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Expressions is a publication of the North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA®), a nonprofit membership association that helps North America-based nature photographers at all levels of experience grow as artists, citizen scientists, and entrepreneurs through education, networking, and advocacy. Together with our members, we advance conservation and foster ethical field practices for the long-term benefit of all.

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Unprecedented submission quality

Dear Friends,

This 20th Anniversary year of the NANPA Showcase perfectly reflects members’ talent and dedication to capturing and conveying their personal experiences with the beauty, complexity, whimsy, and even heartbreak of nature. While every Showcase has brought us amazing images, the latest collection is unprecedented, and the judges frequently remarked on the originality and extraordinary quality of the submissions. The hard work and unique approaches of the entrants coupled with the evolution of photographic technology made new interpretations possible, even when familiar subjects were involved. Tight crops maintained the integrity of the files, cellphones generated unexpected perspectives, difficult lighting situations generated powerful scenes, and both telephoto and macro advances revealed exciting new details.

We credit NANPA and its adventurous, creative, and environmentally aware membership with the advancement of responsible and educational nature photography throughout the world, and the winning images featured here are a wonderful reflection of NANPA’s success in fulfilling its mission since its founding in 1994. Thank you to all who have worked to build NANPA and to all the participants in the NANPA Showcase who, through their photography, have illustrated the organization’s amazing journey. May the coming year bring you many new and beautiful experiences in nature!

Warm regards,

Wendy Shattil
Showcase Coordinator

Most popular contest subjects

A unique subject stands out to the judges, so keep that in mind when selecting images for nature photography contests. Below is a list of the most popular subjects during recent Showcase competitions. Prizes are especially difficult to win with these common subjects.

- **2023** – Insects, bears, elephants
- **2022** – Coastal brown bears, hummingbirds, night photos
- **2021** – Bird behavior, night landscapes
- **2020** – Bears, night scenes, birds in flight/with food
- **2019** – Bears, night scenes, birds in flight/with food
- **2018** – Bears, gorillas, birds in flight
- **2017** – Alaskan bears, waterfalls, star trails
- **2016** – Bears, auroras, birds in flight
- **2015** – Predation, mating behavior, bears, abstracts, trees
- **2014** – Bears (black, brown and polar), gorillas
- **2013** – Bears, terns and other shorebirds
- **2012** – Water-related, e.g., underwater, above water, seascapes, shorebirds
 Trust Kite Optics/NAVATAQ professional-grade stabilization systems for stable viewing from moving vehicles, boats, aircraft and other unstable platforms, with confidence in an IPX7 waterproof rating and shock absorbing silicone armoring.
Showcase judges

Mammals, Macro/micro/all other wildlife, Scapes, Birds, Altered reality categories

NANPA is fortunate to have an amazing group of passionate, accomplished, versatile, and generous professional photographers who volunteered to be Showcase photo competition judges this year. They sifted through all the photos entered in the 2023 competition.

Chris Linder

Chris Linder is the 2023 recipient of NANPA's 2023 Trailblazer Award. Linder specializes in photographing scientific fieldwork, wildlife, and landscapes in extreme environments. A former naval officer and oceanographic researcher, Linder has photographed more than 50 scientific expeditions and has spent over two years exploring the polar regions. His goals are to use photography to educate the public about environmental science and communicate the urgent need to protect our planet's wild places and species.

Linder’s images have appeared in museums, books, calendars, and international magazines. He has published three books, including The Big Thaw: Ancient Carbon, Modern Science, and a Race to Save the World (Mountaineers/Braded River 2019) and Science on Ice: Four Polar Expeditions (University of Chicago Press, 2011). He was the lead cinematographer and co-producer of the 2015 feature-length documentary film Antarctic Edge: 70 Degrees South. In addition to his assignment work, Linder also teaches photography workshops and presents lectures to audiences of all ages. He is a Senior Fellow in the International League of Conservation Photographers and a Fellow National in the Explorers Club.

