

LPS INFOCUS

LOVELAND PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

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Photo by Ardeth Carlson

Club Meetings

Monthly club meetings are hybrid in-person plus Zoom; the Third Monday Review session is online only. *No passcode is needed for the online meetings*

Tuesday, May 5

LPS Board Meeting

Perkins Restaurant
2222 W. Eisenhower, Loveland
6:30 PM
Open to All

Monday, May 11

Monthly Club Meeting

Trinity United Methodist Church
801 Cleveland Avenue, Loveland
Social time 6:00 PM
Meeting 6:30–8:30 PM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/93226580276?pwd=eWxtbVYzTGpWbWlYY3lscGNwbWZRdz09>

Monday, May 18

Third Monday Photo Review

6:30–8:30 PM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/95087721084?pwd=eXlIMndWenQyaCt6WUV6RmppenlWdz09>

The LPS Board meetings are open to all members. If you are interested in seeing how your leadership team tends to club business, you are welcome to attend, although only Board members can vote.

Questions about LPS?

Email info@lps.cc



Macro May A HANDS-ON PHOTOGRAPHY ACTIVITY

ARDETH CARLSON, PROGRAMS

Our May meeting program will be an opportunity for members to practice or experiment with macro photography. The focus (pardon the word play) will be on closeup photography rather than the kind of extreme macro that examines the lines in a fly's wing! Members are invited to bring their cameras and tripods for a photo shoot for the remainder of the evening. A dedicated macro lens is not essential but the lens you use should be able to focus from a distance fairly close to your subject. A remote shutter release is also helpful.

Tables will be set up in our meeting room with a variety of objects to photograph, such as flowers, glass, feathers, and seashells, along with different backdrops, tabletop lights, and lightboxes, and water & oil setups. You are welcome to also bring objects with which you would like to experiment or can share with other photographers at the meeting. If you bring lighting or other macro tools, you might want to label them with your name.

Participants can move from station to station or spend time on their own setup. Some station setups will have a mentor available to give guidance and tips on how to do specific types of macro photography. If you don't wish to do any actual photography, you are welcome to observe the activities and perhaps take away some tips and techniques to try later.



One unique station will feature a technique called cross polarization, or photoelasticity. When a plastic object is placed between two polarizing filters oriented at 90 degrees to each other, the plastic twists the light, allowing it to pass through the second, otherwise opaque, filter, creating colors. For this station, you will need a circular polarizer for your camera lens. A second polarized light source is required to be placed behind the subject; most typical light sources do not meet that requirement, but the station setups will include this, utilizing something like a tablet or laptop, which do have polarized light, loaded with a white screen. Not all types of plastics create the rainbow colors, but clear plastic picnic utensils work well, as do some plastic containers and clear plastic gift bag filler. At our May meeting, items will be provided, or you can bring things to try out.

Member George Kindt will be bringing his macro focusing rail and explaining how to use it to shoot multiple photos for focus stacking. This technique makes it possible to take closeups of objects that are sharp in focus from front to back. Because this involves post processing for the final image, that part will not be demonstrated, but if you are interested in focus stacking utilizing images shot with a focusing rail, George can offer advice based on his extensive experience.

The meeting will be held at our usual venue in the Trinity United Methodist Church, 801 Cleveland Avenue, Loveland, in the lower level. The northwest door will be open at 5:30 if you are bringing a number of items to shoot. We will have our usual social time at 6:00 PM. After any club business is conducted and the competition results slideshow viewed, which can be joined online, the Zoom portion of the meeting will be closed, and we will utilize our meeting space for the photography activities.

This is a photo from the August 2024 macro meeting. See some of the photos that were taken at that August meeting in the September 2024 newsletter: <https://www.lps.cc/Downloads/efb10c40-1c84-4ae2-9b7c-36ecf5d1f6c8?o=y>



From the Board of Directors

Third Monday Photo Review

The Third Monday Photo Review is continuing, with Ardeth Carlson serving as interim host. Ardeth is an LPS competition judge and has been a judge for the Youth Showcase and for several PSA interclub competitions in addition to being one of the instructors for the PSA Advanced Photojournalism online course. The Third Monday meetings are participatory and provide a fun opportunity for members to share comments and suggestions on the submitted photos. Members at all levels of photography experience have enjoyed these monthly get-togethers to look at photos in a non-competitive environment. See info on page 13.

Meeting Greeters

When we have first-timers at our meetings, whether new members or guests, we would like to be sure they feel noticed and welcomed. We appreciate our greeting host Bill Lundquist and would like to add more member volunteers to help out with being a friendly face of LPS to make sure everyone has the opportunity to interact with others during our social time. If you are interested in helping welcome attendees at our meetings, email info@lps.cc.

