



August 2018 Presidents' Letter

Dear Members,

A few weeks ago, when responding to our usual "why are you here?" question, a prospective member talked about seeking a group of people who shared her interest in photography and where she could continue to grow her own skills as a photographer.

I smiled when I heard that because that's exactly what drew me to the club almost ten years ago – and why I know a lot of us landed here. I thought back to the very first image I submitted in competition about two months later (when I'd gathered enough courage to put myself out there for public critique). I recall being amazed that the judge awarded it 3rd or HM, but I also left feeling inspired by the other truly great photographs others were submitting.

Over the years, I've grown to appreciate how valuable this club is. I've made great friends and have had opportunities to shoot with and share ideas with dozens of you. Each month I've been able to take advantage of the many opportunities the club offers for inspiration, feedback and learning through our competition and education nights, SIG's and Meetups, field trips, gallery shows, and message boards. And when I look back at the images I made a decade ago, it's clear just how much I've learned and consequently, how much better my craft has become.

Through your images, we travel the world and explore places we can only hope to get to. Namibia, Mongolia, Antarctica, the Galapagos. The slices of culture that emerge in these images are stunning and the opportunity to share these experiences are far more meaningful to me than simply being in competition.

August 2018

So too are the jaw-dropping nature images. And while seeing unique animals and natural beauty from around the world never ceases to amaze, it's also striking just how many of these images are captured right here in Northern California.

Like probably most of you, the challenge of the many competition categories has pushed me to expand the range of my photography into areas beyond my original comfort zone. And to up my game in both post-processing and, gulp, printing! Finally having the time and courage in the last year or two to start printing and displaying (and occasionally selling) images has been an entirely new learning curve.

As we transition from our foggy August into what we hope will be our usual San Francisco "summer" in early fall, Marnie and I are looking forward to exploring our own new photographic opportunities, but, especially, to seeing the new crop of images that will be returning from our members' summer travels. See you in September!

Steve

Editor's Note

Welcome readers to the August issue of Focal Plane News.

I found Steve's "Presidents Letter" this month very interesting as it is a personal one on how his photography has evolved, for the better, since he joined MPC. We believe other members of the Club will also have experienced positive development of their photographic and image making skills since joining. We would thus love to hear about them. As a first step, I would invite you to please send me your experiences so that we can include them in future issues of Focal Plane.

Below you will find Steve Ziman's article on Travel to Vietnam (Page 7) and information for the aspiring Oscar Award seekers amongst us to start work on your slide show for the upcoming Pot Luck Supper in November (Page 8).

I have also included in this edition the news that one of our members, Catherine d'Alessio, has won a Highly Honored award in the African Wildlife Category of the prestigious 2018 Windland Smith Rice International Awards competition. (Page 9). Congratulations Catherine.

Information on the Street Photography SIG, together with web links, is provided.

Noel Isaac

"Images of the Month - August"



Spiritual Devotion

Wendy Hannum

Projected Images - Monochrome - Intermediate

Judge: Eric Ahrendt

Behind the Image: When I was in Bagan, Myanmar, the city of 1000 temples, we photographed young novices from the local monastery in some of the ancient temples. We needed lots of candles and leveraged what natural light there was; without them it was pitch black. We had to work fast before losing our light and the boys.

Camera settings: I shot with the Nikon d810, 24-70 lens at 24mm, ISO 1000, 1/100 sec at f4.

[...Wendy Hannum](#)



Mind the Gap

Catherine d'Alessio

Print Color Pictorial - Advanced

Judge: Roger Johnson

Behind the Image: I was out killing time in Montgomery Bell State Park, TN (outside of Nashville) in July playing with my little Canon EOS M5 mirrorless (crop sensor) with the little EF M 55-200 mm IS lens when I saw this bug on the black eyed Susan flowers. The bug's very slow movements let me play with the plane of the touchscreen to adjust the focus to the exact spot to get the effect I wanted. Settings: ISO 250, 200 mm, f/7.1 at 1/320 sec.

