

VIEWPOINT | FEBRUARY 2026

PACT's 38th Annual Photo Contest

Registration for this year's contest is open now but it closes on February 14! Registration is limited to the first 300 entries, so don't delay. As of the beginning of February we have 170 entries from 39 photographers. For information on eligibility, rules, and categories, see the PACT Annual Contest web page.

We need lots of volunteers for the contest. Please check SignUp Genius to see if there are dates when you could help. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044EADA62EA5FAC25-61472272-2026#/>

Please Welcome our New Members

- Stephen Archinal
- Dexter Baker Sr.
- Kaleb Carpenter
- Isabelle Reeb
- Scott Tuttle



Tune in via Zoom on Feb. 11, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, for an Education Night presentation by Ben Ayling on workshops he offers. See the Events Calendar for details.

Announcing the Restart of the Lightroom Study Group

Chris Boesel and Ben Ayling are pleased to announce that beginning on Tuesday, February 17, a new exploration of the popular Lightroom image management and editing software picks up **on the third Tuesday of each month**. For this and the following three meetings, we will familiarize the novice user with the Catalog, Develop, and Printing modules. We'll discuss workflow and cataloging basics, general editing techniques along with exporting and printing. Our goal is to share our experiences best practices and techniques while addressing any questions or problems that you may be experiencing. Of course, we welcome experienced users to participate as well. We encourage your input because, as we all know about Lightroom, there are many ways to manage your catalog and to get a great result from an image.

After we take the summer months off, our plan is in September to begin a monthly sequence of advanced and creative editing techniques.

So please plan on joining our Zoom (see event calendar for link) at 7:00PM and if there is something specific that you would want to cover, please drop us an email with your thoughts and suggestions.

PHOTO ARTS CLUB
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www.photoartscluboftoledo.com
info@photoartscluboftoledo.com

Our New Regular Feature: *Behind the Shot!*

For future **Viewpoints** we're asking for members to present a photo along with a narrative that addresses how you got the shot, what you like about it, or anything else you'd like to share about what makes it special to you.

To volunteer, contact Rick Francis, rick.a.francis@gmail.com or photoartsclubtoledo.news@gmail.com.

Behind The Shot: Cicada

I had hoped this Saturday in August would be for doing absolutely nothing and I had no intention of using my camera at all. I happened to glance towards the balcony and saw this little cicada stuck on my screen door. This was, however, an ordinary annual cicada so at first I only took pictures with my phone. I grabbed the cicadas (like I had done so many times as a child!) and to my surprise the cicada played dead. I felt sad but I thought it was a good opportunity to try insect photography.

I brought the cicada inside and made a makeshift setup. I had a third-party external flash which I positioned to light the cicada from the side. I also took out 2 extension tubes that I had wanted to test for a while.

I took several pictures (over 450 images) toiling for about 2 hours. It took several trials with different camera settings, lighting, placement of the cicada, and the extension tubes. I learned a lot about using external flash and extension tubes for macro photography. For this shot, I settled on the RF 24-105mm lens at around 50 mm focal length with Vello 20 mm extension tube on my R7. Manual focusing worked best and an aperture of f/10 gave me a good depth of field on the subject with a nice bokeh.

All in all, I had about 5 images out of over 400 images that I really liked. For post processing, I simply cropped the image and made a few minor adjustments.

I was extremely disappointed when the cicada's eyes on all photos were blurred but later learned that cicadas' eyes are actually like that!

The cicada played dead the whole time, slightly moving its limbs only a few times. As soon as I put it outside in the sun, I was glad to see that it flew away within 5 minutes. Thanks, Cicada, for these pictures. It was an unexpected but good learning experience.

– Sumit Khadka



Members in the News

Congratulations to Jim Hagan!

In December 2025, the Photographic Society of America (PSA) recognized Jim's work with an Award of Merit for Galaxy 4 Travel Division. To achieve this required a cumulative total of 588 photo acceptances in the travel division of PSA-sanctioned photo exhibitions. In addition, Jim also advanced to Galaxy 3 in the Nature Division in recognition of his cumulative total of 513 photo acceptances.