2026 Larimer County Fair Open Class Photography

For the fourth year, Ardeth Carlson is serving as the supervisor for the county fair Open Class Photography Division and will be looking for volunteers to help with check-in of the exhibits on Tuesday afternoon, July 28, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM and to hang the photos for display on Wednesday afternoon, July 29.

Except for the judges, LPS members are free to submit their own entries; the judges do not see the names of the photographers. If you are interested in volunteering, put this on your calendar and let Ardeth hear from you; details will be provided closer to the date.

July Meeting “New Eyes” Editing

The program for the July meeting will provide another opportunity for members to participate in an activity which was last featured in 2024 which was called New Eyes for Photo Editing.

From April 26 through May 20, members are invited to submit up to 6 *unedited* photos that you believe have potential for being a very good image with some post processing edits or that have potential for a variety of processing styles. We will be looking for photos in a variety of genres (landscapes, people, animals, events, flowers, architecture, etc.).

To submit your unedited photos, go to the LPS website and under Competitions>Submit Images to a Competition, select the New Eyes #1 category. Submit your JPG photo or photos as you usually do for the competitions; title images as *your name_image title.jpg* (for example, Carlson_Rainy Day.jpg). The “New Eyes” photos will not be judged or scored, and this is not a replacement for the regular LPS July competition.

Approximately 6 of the submitted photos will be selected and put into a Google Photos folder. The June newsletter (which is published on May 25) will include a link to the folder, and members can download any or all of these photos for editing.

Images can be processed in any way, either realistically or creatively. Consider the usual adjustments such as cropping, exposure, etc., or use more complex techniques. Edit as many of the photos as desired. Title your edited images as *your name_edit_original title* (such as Sprain_Edit_Rainy Day.jpg).

The deadline for members to submit edited images is July 6 on the LPS website, under Competitions>Submit Images to a Competition, in the New Eyes #2 Edited Images category. Each member can submit up to 6 edited photos.

At the July 13 LPS meeting, edited images submitted by members will be shown for the program. The presentation time will include comments about the editing choices and group questions and discussion.

Questions about the process? Email ardeth.carlson@gmail.com.

New Members

We are happy to welcome these new members:

Rich Dunn
Nak Hyun Kim

LPS Board of Directors

ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
— J.R. SCHNELZER
VICE PRESIDENT
— DAVE CLACK
TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP
— TIM KATHKA
SECRETARY
JERRE JOHNSON

CHAIRPERSONS

PROGRAMS
— ARDETH CARLSON
COMPETITION
— ROB HUFFSMITH
WEBMASTER
MIKE TESKA
PROJECTIONIST
— BRYAN JOHNSON
NEWSLETTER
— ARDETH CARLSON
PUBLICITY
— EDEN SCHMIDT
GREETING HOST
— BILL LUNDQUIST
FIELD TRIPS
— JIM ROODE
YOUTH SHOWCASE
— RUTH SPRAIN
PSA REPRESENTATIVE
— LISA SCHNELZER
FORUM DIRECTOR
— INGRID JACOBSON
MENTOR
— OPEN

Mailing Address

Loveland Photographic Society
P. O. Box 7604
Loveland, CO 80537

Loveland Photographic Society Interest Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/237033251716/>

TECH TIPS with MIKE TESKA

Photoshop Masks Are Images Too!

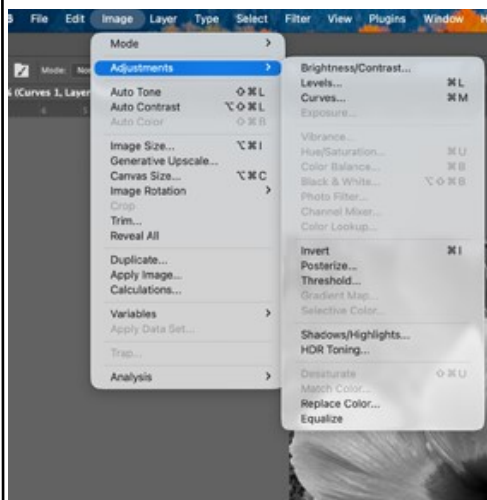
Let's continue with the discussion of masks in Photoshop. Last month, we talked about how to create luminosity masks. We could refine those luminosity masks by creating a luminosity mask of a luminosity mask. This month we'll look at another way to refine a mask, namely, using the Image/Adjustment menu.

As Dave Clack mentioned during his presentation to the club in April, you can click on a mask to select it, then go to Filter/Gaussian Blur to soften the edges of the mask. You can also use the Image/Adjustment items to modify a mask.

