



DEC
2020

The Shutterbug
a newsletter of Trinity Arts Photo Club

Photographers of the Year



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Have something to contribute?
Email darrenwiedman@gmail.com

Since we have no meeting or speaker scheduled for December, this newsletter will focus on our Photographers of the Year for 2020. Congratulations to Janet Cunningham and Laura Richards. Their winning images from this year are featured in this newsletter, along with a few words of wisdom from each.

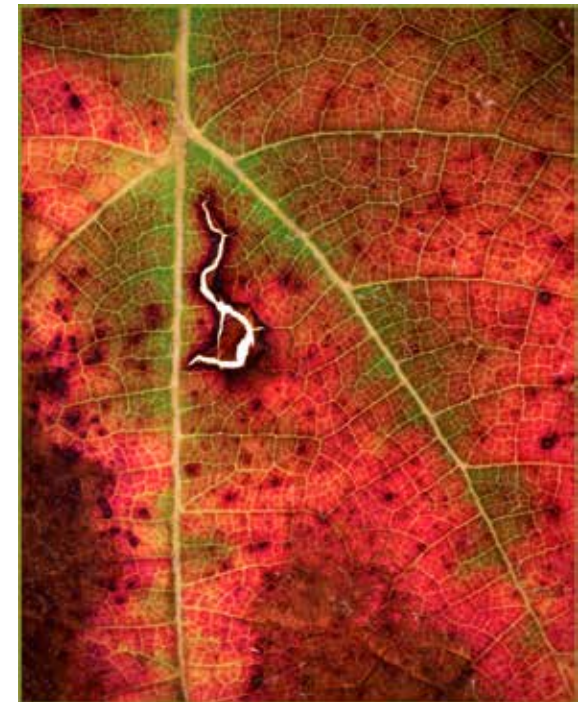


Laura Richards

© Laura Richards



Janet Cunningham



© Janet Cunningham

Trinity Arts Photo Club Competitions

January Topic: Open

Entry Deadline: **January 1**

No assigned topic. Challenge yourself with the camera and/or with post-processing. Try something new.

2021 Competition Topics

February – Still Life

Utilize your full control over lighting, mood, and composition to create your own work of art with inanimate, everyday subjects.

March – Architecture (Inside or Out)

Not simply photography of a building's façade—architecture photography focuses on the beauty of design and small details. Consider quality of light and the right angles, and show a building's distinct character.

April – High- or Low-Key Images

Contrast is king! High- or low-key images are a creative tool that will lend style and mood to your photos in very different ways.

May – Open

June – Images That Say Texas!

Be as creative as possible and show us what you think makes Texas...well, Texas!

July – Composing with Curves

Curves are natural compositional aids for photographers—they draw a viewer into a frame and help lead them to a chosen point in the image.

August – Long Exposure Images

Show us your technical photography skills. Long-exposure photography uses a longer shutter speed to capture, blur, or obscure moving elements. Aim for an exposure of two seconds or longer.

September – Open

October – Procrastinator's Delight

Topic will be chosen from a hat at the August meeting.

November – Portrait (People or Animals)

Try to capture the personality of your subject by using effective lighting, backdrops, and poses.



Meet our January judge

Randall Patterson gave us a fantastic presentation in September on bird photography. You can see his images at birdsiviewtexas.com



“Beginner” Photographer of the Year – Laura Richards



© Laura Richards

How long has photography been a hobby?

I have always enjoyed taking photos. When I was nine, I got a Kodak Instamatic and have taken photos ever since. In other words, a long time.

What kind of camera do you use?

I am shooting with a Sony a7iii, which I just got recently. A lot of the photos I submitted for the competitions were taken with a Panasonic DMC-FZ1000.

What’s your favorite kind of photography to shoot?

Wildlife and birds, because I like the challenge and there are always surprises when you look at the photos.

What do you enjoy most about being in TAPC?

I have enjoyed the monthly presentations and competitions equally because they have helped improve my photography.

What are your aspirations?

To take better pictures and learn more techniques.

What’s the biggest challenge you’ve overcome?

I have many challenges and I have improved on some of them, but I still feel that I haven't overcome any yet. That is my motivation to keep taking photos.

What is a skill you’ve yet to learn that you’d like to master?

I want to catch birds in flight without showing any of the movement.

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© Laura Richards



© Laura Richards

© Laura Richards





© Laura Richards



© Laura Richards

Check out more of Laura's winning images on page 10.

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What's the best photography advice you've ever received?

There isn't one piece of advice that's helped me. It's a gathering of a variety of info and putting it together that helps me be a better photographer. For example, I was told recently to use spot metering to help with the exposure when the lighting was poor on a bird. It was a small change, but it made a difference.

Anything else you want to share?

I had heard of the golden hour, but I never really considered it when taking photos until we had the competition. Now I look at photos from other photographers and see how many are taken at that time and how rich the colors are. The competitions push you to take photos that you don't normally take and I've enjoyed that.

My favorite photo:

I couldn't believe for once I was in the right spot at the right time and the action was in focus.

