

VIEWPOINT | MARCH 2026

From the President

This past year as Club President has certainly been an interesting one—filled with adventure, a few unexpected moments, and many welcoming experiences along the way.

First, congratulations to all of the volunteers who helped bring the Annual Photo Contest to life. The show looked fantastic, and the quality of work that came through the exhibit was truly top-notch. Be sure to look further down in this newsletter to see the contest numbers.

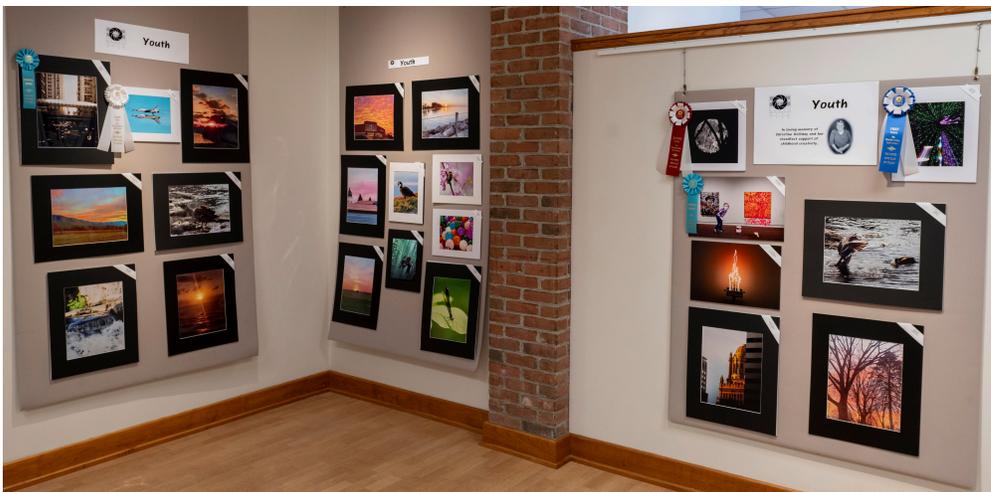
A special thank you goes to Jack Myers for stepping in and taking the reins to ensure the Annual Contest continued this year. Jack not only led many of the behind-the-scenes efforts but also helped assemble a great team. Rick Francis and Chris Boesel provided critical support in managing the data and online entry platform that keeps the contest running smoothly.

It's hard to fully express how grateful I am for members who step up and make things happen. Thank you as well to the many club members who volunteered their time as greeters, processors, and handlers. Events like this simply would not be possible without your support.

As we move forward with our new board members and committee chairs, there is a lot to look forward to. I'm excited to see where the next chapter of our club takes us.

PACT's 38th Annual Photo Contest is UP!

This year 51 photographers submitted 254 photos to the contest, and on opening day, attendance was remarkable. Volunteers deserve praise for a wonderful job hanging the shots.



There are gems on every wall, and the variety is impressive. If you haven't stopped by yet, you've only got till March 28th!

It's at Secor Metropark, open Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4 pm.

PHOTO ARTS CLUB
5403 Elmer Drive
Toledo, OH 43615



www.photoartscluboftoledo.com
info@photoartscluboftoledo.com

PACT's 38th Annual Photo Contest

The Places category featured some stunning shots, from the Maumee to points east and west, with a great range of styles.



This year 51 photographers submitted 254 photos to the contest as follows:

Category	Photos
People	22
Plants	27
Animals	63
Places	50
Open	32
Monochrome	27
Youth	23
Digital Creation	9



Judges Ruth Foote and Deborah Orloff study entries in the new category, Digital Creation.

The Photo Contest Judging Process

Two judging stations were provided for two sets of three judges rate all 254 photos with scores for Composition, Artistic, and Technical merit.



In the event of tie scores, all judges weighed in to determine final ranking.



The distinguished group of judges, from left to right: Scott Carpenter, Bridget Adams-Brewer, Deborah Orloff, Ruth Foote, Grant Beachy, Seder Burns.

People's Choice: The People Have Spoken!



The clear winner this year in The People's Choice is Jack Myers' magnificent shot of an owl in flight, captured at exactly the right moment of eye contact and pose, with beautifully lit wings.

Congratulations, Jack!

Looking for More Contest Result Information?

Reports with all the contest results, including scores and winners per category, are [on the Photo Arts Club of Toledo website.](#)

Please Welcome
our New Member:
Terrence Leek

Improve Your Photography (IYP)

The spring IYP classes start Thursday, April 9, for three consecutive Thursdays. I would like assistance from members to help the IYP students. 5 people have already signed up, the class size is 6. The cameras the students have are a Canon 4000D, Canon R100, Canon T7 and a Nikon D3500. Please contact Jack Myers if you can help.