Jim joined PSA in 2017 and has entered photos in numerous international photo contests. He competes in five PSA categories: Color, Monochrome, Nature, Travel and Journalism.

photographic Society of America



Photo Travel Division Award of Merit

For 25 new titles with 3 acceptances each, leading to a cumulative total of 196 titles and 588 acceptances in Recognised Photo Travel Exhibitions

JIM HAGAN, MPSA2

Is hereby designated a

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GALAXY EXHIBITOR

Issued this 31st day of December 2025

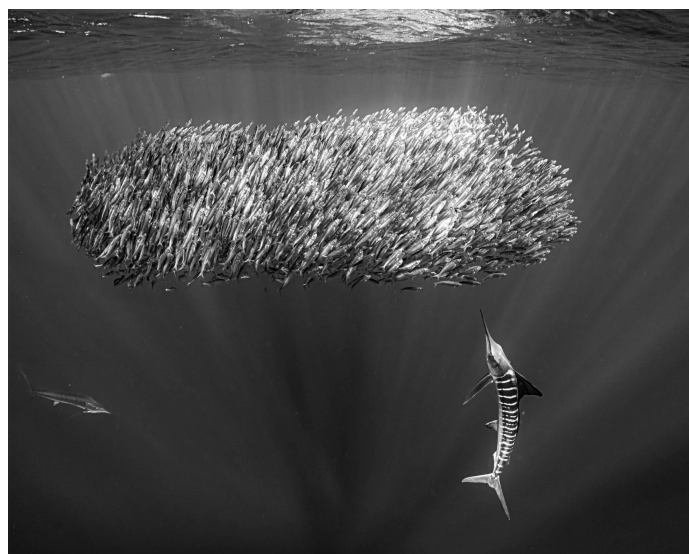
Asim Kumar Chaudhary, GMPSA
DIRECTOR, STAR RATING AWARDS

Carolyn M. Todd-Lanson, FPSA
CHAIRMAN, PHOTO TRAVEL DIVISION



Member **Rick Francis** received a bronze award in the Wild Portraits category of Exposure One's black and white Nature Photography contest for "Portrait of a Young Sea Lion."

Rick also received an Honorable Mention in the Ocean category of the same competition for "Striped Marlin and Prey."



Nominations Sought for Club Leadership Positions

We are currently looking to fill the following positions:

- President
- Three (3) Board Member seats

President – Role Overview

The President serves as the primary leader and representative of the Photo Arts Club. Responsibilities include:

- Overseeing board operations and ensuring committees and activities are running smoothly
- Acting as the main point of contact with the Metroparks
- Signing lease agreements and ensuring compliance with lease terms
- Ensuring the clubhouse is maintained according to the lease agreement
- Confirming the organization remains compliant with nonprofit requirements
- Ensuring the board fulfills its duties and responsibilities
- Upholding the club's mission, brand, and overall vision
- Serving as a guest speaker and educator when appropriate
- Representing and educating the public and community about the Photo Arts Club

Board Member – Role Overview

Board Members play an active role in club leadership and decision-making. Responsibilities include:

- Holding voting rights related to spending, programming, and club initiatives
- Serving as Chairperson of one committee within the organization
- Supporting the mission and long-term vision of the Photo Arts Club

If you are interested in serving—or know a member who would be a strong leader—we encourage you to nominate yourself or another member.

Please send all nominations to Secretary Cindy White, cwphoto63@gmail.com.

Thank you for helping shape the future of our club. We look forward to building the next chapter together.



Monthly Contest Assignments

February 2026: Black & White

August 2026: On the Shore

March 2026: Print - Rule of Thirds

September 2026: Tree, Trees, Woods or Forest

April 2026: Food Photography

October 2026: Looks like a Haunted House

May 2026: Architecture

November 2026: Print - Hometown Highlights

June 2026: Something in your Home

December 2026: By Candlelight

The January competitions had 44 entries from 14 photographers, and 17 members judged.

The February competitions are open, with Black and White as the assignment. You do not have to submit recent photos for any competition, and pictures from your phone can be used too.

The March contest is a print contest, and guidelines will be sent out beforehand. The contest and judging will be in the clubhouse.

Inspirational quotes on black and white photography (February assignment)



“The most colorful thing in the world is black and white, it contains all colors and at the same time excludes all.” — Vikrmn:

“I think it’s because it was an emotional story, and emotions come through much stronger in black and white. Color is distracting in a way, it pleases the eye but it doesn’t necessarily reach the heart.”