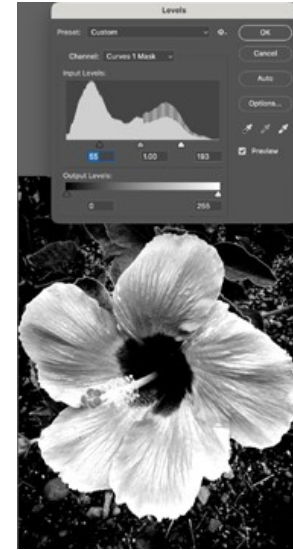
Here's the image and luminosity mask we used last month.



Let's refine the luminosity mask so it selects more of the flower and less of the background. We can do this by just clicking on the mask to select the entire mask. Then go to the Image/Adjustment menu item. You can see that we have a number of choices of how to adjust our mask! (See photo in the next column.) The Levels and Curves adjustments are the ones I primarily use to adjust a mask. Of course, Invert is also quite useful.



[Image Adjustment Menu]



For this example, I'll choose Levels to adjust the mask. To select more of the flower (make it whiter) and less of the background (make it darker), I'll slide the white (Input levels) adjustment down (to the left) and the black adjustment up (to the right). You can also experiment with the midpoint control to fine tune the levels transitions. You can see how much stronger (lighter) the flower is and how much darker the background is after the mask adjustment.



OK, we've got a better mask for selecting the flower. Why not just use "Select/Subject"? In some cases, selecting the subject might be good enough, but it is not a very nuanced nor natural looking selection. Here's the mask generated by Select/Subject on this image. Photoshop did a great job of finding the edges and creating a selection, but all the nuance and detail in the flower is missing. Let's see how this affects adjustments we might want to make to the flower.

I'm brightening the flower using a Curves adjustment. I used that exact same curves adjustment for each image, just changing the mask between the two images. As you can see, the Select/Subject mask yields a somewhat flatter image, losing some of its natural look (left photo). Using the adjusted luminosity mask, however, with the same curves adjustments yields a better, more realistic image with more depth and interest (right photo).



If you have a question about Lightroom, Adobe Camera Raw, Photoshop, or the LPS website, others no doubt have the same question. Please email me at info@lps.cc and I'll answer them. Happy editing!

Competition Corner

Submitting Pictures for Competition or the Photo Review Session

- Log on to the LPS website
- Mouse over the **Competitions** dropdown on the Home Page.
- Select **Submit images to a Competition**
- Select the Competition category or the Third Monday Photo Review
- At the bottom of the screen, click on **Upload images into the Competition.**
- Then click on the button **Select** which will open a window on your computer to select an image.
- Click on **Save Images and Proceed to Edit Page.**
- Type in a title and click on **Save any changes and return to original page.**
- You can replace any photo, up to the submission deadline, if desired.
- A photo may only be submitted once in the current year except for the “Best Of” category in December. If it has won an award, it should not be submitted in competition again in future years.

The monthly competitions allow a single image per category. The photo review session allows up to three images.

If you have questions about the monthly topic or the competition, contact the Competition Chair Robert Huffsmith at rhuffsmith2@gmail.com.

Monthly Competitions

May Competition Categories

Open Projected (included every month)
Nature (rotating PSA category)
Monthly Topic: Panoramic

Submission Deadline
Before Midnight Monday, May 4

Please keep the judging criteria in mind:

Impact—Impact is the nebulous quality of an emotional response to an image. This subjective aspect of judging should not preempt the composition or technical quality aspects.

Composition—Good composition is a pleasing arrangement of the elements in an image. There are many guidelines for good composition that judges may consider.

Technical Quality—This includes sharpness, focus, color, tonal scale, contrast, appropriate depth of field and other qualities. Consideration is also given for the effect the photographer was trying to achieve such as high key, multiple exposure, or selective focus.

Monthly Topics—The subject matter should be related in some manner to the topic. While there are no formal deductions or penalties, judges may reduce their overall score if they feel the image does not align with the monthly topic. With that said, creative interpretation is encouraged, except in categories with specific rules such as monochrome.

Open Projected—The image must begin as a photograph. From there, it is up to you. Any photograph may be entered in the Open Projected category.

May Competition Groups

Participation in a group is determined by the average of the member's 9 previous LPS competition image scores. Here are the groups for the May competition:

Group 5—Dave Clack, Max Coopwood, Russell Crawford, Chris Douglas, Bob McDonnell, Dan O'Donnell, J.R. Schnelzer, Lisa Schnelzer, Ruth Sprain, Jeff Stephenson, Mike Teska

Group 4—Gerald Baumann, James Camp, Ardeth Carlson, Kurt Flock, Rob Huffsmith, Bryan Johnson, Tim Kathka, Dave Van Riper

Group 3—Kevin Clarke, Tim Hitchcock, Jerre Johnson, Laurie Paulik, Renee Perran, Marc Rochkind, Alan Schuppan, Wayne Snodderly

Group 2—Dan Kozlowski

All other members will compete in Group 1 until the member has 9 submitted images *within a 12-month period* that reach an averaged score for a different group. An individual member's competition group might vary from month to month.