"I've always believed that photography is a way to shape human perception."
- James Balog

Photo Contest Gallery Walk

The club will have a critique session at the Annual Contest on Saturday, March 14, at 2 PM. We will walk around the gallery to discuss the photos and compare impressions.



Lightroom Group Continues...

We are continuing our monthly Lightroom group meetings on Tuesday, March 17th, at 7:00PM. This month we will continue to explore the Library module and review the various import and catalog preference options. Please plan to join us and bring your questions and challenges to this highly interactive session. Our goal is to increase our capability and comfort level with this amazing tool.

In advance of this session, please do not hesitate to drop us an email with any topics that you want to be sure we cover in this session!

We look forward to you joining us on the 17th!

Ben Ayling (b-ayling@onu.edu)
Chris Boesel (boeselc@gmail.com)

“To me, the magic of photography, per se, is that you can capture an instant of a second that couldn’t exist before and couldn’t exist after. It’s almost like a cowboy that draws his gun. You draw a second before or after, you miss and you’re dead – not them. To me, photography’s always like that.”

Mario Testin

Behind The Shot: *Steel String Sisters* by Micah Maziar

This photo was taken at an event called The Glass City Jubilee, held at The Golden Road on Dorr Street near the University of Toledo. Another PACT member, Jeff Hormann, and I were the photographers for the event. Since it was hosted at a Grateful Dead bar, I thought it would be fun to break out my film camera and try to match the aesthetic of the space and the music. For this shot, I used a 1970s Olympus OM-1 with a 50mm f/1.2 lens loaded with Kodak Portra 800 film.

The band performing was a local group called Chloe and the Steel Strings. Chloe is on the left in the frame, and her sister Anna is on the right. The most memorable part of the experience was watching their interactions throughout the songs. They were clearly having fun on stage, playing off each other and enjoying the moment, and I think this photo captures that energy and connection.

Because I shot this on film, post processing was minimal. I made small adjustments to the white balance and tint, but otherwise kept things true to how they were captured.

The conditions, however, were quite challenging—both because I chose to shoot film and because of the venue itself. We were outside in the late afternoon under a tree canopy with no added lighting. The fast f/1.2 lens and 800-speed film helped with the low light, but every so often the sun would poke through the leaves and create blown-out highlights. As I took this particular photo, Anna stepped into one of those sunlit patches, which caused her forehead to be overexposed. Manually focusing in that environment also added to the difficulty.



In composing the image, my motivation was simple: I wanted to show the happy spirits of the two performers and capture the fun, relaxed vibe of the event. I feel that the composition works and that I managed to get the image I was aiming for. If I could change anything, I'd add some additional lighting. Portra 800 was never going to be super saturated, but a bit of extra light would have helped cut down on the color cast that appeared on the negative.

Do you have a shot with a story to share for a future **Behind the Shot**? Contact Rick Francis, rick.a.francis@gmail.com or photoartsclubtoledo.news@gmail.com.

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What's Happening at the Botanical Gardens?

2nd Saturdays Open House - April 11 from 11am-4pm is the first one. We will be posting a request for volunteers for clubhouse help soon. Additional 2nd Saturdays: June 13; July 11; Sept 12; Oct 10; & Nov 14.

Hidden Treasures Garage Sale will be at the Conference Center April 16, 3pm-6pm and April 17, 9am-3pm. Donations will be welcome, however NO clothes or shoes.

May Sale will be May 8-10, 2026. There also be a Night Sale but details are still being worked out.

Toledo Festival of the Arts June 27-28, 2026. More information to come.

Jazz in the Garden returns this year with a shortened schedule. Starting Thursday July 9, 2026 the Gardens will be closed each Thursday at 1pm thru Aug 27, 2026. We will not be able to hold anything at the Clubhouse on Thursdays during this time.

Heralding the Holidays will be Dec 4-6, 2026. Watch for more information.

For more information and to volunteer to help please contact Cindy White at cwphoto63@gmail.com.

Monthly Contest Assignments

March 2026: **Print** - Rule of Thirds*

August 2026: On the Shore

April 2026: Food Photography

September 2026: Tree, Trees, Woods or Forest

May 2026: Architecture

October 2026: Looks like a Haunted House

June 2026: Something in your Home

November 2026: **Print** - Hometown Highlights

July 2026: Water

December 2026: By Candlelight

*The March competitions are open, with Rule of Thirds as the assignment. This is one of two print contests in 2026, with the judging done by an ad hoc committee in the clubhouse. The contest takes place in the clubhouse on Wednesday, March 18th, at 7 PM.