© Laura Richards



© Laura Richards



"Advanced" Photographer of the Year – Janet Cunningham

© Janet Cunningham



How long has photography been a hobby?

I started with a basic photography class at Colleyville Park & Rec in 2012 and was encouraged to join TAPC in 2013.

What kind of camera do you use?

I started with a Canon G12 which I used for several years. Now I shoot with a Canon

70D and various lenses, or if space/weight is a concern I also have a Canon GX1.

What's your favorite kind of photography to shoot?

Flowers, macro, abstract, water, still life, the beach, food, Lensbaby....shall I go on?

What's the biggest challenge you've overcome?

Finding the time to educate myself on camera technique and editing skills There is SO much information on the internet!

What are your aspirations?

I'd like to experience some photography workshops and plan to attend Texas School this coming April for a week of intensive photography education.

What is a skill you've yet to learn that you'd like to master?

I'd like to master photographing something moving. I always say, "I'd prefer that my subjects stand still!"

What do you enjoy most about being in TAPC?

I really enjoy our speakers and the variety of information they share. I also love that we have monthly topic challenges—it gets you out of your "comfort zone."

What's the best photography advice you've ever received?

Look at other photographer's images. Flickr is a great platform for this. I look

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© Janet Cunningham

© Janet Cunningham



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at the "Explored" Flickr images every morning for inspiration and keep the photos I really like in Galleries.

Anything else you want to share?

The most beneficial thing I have done to improve my photography and expand my creativity was to join a weekly Flickr challenge group. For the past four years, I have been in various weekly groups where a new theme is presented each week. The idea is to take and post your image that week. This makes me get my camera out every week and put some thought into the theme. Group members and moderators are very supportive. It is not a contest but a weekly exercise in creativity.



© Janet Cunningham

Another of Janet's winning images is on the cover of this newsletter.



© Janet Cunningham



© Janet Cunningham

My favorite photo:

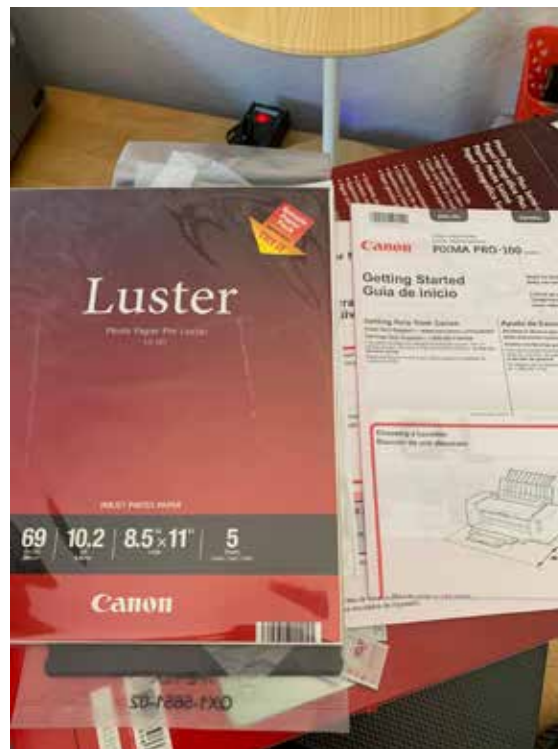
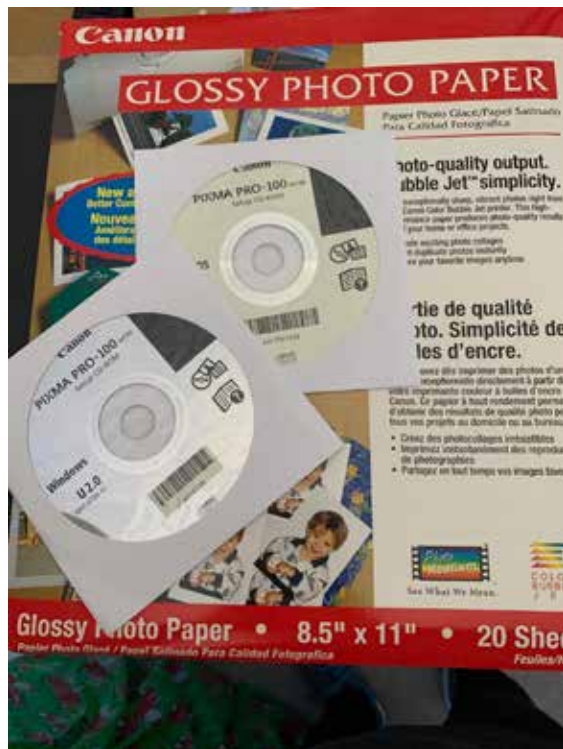
I shot this image with a Lensbaby Velvet 56 (a manual focus lens) for a weekly Flickr theme of "Lens Flare." I had never tried this technique before, and I laid on the ground and shot directly into the sun. I was fortunate to receive a First Place ribbon in TAPC with this image.

