



Our February speaker is Julie Fox of Fotomechanic.

As the name implies, Julie fixes customers' photos. She is an expert in photo restoration and digital art using Photoshop and Corel Painter and will be speaking on "How to make your photos stand out in a crowd; simple tools to enhance your images". She will be showing tips and tricks in Photoshop to put the "WOW!" in your digital images. Julie Fox is a member of the National Association of Photoshop Professionals and the Professional Digital Imaging Association. Her services include restoration, image enhancement, poster art, paintings and even pillows using her clients' photos.

"I moved to Austin in 2003 from Hawaii. My husband was a career Marine for 31 years and I moved with him about every 2-2 1/2 years. We are actually High School sweethearts! (And I still like him!) We are originally from Pennsylvania and I am a graduate of Penn State University with a degree in education. Because we moved so often, I never had a "teaching career" I taught for a few years then quit work to raise my two sons. After my youngest was around 13 I began working as an office manager, and did so for the next 13 years. My last job before I came to Austin was working with Digital Security for a large company. It is there I was introduced to Photoshop. I began taking lesson while still working and have been taking them ever since. I attend the National Association of Photoshop Users' great convention every year (12 so far) and any other classes I can find. I also have attended several Painter specific classes.

I did picture restorations for about two years in Hawaii before coming here. When I arrived in Austin, I was taking care of my dad (he lived with us) and being new to the area I didn't want an office job and leave him behind. So, I started my company in 2003 known as the Fotomechanic, and have been doing that full time since. I branched out from just restoration, to enhancements, retouching, creative art and painting.

I am fortunate to have pictures now in Spain, France, Thailand and many places in the United States! Having said all of this, I am not a photographer!! I have taken lessons to learn about lighting, shadows etc. I work on photos that others have taken and want some kind of digital "magic" done to them.

I also have taught for some photographers during their class session they may have been giving. I also work as a free lance retoucher/artist for photographers. I have helped judge some photography contests and spoken to various groups. That sort of sums it up. My two sons live in Texas. One in Austin, and the other in Boerne. My husband now works for the UT at the Pickle research labs." **Here are some examples of Julie's work:**



Linda in Italy - Original



Patio Flowers and Fountain - Original



Patio Flowers and Fountain - Enhanced



Linda in Italy - Enhanced

February Meeting

Thursday, February 24, 2011 • 7:00 pm
LCRA Redbud Building • 3601 Lake Austin Blvd.
(corner of Redbud and Lake Austin Blvd.)

Visitors are always welcome!

Members don't forget to pay your 2011 Dues!

CONGRATULATIONS!

From the three finalists of each category for the Llano Scavenger Hunt the attending members and guests got to vote for their favorites at the January meeting and the winners are:



1. County Courthouse
Lois Schubert



6. Log cabin - Linda Sheppard



11. Metal art
Paul Munch



2. Jailhouse - Pete Holland



7. Granite
Linda Sheppard



12. Llano icon
Kathy McCall



3. Historical Building - Pete Holland



8. Llano bridge - Pete Holland



13. Bottle tree
Linda Sheppard



4. Man or Beast
Dolph McCrainie



9. River - Don Kirby



14. Covered Wagon - A Tie
Linda Sheppard and Pete Holland



5. RR cars - Don Kirby



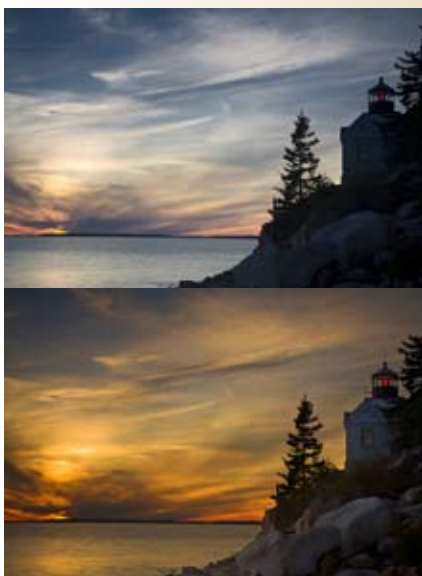
10. Be Creative - Allen Keith



15. Best Shot of the Day
Pete Holland

Rose Epps presented our first “Member Moment” at the January meeting here is a sample of her excellent presentation. Here are the steps for the Lighthouse image:

- In raw, set the white balance to cloudy
- In raw, brightened the rocks and lighthouse with exposure slider to the way I wanted them in the final image
- In raw, set contrast the way I wanted it for the rocks and lighthouse
- In Photoshop, I made a duplicate layer and removed sensor dirt with the spot tool
- Changed the blending mode of the layer to Multiply
- Added a mask to the layer
- Painted with black on the layer over the rocks and lighthouse to reveal them.
- Added hue & saturation adjustment layer and increased master saturation to 27%
- Added a contrast layer and raised the contrast to 18%
- Note: These last two adjustment layers are above the masked duplicate layer so the changes did not affect the area which was masked off.