Photo of Chris Linder in arctic region holding a camera
Photo by Mike Carlowicz

George Lepp

George Lepp is no stranger to NANPA members and has previously served as a Showcase judge. A nature photographer, teacher, author, and inventor he became one of Canon's first Explorers of Light in 1995 and is now a member of the Canon Legends program. His passions for beauty, precision, cutting-edge technology, and environmental responsibility are revealed in his compelling images, which are widely published and exhibited. Lepp’s university studies in wildlife and wildlands management were interrupted in the 1960s by service in the U.S. Marine Corps. He then earned a BA and honorary MSc from Brooks Institute of Photography and began his career working with scientists at UC Davis and for Car & Driver. Lepp is Field Editor of Outdoor Photographer magazine and has shared his knowledge of all aspects of photography through hundreds of publications and lectures.

A founder of the North American Nature Photography Association, he has been honored by many awards, including Photo Media Photography Person of the Year, the Photographic Society of America’s Progress Award, and NANPA’s 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award. Back then he said “The thing that excites me most is the way we are making more people closely observe the natural world around them. After a workshop, people look at an area in a whole new way. The more nature photographers we have, the more they’ll want to protect those areas. As we see the hordes of people going to familiar places, we’ll look for new stuff, the plants, the smaller mammals, and new locations. It’s important to get more and more people involved in documenting their surroundings. As the equipment keeps getting better and more sophisticated, it opens up more areas and ways to photograph. You see that in the quality of Showcase images: they get better and better every year.”

Kathy Adams Clark

Kathy Adams Clark has been a professional nature photographer since 1995. Her photos have been published in hundreds of places including Family Fun, Nature’s Best, New York Times, Birder’s World, and Ranger Rick. AAA Journey, Texas Parks & Wildlife and Texas Highways magazines have used Kathy’s photos on their cover. Her photos have also appeared in numerous books and calendars including the Barnes & Noble Ireland Countryside Calendar, the cover of the Arbor Foundation Rainforest Calendar, and the Sierra Engagement Calendar. Kathy’s photos of Houston were compiled into a calendar offered in Costco in 2016.

Her photos appear every week in the "Nature" column in the Houston Chronicle written by her husband, Gary Clark. Kathy and Gary have worked with national publishing houses to produce ten books that combine their photography and writing skills. Their latest books are Book of Texas Birds published by Texas A&M University Press and Backroads of Texas published by Voyageur Press.

Kathy’s photography is featured in Portrait of Houston published in 2012 by Farcountry Press. Photographing Big Bend National Park, published in 2013 by Texas A&M Press, is written by Kathy and uses her photography throughout.

Kathy is past-president of NANPA, received NANPA’s 2019 Mission Award and chairs the committee planning NANPA’s 2023 Nature Photography Summit. She teaches photography and is a popular speaker at local and national events. She leads photo tours through Strabo Tours to countries including Costa Rica, Brazil, Spain, Africa, Italy, Peru, Morocco, and Norway.
Clay Bolt

Clay Bolt is a natural history and conservation photographer specializing in the world's smaller creatures. Clay's work appears in publications such as National Geographic Magazine, The New York Times, and National Wildlife. He is a Senior Fellow in the International League of Conservation Photographers (iLCP) and past president of the North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA).

His current major focus is on North America's native bees and the important roles that they play in our lives. He was a leading voice in the fight to protect the rusty-patched bumble bee as a federally protected species under the Endangered Species Act, which became North America's first federally protected native bee in 2017.

In 2019, Bolt became the first photographer to document a living Wallace's Giant Bee—the world's largest bee—as a part of a four-person exploration team to rediscover the species in the Indonesian islands known as North Maluku.

Jeff Foott

Jeff Foott has worked for over 25 years, documenting nature and environment in both film and still pictures. Having worked in over 35 countries, he has produced over 40 films, shown in over 100 countries. His last film on Patagonia for the Living Edens Series was a finalist for an Emmy. His films for National Geographic, Discovery Channel, and BBC have won numerous awards.