Best of Show and Award of Merit will be given in Groups 2-5, and those photos will be published in the LPS InFocus newsletter.

Group Range of 9-Score Averages

Group 5 > 22.3
Group 4 <= 22.3
Group 3 <= 21.3
Group 2 <= 20.0

Monthly Topics

These remaining monthly topics are listed alphabetically rather than chronologically; this is not the order in which they will be scheduled:

Abandoned Places
Fall Fantasies
Floral Fantasies
Minimalism
People Doing Things
Trees and More Trees

LPS General Competition Rules

All images used in competition must be the property of the member and must be photographs or combinations of photographs that were taken by the member. Other photographic material from other sources is not permitted to be used unless specified in a monthly or other special topic.

1. The photographic image may not be a reproduction of another artist's work. The image entered must be the photographer's original work. If another work of art is visible in the photograph, it cannot be the central theme or message of the photograph. If the judges determine the artwork is the central theme, the image will be scored accordingly.
2. All images must begin with a photograph. They may not be totally computer generated.
3. Members may only enter in one level.
4. Images may only be entered once in a given year (except for the year-end competition where they must be entered in the same level and category as originally entered). Images that don't earn an award may be entered again the following year. Images that win any award may not be entered again.
5. Promotions to higher levels are based on a member's average score for their last 9 images during the past 12 months. If a member has less than 9 entries in the past year, their average score calculation will be padded with zeros. A member cannot win an award unless they have at least 9 entries in the past year. Competition level limits will be adjusted each year to avoid having everyone grouped into the same one or two levels.
6. There are five competition levels with 1 being the starting group and 5 being the highest score averages group.
7. All members will start out at Level 1, and they can only move up to another level once they have submitted a minimum of 9 images to competitions in the past 12 months.
8. Student members may only enter at Level 1.

9. By entering images in a Loveland Photographic Society competition the photographer gives Loveland Photographic Society non-exclusive right to use the image for purposes related to promotion of the Loveland Photographic Society and for benefit of the members. For example: these images may be used in slide shows or other presentations to the members and to outside parties for the purpose of promoting the Loveland Photographic Society.

*The LPS General Competition Rules are posted on the LPS website under **Competitions>Image Competition Overview**.*

LPS Judge Qualifications

LPS competitions are judged by a panel of three people who meet the qualifications to critique photos in a knowledgeable manner. This means that judges should have significant experience as a photographer and some familiarity with a variety of photographic genres and/or experience as a photography judge.

It is important for judges to have a good understanding of the elements that comprise a well composed photograph, the ability to recognize aspects of an image that could be improved, and the ability to explain their critiques.

While the judges are most often members of LPS, it is also acceptable to use the services of non-member judges. LPS judges generally critique and score between 50 to 75 photos between Tuesday morning and Thursday at midnight the week before the meeting and need to be available to help break any ties for BOS.

If you are interested in being an LPS judge, contact Rob Huffsmith, the Competition Chair, at rhuffsmith2@gmail.com.

Final determination whether prospective judges meet the required skill set is within the authority of the Competition Chair. Judges who meet the qualifications must go through training that is specific to our club competitions.

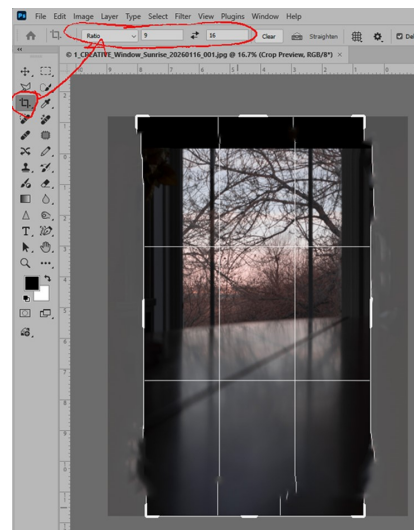
*The Judge Training PowerPoint is on the website at **Competitions>Detailed Rules>Judge Training***

Panorama Images

Panorama photography especially lends itself to the sweeping vista of a landscape or the architectural grandeur of a building but can also create an interesting linear effect to different kinds of subjects.

Creating a panoramic image often employs the technique of shooting multiple, slightly overlapping, images of a subject, moving the camera in a horizontal or vertical line, and then stitching the images together in post-processing to create a single image that is wider than it is high (or higher than it is wide). Other unique uses of creating a panorama image include stitching multiple photos of a person or animal in action, almost the effect of a timelapse in a single image. Many cameras, especially phone cameras, have a built-in panorama feature.

A panoramic effect can also be created from a single image that is cropped to an aspect ratio of, for instance, 16:9, 4:2, 2:1 or 3:1.



