



## Environmental Portraits

by Lucy Durfee



Are you afraid to photograph people? Then the September assignment may be just what you need to take that first step to face those fears! With these helpful tips and a willing subject you may just find that you enjoy photographing people.

Spend time getting to know your subject so you know what they enjoy doing, what their life is like, and what kind of personality they have. This helps you find appropriate locations and get a feel for the style of images they'll want. It also helps them relax around you and the camera.

When choosing a location look for a place that says something about your subject. You'll want it to add interest to the shot, but not dominate it. Consider photographing them in their natural surroundings; you will be able to better illuminate their character, and therefore portray the essence of their personality, rather than merely a likeness of their physical features. They may be more at ease in familiar places, and be more conducive to expressing themselves. The same goes for the clothes - try to be true to the context without getting too outlandish. The clothes should fit the personality of your subject. Props can help tell a story about your subject but they should be subtle and naturally fit the environment. Avoid mergers with the face, especially with round objects.

Environmental portraits are not candid shots. You may want to direct your subject into positions that fits the environment and/or change your camera position to get a good composition and the best lighting. Purposely posed shots can be more dramatic and give a sense of style to your shot. Your subjects expression is also very important and you need to consider how it fits with the overall scene.

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### CLUB FACTS

The **Austin Shutterbug Club (ASC)** was founded in 1998 as a nonprofit photographic organization. The purpose of ASC shall be to encourage an interest in photography, to provide an opportunity for the exchange of ideas, to provide an enjoyable forum for the development of artistic and technical photographic skills and to promote a healthy spirit through educational programs, exhibition and through member competition. **Important meeting change:** beginning with our April 23, 2009 meeting, we will be meeting the 4th Thursday of each month, 7pm to 10pm at the LCRA Redbud Building, 3601 Lake Austin Blvd. (corner of Redbud and Lake Austin Blvd.) For more information, please visit the club's website at [www.austinshutterbug.com](http://www.austinshutterbug.com).

### JULY MEETING

Thursday, July 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the LCRA Redbud Building located at 3601 Lake Austin Blvd. (corner of Redbud and Lake Austin Blvd.) Visitors are always welcome!

## 10 Years of Shutterbugs

At the May meeting approximately 52 members and guests celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Austin Shutterbug Club. Everyone enjoyed cake and ice cream during the break. The club was started in May of 1999 by Brian and Shirley Loflin.



## July Program

The program for July is the fourth bi-monthly competition of 2009. The assignment for July is "Fireworks." You can find out more about the assignment theme, as well as assignments for the future months on the last page. Submit your entries according to the rules that are posted on the ASC website. Be sure and join us for this always interesting and fun event.



Consider your depth of field and use the appropriate aperture. Shooting at a smaller aperture (larger number, like f16) will keep the foreground and background in focus. A shallow depth of field (smaller number, like f5.6) might work too, especially if the objects of interest are close to your subject - like a musician and his instrument or a basket weaver and her tools.

The goal with environmental portraits is to go beyond the candid shots which capture people almost incidentally as they go through their daily life. With some planning and getting to know your subject you can capture images that provide the viewer with real insight into the personality and lifestyle of your subject.

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## August Program

Long time ASC members Brian and Shirley Loflin have completed their second in a highly regarded series of photographic field guides, *Texas Cacti* for Texas A&M University Press. In August, they will bring the club a behind the scenes look at how they sell the idea of a photographic book to a publisher and describe in depth how they tackle the research, field work, and complete production of the project.

During this project Brian and Shirley drove more than 17,000 miles crossing Texas many, many times. They will share many of the anecdotes of those miles and their adventures. Due to the nuances and developments in digital publishing, this book was one of the very first by TAMU Press that incorporated digital photographic images. Brian and Shirley will discuss their photography requirements and process in detail.

Brian and Shirley's work presents a concise, fully-illustrated field guide to over one hundred cacti in Texas and the surrounding region. More than 500 large and detailed color photographs and 200 diagrams, and range maps, along with easy-to-understand descriptions, make this book a quick and user-friendly guide to cactus identification for botanists, naturalists, and cactus enthusiasts. *Texas Cacti* will be found on the shelves of most booksellers beginning in September.

