

Field Trip — Saturday, January 7

Ice Sculpting Competition—Discovery Green

Houston's fourth annual Ice Sculpting Competition will be held at Discovery Green in downtown Houston. The Dirty Dozen, twelve acclaimed ice artists from around the country, will compete. They use chainsaws and blow torches to transform blocks of ice into masterpieces.

The ice carving competition begins at 10:00 a.m. and continues until the late afternoon when the sculptors finish their creations. The winners will be announced at 4:30 p.m. Come any time you want. Those that are interested will meet for lunch at 12:30 p.m. at The Lake House. This is a casual restaurant offering inexpensive food. If you prefer, bring a picnic. Tables are available.

This can be challenging photography. There is tricky lighting and crowds. Plan to bring a mid-range lens for your camera. Because of the crowds, tripods are not advised. Also, it is suggested that you ask parental permission before photographing children.

Gerry Jump and Connie Danley—Field Trip Chairs

Workshop — January 17

Portraits

Mark Katz will lead a workshop on portraiture. Mark is a member of Professional Photographers of America and holds a Certified Professional Photography (C.P.P.) designation. He specializes in portrait photography in his photography business. Mark is also a member of the Houston Camera Club.

This is a workshop on portraiture for those of us who don't have a studio. Bring your camera, a flash, a medium lens in the 70-210 range, and a reflector if you have one. A tripod and cable release would be useful, but are not required.

Come ready to learn something new about making portraits. You won't leave disappointed.

Terry Rutledge—Workshop Chairman

Refreshments: John Niemand

Tuesday, January 3, 2012

Competition Meeting:—Projected Digital Images and Prints

- **Projected Image Competition**—Enter one image in any of five categories: Pictorial, Nature, Travel, Photojournalism, Creative. Send digital images to Bob Jump by Saturday, December 31 at hcc_digital@att.net
- **Print Competition**—Enter one print in any of five categories: Pictorial, Nature, Travel, Photojournalism, and Creative.
- **Monochrome**—Enter one projected image and/or one print.
- **Unlimited Prints**—Enter one print.
- **Quarterly Field Trip**—Enter one projected image and/or one print from each of the following field trips:
 - Downtown Houston Night Lights; Beer Can House and Orange Show Monument; Coldspring, TX, festival
- **Assignment *Holiday Images***—enter one projected image and/or one print.

Judges: Manuel Barrera, Ross Gore, Mark Katz

Competition Table: Gerry Jump, Evelyn Sandler

Mini Show: Presenters needed — see Ron Towe to sign up

Refreshments: Connie Danley

Calendar—Upcoming Activities

January 7 Field Trip—Discovery Green

January 17 Workshop—Portraiture

Save the dates:

February 10—12 Field Trip to Rockport

January Architectural Contest

Earl Gilbert was a long-time member of the HCC. He worked on the design for the San Jacinto monument. To honor Mr. Gilbert, the Earl Gilbert Memorial Architectural Contest is held annually.

Entries for this contest are due by **January 17**. Only prints are eligible. Subjects may be of anything of an architectural nature. Each maker may submit 1 image. Pictorial print rules apply. The images will be judged outside the club. Please get your entry to Joe Sandler.

February Field Trip—Rockport

The dates for the field trip are **February 10-12**. A block of rooms are being held for club members at the Days Inn, 1212 Laurel East, in Rockport. You need to make your own reservations by calling 361-729-6379. Mention the Houston Camera Club to get reduced rates.

More details of activities will be announced via email. A club dinner will be held Saturday night, February 11.

Exhibit at The Spires March 29-30

The Houston Camera Club will present an exhibit of its members' print photography at The Spires Condominiums. The art exhibit at The Spires is an annual event. Club members are asked to submit prints for the exhibit. These prints will be collected at club meetings beginning January 3 and continuing through **February 21**.

A member may submit up to three prints. These images need not have been in a prior club competition. All categories of images are welcome. Prints should be matted, but not framed. One of the three prints may be unlimited in size with no mat size limitation. The other two (or all three) may be a maximum of 8 1/2 by 11 inches with a mat size not to exceed 12 by 16 inches.

Prints should be submitted to Ross McEathron with a completed copy of the exhibit submission form. This form will be sent to all members as a separate email. Please follow the submission form's instructions for labeling the prints carefully.

John Niemand,
Exhibit Committee Member

GSCCC Nature Competition Judging

Houston Camera Club will be judging the February, 2012, GSCCC Nature Competition at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, **February 15** at the Bayland Community Center. All HCC members are invited to attend. This is a great way to see how a GSCCC competition works. It is also an opportunity to see good nature images from other clubs in GSCCC.

The club needs volunteers to help in running the judging. Please contact Denny Moller if you will help.

Denny Moller
GSCCC Representative

Visitors:

Usha Peddamatham from Sugar Land visited in December.