His pictures have appeared in National Geographic, Geo, Natures Best, Smithsonian, and many others. As a marine biologist he worked extensively on sea otters and manatees, resulting in several films and a book on each. Jeff is a past professional advisor to Outdoor Photographer Magazine. He is proud to be an iLCP Fellow and Senior Fellow in NANPA.

Rosamund Kidman Cox (Roz)

Rosamund Kidman Cox (Roz) is an editor, photo editor and writer specializing in wildlife and environmental issues. Previously editor of BBC Wildlife magazine for more than 20 years, she project manages, edits and writes photography-led books.

She has been involved in the judging of Wildlife Photographer of the Year for the past four decades and edits the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Portfolio books. Books she has authored include 55 Years of Wildlife Photographer of the Year and The Masters of Nature Photography titles for the Natural History Museum, as well as the Unforgettable Photography series. Titles she has project managed for BBC Books include Planet Earth, Frozen Planet, The Hunt, and Planet Earth II. Roz is an affiliate of the International League of Conservation Photographers.
Scapes

The broad Scapes category encompasses landscapes, plantscapes, seascapes, cloudscapes, atmosphere, and weather. These may include astrophotography, panoramas, long exposure, and star trail images as well as traditional fine art scapes.
I made this image after a week-long trip exploring and photographing the rugged beauty of Big Sur and the surrounding area. Point Lobos State Natural Reserve was the last spot on my trip before a long drive home. I was hoping for a colorful sunset to light the rugged coastline. Instead, the evening clouds left things soft and muted. Disappointed, I switched my lens to a telephoto and tried to find a more intimate scene. From up high, these distant rocky outcroppings caught my interest. I watched as waves battered the small sea palms, as if tiny islands in a storm. In my photography I'm drawn to the contrast of flowing water and rocky shorelines, especially at longer exposures. It took many photos and tweaking my composition to capture the perfect wave. By changing my expectations, I was still able to capture an image I am proud of.

Bio
Growing up on the East Coast I dreamed of the iconic landscapes of the West. This led me to move to California after college and explore immense photographic opportunities. Currently, I live in San Diego and am still passionate about documenting the beauty of the natural world.

iansfrazier.com
@iansfrazier

Headshot photo by Ian S. Frazier
Nature photography is often about anticipating the unexpected. Through our unique individual perspectives of the world around us, we find interesting compositions or events that may be “invisible” to others. I hired a helicopter to capture the crests and shapes of the sand dunes of the mighty Namib Desert. I had hoped to capture the phenomenon in this area where fog from the cold Atlantic Ocean filters through the sand dunes. What I did not expect was to find the shape of a human face, complete with flowing hair formed by wind and the prevailing forces of nature.

Bio
Originally from Germany, Gero Heine’s early experiences roaming the Black Forest and exploring the Alps and Dolomites sparked a lifelong passion for wilderness and wildlife. Upon moving to Santa Cruz as a high school student, Gero became an avid surfer, further connecting him to nature through frequent encounters with the abundant marine life of Monterey Bay. In the decades since, Gero has photographed all over the world. He is engaged in conservation efforts and has participated in a lion research project. For the past 16 years, his work is exhibited in art shows, festivals, and galleries across the Western U.S. Gero’s work has won numerous awards, including the Wildlife category of Nature’s Best Magazine’s prestigious Windland Smith Rice International Awards and a North American Nature Photography Association Top 10 Award (2011).

gerohiene.com

Headshot photo by Natalie Wollmann
They say no two snowflakes are alike, and the same could be said of waves. Some photographers prefer to capture the largest of waves to show the size and power of the ocean. Instead, I was focused more in capturing the artful display of waves, where water rolls and twists itself into a unique sculpture that appears only in a blink of an eye. I chose to submit this particular wave because there are two different types of wave actions happening at the same time, within the same wave. This wave shows chaotic turbulence and explosion on one side and from it emerges a wall of smooth sunlit water glistening through on the other side. All of this representing the calm after the storm, with a water twister in between for fun.

