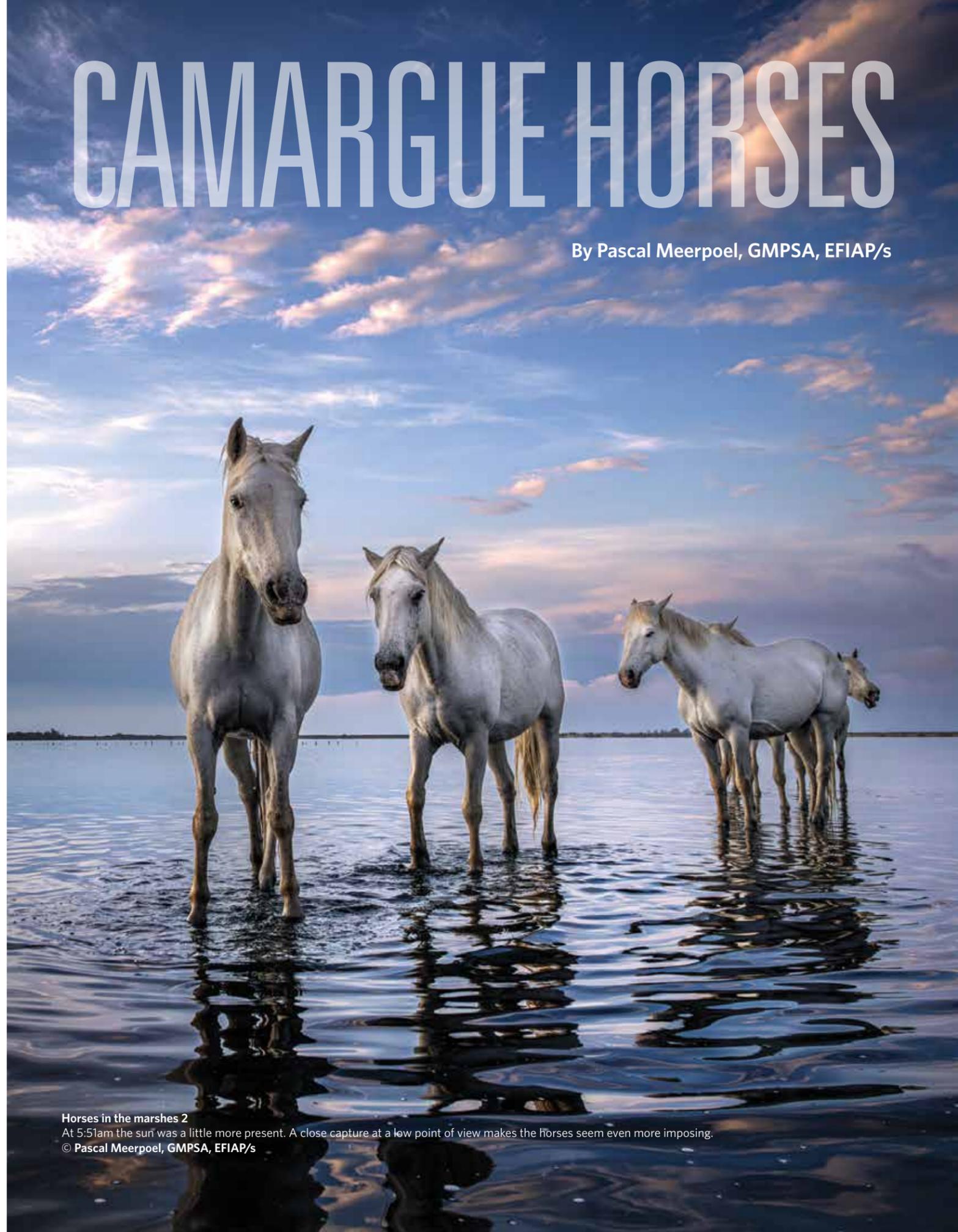
Final Thoughts

Yala is more than a destination—it's a living classroom where every rustle, call, and pawprint tells a story. I return not for trophies, but for truths—about nature, patience, and the quiet joy of observing wildlife in its natural rhythm.

The leopards of Yala don't just pose for photos—they offer glimpses into an untamed world. And I'm honored to share their stories.

CAMARGUE HORSES

By Pascal Meerpoel, GMPSA, EFIAP/s



Horses in the marshes 2
At 5:51am the sun was a little more present. A close capture at a low point of view makes the horses seem even more imposing.
© Pascal Meerpoel, GMPSA, EFIAP/s



Camargue Horses at Sunrise
Shot with about 300mm renders a nice composition of the compact horses and the sun. © **Pascal Meerpoel, GMPSA, EFIAP/s**

I would describe myself as a general photographer. I cover several categories of photography – Landscapes, Nature, Macro photography, Architecture, Portraiture, Nude, and Still Life. But in this article, I will focus on a special photographic journey in France, in the Camargue region to photograph “The Camargue horses”.

The Camargue horse is an ancient breed that is mostly found in Southern France, the Camargue region. Being used by the “Gardians”, the herdsmen of the Camargue region, for tending Camargue bulls, these horses have become immensely popular in the present by photographers.

With my photo-friend, Jean Luc Legrand, I had the pleasure and opportunity to photograph those Camargue horses on several occasions. It was a fantastic photographic journey!

In our search for harmony and composition, we photographed the Camargue horses in their natural habitat near Aigues-Mortes, France. In cooperation

with a local photographer, Cécile Domens, who knows the local Gardians very well, we had the opportunity to photograph the horses in the marshes, at the salt fields of Aigues-Mortes and at the beaches. This, combined with the desired lighting conditions, created spectacular images.

Most of the pictures were taken in the beginning of May or the beginning of September. As in many good photographs, the light is key, so we photographed either very early (starting before sunrise) or very late, near sunset. Some days I left the hotel at about 4:30 a.m. to be ready on the right spot just before the sun started to rise. This created a wonderful atmosphere! On other occasions in the marshes, we photographed near sunset at around 9:00-9:30p.m.

Exposure was not always easy. You have to use high ISOs at those hours, sometimes raising to ISO 6400 and beyond. And as a backlit sun creates beautiful rims around the horses, it also means that you have to compensate exposure on many occasions. Mostly known are the action pictures of those horses in the water, where you try to catch the feeling of the speed



Camargue Horses at Sunset 1. Running Camargue horses in the evening light at the marshes of Aigues-Mortes. Taken at 1/1000sec to freeze the action and the water drops. © **Pascal Meerpoel, GMPSA, EFIAP/s**



Camargue Horses at The Salt Fields © **Pascal Meerpoel, GMPSA, EFIAP/s**

of the galloping Camargue horses, using high shutter speeds to freeze the motion of the horses and the water drops. The best way to photograph this is by using 'shutter'-priority, where you dial in shutter speeds of 1/1000 to 1/2000. As always, you have to know your equipment very well and especially the dynamic range of the camera. As I am still using a DSLR, there is no hybrid animal recognition option in my camera, so I work with a 'dynamic group' for the autofocus setting. Settings have to be done before starting to take pictures as the action is happening at very high speeds. The used focal range was 70-200mm and sometimes 300mm.



Camargue Horses at Sunset 3
Running Camargue horses in the evening light at the marshes of Aigues-Mortes. Taken at 1/2000sec to freeze the action and the water drops. © Pascal Meerpoel, GMPSA, EFIAP/s

Camargue Horses in Gallop
Gallop horses at 6:40am in the marshes at Aigues-mortes. © Pascal Meerpoel, GMPSA, EFIAP/s



Good clothing and anti-mosquito spray is also mandatory, because in the marshes you can be 'attacked' by an army of mosquitoes. And for the pictures in the marshes, we were in the water up to our knees, so you will need a good pair of fishing boots.

Besides the action pictures, it is also great to take more static pictures of the Camargue horses in their natural environment. This permits the photographer to concentrate more on harmony and composition, especially in early morning, when you get a wonderful light in the marshes and on the salt fields to play with. The reflections of the horses in the water or on the salt fields can be fantastic. Here you work best with a standard zoom 24-70mm or a wide-angle lens.

As for the equipment, I use a Nikon D5 with AFS Nikkor 24-70mm f/2.8 E ED VR and AFS Nikkor 70-200mm f/2.8 E FL ED VR (sometimes 300mm or larger) and for the static pictures I use a Leica M11 with Summilux-M 21mm f/1.4.



Guardians in the Water at Sunrise 2
Guardians driving the herd in the marshes. © Pascal Meerpoel, GMPSA, EFIAP/s

Pascal Meerpoel, GMPSA, EFIAP/s

Pascal Meerpoel was born in 1966 in Geraardsbergen, Belgium, and graduated in 1988 from the Royal Military Academy as an Officer and Master Science Engineer.



Photography has been his passion since the age of 15-16 years, when he started with his father's Nikon. In 1984 he became a member of the local photo club FOCUS Geraardsbergen, and he was president of this club from 1992 until 2015.

He learned the basics and techniques of photography in the "analog" age, printed his own black and white and color photos and became in this way A-FIAP (1996) and E-FIAP (2005). Many thanks go to Etienne Desmet (M-FIAP), a senior member of the club, for the transfer of his technical knowledge and advice.

Since 2022 he also became a member of ROC Photo Lessines/Ath and was motivated by the president Jean Luc Legrand (E-FIAP/d3, GMPSA) to join PSA and to restart participating in international FIAP and PSA contests. In 2024 he became E-FIAP/s, GMPSA, LAPS/g, and GPU CR4.

Since 2023, he has been chairman of several national and international contests and was invited on several occasions to judge for international contests. Since 2022 he has been a member of the Board of the national "Belgian Federation of Photographers", where he serves as a National Commissioner for the contests organized by this Federation.



