Contest: Reflections through Photos

Sometimes there's more to a photo than meets the eye. Maybe your picture was inspired by a childhood memory. Or you were having a banner day and set out to snap a celebration. This month, we'd love for you to share your reflections with us. You might even take "reflections" literally, it's completely and creatively up to you. Just let us know how the image came to be and why it is important to you by January 26th 2013 and could win a free copy of Adobe® Photoshop® Lightroom® 4 and $100 towards a Blurb book. We'll also publish the photo in Popular Photography magazine. Here are some tips to get you started.
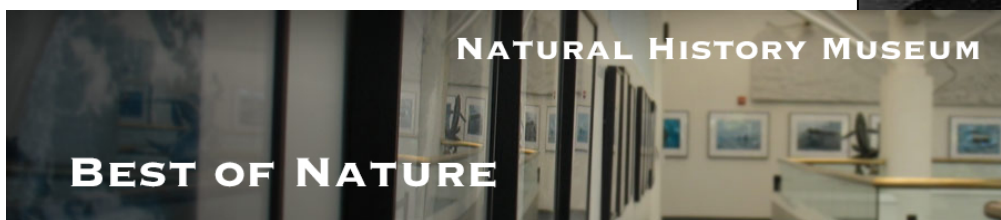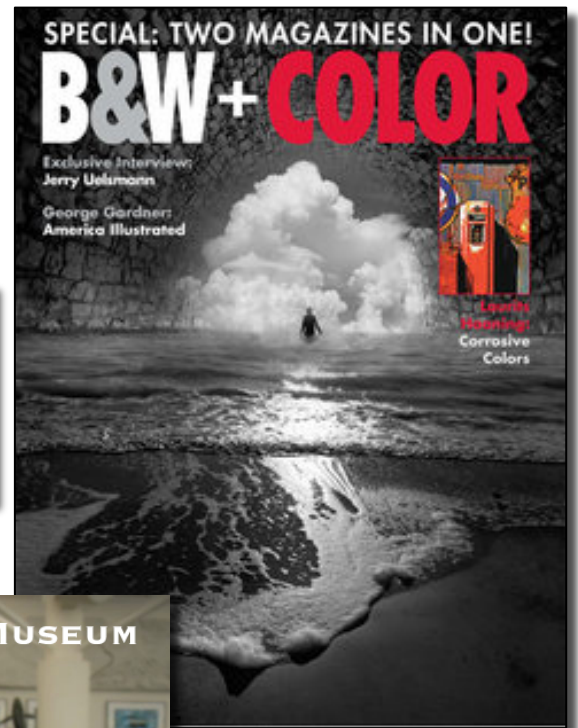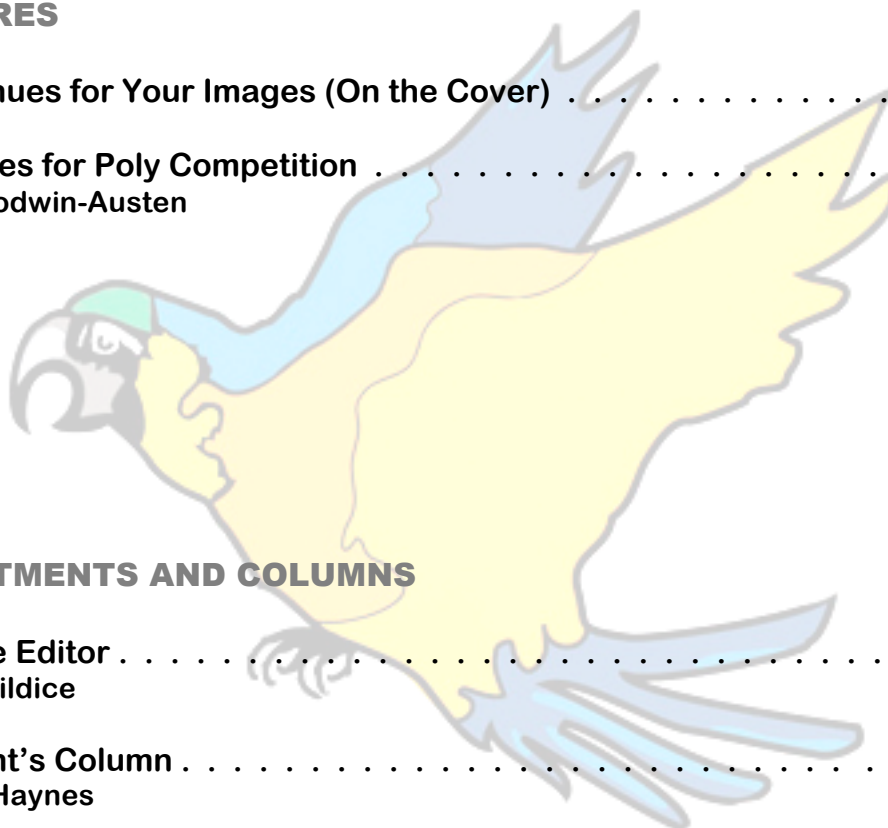