For Sale

CANON PRO-100 Printer

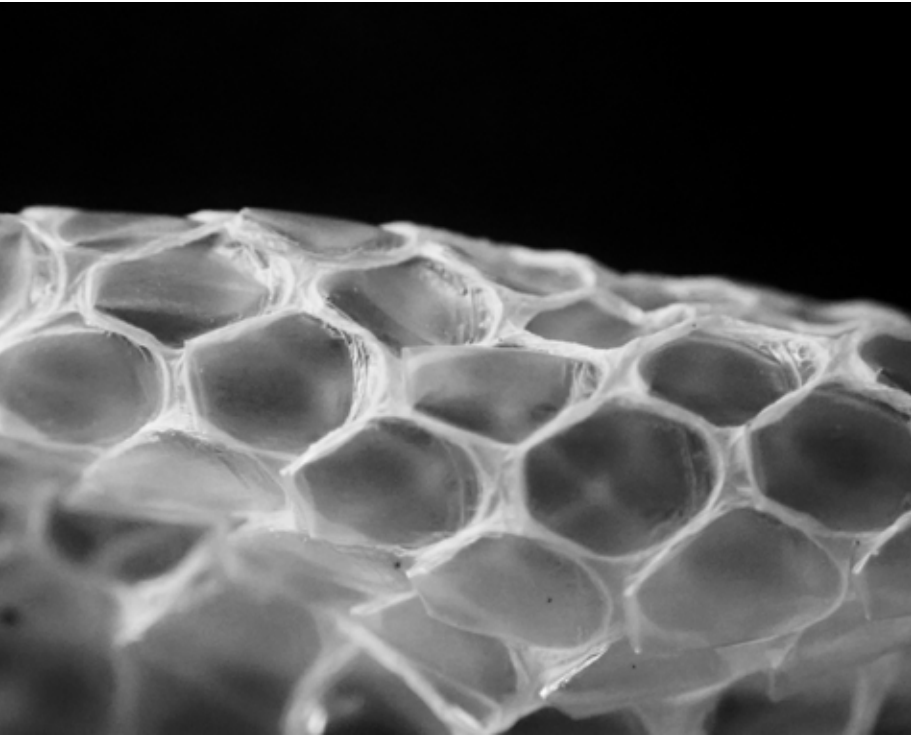
Never used, never plugged into the wall. Comes with all of the manuals and photo paper. Sells for \$548. I am asking \$450. I will also entertain reasonable offers.

[Learn more](#) about this printer. Please contact me by phone 817-368-2244 or email: misti.traveling@gmail.com.



Beginner

November Contest Winners – “Patterns in Nature”



© Frances Clements

1st Place *Snakeskin* Frances Clements

*“This image is of a snake skin I found at work. I took it with my Olympus TG5 and edited it with the Snapseed app.”
(f/3.4, 1/50, ISO 1600, no flash)*

- Frances Clements



2nd Place & People's Choice Award
Floral Kaleidoscope
Laura Richards



© Laura Richards

3rd Place *Feathers* Laura Richards



© Laura Richards



© Robert Sharp

Honorable Mention
Rise Robert Sharp

Advanced

November Contest Winners – “Patterns in Nature”



© Bill Webb

*“Taken at the Old Rock Kirke near St. Olaf, Texas. The star trails are made by stacking 138, 15-second exposures.”
(f/2.8, ISO 1600)*

- Bill Webb

1st Place *As the World Turns* Bill Webb

© David Roberts



3rd Place *Badlands* David Roberts

People’s Choice Award
Tracks of My Tears Chandra Brooks



© Chandra Brooks



2nd Place
Green and Mean Mark Lenz



© Mark Lenz

Honorable Mention
Tangled Mangesh Sangapu



© Mangesh Sangapu

The Story Behind the Photo

"I had the opportunity to go on the James River in Virginia where osprey and bald eagles are frequent visitors. I wanted to be sure I'd catch them in flight, so before we got on the boat I had my camera settings locked in. Most cameras allow specific settings to be mapped to a custom button enabling an effortless change of settings. My shutter speed was 1/2500. (It should be at least 1/1600 to 1/2000 for most birds in flight). Aperture was set at f/8.0 for a good depth of field on the bird but less detail in the background. ISO was set at 800 since we had good morning light. I also made sure my camera was set to Continuous AF, wide-area tracking, and its highest frame rate.

"Photographing birds in flight is always a challenge. I was surprised at just how fast these amazing creatures really are. When they spot a fish and tuck their wings to drop to the water, it's a challenge to even keep them in the frame. The key is to lock focus and start tracking the birds as soon as possible. I use back button focus, so I would pick a target bird, hold focus, and track them until I saw a flight position I liked. Then I would start to shoot and follow the action.

"Often multiple birds are making hunting passes and there really isn't any time to fuss with settings. It helps to know your camera, be able to change settings without looking, know how its AF system works, understand the behavior of your species, and just practice. If you're interested in osprey, Mark Smith has a [YouTube channel](#) with some fantastic videos."

- Chandra Brooks



© Chandra Brooks

Sunlit Wings Chandra Brooks (1/2500, f/8.0, ISO 800, Sony A9, 100-400 GM)