Camargue Horses at Sunset 2. Running Camargue horses in the evening light at the marshes of Aigues-Mortes. Taken at 1/1600sec to freeze the action and the water drops. © Pascal Meerpoel, GMPSA, EFIAP/s

Distinctive Image

Featuring Jingru Luo, MPSA2, and Richard Bailey, EPSA





Baby Food © Richard Bailey, EPSA

Richard & Jingru



Stripes © Richard Bailey, EPSA

A Shared Journey in Art and Nature

On a rainy day in Manhattan, Richard and Jingru met by chance in a café at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. It was near lunchtime, and Richard, initially seeking pizza, chose dumplings instead. The quiet café prompted him to ask to share a table with Jingru. After their meal, they explored the museum's galleries, engaging in conversation. As they left, the rain had stopped, and they began a lifelong journey together, united by a passion for photography and discovery.

By Melissa Cramer Sonnen, APSA, QPSA, AFIAP



Let Me Go © Jingru Luo, MPSA2

Jingru's Background

In 1963, Jingru graduated from the Shanghai Art Training School, now known as the College of Fine Arts, Shanghai, before furthering her education at Donghua University in Shanghai. She built a distinguished career as a Senior Designer, spending 25 years in China and another 25 years in Manhattan's Fashion District studios, working with clients like Ralph Lauren's Chaps Division. Jingru's passion for photography began with a Shanghai 135 camera. As digital photography rose, she embraced the Canon EOS 5, mastering its features alongside Richard. She later upgraded to the Canon EOS 1DX, then the EOS 1DX Mark III and now uses the lightweight Canon R5.

Jingru has earned over 1,200 awards in international PSA exhibitions, including over 300 golds. Jingru appeared in the PSA *Who's Who in Photography* – Nature Division in 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2022. In 2018, she received one of the "Top Ten Global Chinese Photographers Nature Awards." In 2019, she received the "Top Ten Global Chinese Photographers – Comprehensive Category" gold award, the "Golden Horse Award for Photographic Art," and the Daguerre Achievement Award in Cormeilles, France. In 2020, she was honored with the "Golden Bauhinia Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Hong Kong Photography Association.

Richard's Background

Richard, one of seven siblings, was always the one with a camera, though he's unsure how it began. His passion for photography grew in the basement of his childhood home, where his family's business, Dick Bailey Service, started in 1966. As the printing industry shifted from hot lead to phototypesetting, Richard worked with light-sensitive materials and photographic chemicals, sparking a lifelong creative pursuit. Early on, he used the Mamiya C330 for its 6x6 cm negatives, offering exceptional detail. In the digital era, Richard adopted the Canon 7D for wildlife photography, because its 1.6x crop factor effectively provided greater reach for wildlife shooting. He later upgraded to the Canon EOS 1DX and now uses the lightweight Canon R5.

Richard was listed in the PSA *Who's Who in Photography* Nature Division in 2020 and 2022, ranking 7th globally in the Nature Division – Projected Images category in 2020. In 2024, his polar bear image from the Canadian tundra was included in PSA's Historical Projected Images Collection. He was a finalist in the 2023 CEWE Photo Award, a competition with over 500,000 entries from 147 countries, supporting SOS Children's Villages. In September 2024, Richard received the 2023 PSA Silver Photojournalism Image of the Year Award from 630 eligible images across 44 countries.



Family Portrait © Richard Bailey, EPSA



Ballet
© Jingru Luo,
MPSA2



Elephant Seals
© Richard Bailey, EPSA

Adventure in Africa

Their favorite time to visit Africa is at the peak season of The Great Migration during August and September, when over a million wildebeest, zebras, and gazelles cross the Mara River in search of fresh grazing lands. On one safari drive they came across a cheetah who was watching the herd parading in the distance for hours, as several large wildebeests seemingly appeared to be guarding them by standing still and looking out in the direction of the cat. A wildebeest, when threatened can inflict serious harm with its horns or by kicking, potentially disabling or killing a cheetah. When the cheetah sprang into action, the herd began to stampede away, including the sentinels. At the last moment the wildebeest turned to face his attacker, but the final bounding leap of the fast-moving cat was too much. The struggle did not end with the catch. Cheetah and wildebeest struggled for several minutes, until the wildebeest finally collapsed. Enduring such an encounter in the heat of the hot Maasai Mara, the cheetah had to sit down to recuperate. He was visibly exhausted and sat next to the carcass, panting for quite a while before starting to eat, and even then, he had to stop and rest repeatedly while eating.

Antarctica

In Antarctica, walking among wildlife like Adélie, gentoo, and emperor penguins feels serene, as they waddle past humans, unfazed, due to their lack of exposure to land predators. Elephant seals bask on beaches, and skuas and petrels soar or nest nearby, undisturbed, fostering a rare mutual respect. However, the environment posed challenges to Richard and Jingru: they wore bulky insulated clothing, heavy waterproof boots, and carried backpacks and tripods, navigating two daily zodiac landings over slippery rocks, assisted by the ship's skilled crew.

Not all encounters were peaceful. A territorial fur seal charged Richard, but the landing crew deterred it by banging 5-gallon plastic buckets, a reminder of the wild's unpredictability. Strict protocols ensured respect for wildlife: boots had to be decontaminated before and after landings to prevent introducing invasive species or diseases like bird flu, penguins had right of way, approaching penguins was prohibited, although if the penguins approached them that was ok, and delightfully, that happened often!

Gear included Jingru's EOS 1DX with a 200-400mm lens that had a built-in 1.4x extender on a tripod, and

Richard's EOS 1DX with a 100-400mm lens, used with a tripod or sometimes handheld.

Capturing the Arctic's Untamed Beauty

Having previously ventured to Churchill, Canada, in both 2011 and 2012 to photograph polar bears, they decided they had to go again to try to improve on their previous experience. In February 2022, as COVID travel restrictions began to ease, they joined some of the first international visitors allowed into Wapusk National Park. There, in the unforgiving negative 40°C tundra, they photographed polar



Ok My Love © Jingru Luo, MPSA2



Penguin March © Richard Bailey, EPSA



Bing Diao © Jingru Luo, MPSA2

bears. Drawing on lessons from their previous polar bear expeditions, they refined their techniques and traveled thousands of miles to further hone their craft. Despite one of four snow vans at Wat'chee Lodge being out of service, the thrill of being back in nature was unforgettable. The remote, harsh environment demanded specialized gear: heavy Arctic boots, thick insulated jackets, and reliable equipment to avoid mishaps far from help.

Native scouts with rifles scouted pre-dawn on snowmobiles, while Rich and Jingru followed in tank-threaded vans, departing at 8 a.m. along frozen lakes. Unlike the previous group's 10-day dry spell, they were lucky to find bears on day one. Surprisingly, on day three the scouts led them to a huge polar mom with her three beautiful cubs. They used two Canon EOS R5 cameras: one with a 200-400mm f/4 lens with built-in 1.4x extender on a tripod for Jingru, and an 800mm f/11 lens, handheld by Richard for flexibility. The cameras' stabilization and high ISO handled the dim Arctic light, capturing sharp, close shots from a safe distance.

Rich and Jingru have ventured on exhilarating Arctic journeys through Alaska, Greenland, Iceland, and Norway. In late July, they sailed Greenland's icy waters under the Midnight Sun, photographed bears and sweeping landscapes in Alaska, explored ice

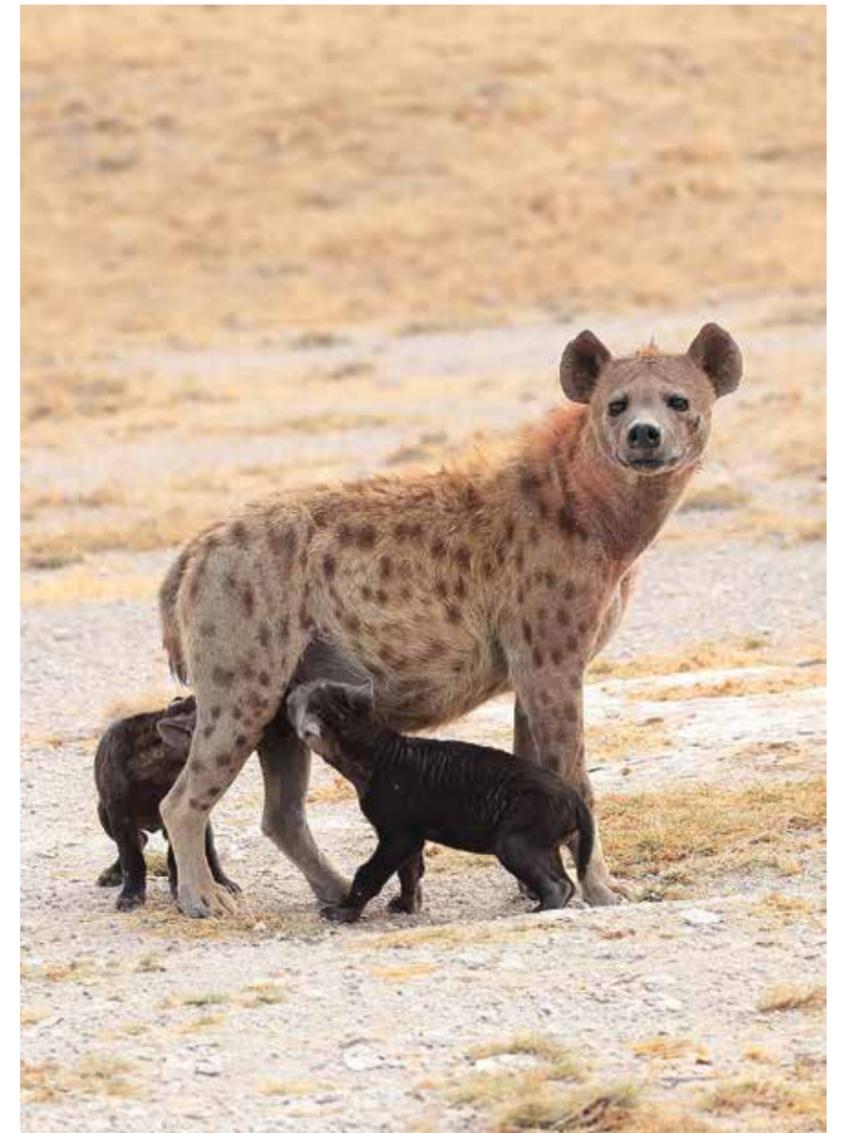
caves and cascading waterfalls in Iceland, and chased the northern lights in Norway with Kah-wai Lin's tour groups. During one unforgettable night, the group hiked to a frozen beach in the frigid late-night air to await the aurora. Many chilled to the bone, packed up their tripods and returned to the van. Jingru and one other photographer stayed behind. Her persistence paid off when the aurora's vibrant colors erupted across the sky. Distant shouts of awe echoed from the van as the others rushed back, scrambling to set up their cameras. But within minutes, the lights faded. Jingru's determination shone through. That image "Feng Huang Dian Shui," received the PID 2020 Color Silver Image of the Year Award!