New Members:

David Rothschild joined the club in December. He uses Nikon equipment and is especially interested in nature photography. Welcome.

Member News: Evelyn and Joe Sandler celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary on December 27. Please congratulate them when you see them.

Urvine and Alice Atkinson, and **Gwen Kunz** spent the Thanksgiving week together in the Williamsburg, VA area. While they were there, they visited Jamestown, Yorktown and also Richmond. Gwen notes that Williamsburg is very near the site of the first Thanksgiving. The three then spent a few additional days in Washington D.C. and visited many of the memorial sites.

Ross Gore was on the road again. At the end of November, he traveled to North and South Carolina for Thanksgiving with his family. During this trip, he had planned to photograph birds in Florida as he was passing through, but was rained out. To make up for that, in early December, he took a quick trip to Oklahoma to photograph, what else, birds.

Upcoming Assignments

February	Building Reflections
March	Emptiness
April	Animal, Not a Bird

How To:

A Fast, Easy Step To Better Image Quality

By: **Leslie Niemand**

It is a simple thing to clean your camera's lens before you start out on a photo shoot and then again periodically.

You will improve the quality of the images you take and save yourself some time in post-processing.

You can see that this camera lens has some dust accumulated on it and could perhaps benefit from being cleaned.



There are several different ways to approach cleaning a lens. Choose the equipment that works best for you.

- **Blower:** Use an air blower to remove the dust and other particles from your lens. It will take away all loose dirt except the dirt that is stuck to the surface. Don't blow on the lens with your mouth. You could be putting saliva on the lens.
- **Microfiber Cloth:** Use a microfiber cloth for cleaning the lens. These specialized cloths are available at a camera store. Do not use any other cloth or paper to clean your lens—you risk scratching the surface or leaving fine fiber residue. Gently wipe off the dust with the microfiber cloth. Make sure to use a clean cloth.
- **Lens Cleaning Fluid:** This is a special liquid which does not leave any residue on the surface. You'll find it in camera stores. If you suspect a greasy substance on the lens, put lens cleaning fluid on a microfiber cloth and wipe the lens gently in a circular motion. Do not put the fluid directly on the lens. And, do not use more lens cleaning fluid than you need.
- **Carbon based Lens Pen:** A carbon based lens pen has a carbon based soft tip and usually comes with a brush on the other end. Use both the carbon tip and the brush ends to gently remove dust and dirt from the lens.

Matt Daura Landscape Award Winners

The winners of the Matt Daura Landscape Award were announced at the Holiday Dinner on December 20. The entries were judged by the Houston Chinese Photographic Society.

Terry Rutledge won the Landscape Award with his image, Dead Tree, Monument Valley. **Joe Sandler** was awarded second place with Bryce Canyon Sunrise.

Leslie Niemand won third place with her image, Big Bend Near Boquillas. Congratulations to the winners.



Dead Tree, Monument Valley

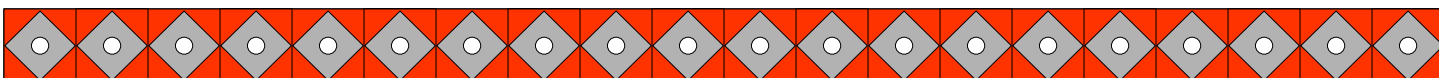
By Terry Rutledge



Photographer Saying:

If I have any 'message' worth giving to a beginner it is that there are no shortcuts in photography.

Edward Weston



For regular competitions, all makers' results are reported.

Please write clearly when you enter images on competition night. It is important that titles are legible.