In Photoshop, go to the crop tool and in the options box, select Ratio and enter the desired numbers in the height and width boxes.

Contact the Competition Chair Rob Huffsmith at rhuffsmith2@gmail.com if you have further questions about the May competition.

Nature Competition Rules

ARDETH CARLSON

Our club utilizes the PSA competition rules for our nature competition category, which are as follows:

“Nature Division

“PSA/FIAP Nature Definition

“Nature photography records all branches of natural history except anthropology and archaeology. This includes all aspects of the physical world, both over water and underwater. Nature images must convey the truth of the scene. A well-informed person should be able to identify the subject of the image and be satisfied that it has been presented honestly and that no unethical practices have been used to control the subject or capture the image. Images that directly or indirectly show any human activity threatening a living organism’s life or welfare are not allowed.

“The most important part of a Nature image is the nature story it tells. High technical standards are expected and the image must look natural.

- Objects created by humans, and evidence of human activity, are allowed in Nature images only when they are a necessary part of the Nature story.
- Photographs of human-created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domesticated animals, human-created hybrid animals, and mounted or preserved zoological specimens are not allowed.
- Photographs made where the scene is natural and the animal is unharmed in a carefully managed environment, such as Zoo, rescue centers, and ethically managed natural environment farms are permitted.
- Attracting or controlling subjects through the use of food or sound for the purpose of photographing them is not allowed. Maintained situations such as provided supplemental food due to hardship caused by weather conditions or other conditions beyond the animals' control, where photography is incidental to the feeding of the animal does not fall under this provision.

- Controlling live subjects by chilling, anesthetic, or any other method of restricting natural movement for a photograph is not allowed.
- Human-made elements shall be permitted under the following circumstances:
 - a) When they are an integral part of the nature story, such as a songbird singing atop a fence post, a manmade object used as nest material, or a weather phenomenon destroying a man-made structure.
 - b) When they are a small but unavoidable part of the scene, such as an unobtrusive footprint or track in the background.
 - c) Scientific tags, collars, and bands are specifically allowed.

“When photographing at a zoo, sanctuary, or rehabilitation center, it would be construed that the photographer ensured that it’s properly accredited and conforms to best practices.

“Nature Editing Guidelines:

Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible, except that conversion to grayscale monochrome is allowed.

“Allowed editing techniques:

- Cropping, straightening and perspective correction.
- Removal or correction of elements added by the camera or lens, such as dust spots, noise, chromatic aberration and lens distortion.
- Global and selective adjustments such as brightness, hue, saturation and contrast to restore the appearance of the original scene.
- Complete conversion of color images to grayscale monochrome.
- Blending of multiple images of the same subject and combining them in camera or with software (exposure blending or focus stacking)
- Image stitching—combining multiple images with overlapping fields of view that are taken consecutively (panoramas)

“Editing techniques that are not allowed:

- Removing, adding to, moving or changing any part of an image, except for cropping and straightening.
- Adding a vignette during processing.
- Blurring parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene.
- Darkening parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene.
- All conversions other than to complete grayscale monochrome.
- Conversion of parts of an image to monochrome, or partial toning, desaturation or over-saturation of color.”

Although PSA does not disallow borders on a nature image, judges may take into consideration whether the border, if any, distracts from the subject or itself becomes part of the subject. For LPS competitions, if a border is used, it should be simple, narrow and neutral, i.e. black, gray, or white, and not stylized.

If you have more questions about the nature competition, contact Competition Chair Rob Huffsmith at rhuffsmith2@gmail.com.

2026 PSA Annual Exhibitions Invitation to Submit Entries

You do not need to be a member of PSA to participate in the annual exhibitions, and entry is open now.

Competition categories include 5 digital exhibitions, 5 print exhibitions, and one 3D exhibition. Each exhibition has its own rules of entry and entry forms, details, sections, and closing date.

The entry fee of \$5 per section is probably as low as you will find anywhere, and winning images are included in an online gallery.

You can find full information and details at <https://psaphotoworldwide.org/page/psa-annual>

LPS April Competition Winners

All photos can be viewed on the LPS website under Competition Results. Select a competition and check the box "Display All." Click on an individual photo for an enlarged image and to see critiques, if any. Thank you to the April judges Ardeth Carlson, Kurt Flock, and Ingrid Jacobson.