[...Catherine d'Alessio](#)

MPC Event Calendar

- **Monday, September 10th: Projected Competition**
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **There is NO Education Night in September**
- **Monday, September 17th: Print Competition**
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Thursday, September 13th: MPC Board Meeting****
11:00am @ GGCS Meeting Room, First Presbyterian Church †
1505 Mission Ave. San Rafael.
- **Thursday, September 27th: Street SIG Meeting (See the next page)**
6:30pm @ GGCS Meeting Room, First Presbyterian Church †
1505 Mission Ave. San Rafael.

Editor's Note:

**Any member of MPC can attend the monthly Board Meetings. If you have any questions or subjects that you would like it to discuss, please put them into writing and send an e-mail to one of the two Presidents.

Monthly minutes of the MPC Board are posted shortly after being approved at the following month's Board meeting. Copies can be found in the Club and Committee Information section of the website <http://tinyurl.com/ya9kkbb6> here: "Board Info>Board Minutes>2018 Board Minutes"

New Members to the MPC

Please join us in welcoming the following new Members to the Club:

Competing Members:

Alan Wylde

Fran Muelle

Laurie Thompson

Associate Members:

Sarah Thomson

Candace O'Bryan



Do introduce yourselves to new members at upcoming MPC events and competition nights.

The MPC Street SIG

The next Street SIG will meet at **6:30pm on Thursday, August 23th** at the GGCS Classroom in San Rafael.

The challenge for August centers on The Decisive Moment.
For details go to: <https://goo.gl/vuve6N>.

Additional details and upload directions are in the Street Photography SIG. (<https://goo.gl/VgHu1Y>)

An introduction to MPC's Street SIG can be found through the following link:
(<https://goo.gl/kpofqr>)

[Doug Kaye & Steve Disenhof](#)

The Outside Photography World

EXHIBITS in the Bay Area:

- [This Land](#)@ Pier 24
- [Current Exhibitions](#). @ the Harvey Milk Photo Center.
- [Current Exhibitions](#) @ SF Camerawork
- [Current Exhibitions](#) @ Cantor Arts Center

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS:

- [Harvey Milk Photo Center](#)
- [Point Reyes National Seashore Association](#)
- [The Image Flow](#)
- [Photo Arts Marin](#)

NOTE:

Do you know another location with great classes and/or workshops?
Please send the information to:focalplanenewsletter@gmail.com

MPC Member Websites

Want to see more photos of our members, please visit their websites, the list is [here](#):

<https://focalplanenewsletter.wordpress.com/member-websites/>

If you want to add your website to the list, please send a request to focalplanenewsletter@gmail.com

Traveling to Vietnam - Steve Ziman

I have had a desire to travel to Vietnam for quite a while. Like many others, I was in the Vietnam (or from the Vietnamese perspective, the American) war generation.

Though I was in the first lottery in 1968, I was not drafted, but friends and relatives served there, and I read many books about the French Indochina war and the American war. So, I finally decided to go.



My normal mode of travel, where photography is a prime objective, is to go with one friend who has a similar interest in photography, and find a travel company that takes small groups, and has knowledgeable in-country guides. As with a trip to Myanmar, I went back to Peregrine Adventures, an Australian travel firm, and booked their Vintage Vietnam trip in February 2017, which is the dry season, and as a bonus, the end of Tet, the Vietnamese New Year. This trip was a total of 15 days with hotels and some meals



included, and a land cost \$ 2500. The itinerary took us from the southern part of Vietnam, the Mekong Delta, Saigon, and up the coast, with names of cities and towns that filled the evening news in the late 1960s and early 70s - Cameron Bay, Nha Trang, Hoi An, Hue, Hanoi and Ha Long Bay, close to HaiPhong . As luck would have it, we had a total of 4 people along with our guide, Son. Son was a child at the beginning of the American war, and his father and uncle were

in the Army of Vietnam, and consequently, on the losing side. He grew up in the highlands and spent time in a refugee camp in Laos, and then was sent to the Mekong Delta. Fortunately for us, he was extremely knowledgeable, and with lots of free time in each location, gave us good advice on places to go to see local attractions with lots of photographic potential. And we had a lot of time on drives between locations to talk about the war and postwar. [.....read more.](#)

**MARIN PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER
NOVEMBER 11, 2018**

Potluck Slideshow

Members,

Our potluck dinner is two and a half months away (Nov. 11)...plenty of time for you to put your slideshow (with music) together to impress and please other members.