In this Issue – Exhibition Opportunities

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News and Views of Poly Photo Camera Club Members

January/February, 2014   Volume 5, No.1

From the Editor

This issue (for January and February) is our first for 2014. Publishing of a January edition would occur right in the middle of the Christmas and New Year holidays and many of us are occupied with the holidays and the year end. So you may find commentaries about the accomplishments of last year and our expectations for 2014.

Of course, when we start a new year, our thoughts naturally go toward new beginnings, resolutions, and opportunities. So this edition will include some issues and events that are upcoming.

When photographers look ahead, we are often fascinated by the new technologies that are blossoming "before our eyes." We'll talk about some of them in future issues.

Also, as we head into the New Year, there are also opportunities for participation in competitions and exhibitions that are outside of Poly's internal ones.

SCACC is now in the planning stages for one that will feature images from all the local clubs and will also be open to non-affiliated photogrphers; something like the "*Scott Watson Salon*" was a few years ago. It should be challenging and very interesting.

Our cover this month shows the best known of the established local, juried exhibitions, and examples of photo magazines that publish reader's images. So you can expand your horizons, and exhibit your best images in venues in addition to the Poly competitions. You might even win some cash or sell a few.

I (along with a few of you) attended Scott Kelby's "Shoot Like a Pro" workshop last month. I thought it was really terrific. It lasted all day, and I never got tired or bored. Scott is a great lecturer/teacher; he was enthuastic, knowledgeable, and funny; and his approach to photography is immensely practical. I usually think of him as the head "Photoshop Guy," but I learned a lot about the picture-taking side of photography from him at this workshop. One of the things that impressed me the most was his practical approach to everything, from equipment choices, to lighting setups, to travel kits, to actually taking pictures. He could write a whole book, just on his photography ideas (not even including Photoshop).

In fact, he has – four Volumes of "*Scott Kelby's Digital Photography Book*." One review said, "*If all you want to know is the how of the thing, and not the why or technical background, these books are for you*." That's a good description of his workshop. We'll be writing about some of the best of his experience-proven ideas in future issues.

We also want to remind you about the requirements for Poly's monthly competition entries. Bill wrote them down a couple of years ago as a reminder, and we usually republish them at the beginning of the year. I think it will help our newer members who are just starting in competition. It's also good that we all review them, to make sure that we haven't fallen into any bad habits through the year.

Finally, we're approaching the end of January, so it's time to start thinking about your entries for the San Diego County Fair Exhibition of Photography (especially if you want to compete in the "Fair Theme" category). I know it seems early, the Fair's not until June. But the deadline for registration and digital image submittal will be in mid-April; so that leaves only about ten weeks to get your act together. Remember, you need to take and/or select high-imapact images that will make good prints if you want to hang pictures in this exhibition.

President's Column
By Alan Haynes

Welcome to the Poly New Year. In preparation for my first monthly column of the year for our club newsletter, *Poly Speaks,* and its publisher Jim Mildice, I dug through my archive of old issues looking for inspiration. What I found was a reminder of my long history with the club.