— Kim Hunter

“The special factor about black and white photography is that it doesn’t just copy the reality, but it represents it with its own language.”

— Gian Marco Marano

Monthly Contest Winners

The January competitions had 44 entries from 14 photographers, and 17 members judged.



“Creeping in the Garden”
by Carrie Heller

Basic - 1st Place
Assignment: Bokeh



“pinecone and needles”
by Kayla Henderson

Basic - 2nd Place
Assignment: Bokeh

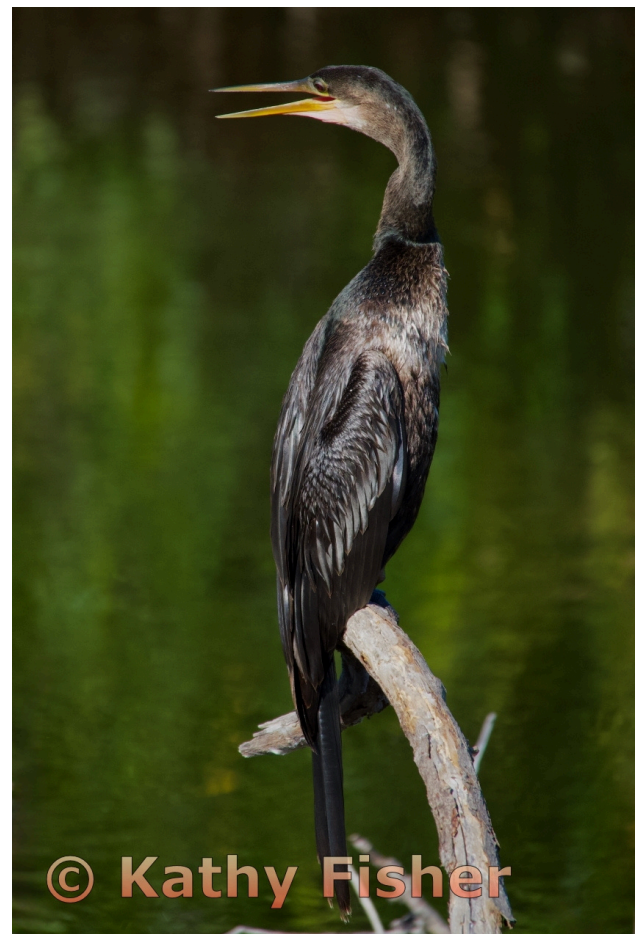
Monthly Contest Winners (con't)



"Green Heron"
by Kathy Fisher

Intermediate - 1st Place

Assignment: Bokeh



"Squawking Anhinga"
by Kathy Fisher

Intermediate - 2nd Place

Assignment: Bokeh

Monthly Contest Winners (con't)

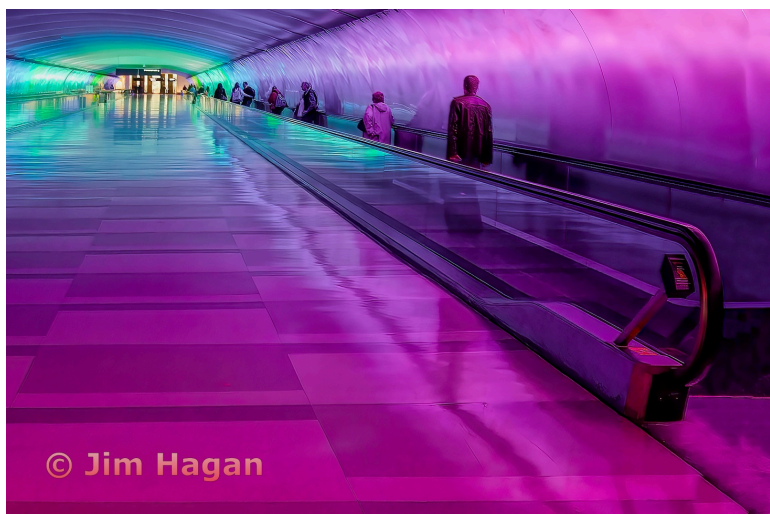
“Western Tanager” by
Ben Ayling
Advanced - 1st Place
Assignment: Bokeh



“Watching You” by Jack Myers
Advanced - 2nd Place
Assignment: Bokeh

Monthly Contest Winners (con't)

“Early Color in Tahquamenon”
by Cindy White
Advanced Open- 1st Place



“Airport Tunnel”
by Jim Hagan
Advanced Open - 2nd Place (tie)

“Hi, Whatcha Doin”
by Cindy White
Advanced Open - 2nd Place (tie)



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

February 5, 7:00 pm: Board Meeting via Zoom.