We will need 6 members to help with this. We need three judges; judges are not eligible to submit photos in the contest. We also need two people to record the photo titles and scores, and one more person to help display the photos. These three people can submit photos to the contest.



Monthly Contest Winners

The February competitions had 41 entries from 17 photographers. The assignment was Black & White. There was good discussion about the photos, and lots of questions for the photographers, some of whom were on the call.



“Abandoned
Farmhouse”
Bob Wadas

Basic - 1st Place
Assignment: B&W



“Canyonlands
Chapel”
Carrie Heller

Basic - 2nd Place (tie)
Assignment: B&W

Monthly Contest Winners (con't)

“Mom I’m Hungry”
Susan Shull

Basic - 2nd Place
(tie)

Assignment: B&W



“Awww”
Susan Shull

Basic - 3rd Place
Assignment: B&W

Monthly Contest Winners (con't)



“Mountain Majesty”
Kathy Fisher

Intermediate - 1st Place

Assignment: B&W



“The City”
Isabelle Reeb

Intermediate - 2nd Place

Assignment: B&W

Monthly Contest Winners (con't)

“Tower of Rock on Flowerpot Island”
Kathy Fisher

Intermediate - 2nd Place (tie)
Assignment: B&W



© Kathy Fisher



© Quentin
Francis-Emonds

“Under the Bleachers”
Quentin Francis-Emonds

Intermediate - 2nd Place (tie)

Assignment: B&W

Monthly Contest Winners (con't)



“Architectural Reflections”
Quentin Francis-Emonds

Intermediate - 3rd Place

Assignment: B&W



“Chicago Morning”
Jim Hagan

Advanced- 1st Place (tie)

Assignment: B&W

Monthly Contest Winners (con't)

“Winter Night, St. Joe Lighthouse”
Ross Ellet

Advanced- 1st
Place (tie)

Assignment: B&W



“Tiny Suns in a
Vernal Pond”
Rick Francis

Advanced - 2nd
Place (tie)

Assignment: B&W

Monthly Contest Winners (con't)