Technical

During post-processing, Richard uses Canon's Digital Photo Professional to review his images, by first quickly scanning through them to find the group of shots he prefers and then checking focus points and selecting the shot with the best composition, prioritizing sharp focus on the animal's eyes or face. In the field, Richard reviews his images often and fine-tunes camera settings as needed to optimize his shots.

While outdoors, capturing a stunning sunrise or sunset, Jingru surveys the surroundings and often prompts Richard to turn around, frequently discovering an even better shot. During post-processing, Jingru uses Photoshop to leverage her extensive design experience to evaluate images, experimenting with various adjustments and strategic cropping to enhance composition or transform overlooked portions of a photo into compelling standalone shots.

Howdy © Richard Bailey, EPSA



Lunch © Jingru Luo, MPSA2





Biaoqing © Jingru Luo, MPSA2



Nose to Nose © Richard Bailey, EPSA



Wqewg © Jingru Luo, MPSA2



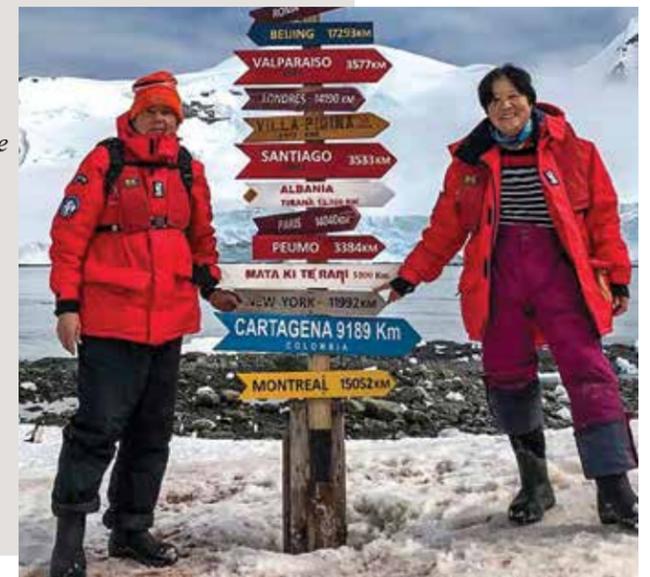
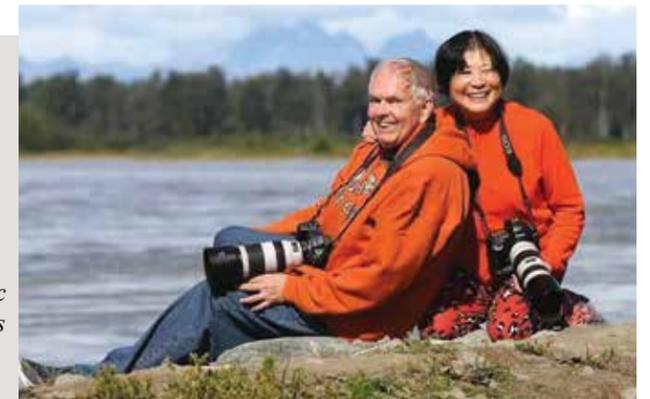
Chong © Jingru Luo, MPSA2

Artist's Statement

"Though we have traveled the world like many photographers, some of our memorable shots are right in our own backyard, proving travel isn't necessary for stunning photos. The wildlife in our New York summer yard, foxes, squirrels, deer, turkeys, rabbits, seems comfortable with us, practically posing for the camera as if eager to be photographed. We maintain two bird feeders and use a small plastic sled as a water dish to ensure all creatures have a drink. House finches even nest in a holiday wreath left on our front door year-round, where about a dozen fledglings hatch each spring.

Even if you don't have a yard visited by wildlife, there are endless opportunities to expand your photography right where you live. Local parks, botanical gardens, and nature reserves often provide a window into the wild. Zoos and aquariums can offer close encounters with species you might never see otherwise, while city streets themselves are full of life, character, and fleeting moments waiting to be captured. No matter what the setting, a curious eye will always find subjects worth photographing. Richard's 2023 PJD Silver Image of the Year, 'Air Show Accident,' was photographed just a short drive from home.

Serving as jurors in PSA photo contests, reviewing diverse entries, studying key elements like composition, lighting, and shadows that elevate images, has helped refine our photography. These insights guide our work, encouraging experimentation with angles and lighting. We recommend that photographers study contest winners and discuss them with peers to grow, as each contest offers new perspectives on the craft.





Sprague Lake © Paul Halphen

High and Mighty

John Denver sang “Rocky Mountain High, in Colorado.”

By Paul Halphen

High, indeed. Forty-seven peaks soar beyond 14,000 feet, while more than 1,000 Colorado mountains climb above 12,000 feet. Nestled amongst these giants lies Rocky Mountain National Park, gathering 77 of these 12,000 footers within its boundaries. Yet, Rocky also contains flowered meadows, verdant grasslands, pastoral streams and elegant placid lakes to support a cornucopia of wildlife, while constantly presenting visitors with an exceptional visual spectacle.

Rocky is less than 70 miles from Denver, Colorado, and about half that from Boulder. A massive geologic uplift thrusts a near impenetrable barrier of rock and soil between eastern Colorado’s bucolic high plains and

the splendor of Rocky Mountain National Park. Very few roads inch sinuously through this landscape, connecting civilization to the few quaint towns and villages that brave the rugged terrain.

This is a vast wilderness of 415 square miles, though only a small part is touched by park roads. Even the more than 300 hiking trails leave much of the park in virtual isolation, visited only by the most prepared and intrepid explorers. Rocky is essentially surrounded by no less than five named wilderness areas, three national forests and a state forest.

On the eastern edge of Rocky is Estes Park, the largest town in the area, with a population of under 6,000 people,

and possibly as many elk that regularly roam the streets and neighborhoods. The only other town of any size is Granby, which is on the southwestern tip of the park, three hours’ drive away.

Rocky has four gateways; but most visitors come through the Beaver Meadows Entrance Station, near Estes Park. This portal leads along the Bear Lake Corridor, ultimately to Bear Lake. It’s a very popular area, with many trails. In summer, it requires a “timed-entry pass” to access.

Along that Corridor are Moraine Park and the Moraine Park Discovery Center, Glacier Basin, Bierstadt Lake and Glacier Gorge. My favorite respite in this section is Sprague Lake, encircled by a relatively flat 0.7 mile paved trail, with numerous views of splendid, snow-capped mountains, prime forest, and occasional wildlife such as moose, beavers, and waterfowl. Several unpaved trails branch off into glorious stands of quaking aspen and tall pines.

From the lake’s eastern shore emerge spectacular views of Hallet and Flattop Mountain. Snow-capped even in September, they cast spell-binding reflections as the morning sun lights them in hues of green, yellow and gold, interspersed with blue-tinged wispy clouds. A trail into the aspen grove beckons one to admire the elegant white bark, slashed in black, and shrouded above by pointed gold leaves quivering in the light breeze.

Continuing up the Bear Lake Road, one arrives at the Bear Lake parking area. At Bear Lake itself, a wonderful path encircles the water. With its many huge boulders, usually glassy surface and clear depths, Bear Lake offers no end of interesting photographic opportunities. From this area, there are many trails throughout the surrounding terrain to waterfalls, other lakes and even to several mountain summits.

The meadows of Moraine Park are flush with brilliant green in Spring, and golden brown in Fall. This is PRIME elk-viewing territory, especially during September, when the biggest bulls must guard their harem against strident younger bulls. Moraine Park also spawns inviting trails to Cub and Fern Lakes and to Upper Beaver Meadows.

North of Moraine Park are several other delightful adventures. Accessed by the Fall River entrance, Sheep Lakes is an area frequented by Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep. The verdant grasslands and plentiful water and minerals draw the ewes and their young in groups of up to fifty. Moose also occasionally visit in the early morning and late afternoon.

Further along Fall River Road is a turnoff leading to a cascading stream through a rock-strewn ravine created by the 1982 collapse of the Lawn Lake Dam. Over 120 million gallons of water plunged through the area, causing serious damage and several deaths. The boulder-strewn Alluvial Fan left behind can be an awesome sight when Spring swells it with snowmelt. In Fall, Black bear are often seen gorging on the berries that grow on the mountainside.