The "Nitty Gritty" :

- The deadline for submitting slideshows is Nov. 5
- Slideshows should have a runtime of between 3 to 5 minutes
- Be sure to include a program opening with the slideshow title and your name
- Acceptable video file formats are: MPEG2, MOV, AVI, MPEG4
- Submit your file to the following upload link:
<https://spaces.hightail.com/uplink/DigitalVideoDimensions>

Please direct any technical questions to Alan Kolsky, the video editor who has offered to put all our slideshows together. His contact information is:

E-mail: Alan@DigitalVideoDimensions.com

Phone: 415-893-9070

Alan will be giving a brief presentation on "Creating your slideshow" sometime in the near future. Please check with Steve for time and date.

Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Thank you,

Steve Weissberg
Member 2015
s_weissberg@mac.com

Nature's Best Photo Award

Catherine d'Alessio is very excited to announce that her photo of Burchell's Zebras has been selected as a "Highly Honored" photo in the African Wildlife Category of the 2018 Windland Smith Rice International Awards competition. It will be displayed in this fall's Smithsonian Museum of Natural History Exhibition, Washington, DC, and published in the 2018 Fall/Winter Special Collectors' Edition of Nature's Best Photography magazine, going to press next month.

Selected from more than 26,000 images from photographers in 59 countries, the judges chose the finalists in each category. Approximately 1,000 photos made it into the semi-final round of judging to select the 123 current winners and highly honored images.

Following is a PDF of the announcement of all the winning and honored images.

Visit their website: <https://www.naturesbestphotography.com/index.php>





2018 NATURE'S BEST PHOTOGRAPHY
WINDLAND SMITH RICE INTERNATIONAL AWARDS
WINNERS & HIGHLY HONORED FINALISTS

*The Editors of Nature's Best Photography magazine are proud to announce the photographers in the 2018 Fall / Winter edition. *Images/videos below with an asterisk will appear in the Smithsonian Exhibition.*

GRAND PRIZE:

Nelis Wolmarans, Port Elizabeth, South Africa

*Mountain Gorilla and Baby

YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR:

Isaac Spotts, Jackson Hole, Wyoming, USA

*Bull Moose Trio

CATEGORY WINNERS:

AFRICA: Arby Lipman, *African Bush Elephant

BIRDS: Petr Bambousek, *Jabiru and Nest

CONSERVATION STORY: Marco Gaiotti, *Sumatran Orangtuan

LANDSCAPES: Chase Dekker, *Edith Creek Sunset, Mt. Rainier NP, WA, USA

OCEANS: Claudio Contreras Koob, *Gray Whale

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE: Mark Chen, *Hiking Proxy Falls, OR, USA

POLAR PASSION: Andy Rouse, *Polar Ice Formation

WILDLIFE: Tin Man Lee, *Silver Fox

VIDEO/NATURE IN MOTION: Howard and Michele Hall, *Filtering Giants film

HIGHLY HONORED

AFRICAN WILDLIFE HIGHLY HONORED:

Alain Ernoult (African Elephant)

Andy Rouse (*Cheetah and Cub)

Arby Lipman (Gemsbok)

Benjamin Walls (*Grevy's Zebra Hide - on signage)

Catherine Dobbins D'Alessio (*Burchell's Zebras)

Cristobal Serrano (*Lesser Flamingos)

Deborah Albert (Nile Crocodile)

Gabriela Staebler (African Ostriches)

Ifham Raji (*African Lion and Cape Buffalo)

Johan J Botha (Bearded Vulture)

Koki Shinoda (African Lion)

Lance van de Vyver (Temminck's Ground Pangolin)

Marco Mercuri (Cheetah and Impala)

Patrick Pevey (*Warthog Chase, Baby Elephants)

Richard Peters (*Serval)

Willem Kruger (Southern Pale Chanting Goshawk)

William Woolam (*Mountain Gorilla)

BIRDS HIGHLY HONORED:

Ann Gillis (Tufted Puffin)

Carol Grenier (Osprey)

Connor Stefanison (*Great Gray Owls)

Cortez Austin (Rainbow Lorikeet)

Lucas Bustamante (*Indian Peafowl)

Michal Krause (*Black-naped Monarch)

Randall Link (American Kestrel)

Ronald Shue (Arctic Terns)

Continued on next page