“Woman in the Dunes”
Rick Francis

Advanced - 2nd Place
(tie)
Assignment: B&W

“Manta, Jack, Photographer”
Rick Francis

Advanced - 3rd
Place

Assignment: B&W

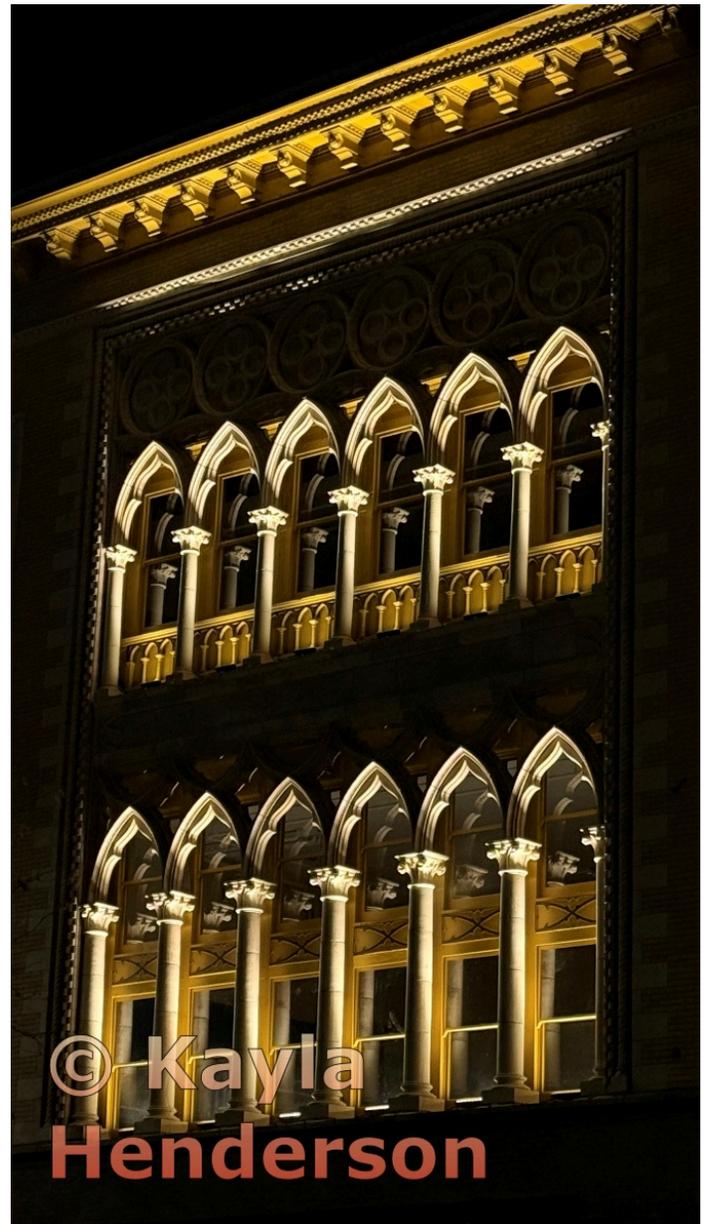


Monthly Contest Winners (con't)

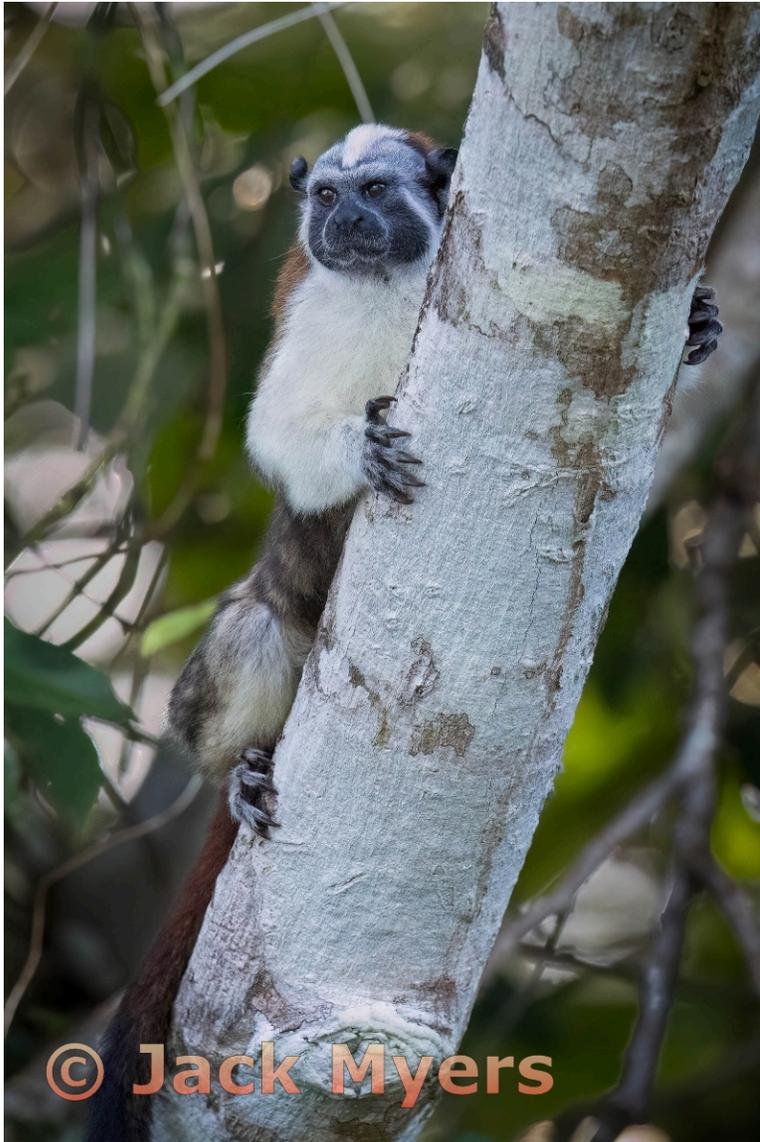
“Burt’s Theatre”
Kayla Henderson

Basic - 1st Place

Open Category



© Kayla
Henderson



© Jack Myers

“Geoffroy Monkey”
Jack Myers

Advanced - 3rd Place

Open Category

Monthly Contest Winners (con't)

“City, Fog, & A Train”
Sumit Khadka

Intermediate Open - 1st Place



“Gauchos”
Jim Hagan
Advanced Open - 2nd Place

“A Field Trip”
Jim Hagan

Advanced Open - 2nd Place



Workshops and Photo Trips

PACT member Ben Ayling and his photo partner Tom Yackley are Fine Art, Landscape, Nature, and Wildlife photographers based in Maumee and Atlanta respectively. Both are career educators and have traveled extensively to capture rare and interesting animals, birds, and scenic landscapes across the globe.