I joined Poly in April, 2002. Back then Poly Speaks was published in black-and-white by Richard Pasturczak and mailed to each member via the post office. We had about two-dozen members and photographed on film and displayed on a slide projector. The world of digital photography had not yet been fully embraced by Poly. But that day was coming: we held our first digital competition in May, 2003. It was separate from the slide competition and consisted of 18 entries from six members.

I entered my first Poly competition in May, 2002 and was surprised to win first-place in the open competition that month. Maybe it was beginner's luck, but don't forget that I was only competing against about 20 other members. It took me over a year to score another first. I guess competition is harder that it seemed that first month.

After about six years of publishing, Richard was ready to pass the *Poly Speaks* baton to someone else. Since I had some experience with desktop publishing software, I took over for Richard and published my first issue in December, 2002. I revamped the look of the newsletter adding a lot of color, expanding it from two pages to four. For the next five years, I continued publishing *Poly Speaks* as a printed version and, eventually as an email-only publication. My final edition was published in May, 2007. After that, it went dormant for a few years until Jim published his first issue in January, 2010.

In November, 2004 I began my first stint as Poly president. We closed out my first term with 44 members. By the time I left office in November, 2006, we had only a few more than that.

Now it's 2014 and here I am, president again for a year, or more likely, two. I've witnessed a lot of changes in my nearly twelve years with the club. It's been exciting watching the club grow – approximately 67 members now – and seeing the increased variety and quality of our images. I can't wait to see what happens next!

Quote of the Month –

"Which of my photographs is my favorite? The one I'm going to take tomorrow."

- by Imogen Cunningham

On the Cover
By Jim Mildice

Our cover this month depicts some of the established outlets in which you can exhibit your images. We want to tell you a little about each of then, so you can plan ahead.

The "*San Diego County Fair Exhibition of Photography*" typically exhibits about 1200 images, selected from over 4000 entries, in 33 different divisions and categories; and awards cash prizes for first through fourth places in each category. Based on Fair attendance figures, your work will be seen by tens of thousands of people, so it is a great showcase.

The 2014 San Diego County Fair theme has been announced: The "*Fab Fair*" will kick off the summer of 2014 with a tribute to the **British Invasion** and music phenomena that began 50 years ago. The British Invasion refers to musical acts and other aspects of British culture that became popular during this period of time. The dates of the 2014 Fair are Saturday, **June 7** through Sunday, **July 6**.

There will be more details and specifics in future issues, or you can find out more at www.sdfair.com.
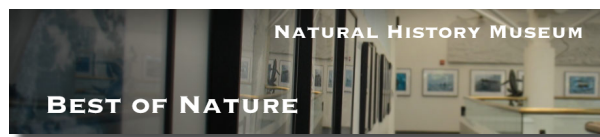
The "*Best of Nature*" exhibition in the Ordover Gallery in the Natural History Museum focuses on creative approaches to nature photography. It is a juried, international exhibition, and has significant cash awards for winners and honorable mentions. There are typically about 1200 to 1400 entries, and between 70 and 75 are hung in the Gallery.

Amateur as well as professional photographers are invited to submit nature photography to the *Best of Nature*

Photography Show. Landscape, wildlife, flora, and nature-based abstract / impressionistic images are considered. Traditional, digital, and alternative-process photographic works are reviewed. The judges are looking for images of nature without people or major indications of their presence.

You can also see examples of images selected for past exhibitions on-line at www.sdnhm.org/education/naturalists-of-all-ages/best-of-nature/


The "*Art of Photography Show*" is for photographers whose images lean toward "Post Modernism." It is an international exhibition, usually juried by "Photographic Art Museum" curators. For most of us, this means that the selected images will seem "far out." In fact, if you want to participate, you would be well-advised to read a little about "*modernism*" and "*post-modernism"* in art, to better understand the usual basis for image selection.

To quote their web site, "The Art of Photography Show is an established and critical force in the world of contemporary photography. Now in its 9th year, this presentation of world-class photography is truly exquisite. This well thought out exhibition provides value to artists at every turn, from first-rate viewing in the judging process to publication opportunities, well-attended events and lectures, photo industry connections and $10,000 in monetary awards. The judge for the 2013 exhibit was Julia Dolan, the Minor White Curator of Photography at the Portland Art Museum."