BEFORE

AFTER

**February's
Member Moment
will be presented
by Dolph McCrainie**

Congratulations ASC Members

Linda Sheppard has an image in the Creative Arts Society exhibit hanging in the hall on the first floor of the Bass Concert Hall. The show will be there until March 11.

Lucy Durfee has two images in the Exhibition at the Dragonfly Gallery at Rosendale: “A Photo is Worth a Thousand Words”
January 18 - March 4, 2011
Reception February 3, 2011 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm
The gallery is located at: 4007 Marathon Blvd
Austin, TX 78756 Hours: Tue, Thurs, Fri,
Sat 10am - 5:30pm and Wed 10am - 2pm

Jane Guerin, Kathy McCall, Rose Epps and Dick Lavine all have images in the “Simplicity” exhibit which will be at the A. Smith Gallery in Johnson City February 25 through April 17. There will be a reception February 26th from 4 until 7 pm.
A Smith Gallery is at 105 N. Nugent Ave., Johnson City.
Hours: Fri & Sat 11 am - 6 pm; Sun 11 am - 3 pm.



March ASC Meeting

March is a competition month.

The assignment for March is **Texas Spring**. Spring in Texas (when we have rain) can be incredible, as we all know. This assignment

is intended to get you out and about to capture spring at its best. Naturally, one's thoughts are drawn to images of wildflowers as far as the eye can see, and that is certainly one scenario, but maybe you can do better. Or not. Just remember, you aren't limited to only wildflowers.

Learning Opportunities

Texas Hill Country Nature Photography Alliance March 13 - 16, 2011

Join premier nature photographers Rolf Nussbaumer and Sean Fitzgerald for a four-day workshop highlighting three private ranches in the Texas Hill Country. Timed to begin the day after the NANPA Summit in McAllen, TX ends, the workshop is organized by the Texas Hill Country Nature Photography Alliance.

There will be a maximum number of 10 participants split into two groups; each group will spend time with Rolf and Sean. Price will be \$795 per participant; and includes drinks & snacks at meet & greets, lunch at the ranches; and photography fees. Participants will be responsible for travel, lodging and other meals.

For more information, visit this site:
www.hillcountryphoto.org

Rocky Mountain School of Photography is hosting the workshop “**Lightroom® for Photographers**” in Austin, Texas with instructor Laura Shoe,
April 17-22, 2011. Space is limited to 16 participants. See the RMSP website for more info.

Photographic Muse: Austin

November 6-11th, 2011, Austin TX
Casa De Los Santos, 1504 Treadwell Street
Penny De La Santos, Lynn Johnson and Scott Martin are combining their talents to present a seven day intensive photography workshop in Austin, Texas. The price for the workshop is \$995 and includes some meals. See website: www.on-sight.com for more info.

Club Leadership for 2011

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| President | Brian Loflin | 331-2820 |
| Vice President/Programs | Pete Holland | 689-5939 |
| Secretary | Jane Guerin | 261-3572 |
| Treasurer | Paul Munch | 836-6379 |
| Competition Co-Chairman | Fred Peebles | 441-7913 |
| Competition Co-Chairman | Tom Delaney | 266-6490 |
| Competition Committee | Dolph McCrainie | 394-9031 |
| Events Coordinator | Lois Schubert | 947-4864 |
| Events Coordinator | Linda Sheppard | 306-1516 |
| Hospitality Chairman | Phyllis Rummel | 264-1412 |
| Newsletter Editor | Kathy McCall | 264-9602 |
| Refreshments Chairman | Charlaine Matthews | 418-9405 |
| Refreshments Chairman | Bev McCrainie | 394-9031 |
| Webmaster | Barbara Hunley | 250-1144 |
| Electronic Communication | Rose Epps | 502-0608 |
| Roster and Name tags | Rose Epps | 502-0608 |

January 2011 Competition--newly renamed **Evaluation and Critique**
Judges were Brian Loflin, Shirley Loflin and Phil Charlton

In the **General** category, out of 31 entries 24 received top scores:



Waiting for Breakfast - 15
Beverly Lyle



Ethereal Glow - 14
Barbara Hunley



Caracara - 14
Beverly McCranie



Peak in the Alaskan Range - 15
Chris Lippincott



Clam Chowder for Dinner - 14
Mary Paige Huey



Succulents! - 15
Kathy McCall



Rosario Beach - 15
Lucy Durfee



A Fence to Two Lakes - 14
Tom Delaney



Spider Rock - 15
Rose Epps



Sunny Side Up - 14
John Davis



Golden Fronted
Woodpecker - 15
Dolph McCranie



Carolina Chickadee - 14
Marlene Lebel



Throne Room
Llano Jail - 15
Pete Holland



Portal - 15
Paul Munch



Carolina Satyre - 15
Beverly McCrainie



El Morro Sentry - 14
Bob Lippincott



Wagon at Ghost Ranch - 15
Linda Sheppard



Arizona Sunset - 15
Dolph McCrainie



Florence at Night - 15
Lucy Durfee



South Austin Christmas - 15
Pete Holland



Cuyahoga Bridge - 14
Marlene Lebel



Santa Fe Serenity - 15
Mary Paige Huey



Shrimper Sunrise - 15
Paul Munch



Dog at the Beach - 15
Tom Delaney

In the **Assignment** category, out of 5 entries 1 received a top score. The Assignment was **Trailer Food**



Your Hot Chocolate is Ready - 15
Kathy McCall

Thanks to our judges for some excellent feedback!