February 7, 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm: The Clubhouse is open for print drop-off for the Annual Contest

February 11, Education night, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm via Zoom: Ben Ayling presents “Nature Photo Workshops.” It is an informative talk on the type of workshops Ben and his photo partner, Thomas Yackley, provide each Spring and Fall in the Great Smoky Mountains as well as a new offering at a cypress lake in Southeast Georgia. *On Zoom only!*

February 13, 11:30 pm: deadline for submitting entries for the February competitions (Open and Assignment: Black & White)

February 14: Last day for Registration for the Annual Contest.

February 14, 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm: The Clubhouse is open for print drop-off for the Annual Contest

February 17, 7:00 pm: Voting for February monthly contest ends.

February 18, 7:00 pm: monthly contest meeting via Zoom only

February 19: Last day to drop off photos for the Annual Contest. See Annual Contest 2026 page for locations and hours.

February 21, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm: Annual Contest processing at Secor Center, Secor Metropark

February 24, 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm: Contest Judging at Secor Center, Secor Metropark

February 25, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm: Hanging prints for Annual Contest at Secor Center

February 28, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm: Annual Contest Exhibit opens

March 8, 2026, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm: Meet & Greet! This is also the occasion for voting on the officers and board for 2026 as well as to present the winter scavenger hunt photos

Remember, the Botanical Gardens are closed every Wednesday night through the end of February for park maintenance. As a result, there will be no clubhouse classes or meetings on Wednesday evenings during that time.

Please refer to the website Events Calendar for Zoom links and more information.

“Wherever there is light, one can photograph.” – Alfred Stieglitz

Exclusive Artist Discount for Club Members!



Did you know that as a Photo Arts Club member, you receive a 10% discount on all American Frame products and services? In addition, with every purchase you make, a percentage of the sale is donated back to our club, helping to support our community of photographers and artists!

Register at learn.americanframe.com/alliance-discount as shown on the right, and instantly receive a 10% discount code to use on all orders. Even better, every purchase made by registered club members is tracked and totaled annually, qualifying our group for additional awards and benefits based on overall spending.

Artist Alliance Discount

Our Commitment to Art & Photography Clubs

The American Frame Alliance Program is our way of supporting art and photography clubs across the country—with exclusive benefits and shared rewards for your group.

Now it's easier than ever to participate online.

Join in 3 Simple Steps

1. Sign up - It's easy!

2. Link your club.

Find your club in the dropdown menu. If it's not listed, select "Other" and enter your club's name, website, and location.

3. Claim Your Discount.

Once registered, you'll receive a \$10 discount code (valid on orders of \$50 or more), that can be combined with our current free shipping promotion. You'll also get an email you can use to invite other members to join in.

Built to Benefit Your Club

Every purchase made by registered members contributes to your club's annual total—unlocking exclusive rewards and recognition through our tiered program.

Sign Up to Receive Your Discount

Email*

First name*

Last name*

Arts Club or Organization*

Please Select

- Toledo Arts Commission
- Toledo Camera Club
- Toledo Federation of Art Societies
- Toledo Photo Arts Club**
- Transparent Watercolor Society of America
- Tri County Arts Council
- Tri-County Arts Council
- Union of Maine Visual Artists
- Union of Maine Visual Artists

PACT 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 - jrmymers@roadrunner.com 419-575-1558
Charlie Mather - matherc@yahoo.com 419-277-7060
Mary Mather - mmather@toast2.net 419-277-7050
Laurie Dietrich - diet6rich@hotmail.com 419-290-7551

Committees

Lightroom - Chris Boesel & Ben Ayling - boeselc@gmail.com, b-ayling@onu.edu
Studio Group - John Dillon - jdillon356@aol.com
Photoshop Elements Group - Steve Stalker - sstalker@buckeye-express.com
Competition Chair - Jack Myers - jrmymers@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.

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5403 Elmer Drive
Toledo, OH 43615



www.photoartscluboftoledo.com