You can also see examples of images selected for past exhibitions on-line at www.artofphotographyshow.com

Photography magazines regularly publish reader images. "*Popular Photography*" is one typical example of the photo-media magazines that does so. There is always a "Share + Your Best Shot" photo contest with a specific theme. The winners are published in the magazine and get modest cash prizes.
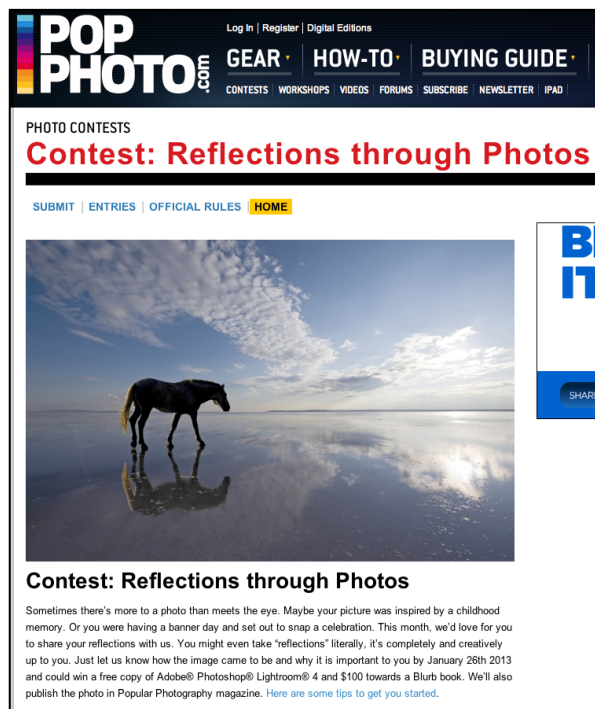
"*B&W*" or "*B&W+COLOR*" is typical of a photographic arts magazine, with a primary focus on display and publication of pictures. It publishes both single images and portfolios from its contributors, in black and white and color. They are selected through contests, and images are picked for the magazine by the editors.

Images vary from nature to abstracts to people (and everything between); but are presented more from an artistic point-of-view than human interest. They tend to emphasize art, but without falling into the trap of the unremittingly negative focus of the post-modernism of the present art world.

Submitting images to all of these outlets is easy. At the first level, all pictures are required to be digital, and they are transmitted via a web site or email. For the magazines, that is usually all that is required. The exhibits usually also charge a small fee for each image entered, which is normally paid with the digital submission.

But physical exhibitions need to hang prints. So the process there has two rounds of judging. Images are selected for the exhibition from the digital presentations, and you are then asked to submit finished prints. So unless you screw-up the printing and presentation, you picture will be hung in the gallery. The final prints are then evaluated in a second round of judging to select the top prizes and the honorable mentions.

Finally, if you wish, most exhibits also allow you to add a price to your prints, and they will sell them for you (and collect a percentage of the price), either off-the-wall or by supplying a new print to the buyer.

This and That
By Clark Winsor

Well, here we are starting off another year. We have a new president of our club, and Alan has given us a peek at his vision for Poly. It should be fun.

"Poly Speaks" is making changes too. We have more members taking an active part in the writing of our newsletter. Alan will share his vision of Poly, and Michele will keep us up to date on the competition judge for the coming month. Mary Anderson will keep us up to date on the work being done by SCACC. Darlene will be looking for feedback on the programs Poly will be offering.

And for something really new, we will sometimes have a past president's column. When I first heard this, a thought passed through my mind. Having the current president and the past president both sharing their vision, is a little like having both the current Pope and the recently retired Pope both giving their vision for the future of the church. I guess that tells you how my mind works.

As you all know by now, in 2013 I made a big change in my camera gear. I bought the new Nikon D600. It is a full frame camera with 24.3 Megapixels of resolution. With it came the user manual. It has about 300 pages of instructions on how to use the camera and how to customize the 170 custom settings to get just that right well exposed, sharp interesting image we all want to take. Needless to say, I was a little overwhelmed.