Their latest venture is Nature Photo Workshops where they lead photographers of all skill levels to explore the variety and beauty that is The Great Smoky Mountains.

Springtime in the Smokies is magical with bear coming out of hibernation while there is flora and fauna galore.



Included in each workshop are Individual hotel accommodations, all meals, attentive assistance with your photography, zoom meetings before and after the event as well as a clinic/class and guided photo sessions in the field.

So come join Tom and Ben in an adventure to our “Happy Place,” The Great Smoky Mountains National Park this Spring and/or Fall.

Special offer for PACT members: Use the code: SALE200 at checkout by March 25, 2026 and receive a \$200 savings off the full Spring workshop price. The same code is valid off the full Fall workshop price as well. Workshop details are on the website available with the QR code above or at

<https://www.naturephotoworkshops.com/> (check out the new Cypress Lake Exploration workshop in Georgia).

Upcoming Events and Meetings

March 14, 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm: Critique session at the Annual Contest. We will walk around the gallery to discuss the photos.

March 18, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm: Print contest in the clubhouse.

March 19: Submissions open for the April monthly contest. The theme is food photography.

March 28, 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm: Last chance to view the Annual Contest display at Secor Metropark.

March 29, 10:00 pm to 4:00 pm: Pick up your Annual Contest entries at Secor Metropark.

April 2, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm: April Board meeting.

April 8, Education night, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm: Details to be announced soon.

April 9: First night of IYP class

April 10, 11:30 pm: Closing of submissions for the monthly contest (open and food photography)

April 14, 11:30 pm: Voting for the monthly contest ends.

Please refer to the website [Events Calendar](#) for Zoom links and more information. Note that some events will ONLY be visible when logged in!

“The camera makes you forget you’re there. It’s not like you are hiding but you forget, you are just looking so much.”

– Annie Leibovitz

Volunteers Page

You can make a difference!

We are still looking for Chairpersons for the following Committees:

Education Night: We need a chairperson and co-chairperson.

The chairperson is responsible for coordinating, recruiting, hosting, and setting up guest speakers and/or events related to hands-on activities and/or educational speakers on the 2nd Wednesdays of each month.

Monthly Contest - Two volunteers needed to learn the Behind the Scenes of Running the Monthly Contest.

In addition, we still need volunteers to be Greeters at the Annual Contest.

Please click the link to review and sign up for openings:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044EADA62EA5FAC25-61742463-2026>

Note: All our committees have mentors to assist in guiding our volunteers and chairpersons.

I have all but killed myself for Photography. My passion for it is greater than ever. It's forty years that I have fought its fight - and I'll fight to the finish - single handed and without money if need be. It is not photographs - it is not photographers - I am fighting for. And my own photographs I never sign. I am not fighting to make a 'name' for myself. Maybe you have some feeling for what the fight is for. It's a world's fight. This sounds mad. But so is Camera Work mad. All that's born of spirit seems mad in these [days] of materialism run riot.

- Alfred Stieglitz

“The best thing about a picture is that it never changes, even when the people in it do.” – Andy Warhol

Please Welcome our Incoming Board

President - Michele Kipplen - michelekipplen@gmail.com 419-283-4616

Vice President - Ross Ellet rellet17@hotmail.com

Treasurer - Michele Ross - mickey.ross1204@gmail.com 419-360-0712

Secretary - Cindy White - cwphoto63@gmail.com 419-480-7485

Past President - Wennie Anderson - wennieanderson120@gmail.com 734-243-3346

Board Members

Jack Myers - jrmyers@roadrunner.com 419-575-1558

Chris Boesel - boeselc@gmail.com

Rick Francis - rick.a.francis@gmail.com

Jerry Lohman - JerryLohman@outlook.com

Todd Grinonneau - grinolot@yahoo.com

Kayla Henderson - kaylahenderson321@gmail.com

Committees

Lightroom - Chris Boesel & Ben Ayling - boeselc@gmail.com, b-ayling@onu.edu

Studio Group - John Dillon - jdillon356@aol.com

Competition Chair - Jack Myers - jrmyers@roadrunner.com

Website Chair - Rick Francis - rick.a.francis@gmail.com

Membership - Cindy White - cwphoto63@gmail.com

Newsletter - Rick Francis - rick.a.francis@gmail.com

Reminder to members: we have returned to scheduling our Monthly Board Meetings on the first Thursday of each month.