From here, through Summer and early Autumn, Old Fall River Road offers an unusual and sometimes harrowing drive to the Alpine Visitor Center. This dirt, single track, one-way road was the only park road over the mountains



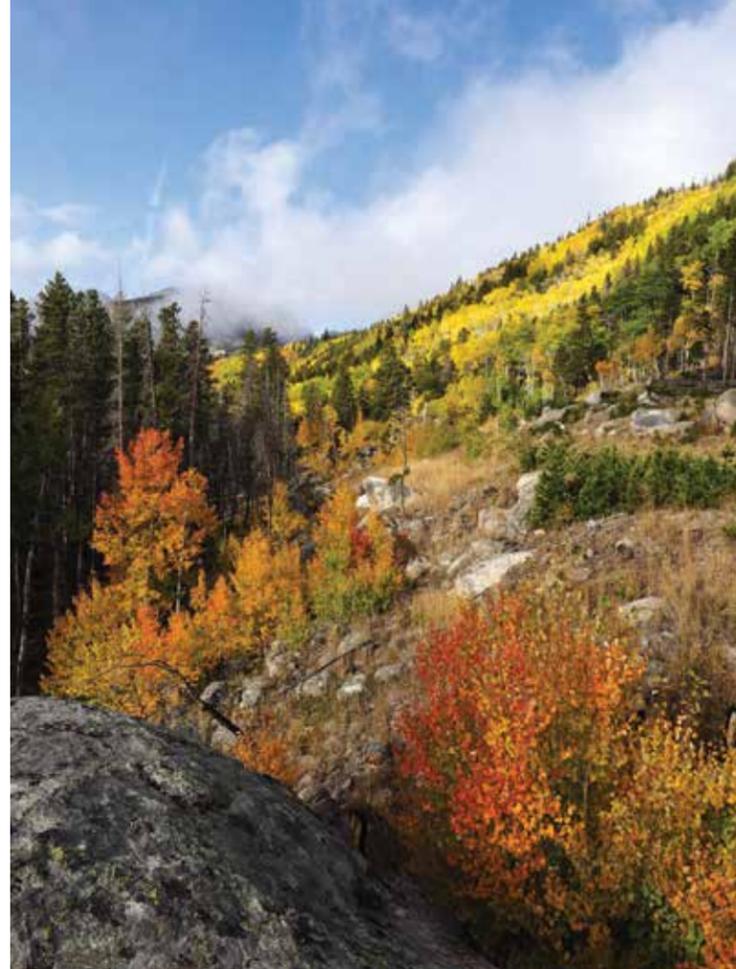
Bugle Boy 2 © Paul Halphen



In His Element © Paul Halphen



Cascading Stream © Paul Halphen



Color Riot © Paul Halphen

Paul Halphen

Paul worked for more than 40 years for the same large company, and was a product line manager with global responsibility. He had the opportunity to travel to about 40 countries during his employment; he is now retired.



He has been a member of PSA since 2019 and is currently the Chair of the Pictorial Print Division of PSA. He is also VP of the Spartanburg (SC) Photo Guild and its representative to PSA. And he's a member of the Carolinas Nature Photographers' Association, and is its PSA rep for the Interclub Print Competition, as well.

Photography is his main fascination, now that he is retired. The interaction of light with people and with nature and the physics of light through lenses is intriguing and leads to many hours behind the camera, currently an Olympus OM-D E-M1X.

until 1932. Sixteen switchbacks undulate up the mountainside. While there are some scenic overlooks during the climb, it is more about the changing scenery and the "adventure" of driving a treacherous road... until you reach the top. And then... OMG, what an incredible view. In September, the enormous Fall River Cirque, full of colorful shrubs, tundra, and rippling terrain, rivals any view I have ever seen.

But there is another way to the top! Completed in 1932, Trail Ridge Road leaves the Deer Ridge Junction and snakes westward. Hugging cliffs and ridge-riding along the top of mountains for more than 19 miles, it reveals an incredible array of mountain and valley vistas between late May and mid-October. On the way up, you will pass Beaver Ponds, Hidden Valley, Many Parks Curve, Rainbow Curve, and other spectacular views. Near Rock Cut, is the Tundra World Nature Trail, a close-up look at tundra plants and environs.

At the Alpine Visitor Center, Trail Ridge Road descends into the west side of the Park... and a completely different experience. Gone are the crowds and the traffic. Majestic pines and quaking Aspens gently guide the road along several small and scenic lakes. Starting at the wonderfully scenic Fairview Curve, with great views of the Never Summer Mountains, the road hooks northward for several miles before

resuming its more placid mood and gradually descending to the south. Keep an eye out for moose, which are plentiful in this area.

Along the west side of the road, the mighty Colorado River rises from a small stream and begins its canyon-carving 1,450 mile journey through five states in the southwestern US. Collecting from tributaries such as the Gunnison, Green, Dolores and San Juan rivers, its waters gouged out the Grand Canyon, and formed Lake Powell and Lake Mead, providing life-sustaining irrigation to the arid Southwest.

Eventually Trail Ridge Road deposits the mesmerized traveler at the Grand Lake Entrance Station and Kawuneeche Visitor Center. Now, having traversed Rocky, the succeeding larger Grand Lake, Shadow Mountain Lake, and Lake Granby beckon to you. Devotees of water sports like fishing, sailing, windsurfing, powerboating and waterskiing will find anything they like on these pristine alpine lochs.

Rocky has provided me a great deal of memories; perhaps more than any of the many other places that I have been privileged to visit. And the best part is that any time I want to revisit, I can stroll through my home and reminisce while looking at one of the several large prints hanging on my walls. What a great way to pretend that I am back in Colorado.

Rocky Mountain High? Yes! A high indeed!

New ROPA Distinctions Awarded

By Jan Lee, FPSA, EPSA | Director, PSA ROPA Program | ropa-director@psa-photo.org
ROPA Distinctions Awarded - 2025-4 Quarter (October-November-December)

There were 40 Recognition of Photographic Achievement (ROPA) distinctions awarded during the October-November-December quarter. This quarter's Groups are made up of:

- 1 Grand Master Gold (GMPSA/G)
- 1 Grand Master Silver (GMPSA/S)
- 2 Grand Master Bronze (GMPSA/B)
- 3 Grand Master (GMPSA)
- 1 Master 2 (MPSA2)
- 4 Master (MPSA)
- 8 Excellence (EPSA)
- 9 Proficiency (PPSA)
- 11 Qualified (QPSA)

The recipients of these 40 ROPA distinctions, along with their country of residence, PSA Honors, new ROPA Distinctions, and Portfolio Distinctions are listed below. The photos of each of these ROPA distinction recipients will be published on the ROPA page of the PSA Website by the end of January 2026, and will remain on the website through September 2026.

Grand Master Gold (GMPSA/G)
Massimo Tommi, GMPSA/G, Italy

Grand Master Silver (GMPSA/S)
David Somali-Chow, GMPSA/S, GPSA, Indonesia

Grand Master Bronze (GMPSA/B)
Jie Fischer, GMPSA/B, BPSA, USA
Miranda Siu, GMPSA/B, BPSA, Canada

Grand Master (GMPSA)
Joyraj Samanta, GMPS, BPSA, India
Cindy Wong, GMPSA, BPSA, Canada
Viktor Kanunnikov, GMPSA, Russia

Master 2 (MPSA2)
Mathieu DeBosscher, MPSA2, Belgium

Master (MPSA)
Albert Lee, MPSA, Philippines
Hai Nguyen, MPSA, USA
Thomas Kreda, MPSA, GPSA, USA
Luigi DeRosa, MPSA, Italy

Excellence (EPSA)
Premomoy Gosh, EPSA, India
Deepak K. Biswas, EPSA, India
Man Kit Ha, EPSA, Hong Kong
Mariella Mesiti, EPSA, Italy
Shihai Shao, EPSA, China
Dennis Green, APSA, EPSA, USA
Ovidiu Gabor, EPSA, Romania
Ann Nissen, EPSA, England

Proficiency (PPSA)
Si Thu Ye Myint, PPSA, SPSA, Myanmar
Anjun Xie, PPSA, China
Andrew Swinfield, PPSA, Australia
Ramaswami GN, PPSA, India

Antonio Alacázar Ojeda, PPSA, Spain
Radojko Zivadinovic, PPSA, Switzerland
Jeong Soon Park, PPSA, South Korea
VGM Nair, APSA, PPSA, India
Gabor Bercis, PPSA, Hungary

Qualified (QPSA)
Kevin Sinclair, QPSA, Australia
Manihc Nagpal, QPSA, India
Choon Wook Myung, QPSA, South Korea
Chun Ok Kang, QPSA, South Korea
Dino Hadzidervisagic, QPSA, Bosnia & Herzegovina
Yoonshik Yim, QPSA, South Korea
Irina Markova, QPSA, Kazakhstan
Minja Jovetic, QPSA, Serbia
Gabor Gajdos, QPSA, Hungary
Cătălin Arcu, QPSA, Romania
Yong Duk Kim, QPSA, South Korea

Fourth Quarter (2025-4) Comments:
First Quarter (2025-4) Comments:
There was an increase of one in the number of ROPA approvals for this quarter from the last. The submission rates have fluctuated for the past several quarters. Indications are that interest in the ROPA Distinction Program is still strong. There were an encouraging numbers in the QPSA, PPSA, and EPSA level applications. Applications for the higher levels of ROPA Distinctions are holding steady.

Passings



Priscilla Farrell

We are sad to announce the passing of Priscilla Farrell, one of Wisconsin's active photography people.

A member of the Menomonee Falls Camera Club, she was also a member of the PSA Wisconsin Chapter and belonged to the Wisconsin Area Camera Clubs Organization, where she entered many competitions. She had received the WACCO proficiency award when she earned honorable mentions for 25 of her images. She then earned at least 12 more HM's in further competitions.

It was through the Wisconsin PSA Chapter that Kathy Braun and Kathy Brand got to know her better. As a

result, the three of them drove to several of the annual PSA Photo Conferences (now Festivals) together and spent several days driving and photographing all the great sites and images along the way.

Priscilla served as a judge for many competitions including the PSA Youth Showcase. She also submitted photos to PID Digital Dialogue in three different Groups for many years.

Priscilla is survived by her son, Scott, and daughter, Debra, three granddaughters, and eight great-grandchildren. She will be sorely missed by those who knew this wonderful woman.

Submitted by Kathy Brand and Kathleen Braun, HonPSA, PPSA

CHAPTER NEWS

By Joanne Stolte, HonFPSA, MPMSA, EFIAP, ESFIAP

Central Florida Chapter holds Wetlands Bird Photography Outing

The PSA Central Florida Chapter held an outing from January 14 to 16, 2026. On Wednesday, January 14, participants traveled to the Orlando Wetlands, a large (1650 acres) man-made wetland consisting of marshes and lakes designed to provide advanced treatment for reclaimed water that offers wildlife viewing. There were a fair number of Roseate Spoonbills, Wood Storks, a Purple Gallinule, and alligators. That evening they enjoyed each other's company during a group dinner at a nearby Cracker Barrel and discussed the photographs that they had taken that day.