My solution was to buy another book. I checked Amazon and after reading the reviews, I selected David Busch's "Nikon D600 Guide to Digital SLR Photography." I couldn't miss now. After all, this book had 566 pages. Obviously, it went into much more detail than the little 300-page book that came with the camera. I spent a lot of time with the D600 next to me, going through the book and making changes to the setting based on the recommendations that David Busch's book was giving me.

In December, I attended Scott Kelby's "Shoot Like a Pro" seminar. The result of the seminar was more information on how to shoot like a pro. I'm still a distance away from that goal. As soon as I can figure out how to use the D600 and make well-exposed, sharp, interesting photographs, I will be on my way.

Clark

Murphy's Photography Law Number 22 –

The important things are always simple; the simple things are always hard.

SCACC News – Jan 2014
By Mary Anderson

A lot has happened in the past few months with SCACC. After President Tom Matson's passing last year, Les Anderson was elected "interim" SCACC President. As such, he put in place some goals for SCACC.

One goal is to update the SCACC web site, using it more as an introduction to the various SCACC clubs, with links to individual club websites. If a club does not have a website, it may use the SCACC website to impart information to the public. SCACC officers felt the site was more useful as a "portal", rather than an "end site", except for those clubs who otherwise have no on-line presence. As such, it would require updating less often.

Part of SCACC's responsibilities includes coordination of building use. There was discussion about the SCACC calendar, and consensus that the SCACC/PAB calendar does not need to be on a public site. A members-only area such as the SCACC Yahoo site made more sense. One person (as yet undetermined) will have responsibility for the SCACC calendar and keeping it updated so clubs can plan future use of the PAB and not step on each other's toes. Speaking of future use of the PAB, SCACC bylaws do allow a reasonable fee for use of the building.

John Watts is already using it once a month for his workshops and that provides some income for SCACC. Other photographers have expressed an interest, which will be discussed and coordinated at a later date.

At some point, SCACC bylaws need to be revised. They are bare bones at best with clarifications and modernizations needed. That is another goal for 2014, although lower down on the list.

High on the list right now is nomination of officers for 2014. The SCACC bylaws require nominations be brought to the floor at the March meeting, voted on, and officers begin their term April 1. The officers are: President, VP of Building, VP of Programs, Treasurer, and Secretary. Although not an officer position, Interclub needs a new chairperson due to Darcy Hook's resignation at the last Interclub of 2013. First Interclub competition is on March 18.

If anyone is interested in getting more involved in SCACC, please let me or any current SCACC officer know. I am the Poly rep to SCACC for the upcoming year. SCACC year-end event is April 12 (Saturday). Everyone is invited to attend. More details later as they become available.

Guidelines for Submitting Images for Poly Competition

By Bill Godwin-Austen

(Ed. Note) We published this article at the beginning of last year, and since we have several new members for this year, we decided it would be good to publish it again.

Since it's a new year, and because there have been some questions, we thought it was a good time to review the requirements for your images when you enter them in Poly Competitions. When submitting images, there are four main factors to keep in mind:
Format, Sizing, Naming, and Submitting

Format:

Images should be in JPG format, and should use the **sRGB** colorspace.

Sizing:

Our projection has a maximum resolution of 1024 pixels wide by 768 pixels high. Any images that exceed that size will be shrunk by the software to fit the 1024x768 "window," so any additional size is unnecessary, and to hold down space usage on the computer, memory usage during projection, and speed of image loading, sizing your entries to those specifications is strongly recommended.

Since it's often asked: DPI resolution (300 dpi, 72 dpi, etc.) is totally irrelevant for projection purposes. It is only a consideration when printing an image... for our uses, it is only the dimensions in pixels that are important.

Naming:

This is where the vast majority of issues arise, how to name your images before submitting.

For "Open" competition, the desired format is: **Image Title by Your Name.jpg** (Example: Autumn Trail by Ansel Adams.jpg) For "Project" competition, the first word in the filename should be "Project."