BOS Open, Group 4
Dan O'Donnell



BOS Open, Group 5
Jeff Stephenson



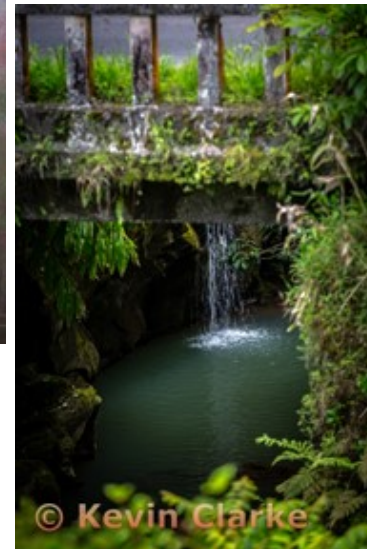
BOS Open, Group 3
Tim Kathka



AOM Open, Group 4
Jerry Baumann



AOM Open, Group 5
Dave Clack



AOM Open, Group 3
Kevin Clarke



BOS Open, Group 2
Dan Kozlowski



© Russell Crawford

BOS Photojournalism, Group 5
Russell Crawford



© Gerald Baumann

BOS Photojournalism, Group 4
Jerry Baumann



© Timothy Kathka

BOS Photojournalism, Group 3
Tim Kathka



© Chris Douglas

AOM Photojournalism, Group 5
Chris Douglas



© Dan Kozlowski

BOS Photojournalism, Group 2
Dan Kozlowski



© Dan O'Donnell

AOM Photojournalism, Group 4
Dan O'Donnell

AOM Photojournalism, Group 3
Jerre Johnson



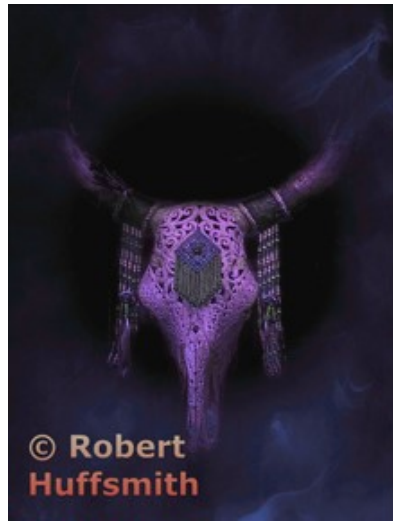
© Jerre Johnson

TOPIC: COLOR PURPLE



© Lisa Schnelzer

BOS Topic, Group 5
Lisa Schnelzer



© Robert Huffsmith

BOS Topic, Group 4
Rob Huffsmith



© Laurie Paulik

BOS Topic, Group 3
Laurie Paulik



© Dan Kozlowski

BOS Topic, Group 2
Dan Kozlowski



© Dave Clack

AOM Topic, Group 5
David Clack



© Ardeth Carlson

AOM Topic, Group 4
Ardeth Carlson



© Gerald Baumann

AOM Topic, Group 4
Jerry Baumann



© Kevin Clarke

AOM Topic, Group 3
Kevin Clarke

PSA Interclub Competitions

LPS reps for the PSA interclub competitions are now collecting photos for the 2026-2027 year. The deadline for submissions are November 15, February 15, and April 15. Contact the reps listed below if you have photos you would like to have them consider as entries.

The definitions for Nature, Photojournalism, and Travel, which are realism categories, can be found at <https://psaphotoworldwide.org/page/division-definitions#nd>

NATURE DIVISION:

Dan O'Donnell, LPS Rep
djod@me.com

Dan is looking for images that illustrate an interesting behavior or a unique point of view. Storytelling is an important part of the image.

PHOTOJOURNALISM DIVISION:

Ardeth Carlson, LPS Rep
ardeth.carlson@gmail.com

Ardeth is looking for photos that contain a strong visual story and emotional impact, reflecting the human presence in our world.

PICTORIAL PRINT DIVISION:

Lisa Schnelzer, LPS Rep
western-exposure@hotmail.com

The five image categories in the Pictorial Print Division (PPD) are: Small Color, Large Color, Small Monochrome, Large Monochrome, and Creative Altered Reality. For further information regarding submissions, contact Lisa.

TRAVEL DIVISION:

Ardeth Carlson, LPS Rep
ardeth.carlson@gmail.com

Ardeth would like images that show characteristic features of a place or a people.
Serving as temporary rep, looking for a member to take this over! Let's talk!

PSA Competition Tips

Because LPS, as a member club of PSA, participates in interclub competitions, we use the PSA definitions for those LPS competition categories.

In PSA nature competitions, higher scores are given to images in which there is a strong active story; thus, portraits and closeups are not apt to do as well. Images should also not be stylized but should represent an image that is true to real life. The PSA competition rules are different from other organizations such as North American Nature Photography Association, so be sure to read the updated PSA rules on the provided definition link.

Photojournalism does not necessarily imply news items; at its basic, it is informative content that tells a strong story about the role of humanity in the world. In a general photojournalism category, humans do not need to be included, but there should be specific evidence of their actions and interactions. In a specific category of Human Interest, the photo should include people or a person. Because storytelling is an important part of PSA photojournalism, the photo should not be a studio-type portrait, and people engaged in activities will probably receive a higher score. The activities depicted should not involve something specifically staged for photographers.