On Thursday, January 15, they went to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, a 140,000-acre U.S. National Wildlife Refuge on Florida's largest barrier island. In several cars, the group traveled Black Point Wildlife Drive, a 7-mile, one-way drive where they could see wildlife. The mangrove-lined path follows a dike road of hardpacked limestone around shallow marshes and through pine woods. Members stopped at twelve markers between the marshes to spend time birding and pulled off the road at broader areas. At Merritt Island the Chapter photographers were delighted to be guided by one of the Refuge's volunteers to a very large eagle's nest near the Visitors Center. The group was there during peak wildlife season which is from October to March, and the wildlife is most active in the early morning.

On Friday, January 16, the group returned to the Orlando Wetlands for the morning. The weather took a turn for the worst, but most of the group carried on and found some photographic opportunities.

The nineteen photographers who attended stayed at three different hotels in and around Titusville, Florida, on the Atlantic coast located between the two wetland areas. They also enjoyed breakfast together each morning. The birds cooperated; however, the weather was cold and challenging, but everyone got some images.



Jan 14, Orlando Wetlands © Donna Paul



Jan 14, Orlando Wetlands © Jim Mahoney, APSA, EPSA



Jan 14, Cracker Barrel Dinner © Donna Paul



Jan 15, Merritt Island © Erik Rosengren, FPSA, PPSA



Jan 14, Dinner © Betty Sue Degenhart



Jan 15, Black Point Wildlife Drive, Merritt Island © Donna Paul



Jan 15, Merritt Island © Erik Rosengren, FPSA, PPSA

AWARDS AND COMPETITIONS

Star Ratings

Projected Image Division Color Class (PIDC)

Compiled by Suvojit Biswas, APSA, MPMSA, EFIAP, from reports of Asok Samaddar, MPMSA, EFIAP.

Diamond 6

Piyali Mitra, GMPSA/P, India

Galaxy 9

Chen-I Judy Kuo, MPMSA2, Taiwan

Galaxy 6

Sonja Vander Meulen, MPMSA, Belgium
Steven Stavri, MPMSA, Cyprus

Galaxy 7

Sue O'Connell, MPMSA, England

Galaxy 2

Abhijit Das, PPSA, India

Galaxy 1

Abhijit Das, PPSA, India
Jeanne Chung, Hong Kong

Star 5

Barun Dey, PPSA, India
Lucie DiPronio, MPMSA, Canada
Man Kit Ha, EPSA, Hong Kong
Nina Jonsson, Norway

Star 4

Constant Van Bommel, PPSA, Netherlands
Kathy Heykoop, QPSA, Canada
Marevi Denaxa, PPSA, Greece
Sang Le, QPSA, USA
Stojan Gorup, Slovenia
Suranjan Mukherjee, India

Star 3

Marevi Denaxa, PPSA, Greece
Shing Kit Lee, QPSA, Hong Kong
Stojan Gorup, Slovenia

Star 2

Fenghua Ye, QPSA, China
Marevi Denaxa, PPSA, Greece
Shing Kit Lee, QPSA, Hong Kong
Stojan Gorup, Slovenia
Zdenek Dlouhy, Czech Republic

Star 1

Fenghua Ye, QPSA, China

Ian Hardacre, England
Marevi Denaxa, PPSA, Greece
Ruth Byrne, QPSA, Ireland
Stojan Gorup, Slovenia
Zdenek Dlouhy, Czech Republic

Projected Image Division Monochrome Class (PIDM)

Compiled by Elizabeth Passuello, APSA, EPSA, EFIAP/s; from reports of Graham Harris, EPSA, EFIAP; Hein Htet, GMPSA, EFIAP

Diamond 5

Kalyan Bhattacharyya, GMPSA, India

Diamond 1

Kai Lon Tang, GMPSA/B, Macau

Galaxy 10

Thanasis Hadjipavlou, GMPSA/B, Cyprus

Galaxy 2

Thach Hoang Ngoc, EPSA, Vietnam

Galaxy 1

Thach Hoang Ngoc, EPSA, Vietnam

Star 5

Basabjit Ghosh, PPSA, India
Claudio Pettazzi, EPSA, Italy
Mei Hui Kuo, EPSA, Hong Kong

Star 4

Rafael Pleguezuelos Gonzalez, QPSA, Spain
Stojan Gorup, Slovenia

Star 3

Sang Le, QPSA, USA
Stojan Gorup, Slovenia
Subham Banerjee, India
Suranjan Mukherjee, India

Star 2

Aleksandr Zamyatin, Russian Federation
Dean Campbell, QPSA, USA
Ruth Byrne, QPSA, Ireland
Stojan Gorup, Slovenia
Subham Banerjee, QPSA, India
Te Hui Chen, Taiwan

Star 1

Denis Karpenko, Kazakhstan
Ian Hardacre, England

Ruth Byrne, QPSA, Ireland
Shing Kit Lee, QPSA, Hong Kong
Stojan Gorup, Slovenia
Subham Banerjee, QPSA, India
Te Hui Chen, Taiwan

Nature Division

Compiled by Jenn Koh, GMPSA/P, EFIAP, from reports of Asim Kumar Chaudhuri, GMPSA

Photo Naturalist

Gunther Riehle, APSA, GMPSA/P, Germany

Galaxy 10

Steven Fisher, FPSA, GMPSA, USA

Galaxy 5

Nina Jonsson, Norway

Galaxy 3

Jim Hagan, MPMSA2, USA
Sonja Vander Meulen, MPMSA, Belgium
Chin Leong Teo, GMPSA, Singapore

Star 5

Nancy Lee, Canada

Star 4

Claudio Pettazzi, EPSA, Italy
Constant Van Bommel, PPSA, Netherlands
Stojan Gorup, Slovenia
Suranjan Mukherjee, India

Star 3

Frederick Doerfler Jr, PPSA, BPSA, USA
Gordon Watson, PPSA, England
Te Hui Chen, Taiwan
Sang Le, QPSA, USA
Stojan Gorup, Slovenia

Star 2

Arnab Basu, QPSA, BPSA, UAE
Stojan Gorup, Slovenia
Te Hui Chen, Taiwan

Star 1

Arnab Basu, QPSA, BPSA, UAE
Peter John O'Brien, Australia
Ruth Byrne, QPSA, Ireland
Stojan Gorup, Slovenia
Te Hui Chen, Taiwan

Photojournalism Division

Compiled by Barry Wong, PPSA, BPSA

Diamond 8

Shu Cheuk, GMPSA/P, USA

Diamond 4

Gerald H Emmerich Jr., HonFPSA, GMPSA/P, USA

Galaxy 8

Venkatesh BS, GMPSA/S, India

Galaxy 6

Thanasis Hadjipavlou, GMPSA/B, Cyprus

Galaxy 3

Ian Ledgard, GMPSA/B, United Kingdom

Galaxy 2

Chin Leong Teo, GMPSA, Singapore

Galaxy 1

Chin Leong Teo, GMPSA, Singapore

Star 4

Barun Dey, PPSA, India

Star 3

Achintya Murthy, EPSA, India
Andrew Swinfield, PPSA, Australia
Barun Dey, PPSA, India
Monica Giudice, EPSA, Italy

Star 2

Achintya Murthy, EPSA, India
Barun Dey, PPSA, India
Marevi Denaxa, PPSA, Greece
Sang Le, QPSA, USA

Star 1

Achintya Murthy, EPSA, India
Barun Dey, PPSA, India
Marevi Denaxa, PPSA, Greece
Sang Le, QPSA, USA

Photo Travel Division

Compiled by **Asim Kumar Chaudhuri, GMPSA;**
from reports of **Chen I Judy Kuo, MPAS2; Jenn Koh,**
GMPSA, EFIAP

Diamond 2

Piyali Mitra, GMPSA/P, India

Galaxy 8

Thanasis Hadjipavlou, GMPSA/B, Cyprus

Galaxy 6

Angela Poggioni, APSA, GMPSA, USA

Galaxy 4

Jim Hagan, MPAS2, USA

Galaxy 1

Claudio Pettazzi, EPSA, Italy
Don Chen, EPSA, USA

Star 5

Don Chen, EPSA, USA

Star 4

Anne Sargeant, EPSA, BPSA, France
Barun Dey, PPSA, India
Gopal Belokar, PPSA, India
Stojan Gorup, Slovenia

Star 3

Anne Sargeant, EPSA, BPSA, France
Barun Dey, PPSA, India
Elizabeth Passuello, APSA, EPSA,
New Zealand
Gopal Belokar, PPSA, India
Marevi Denaxa, PPSA, Greece

Stojan Gorup, Slovenia
Suranjan Mukherjee, India,

Star 2

Anne Sargeant, EPSA, BPSA, France
Barun Dey, PPSA, India
Gopal Belokar, PPSA, India
Marevi Denaxa, PPSA, Greece
Stojan Gorup, Slovenia
Subham Banerjee, QPSA, India

Star 1

Anne Sargeant, EPSA, BPSA, France
Barun Dey, PPSA, India
Dean Campbell, QPSA, USA
Gopal Belokar, PPSA, India
Ian Hardacre, England
Marevi Denaxa, PPSA, Greece
Shing Kit Lee, QPSA, Hong Kong
Stojan Gorup, Slovenia
Subham Banerjee, QPSA, India

Pictorial Print Division (Color) Mono Prints Large and Small Mixed

Compiled by **Wolfgang Lin, GMPSA/B, SPSA**

Star 3

Gordon Watson, PPSA, England

Pictorial Print Division (Mono) Mono Prints Large and Small Mixed

Compiled by **Wolfgang Lin, GMPSA/B, SPSA**

Star 3

Gordon Watson, PPSA, England

If you have an item of national or international interest concerning a PSA activity that you wish to appear in the news, please email a brief article to the appropriate News Editor. *General News/Calendar of Events* items can be emailed to the *Journal Editor* at editor@psa-photo.org.