Since titles are optional (and not read), Project-acceptable filenames would be:
Project by Ansel Adams.jpg
Project for July by Ansel Adams.jpg
Project Faces by Ansel Adams.jpg

Project A Face in the Crowd by Ansel Adams.jpg

The important thing is to make sure it gets shown with the Project entries (so the first word is always "Project"); and that it's attributed to the proper photographer. **Remember, Project images must be taken after the November, 2013 announcement date to be eligible for entry in 2014.**

For readability, separating words with spaces or underscores and capitalizing main words is greatly appreciated. (Example: Autumn_Trail_by_Ansel_Adams.jpg) Due to default font issues:

- Squished-together words (Example: steamtraintodurango),
- Abbreviations (Example: LA train Sta),
- Words with strings of similar letters (illiji) are all likely to be misread.

Foreign words not widely known are likely to be misread and mispronounced in the hustle and bustle of competition.

Remember: When the images are projected at competition is often the first time I'm actually looking carefully at and reading the names, and I have to read, interpret, and pronounce them on the fly. During my download process, I'm pretty much on autopilot!

Submitting:

When your images are ready, they should be emailed to:
polyentries@yahoo.com

Send them as **attachments** to your email... I have occasionally had problems with the way Yahoo handles "embedded" images that have been "copy/pasted" into an email. All images in a single email is preferred, but sending each individually is acceptable.

Following these guidelines will go a long way to ensure that your images get where they are supposed to be, in a usable format, placed in the proper category (Open, Project), have the titles read correctly, and in general, make my life a whole lot easier.

Coming Events

February 1 – **Competition**

The subject for the Project Competition for this month is "*In the Kitchen.*"

Our Judge for this month is Bruce Mason.

Bruce is a well-known local judge and has judged for us several times over the years. He has been a judge for the San Diego County Fair Exhibition of Photography and is a past president of SCACC. For his personal photography, Bruce has a particular interest in landscapes and scenics.

February 15 – Year-End Awards Luncheon @ 11:30 AM.

It's THE event of the year!
* See your year-end competition entries – and everyone else's too - on the big screen.
* Applaud the year-end winners (maybe it's you!)
* Socialize with your fellow Poly members, our judges and friends.
* Win raffle prizes donated by local businesses.
* Show your prints and you might win a People's Choice award.
* Eat, drink and have a good time!
* Free parking.

The La Jolla Country Club is a beautiful, private venue overlooking the Pacific, located at 7301 High Ave. La Jolla.

Dress code alert: the club does not allow denim of any kind, so leave those blue jeans at home.

MENU
Order one of the following three delicious entrees:
* **Caribbean Salad** – Mesclun greens, grilled chicken, papaya, mango, strawberries, mandarin oranges with macadamia nut dressing - $22.

* **Macadamia Nut Crusted Chicken Breast** Yukon gold potatoes, seasonal vegetables, pineapple papaya marmalade with Beurre Bland sauce - $30.
* **Pappardelle Pasta Primavera (vegetarian)** Grilled fall squash, cherry tomatoes, roasted sweet peppers, avocado zesty marinara sauce with garlic toast points - $28.

Dessert is optional: **Flourless Chocolate Decadence** - Raspberry Coulis with Creme Anglaise - $10.

Cocktails and wine may be ordered at the banquet for $10 a glass. Buy drink tickets at the Country Club.

PRINT COMPETITION
Bring one unframed, mounted print no larger than 16 x 20. Matting is optional. The picture does not have to be one that was entered in Poly competition.

Everyone gets a chance to vote for their favorite image. The print with the most votes wins the coveted "Peoples' Choice" award.

REGISTRATION
Sign up now to hold your place. Guests are welcome. Bring your whole family. Prices are the same for members and guests.
To register, mail the following:
* Number of people in your party
* Menu choice for each along with their name (include dessert if desired)
* A check (made out to Poly Photo Club) for the total amount.
Send check, menu choices and names to Beverly Brock. Contact her at bbrock1@san.rr.com for her mailing address.

QUESTIONS?
If you have questions, email Diane Marinos at dianemarinos@gmail.com. Register now! We'll see you there.