December Competition Results

Judged December 6, 2011

Judges: Gwen Kunz, Ross McEathron, Marcia Raskin

Projected Images

Pictorial Category – 1 entry

1st (17 pts) Just Yellow 1048 J. Sandler

Nature Category – 1 entry

1st (22 pts) Roseate 2934 E. Sandler

Photojournalism Category – 1 entry

1st (18 pts) SPX Cheer Squad In Pink G. Sternes

Travel Category – 4 entries

1st (21 pts) Badwater Sunset B. Jump

2nd (20 pts) Rainbow At Lower Falls G. Jump

3rd (18 pts) El Capitan C.T. Edwards

17 pts Camden Maine H. Peterman

Creative Category – 1 entry

1st (19 pts) Harley M. Barrera

Monochrome – 7 entries

1st (22 pts) Winter Reflection G. Jump

2nd (21 pts) Snow Landscape C.T. Edwards

Chevron Towers M. Barrera

3rd (20 pts) Old Ore Machine B. Jump

Pelican 7584 E. Sandler

18 pts Butterfly 6972 J. Sandler

17 pts 4 Eyed Mr. Bean G. Sternes

Assignment: Humorous Sign or Bill Board – 5 entries

Winner: Humorous Bill Board B. Jump

Prints

Pictorial Prints – 2 entries

1st (21 pts) Full Moon At Brazos Bend J. Niemand

2nd (20 pts) San Antonio Squiggle G. Sternes

Nature Prints – 4 entries

1st (23 pts) Hawk Flight M. Holloway

2nd (21 pts) Fall Fungi J. Sandler

Cardinal J. Klehm

3rd (20 pts) False Head H. Peterman

Photojournalism Prints – 2 entries

1st (19 pts) Prairie Dinner H. Wolin

2nd (18 pts) Fly Over S. Goldberg

Travel Prints – 3 entries

1st (21 pts) Canoes On Lake Quinault B Jump

2nd (20 pts) Mediterranean Bay R. McEathron

3rd (18 pts) Split Rail Fence @ Pea Ridge E. Sandler

Creative Category – 1 entry

1st (20 pts) Grater T. Rutledge

Monochrome – 10 entries

1st (21 pts) Great White Egret E. Sandler

Tangled Trees B. Jump

Old Bridge J. Klehm

2nd (18 pts) Bud With Bee J. Sandler

Yellowstone Spring G. Jump

Dreary Woods T. Rutledge

Chair Back R. McEathron

Birth Of A Universe J. Niemand

3rd (16 pts) Artful Eye G. Sternes

Academic Bridge H. Wolin

Unlimited Prints – 3 entries

1st (24 pts) Dead Horse Point B. Jump

2nd (22 pts) Cardinal J. Klehm

3rd (21 pts) Prague Statuary & Helpers G. Sternes

Assignment: Humorous Sign or Bill Board - 7 entries

Winner: Truck Sign G. Jump

Interclub

Competitions



No GSCCC competitions were held in December.



PSA ICIC

Judged December, 2011, on the basis of 15 points.

Intense	11 pts	Thejas Rajaram
Dead Tree—Monument Valley		
	11 pts	Terry Rutledge
Gator Eats Gar	11 pts	Manuel Barrera
Log Face	10 pts	Gerry Jump
Twins 0742	10 pts	Joe Sandler
Mesquite Flat Dunes	10 pts	Bob Jump

GSCCC Convention The 2012 convention, Mudbugs and Shutterbugs, will be held April 19-22 in New Iberia, Louisiana.

The Greater Lafayette Photographic Society will be adding information on the GSCCC web site as it becomes available. Keep checking back at gscce.convention.angelfire.com for the most up to date information.

Start making your plans. It would be fun to have a number of HCC members attend.



Cardinal Feasts

By: Marilyn Holloway

PSA Conference Next year's conference will be held in San Francisco in September, 2012.



Additional details will be available in February, 2012. The conference is open to all. You don't need to be a member of PSA to attend. It's not too early to make plans.



Coldspring Field Trip—Lunch at Jump's Lake House

By: Gerry Jump

Thank you to Gerry Jump for submitting images from the December field trip to Coldspring and the Holiday Dinner.



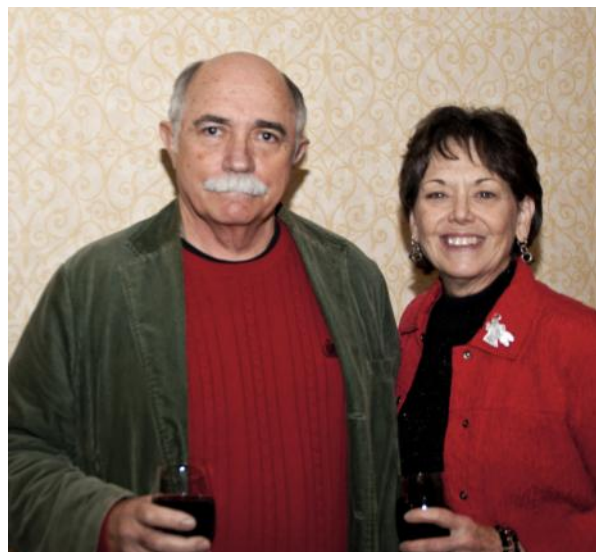
Gwen Kunz By: Leslie Niemand



James Nielsen, Our Presenter By: Leslie Niemand



Dinner Attendees By: John Niemand



Terry and Sarah Rutledge By: Leslie Niemand

The Rangefinder is a publication of the Houston Camera Club, Houston, Texas.

www.houstoncameraclub.org

Affiliated with Photographic Society of America and Gulf States Camera Club Council.

Editors: Leslie and John Niemand — 281-242-4717

lniemand@windstream.net

Officers: President..... Urvine Atkinson

1st Vice President..... Ross McEathron

2nd Vice President..... Terry Rutledge

Secretary..... Rachel Burychka

Treasurer..... Joe Sandler