In the Travel Division, images should show elements of an identifiable geographic area or culture. Photos that are simply taken while the photographer is traveling do not necessarily comply with that rule. Thus, a general photo of a forest without a feature showing a recognizable area of the world would not be acceptable.

If the image predominantly or exclusively depicts a place, such as land-, sea- or cityscape, or a physical structure such as a building or monument, it must include characteristic and distinctive physical features. It is not necessary that the image identify the exact location.

Full descriptions of the definitions can be found via the link provided in the column on the left.

LPS Membership

Although LPS welcomes guests to our monthly club meetings, there are benefits to joining as a member.

If you like to see how your images fare in competition, you can submit up to 3 photos each month in our club competitions. You also have the opportunity to have an image submitted in the three rounds of Photographic Society of America Worldwide interclub competitions.

The club is a great place to meet other photographers, get critiques and comments at the Third Monday Photo Review sessions, find photo-op events and activities, and have access to the recordings of meeting presentations. You might enjoy initiating meet & shoots or participating in field trips with other members. As a member, you receive the InFocus newsletter that is automatically emailed to you each month.

LPS annual dues are \$45 per individual, \$60 per couple. This goes toward our meeting venue, LPS website, Zoom administration, and other fees and expenses.

Your membership dues also fund our annual Youth Showcase, a competition for high-schoolers in the Northern Colorado area to encourage their continued interest in photographic pursuits. Prizes are given for the LPS competition, and images with high scores are also entered in the Youth Showcase competition of the Photographic Society of America, which gives the young photographers visibility nationally and even internationally.

Dues are payable through the website under **Membership>Join or Renew** or by check sent to the postal address on page 3 of the newsletter.

If you have questions about membership, contact Tim Kathka, the Membership Chair, at tkathka@gmail.com, or visit with any other board members. You can also send questions about the club to info@lps.cc, and your question will be forwarded to the appropriate resource.

PSA Photo Festival 2026

The PSA Photo Festival is being held in Las Vegas this year from September 13 through 19 at the Rio Hotel.

The early-bird registration fee is \$225 from April 1 to April 30. After that the cost is \$250 until August 15. On-site registration will be \$280. There is also a special price of \$60 for a member's non-photographer spouse.

Full registration includes exceptional speakers, receptions, and a special "Explore, Learn, Shoot" workshop. There are also one-day passes for \$99, and then you can also sign up for one of that day's tours (with the tour fee in addition).

These speakers will be presenting several times and days during the week:

- Cole Thompson "The Lessons My Images Have Taught Me"
- Vince Cater "The Importance of Print"
- Essdras M. Suarez "Panama's Birds: Diversity, Behavior, and the Art of Seeing"
- Hanson Fong "A moment captured is more treasured than a moment lost. Time to look good"
- Scott Kelby "The Stuff They Don't Tell You"
- Erin Babnik "Getting Things Wrong in All the Right Ways"
- John Kaplan "Travel Photography Across the World"

The Festival Print Gallery will open at 7 PM on Tuesday, September 14. In the past, award-winning photos by LPS members and from our LPS Youth Showcase have been displayed in the gallery along with photographs from photographers all over the world.

Special photo tours have been arranged for registrants, at an additional cost, which varies by tour, with bus transportation provided. The tours are also available at different days and times to accommodate as many people as possible.

Here are the scheduled tours:

- Valley of Fire State Park
- Nelson Ghost Town
- Red Rock Canyon National Park
- Shelby America
- Neon Museum
- Photo Walk at Symphony Park & Smith Center
- Springs Preserve & Model Shoot.

There are also two special workshops, which have a limit on the number of participants.

The Festival hotel is the Rio Hotel at 3700 West Flamingo Road. Registered PSA Festival guests receive a discounted rate of \$149, with the normal \$50 resort fee waived. All rooms in the PSA Block are suites.

For complete current Festival information:

<https://psaphotofestival.org/>

Reasons to Join PSA

An individual membership in the Photographic Society of America is an excellent bargain for photographers seeking to improve their photography skills. PSA offers free online photography courses, study groups, mentorships, and the opportunity to compete individually in PSA competitions.

Online image dialogue groups are open to all PSA members, in which groups of 6-7 members submit a photo once a month, and other members offer comments, critiques, and suggested edits.

The monthly PSA Journal is available online for download. This is a beautiful publication with a lot of information about photography locations and ideas for different photo genres plus discussion on relevant topics about photography.

This is a good time to check out PSA membership.



Sharing Your Photos

If you use the subscription Adobe Photoshop CC, you can take advantage of their Adobe Portfolio feature. Examples of portfolio layouts can help you get started. Having your own portfolio gives you a link to provide on social media sites or give to people who are interested in seeing your work. If you use Lightroom, you can sync image collections with your Adobe Portfolio.