Abbreviations used in these columns (no periods after letters):

CC = Camera Club
PA = Photographic Association
PS = Photo Society
PC = Photo Club
PG = Photo Guild
PGr = Photo Group
(All others spelled out)

Information about divisions can be found on the PSA Website www.psaphotoworldwide.org

Pictorial Image (PID)

Elena McTighe,
HonFPSA, MPAS, ESFIAP, Editor
pid-journal-news-director@psa-photo.org

Welcome Volunteer Officers

PID would like to congratulate our volunteer officers who were elected to the Honor of Associate of PSA, (APSA): **Boskee Selarka, APSA, BPSA, EFIAP,** and **Alice Marie Way, APSA. Nancy Speaker, FPSA, PPSA,** was elected to the Honor of PSA Fellow. All were asked about volunteering for PID and here is Alice Way's response.

Alice Marie Way, APSA: "A camera has always seemed to be in my hands, but so, too, has a pen (or keyboard). That has proved useful for performing the task of Secretary for three different Camera clubs, enabling me to produce many newsletters for members. In addition, I've managed to find myself on two or three Boards along the way—currently for my Council Board. Membership in PSA has been a positive choice, as I've been a **PID Co-Director of Interclub Color** for a few years. I don't consider myself doing a service, but always, being helpful where I might."



Sunrise at Smith Rock Park © **Alice Marie Way, APSA**



Frozen Beauties © **Tasneem Ali, BPSA, AFIAP**

PID welcomes the new **Assistant Director of the Still Life Individual Competition, Tasneem Ali, BPSA, AFIAP, AICS, ARSPS.**



Tasneem tells us, "My name is Tasneem Ali, based in Dubai-UAE, and I have been involved with photography since 2017 along with hubby Ali, under the amazing mentorship of **Mr. Mohammed Arfan Asif, FPSA, MPAS, EFIAP/d3+.** I love to dabble in different genres, and have participated in various competitions and exhibitions. Being a member of Photographic Society of America and The Royal Photographic Society has widened my exposure in photography. Having received Awards and distinction in my journey gives a lot of satisfaction, but nothing beats the personal joy of creating images behind the camera. My favorites are flowers, people and digital art. My role as *Assistant Director of the Still Life Individual Competition* conducted by Pictorial Image Division has added a new dimension. It is a matter of great



The Shades of Red © **Tasneem Ali, BPSA, AFIAP**

satisfaction to be involved in the genre I enjoy most, get to interact with entrants, help them through the process of submission and very interestingly get to see awesome work being done by PSA members. I get to learn a lot working with **Boskie Selarka APSA, BPSA, EFIAP,** the Director of Still Life. I look forward to doing my best as PSA Volunteer."

PID thanks all of their many volunteers.

The Pictorial Image Division (PID) invited all PSA members to attend the first round webinar of the PID Individual Landscape Competition Image Analysis. The Jury for this round was



Golden Eagle at High Desert Museum © **Alice Marie Way, APSA**

award winning professional landscape photographer Thomas Crauwels from Switzerland. The event featured a short presentation by Thomas along with Image Analysis and announcement of results! It is a PSA Membership benefit and open to all members.

Executive Committee Report

By Heide Stover, APSA, QPSA

Presentation from Headquarters

Before the official start of the Executive Committee meeting, Headquarters delivered a presentation highlighting recent enhancements to the organization's social media presence. The committee was updated that PSA is now active on several major platforms, including Facebook, X, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok. Members can easily access links to Facebook, X, and Instagram directly from the PSA website. These links appear at the top of every page; simply look for the social media icons displayed at the top of the website.

Headquarters also encouraged members to visit the Membership tab and select Discounts to explore newly added venues offering exclusive savings for PSA members.

Meeting Opening and Approval of Minutes

The meeting officially commenced on January 25, 2026, with the approval of the minutes, ensuring that records from previous meetings were formally accepted and documented.

Approval of MOM for Online Club Judging Services

The committee approved a **Master Operations Manual (MOM)** for the Online

Club Judging Services. This marks the first official MOM for this service and represents an important step in formalizing and standardizing its procedures.

Portfolio Committee Updates

Last month, the committee approved a motion allowing the Portfolio Committee to introduce additional levels to their competition. Building on that action, the committee this month approved the motion establishing the rates for these new competition levels.

Photo Travel (PTD)

Lisa Marie Cirincione, PPSA, AFIAP,
Editor, lisa photography@icloud.com

Photo Travel Division Leadership Change

provided by Carolyn Todd-Larson, PPSA, AFIAP

For the last twelve years, **Judy Burr**, APSA, MPSA2, has served as the Photo Travel Division's Photo Essay Competition Director. Prior to that assignment, she served as Associate Editor of *The Photo Traveler* newsletter for two years. We appreciate all that Judy has done to manage the annual judging process for both the Photo Essays and the Mini-Essays, ensuring that the photo travel essays are shown at the PSA Photo Festival and on the PSA website for all to enjoy. Judy has recently resigned due to family issues. We wish her all the best and thank her for her significant contributions to the Photo Travel Division.



The Pageant of Kotte © R H (Sam) Samarakone

We are very pleased to announce that **R H (Sam) Samarakone**, 2025 Gold Medal winner for the Photo Travel Essay contest, has agreed to assume the Photo Essay Competition Director position. Sam currently serves as Associate Editor of *The Photo Traveler* newsletter and will retain that position. You may view his winning essay, "The Pageant of Kotte," by signing into the PSA website and visiting



psaphotoworldwide.org/page/mo-ptd-essay. You may also view the Photo Travel Mini-Essay competition winners by visiting psaphotoworldwide.org/page/mo-ptd-mini-essay.

Look for announcements soon about the 2026 Photo Travel Essay and Photo Travel Mini-Essay competitions. We hope you will consider submitting one about your travels. Submissions for either essay contest will be accepted between May 1-June 1. It is encouraged that entrants submit early in case there are issues to resolve.



Pictorial Print (PPD)

Paul Halphen,
Editor, phalsf71@gmail.com

New Member of the PPD Board

Sue O'Connell, MPSA, EFIAP/d3, has joined the Pictorial Print Division Board. Sue is a UK photographer, based in Bristol. After a career as an educator and author, she is now happily immersed in the many activities photography has to offer, giving frequent presentations and also running the regional Judge Training Program. All in all, she finds herself busier, if possible, than when she was working full-time!



Sue has long had a passion for travel, from early backpacking days to more recent adventures in Colombia and Angola, and finds these experiences a major source of inspiration for her photography. She enjoys most photographic genres, but closest to her heart is capturing the fascinating people she meets.

Along the way, Sue has found exhibitions to be useful incentives for her work and she is proud to have reached the dizzy heights of MPSA and EFIAP/d3! She has also been awarded in many competitions including "USA Landscape Photographer of the Year" and "Travel Photographer of the Year" (four times).

The PRINT has been important to Sue since first learning the darkroom "arts" way back, and she would endorse the description of the print as "the final journey of any image". She has had prints included in exhibitions at the Royal Geographical Society and the Museum of the Home in London, as well as further afield.

Sue is pleased and honoured to have been elected to the PPD Board, and looks forward to contributing a European perspective to Board discussions, as well as to a voyage of discovery into the world US photography.

New Issue of the PPD Newsletter, *The Final Print*

The latest issue of PPD's Newsletter, "The Final Print" is available online, at this webpage (psaphotoworldwide.org/page/mo-ppd-newsletter). Read about, *The Tangible Magic of Print* by Editor Jessica Manelis, news and

changes that took place at the PSA Festival in September, Tom Hady's thoughts on *Why Make Prints*, a photo essay on *The Magic of Dance* photoshoot held at the PSA Festival, and Round One of the PPD Interclub Competition.

Print of the Quarter

The Print of the Quarter Competition for 2026 kicks off with Round One due on February 1. The subsequent rounds are due May 1, August 1, and November 1. The competition is for Small Prints in Mono and Color (up to 8.5 x 12). More information can be found at psaphotoworldwide.org/page/mo-ppd-poq.

Results of the competition are usually included in the *PSA Journal* soon after the competition is judged, and the winning images are displayed in the Print Gallery at the PSA Festival.

Pictorial Print Division Study Groups

Interested in getting feedback on your prints? The PPD Study Groups are available to all PSA members. Participants share prints regularly, and receive comments on their prints from the other members of their group. For more information, see this link. psaphotoworldwide.org/page/mo-study-group-ppd

Photojournalism (PJD)

Sammy Somekh, FPSA, EFIAP, ARPS
Editor, sammysomekh@hotmail.com

PJD Interclubs November 2025 Round 1 Results

The PJD Interclubs 2025-2026 Season kicked off with Round 1 which closed on November 15, 2025. Rounds 2 and 3 will close on February 15 and April 15, 2026.

Group A Results

Group B hosted and judged Group A online at Thousand Oaks Photography Group. The judges were **Steve Friedman, Bridget Bourgon** and **George Hutchinson, QPSA**. Following, the results forwarded by PJD Interclubs Chairman **Donna Angstadt**.

Human Interest:

Merits: 27 Points to: Abhishek Basak, EFIAP (India IG) for *Cow Jump Over Fire 10; 26 Points* to: Udayan Sankar Pal, EFIAP, MPSA (India IG) *Angalamman Festival-III*, and to Manu Regurajan, EFIAP/g, GPSA (Shutter Bugs CF) *Friends From Varanasi*.

Honorable Mentions: 25 Points to: Heather Prince, EFIAP (Geelong CC) *Now Listen to Me Young Fella*. **24 Points** to: Rebecca Humes (Grand Rapids CC) *Enthusiastic Protesters*; Bibhuti Bhusan Nandi (India IG) *Water Lagging at Baly* (sic).