Past presidents of ASC, Brian and Shirley are independent writers and photographers. Their photographs have appeared in many books and periodicals, including *Texas Parks and Wildlife*, *Outdoor Photographer*, and *Texas Highways*. Authors of *Grasses of the Texas Hill Country* and other non-nature works, the Loflins also teach nature photography workshops and are currently working on a wildflower book also for TAMU Press. Other works planned include *Aquatic and Wetland Plants of the Texas Gulf Coast* and a volume on *Agaves and Aloes*.

## Airport Exhibition

by Lucy Durfee

The club has been invited to exhibit at the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. We will have three months to exhibit our photographs from January 2010 to March 2010. Actual schedule to be determined. The space available will hold about 40 framed images. Our theme for the exhibition is "Looking Up". Since this was one of our assignments earlier this year most of us should already have some great images. Each member will be able to submit up to four images for consideration. We'll have a committee jury all the images and select at least one image per member assuming less than 40 members participate. Looking Up means it's a dramatic view point – at least 45 degrees from the horizon, not just 10 or 20 degrees up.

I'd like to plan a matting and framing workshop before the exhibit to give members a chance to learn how to cut their own mats and possibly mat and frame their images for the exhibit. In order to accomplish this we'll need to submit images for selection early – maybe by September 30th – I'll need to figure out the schedule based on when we can hold the workshop.

This will be a great opportunity for our club with many travelers viewing our work. Matt Coldwell at the airport is very supportive of local artists.

Watch for further details coming soon!



*Climbing Tree* by Jane Guerin

# June Meeting Minutes

President Lucy Durfee called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Visitors were introduced and welcomed by all. Treasurer, Marlene Lebel, explained the due paying process and passed the envelope.

Lois Schubert, Events Coordinator, gave an update on the Round Top scavenger hunt. Participants are invited to submit their best images from the 15 categories on CD by the July 23rd meeting. Images will be shown and judged at the August meeting. All paid members should receive an email explaining the process in detail.

Lois also announced that Ann Cunningham encourages everyone who took pictures at the International Festival Institute grounds (in Round Top) to consider images to possibly have on the Institute's website or on exhibit there. Anyone interested should consider their image as a donation to the Institute. Credit will be given to the photographers.

Lois also told the group that the next field trip will be announced at a later date (possibly August or September.) This session may be light painting the Stevie Ray Vaughn statue at Lady Bird Johnson Lake.

July is a competition month for paid members and the theme is "Fireworks."

Lucy then introduced Pete Holland, VP and Programs Chairman. In August, Brian & Shirley Loflin will make a presentation on book publishing and distribution. October is still open. Email Pete with suggestions including contact info and the person's area of expertise. November is a competition month and December will be the holiday party and awards.

Lucy announced that NANPA is offering a 15% discount to first-time joiners when 5 or more club members enroll with NANPA, making the membership fee \$85. NANPA is hosting an international exhibit at the end of September in Yellowstone. Check out their website at [www.nanpa.org](http://www.nanpa.org).

Allen Keith reminded the group that the PSA magazines he frequently brings are on loan to the group. Please enjoy them and then return them. Allen has put together a slideshow of the Scarbrough images to share with the group, possibly next month.

Tonight's program on judging will be limited due to the malfunction of the projector. Brian will speak about the process, but will not be able to demonstrate using images. The full program will be repeated at a later date in order to certify members as judges.

Refreshments were provided by Karen Kilfeather and Rae Dollard.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

## Calls for Entry

### National Wildlife Photo Contest

National Wildlife Federation  
Deadline: July 25, 2009  
[nwf.org/photozone](http://nwf.org/photozone)

### SHOTS no. 105

SHOTS Magazine  
Deadline: August 5, 2009  
[shotsmag.com](http://shotsmag.com)

### Portraits

The Center for Fine  
Art Photography  
Deadline: August 18, 2009  
[c4fap.org](http://c4fap.org)

### World in Focus

National Geographic Traveler  
& PDN magazines  
Deadline: August 24, 2009  
[worldinfocuscontest.com](http://worldinfocuscontest.com)

### A Million Little Pictures: Documentary

Art House  
Deadline: Sept. 1, 2009.  
[arthousecoop.com/projects/amlp](http://arthousecoop.com/projects/amlp)

### River to Well Photo Competition

River to Well  
Deadline: September 12, 2009  
[rivertowell.com](http://rivertowell.com)

### 2009 Annual Juried Competition

Worldwide Photography  
Gala Awards  
Deadline: September 27, 2009  
[thegalaawards.com](http://thegalaawards.com)

### Photography in the Parks

Canon  
Deadline: September 30, 2009  
[usa.canon.com/parks](http://usa.canon.com/parks)

### 7th Annual Photo Contest

Smithsonian Magazine  
Deadline: December 1, 2009  
[photocontest.smithsonianmag.com](http://photocontest.smithsonianmag.com)

# Competition Assignments

Assignments are determined by the Competition Committee a year in advance so that members have at least a year to complete them.