Austin Shutterbug Club Meeting Minutes January 27, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President, Brian Loflin. Eleven visitors were introduced by Phyllis Rummel and welcomed by the members attending. The total number present was 52. Several visitors joined the club.

Brian discussed plans for the coming year. He introduced each member of the 2011 leadership team. In the leadership meeting earlier in the month, two additional positions had been suggested. Brian moved to add two advisory members to the Executive Committee. The motion was seconded by several members. The members will be past President, Lucy Durfee, and a member at large—Phil Charlton. Brian also moved to add the position of Exhibits Chairperson, and this motion was also seconded by several members. That position will be filled by Shirley Loflin. The two motions that were seconded were also passed by a majority vote of the members present. The club's bylaws will be updated to reflect these positions.

Treasurer Paul Munch reported in detail on the proposed budget for 2011 and it was approved. He announced membership dues are collected in January, and passed an envelope for new and renewing members to place their payments.

Vice President Pete Holland announced that next month's speaker will be Julie Fox, who owns FotoMechanic, a commercial service for restoring photographs.

Brian announced he has ordered new business cards for the club.

Kathy McCall explained judging for images from the October Scavenger Hunt at Llano, Texas. She distributed pencils and cards for each member to vote for the winner in each of the 15 categories. She presented the top three images in each category for members to choose from. Votes were tallied during the refreshment break.

Competition Co-Chair Fred Peebles presented checks to recipients of EOY awards for 2010. Competition Co-Chair Tom Delaney announced the March and May assignments and the new name for competition—"Evaluation and Critique." January competition results and comments were presented, beginning with Assignment images, then General.

The group broke for refreshments provided by Liz Duncan, Dee Smith and Gregg Mack.

Upon return, Kathy McCall presented the winning images for the Scavenger Hunt.

Rose Epps then presented the club's first "Member Moment." She presented 5 images—the untouched raw file and the finished image, explaining in detail the steps she had taken. Questions were encouraged, and there were several.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

On the use of Protective (Clear) Filters-by Brian Loflin

Many people are sold and use a clear filter on their lens. These may be of several types including Clear, Skylight or UV (ultraviolet) or Haze. The idea here is that the use of these filters is for protection. My question is, "Protection from what?" Isn't that what the lens cap is for?

Now think about this for a minute. You buy a camera and a lens or two. The cost of each lens is at least a few hundred dollars. Some can be well over a thousand dollars. Then you go and screw a \$19 piece of glass on it. Does that even make sense?

Lens manufacturers spend a lot of money, engineering and resources to provide a good optically sound lens system. The glass is perfect; many elements are formed of specially formulated glass. In addition, modern lenses have specialized coatings that help to focus the light rays of every color at the same spot. Placing a cheap piece of glass filter in front of your lens tends to undo all that.

There are several considerations with filters and their associated optics. First, the glass must be optically clear. That is without imperfections. The most common imperfection is that the two surfaces are not perfectly parallel to each other. This condition will distort the image as it passes through the glass. Other imperfections include minute scratches.

Secondly, the optical system must be impeccably clean. Placing a filter on your lens adds two more surfaces that must be free from dust, spots and image degrading film. Now you must clean the front surface of the lens and the front and rear surface of the filter.

If you clean your optics, including a filter, with that fancy micro fiber cloth you got, you are flirting with disaster. It is a cloth. Therefore it is porous. It will collect dust and other unwanted particles in the fibers. And what happens when you wipe the surface of your optics? You scratch it. Remember the specialized coatings? These scratches and abrasions will certainly degrade those surfaces and the resulting images as well.

For cleaning optics, use only specially designed lens tissues and lens cleaning fluid.

Now there are a couple of situations where the use of a filter for protection is worthwhile. Those are in rain or snow and blowing dust, dirt and sand. There it makes sense. But buy good filters like B+W, Heliopan or Tiffen among a very few others. These will cost from around \$80.00 to \$115.00 (72mm diameter) or more for good, optically sound filters. So, you can see that good filters from respectable manufacturers cost more because they are substantially better.

And, don't forget, polarizing filters work best when they are not stacked. In fact, they may vignette the edges of your image with wide-angle lenses.

Now, take good care of your equipment. Keep your optics clean and you shouldn't have to worry about a protective filter. And you will make better pictures. Because you care.