3D (3DD)

Lynn Troy Maniscalco, HonFPSA, EPSA,
Editor, Ltmphoto@juno.com

Viewable 3D Images

To spend a few hours enjoying some great 3D images, go to detroit3d.org/exhibitions.html. There the Detroit Stereographic Society has posted a gallery of all of the successful entries in their 2025 exhibition, as well as full galleries of all of the accepted and awarded images over the previous five years. Everything is viewable in your preferred format—SBS parallel or cross-view, several anaglyph formats, full or half-width interlaced, mirror or even 2D! Just put your cursor over the tab that says either "Stereo" or "Dubois" and it will give you a dropdown menu with the other choices. For the two decades prior to 2020, just click on the title of the awarded images at the top, or scroll down to the bottom for Universal View (L-R-L) of all of those award winners. Altogether a quarter-century of 3D results are available for your viewing pleasure.

General:

Merits: 26 Points to: Simon Roberts (Keswick PS) *On the Charge*; **Gerald Emmerich, Jr., HonFPSA, GMPSA/P**, *Horse Eyes the Barrel*; Kai-Sun Law (The CCPST) *Cowfighter Got Hit 3*; Albert Fok (The CCPST) *Thai Boxing 10*. **25 Points** to: Hans Kawitzki, EFIAP (Geelong CC) *Tight Race*; Ashim Talukdar (PC Assam) *Lost Habitat*; Peter Chi Ho Lau, MPSA, (The CCPST) *Wheelchair BB*; Betty Liu (Jiahua Elite PA) *Dragon Boat Race*; **David Woodthorpe, PPSA, CPAGB** (Keswick PS) *No Overtaking*.

Honorable Mentions: 24 Points to: Francisco Jose Lopez Fernandez, QPSA (Asociacion Fotografica Objectivo 2.0) *Jumping Wabes* (sic); Joxe Inazio Kuesta Garmendia, EPSA, EFIAP/b (Asociacion Fotografica Objectivo 2.0) *Injured by an Intentional Blow*; Miguel Rosa Castejon (Asociacion Fotografica Objectivo 2.0) *From the River*; Bob Given, EPSA (Keswick PS) *One on One*; Beverly Goldschmidt (Science Museum CC) *The Future Speaks*; Fred Emch (St. Louis CC) *Victory*; **Cindy Wong, GMPSA, BPSA** (The CCPST) *Jumping Over With Lantern*; Megan Willis (Wangi Workers CC) *Free Palestine Free Lebanon Rally*; Katukuri Surya Prakash Rao (Youth PS) *Vinayak Visarjanam*.

Group B Results

Group A hosted and judged Group B online at Charlotte Camera Club. The judges were

Renee Whitley, Eric Northeisen and Lane Lewis.

Human Interest:

Merits: 24 Points to: Judy Beiriger (Coastal CC) for *Tatoo Therapy*; Tran Thi Van (Lavender CP); *Water Puppetry Training*.

Honorable Mentions: 24 Points to: Tran Tuan Anh (Lavender CP) *Performing Traditional Tuong*. **22 Points** to: Mary Ruppert (Huntington CC) *Aloof*.

General:

Merits: 25 Points to: **Larry White** (Thousand Oaks PG) *Whipeout*. **24 Points** to: **Kirsty Wilson, QPSA, AFIAP** (Greymouth PC) *SI Ultra Marathon Runner 389*; Glenn Jones (Sun City Palm Desert PC) *Rodeo Trick Rider*; Steve Holmes (Southwest Missouri CC) *The Agony of Defeat*; Helen Pappas (North Haven CC) *Honoring The Fallen*; Ken Cheung (Minnesota Valley PC) *Maximum Effort*.

Honorable Mentions: 24 Points to: **Marilyn Holloway** (Houston CC) *Top Two Eliminated*. **23 Points** to: Lisa Jeffreys (Naples CC) *Ride Over*; Michael Trahan (Lake County CC) *Rodeo has come to Town*. **22 Points** to: **Terry Miranda** (Thousand Oaks PG) *Out of water*; William Stacy (Santa Rosa PS) *Farrier with Pet Pig at Work* (sic); Vu Thanh Nam (Lavender CP) *Win*.

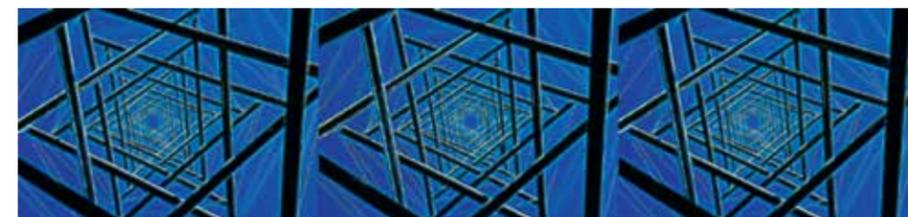
To see these images in 3D, view the **left** two frames as parallel view, explained in the October 3D news, or the **right** two frames as a cross-eyed view.



Chinese Fishman and Bird © Henry Ng, HonFPSA, EPSA



Whitewater Fun © Mark Brennan



Look Up © George Themelis, APSA



PAA News and Updates

Photographic Alliance of America (PAA)

By Joanne Stolte, HonFPSA, MPSA, EFIAP, ESFIAP, HonFPAA

President, Photographic Alliance of America • FIAP Liaison Officer for the United States of America

PAA Website: paausa.org

FIAP News Includes PAA Member Photo Recommendations

The quarterly FIAP News includes mini articles that recommend a setting someplace in the world that provides photographic opportunities. Each issue of the FIAP News since August 2021 has included a mini article by a PAA member sharing a photo opportunity location in the USA. Four of these articles were described in the May 2022 PAA article, three were included in the April 2023 PAA article, and three were included in the January 2024 PAA article in the *PSA Journal*.

In the February 2024 issue of the FIAP News **Donna Hom, MPSA, AFIAP**, of Alameda, CA, explored photographing San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge.

Also in the February 2024 issue was an article by **Lisa Marie Cirincione, PPSA, AFIAP**, of State College, PA, where she described the photography opportunities around Canton, Ohio, including the American Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Larry Cowles, HonPSA, GMPSA/P, GPSA, EFIAP/d3, of Sun City West, AZ, described photographing Nelson Ghost Town, just south of Las Vegas, NV, in the February 2025 FIAP News.

Past issues of the FIAP News are linked from the FIAP web site at: fiap.net/en/fiap-news and previous PAA member recommendation articles are in the first gallery on the PAA website at paausa.org/fiap-news.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The World-Famous Golden Gate Bridge, USA
By Donna Hom, AFIAP, MPSA

The Golden Gate Bridge was described in Frommer's Travel Guide as "possibly the most beautiful, certainly the most photographed, bridge in the world." It is in San Francisco, California. When the bridge was opened to the public in 1937, it was the longest and tallest suspension bridge in the world. The two towers of the bridge are 746 feet in height, and tower level is 500 feet above the water.

There are various locations where you can take beautiful photos of the Golden Gate Bridge: Hawk Hill, Golden Gate Overlook, Battery Spencer, Marshall's Beach, Baker Beach, Chrissy Field, Fort Point, Sibley Cove, and the Presidio Tunnel Tops (a national park built on and around the Presidio Parkway tunnel) to name a few.

The best time to take photos of the Golden Gate Bridge is the golden hour, blue hour, and when the fog is about 550 feet above the water. During the golden hour, the soft light shines upon the bridge with the background of the San Francisco skyline. During the blue hours, the city of San Francisco is lit up as well as the lights on the Golden Gate Bridge.

Photo opportunities vary depending on the location from which the photo is taken. From Marshall's beach, you may get the bridge reflection if it is low tide and the water is relatively calm. A 500-step hike is required for this. If you are in the Presidio Tunnel Tops, you will get the car trails leading to the bridge. This would require approximately a two-mile hike one way. During the first weekend of October of each year, it is Fleet Week in the San Francisco Bay Area. When the Blue Angels U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron fly through the Golden Gate Bridge, it is another beautiful scene for the Golden Gate Bridge. Getting the sunrise and moonrise near the Golden Gate Bridge is also an interesting scene. From Hawk Hill, you can do both depending on the month of the year. You can get the moonrise near the bridge in July or August, and the sunrise at year round with weather permitting.



Golden Gate Bridge from Hawk Hill



Golden Gate Bridge from Presidio Tunnel Tops

RECOMMENDATIONS

Canton, Ohio, the Home of the American Pro Football Hall of Fame, USA
By Lisa Marie Cirincione, AFIAP, PPSA

If you are a fan of American football, then Canton, Ohio is your Mecca. The birthplace of the National Football League (NFL) and the home of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Canton is visited year-round by football fans of all ages. Officially opened in 1963, it has grown by leaps and bounds since then. Each August, the Pro Football Enthusiast kicks off the NFL season celebrating new inductees to the Hall of Fame, with a Festival Balloon Classic, the first professional football game of the season and a ceremony inducting new members into the Hall of Fame.

The Enthusiast Festival is a highlight during the weekend before the game. It features a world-class hot-air Balloon Classic, attracting balloonists from all over the USA. It spans a full weekend, and there are usually three morning flights and fantastic fireworks. Weather permitting, there are also two night glows: a night glow is when the hot-air balloons are blown up and lit from within. They are tethered to the ground. It is a beautiful display of the balloons all lit up. Over 120,000 spectators are said to enjoy the festival. It is located on the Kent State State Campus. The festival also includes a parade, a fun run and a photo contest.



Balloon Glow

Canton was also the home of the 23rd U.S. President, William McKinley. His life and presidency are commemorated with the McKinley National Memorial and the William McKinley Presidential Library and Museum.

The Canton Museum of Art was established in the 1930s and focuses on 19th and 20th century artworks, specifically works on paper and ceramic arts. The city's art district, located downtown, has a tremendous amount of interesting outdoor sculptures and murals.

An American photographer and essayist, James H. Karales, (1930-2002) was from Canton. He was an assignment editor for *Look Magazine* during the voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in March 1965. His single best-known image is the iconic photograph of the Selma to Montgomery march showing people proudly marching along the highway under a cloudy turbulent sky.