## September 2009 - Environmental Portrait

“On location” or “environmental” portraits mean portraits taken of people in a situation that they live in (work, rest or play) and/or a place that says something about who they are. A good environmental portrait is more than just a likeness; it can convey something about the subject’s character, story and life. The surroundings can be as important as the subject’s face and clothes.

## November 2009 - Black and White

Shoot a classic black & white image for this assignment. Strive for images showing how emotive, arresting and inspiring the B&W medium can be - landscapes, still life, textures and details, etc. - whatever you shoot, be sure to realize the full potential of B&W. It doesn’t matter how the image got there, as long as the final photo is B&W!

## January 2010 - Hidden Texas

Pictures entered in this category should expose the real character or spirit of Texas. Take a fresh look at the familiar - capture a view that’s

rarely seen, or shoot a well-known subject in an innovative and distinctive way.

## March 2010 - Patterns in Nature

Photographing patterns in nature not only yields fascinating subjects, but in the process can reveal the incredible intricacy and beauty of the world around us. The assignment for March is to participate in the appreciation of the patterns found throughout nature and to share with others these wonders that you can discover anywhere and everywhere (even in your own backyard).

## May 2010 - Found Still Life

Serendipity has its own rewards, especially when you go out wandering with eyes wide-open and a camera in hand. Take the pictures that present themselves to you as you make your way on a trip, or just on the way to work. Keep in mind that this is a still life category, not a landscape, not architecture, not anything big. Necessarily. Think arrangement, but not by you. Nature is very good at arrangement. So is chance. So, get out there and find your masterpiece!

## July 2010 - America the Beautiful

What more appropriate theme for the month of our country’s birth? Images may be patriotic (lots of flags, for

instance) or just communicate the beauty and grandeur of this great land. Or, it can be representative of life in this place we call home. If it screams “USA! USA! USA!” it’s fair game.

You may enter two photographs in each competition. These photographs must be digital, and must be submitted by e-mail. Entries must be received by noon on the Wednesday before the meeting.

# Judging Workshop

Last month our meeting consisted of a training workshop for judges presented by Brian Loflin; unfortunately, the digital projection equipment was not working. The PowerPoint presentation has now been posted as a pdf on our website: <http://www.austins shutterbug.com/competition/ascjudging.pdf>. This material is a good review for experienced and new judges.

### COMPETITION JUDGES

The following is a list of scheduled judges for the coming months:

<b>July 2009</b>	<b>September 2009</b>
Max Layard	Dolph McCranie
Allen Keith	open
Teri Lum	open

If you have any questions about being a judge, please contact Dean Montgomery at 837-3015.

### NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Club members are encouraged to submit articles, images, news items, etc. for publication in the newsletter. You will find guidelines for submissions on the ASC website, [www.austins shutterbug.com](http://www.austins shutterbug.com). Submissions should be e-mailed to [sstokan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sstokan@sbcglobal.net).

### CLUB LEADERSHIP FOR 2009

President	<b>Lucy Durfee</b>	914-7935
Vice President/Programs	<b>Pete Holland</b>	689-5939
Secretary	<b>Jane Guerin</b>	261-3572
Treasurer	<b>Marlene Lebel</b>	626-5986
Competition Co-Chairman	<b>Fred Peebles</b>	441-7913
Competition Co-Chairman	<b>Phil Charlton</b>	918-8061
Competition Committee	<b>Dean Montgomery</b>	837-3015
Competition Committee	<b>Max Layard</b>	322-0239
Events Coordinator	<b>Lois Schubert</b>	280-7522
Events Coordinator	<b>Kathy McCall</b>	264-9602
Hospitality Chairman	<b>Linda Sheppard</b>	306-1516
Newsletter Editor	<b>Steven Stokan</b>	825-8255
Refreshments Chairman	<b>Charlaine Matthews</b>	418-9405
Webmaster	<b>Barbara Hunley</b>	250-1144
Electronic Communications	<b>Rose Epps</b>	502-0608
Roster and Nametags	<b>Rose Epps</b>	502-0608