Another way to share photos is on Flickr.com. You can set up a free account or pay for an annual "Pro" subscription. Flickr is a worldwide photography community that shares likes and comments on your photos.

ViewBug offers a free option to upload your photos and view the photos of other photographers. There are also several subscription options. There are always multiple contests to enter, with a variety of prizes, and you can earn "coins" to get discounts on purchasing items or services.

Of course, Instagram is one of the most well-known photography-sharing sites. It offers an opportunity to showcase your work to a global audience and build a following that regularly views your photographs. Some reviews of that site suggest that still images are becoming less popular than short videos, so the chance of developing a huge number of likes and high volume of followers can be difficult to achieve unless you are able to define your portfolio in a particular niche. You should expect to be diligent in posting new photos regularly to attract followers who want to see fresh offerings.

Although many people have dropped out of Facebook, it remains a good way to share photos with family, personal friends, and other photography enthusiasts. LPS encourages you to post photos on our Loveland Photographic Society Interest Group as a way to promote our club in the community.

Third Monday Photo Review

An excellent way to get feedback on your photos and for experienced photographers to share their knowledge is to participate in the Monday photo review sessions on the third Monday of each month. Participants are allowed to submit three photos no later than noon of the session day, via the Submit Images on the LPS website.

This monthly session is hosted on Zoom, and submitted photos receive comments and suggestions by all participants. Many members have reported that they have received a greater knowledge of photo techniques and also found it helpful to see their photos in the eyes of other photographers. Because judges of the monthly competition often do not have time to offer critiques on all of the competition photos, the Third Monday Photo Review provides that helpful aspect of improving our craft.

You are also welcome to join the meeting and participate in the discussions if you haven't submitted any of your own photos. Click on the link on page 1 of the newsletter to join the Zoom meeting.

Zoom Meeting Attendance Guidelines

LPS is happy to provide an opportunity for members to attend meetings online through Zoom streaming. However, sometimes online attendees forget to turn off the microphone and camera on their own devices; that means everyone watching the presentation can watch you eating, see the hijinks of your cat/dog, or hear you talking to someone else! When you log into the meeting, please automatically click on the microphone icon and the camera icon so that a red line appears over those indicating they are off. Now you can watch the presentation without everyone also watching you. Of course, feel free to turn your audio back on when you want to ask a question or give input during discussions. You can also use the Chat button to send questions or comments.

Submitting Third Monday Review Photos Into Competition

Several members have noted that they are having difficulty with entering a photo in a monthly competition that has previously been submitted to the Third Monday Review. To do that, the competition image must be selected from your Image Library on the LPS website, not uploaded again from your computer. If you have made changes to your Third Monday photo and want to enter that in the competition, which is allowable, you need to delete the first image from your Image Library before submitting the updated photo in the competition.

Newsletter Index

To find articles in previous issues of the LPS InFocus newsletter, go to the Newsletter Index on the website. The listings include a clickable link that will take you to the newsletter issue. Newsletters can be viewed from January 2014, although the index list only goes back to 2016.

LPS Website Discussion Forums and Meet & Shoot

Log in to www.lps.cc as a member.

- 🔗 Click on *Discussion Forums*
- 🔗 You can select any of the headings, such as *Upcoming Photo Opportunities & Events* or *Meet & Shoot*
- 🔗 Click on *View Topics* to see the posts.

You can also create a new topic of your own under one of the headings, to which members can respond and interact.

If you would like to receive email notifications with the latest posts for that topic, click on the Subscribe button.

The board decided to auto subscribe all members to the Field Trips heading, but if you do not want to receive notifications of those

LPS InFocus The e-Newsletter for the Loveland Photographic Society

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Newsletter issues available at
<https://www.lps.cc>

LPS Speaker Recordings

Most meeting presentations have been recorded for viewing by members only. You can find links to the videos on the LPS website; go to **Membership>Presentation Videos**. Please *do not share* these links with non-members unless they are marked as shareable in the list.

LPS On Facebook



Our Facebook group provides information on club meetings and events and is a place to share your photos and initiate conversation about photography topics that interest you. With a new name,

Loveland Photographic Society Interest Group, it is no longer required to be an LPS member to join the Facebook group, although for technical reasons it is still designated as a private group.

JOIN THE CLUB

If you are reading this newsletter as a non-member and would like to join the Loveland Photographic Society, go to the main page on the www.lps.cc website and click on **Membership > Join or Renew**. Annual dues are \$45 or \$60 per couple. Membership dues may be paid by credit card online, mailed to the P.O. box address on page 3, or by cash or a check made out to Loveland Photographic Society and given to the LPS treasurer.