NFL Draft in downtown Canton

Canton is located on the edge of Ohio's Amish Country. It is reachable from a few airports, 30 miles from Akron-Canton (CAK), 60 miles from Cleveland Hopkins International (CLE), 79 miles from Pittsburgh International (PIE) and 130 miles from Columbus International (CMH).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Nelson Ghost Town, USA
By Larry Cowles, EFIAP/d3

When traveling to other countries, we generally have an itinerary that includes some of the more well-known and much photographed locations, but we are always on the lookout for those lesser-known locations. If you ever visit Las Vegas, Nevada, consider a trip to Nelson Ghost Town. When you get tired of photographing the action, glitz and lights of the Las Vegas Strip, you should get out of the city and visit this electric mining town.

It's an easy 45-minute drive from downtown Las Vegas taking Highway 11. At Boulder City, head south on Highway 95 into the desert. Go another 20 miles to Highway 165 for the road to Nelson on the left.

This area is part of El Dorado Canyon that lies along the Colorado River separating Arizona from Nevada. Spaniards first found gold in this area as early as 1775. Large numbers of miners started coming here in the mid-1800s. The Trenchcut Mine opened about 1861 with over 10 million dollars of gold, silver, copper and lead being dug out of the ground between 1864-1900. As the diggings diminished, the mine was closed in the 1940s and Nelson along with other mining towns became deserted. In 1994 Tony and Bobbie Wiley bought the 50-acre property and cleaned it up, opening it as a ghost town. Several of the original buildings still stand including a general store, gas station, barns and an old church. You can find old mining equipment, trucks, cars and even a couple of old crashed airplanes that were used in a movie, "3000 miles to Glendale", one of several movies that were filmed here. The mine is open for tours. The general store acts as the office where you can pay the small fee to photograph. Be sure to visit all the rooms full of antiques that can be photographed.



Gas Station



Nelson Desert Overview

The landscape around the town has views of rugged mountains and desert. Be careful as you walk among the cacti. Cholla Cactus, known as jumping cactus has spines that nearly don't jump, but a very slight touch against them and you will be taking home an unpleasant souvenir.

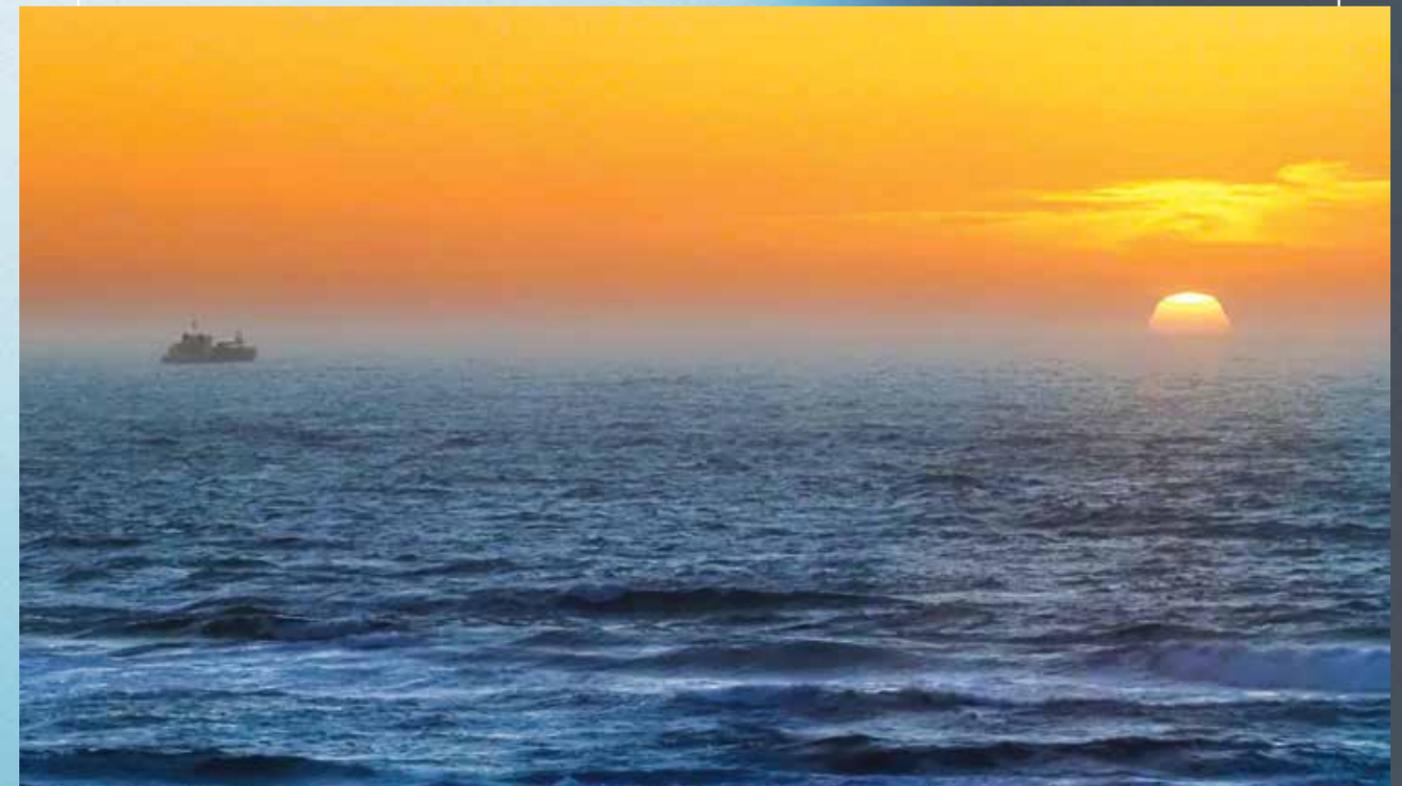
Nelson is open daily from 9am-9pm (office closes at 5pm). The best time for a visit is from September - April as summers can be very hot with temperatures reaching 110-degrees (43 C). A car is the best way to get there. Several tour companies offer a tour of the town and mine.

You can get more information at <https://thenelsonghosttown.com/>

Print of the Quarter

Shipping Out Greener With Glow by Paul Halphen

Paul is from Spartanburg, South Carolina, and has been a PSA member since 2019.

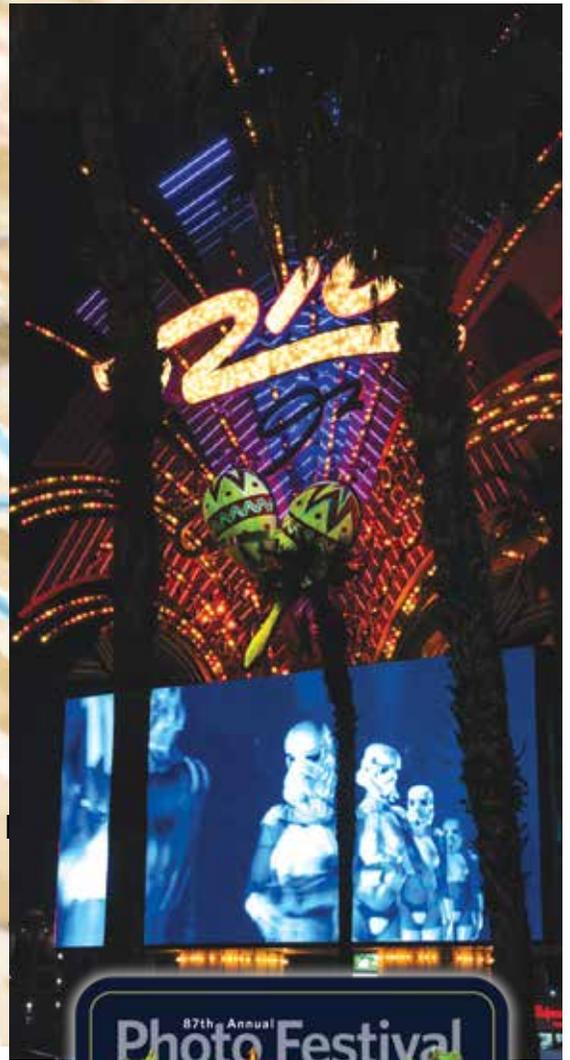


I think that the distance between the ship and the sun with the color tones in the picture is what gives me a sad feeling. I get a feeling of shipping out and already missing my friends and family. Great story telling. I really like this image. This is really an excellent image.

Dave Fudge

Dave Fudge, Professional Photographer

Dave Fudge's passion for photography began at age 8, when he first picked up a camera. By 11, he had built his own black-and-white darkroom in his family's basement. He started photographing weddings in 1970 and relocated to California in 1974, where he trained under a professional photographer and later served as President of Professional Photographers of Orange County. While operating his own portrait and wedding studio, Dave also pursued a career as a Biomedical Engineer. Throughout his journey, he has continuously expanded his expertise through specialized courses in wedding photography, portraits, wildlife, landscapes, Photoshop, AI photography, and more. An award-winning photographer and active member of Professional Photographers of America, Arizona Professional Photographers Association (board member), and the Photographic Society of America, Dave now works full-time specializing in senior citizen weddings, portraits, and special events. He also serves as Ethics Chairman for the Arizona Camera Club Council and Photography West, and teaches Photoshop and Lightroom to private students. Dave brings over 50 years of technical expertise, artistic vision, and dedication to every project.



Las Vegas, Nevada



September 13-19, 2026

The Photographic Society of America Worldwide is pleased to announce its 2026 Photo Festival in Las Vegas, Nevada. The festival will feature world-class speakers, photo workshops and spectacular tours. The PSA Photo Festival provides many great opportunities to share your photographic interests and improve your photo skills.

Online festival registration begins on April 1, 2026

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Sunday Evening: Murder/Mystery Dinner Theater

Monday thru Friday: Daily photo tours, workshops, and speaker sessions

Tuesday Evening: Grand Opening of the Print Gallery

Wednesday Afternoon: Opening Ceremonies

Thursday Evening: Keynote Speaker, Essdras Suarez

Friday Evening: Keynote Speaker, Erin Babnik, Canon Explorer of Light

Saturday: Festival concludes with the PSA Honors Award Banquet