Bio
I am a self-employed architect during the week and a nature photographer on the weekends. My wife and I live in the Seattle area where we enjoy hiking and photography in the Pacific Northwest. I first fell in love with nature photography as a student in architecture school where it made a creative escape from my studies. In the years since, experiencing the outdoors and photographing nature has remained an important part of my life. I strive to find art in all types of nature, from the elegant form of a bird in flight to the sculptural display of a wave.

Don Larkin
larkinaturephotos.smugmug.com
@larkinaturephotos
After the Storm

Badlands National Park, South Dakota

Ron Santini

As a nature and landscape photographer, you dream about these scenes developing. My wife, son, daughter-in-law and grandkids were inside Badlands National Park, looking for bison when a severe thunderstorm came roaring through. The storm lasted about 20 minutes passing through to the east. I knew if I just waited, something spectacular was about to happen. Once the rain stopped, I mounted my camera on my tripod and waited for the right moment. To my surprise, as the sun broke through the clouds to the west, a double rainbow developed to the east in front of us. The storm clouds were still present as the storm moved eastward, providing a very dramatic and epic scene.

Bio

Ron has over 20 years of experience capturing the natural world of stunning landscapes, enchanted waterfalls, and wildlife in their natural environments. His training is a combination of both formal and informal classroom instruction, and in-the-field workshops where he has refined his photographic skills. This training has resulted in numerous local, regional, and national photographic awards.

ronsantiniphotography.com
@ronsantiniphotos
Scapes

Top 100

Russ Bishop
Rainbow Falls and Fern
Wailuku River State Park, Hawaii

Greg Duncan
Non-traditional capture, drone
Fagradalsfjall volcano erupted again, when a fissure opened up in Reykjanes Peninsula
Iceland

Carol Grenier
Deep snow blankets the landscape in mid-winter, bending trees into fantastic shapes
Lapland, Finland

Gero Heine
Namib Dunes and Fog: Sand dunes are formed by the wind in proximity to the Atlantic Ocean
Namib-Naukluft National Park, Namibia
Scapes

Stephanie Hogue
Magnificent Beauty
Texas

Robert Mance
Purple Mountains' Majesty
Antelope Canyon, Page, Arizona

Matthew Moses
Fire and Ice
Duluth, Minnesota

Steve Munch
Foamy Flute
Hollywood Beach, California

Top 100
Scapes

Steve Munch
Fire and Water
Hawaii

Jane Scott Norris
Aldeyjarfoss in Winter: The Most Beautiful of Iceland's Many Waterfalls
Iceland

Jane Scott Norris
Colorful Night
Vestrahorn, Iceland

Joanne Wells
Autumn in a Cypress Swamp
George Smith State Park, Twin City, Georgia
Cameron Azad
Explosion in the Redwoods
Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, California

Vandana Bajikar
Beacon: An alpine glow in -34F temperature with fresh snow storm
Canadian Rockies

Dana Barnett
Small Storm with Inflow and Rain Shaft
Nebraska, near Missouri border

Russ Bishop
Earthlight: Lava flow entering the ocean at dawn
Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Hawaii
Rob Darby
Bald Cypress Color Palette
Caddo Lake, Texas

Tom Egel
Cold Smoke at Tangled Creek
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

Tom Egel
Storm at White Sands
White Sands National Park, New Mexico

Garry Everett
Alien Land
Death Valley National Park, California
Garry Everett
The Fire Inside
Yosemite National Park, California

Garry Everett
Time Guardian
Bristlecone Pine Forest, White Mountains, California

Ian Frazier
Fragile Sand Tufas with a Pretty Sunset
Mono Lake, California

Lee Friedman
Electric Light Show
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina
Gero Heine
Ostrich and Pink Dunes
Sossusvlei Area, Namibia

David Johnston
Yellow Birch in Spruce Grove with Fog
Dolly Sods Scenic Area, West Virginia

Mark Kelley
The aurora borealis dances over the Mendenhall Glacier while the glacier is lit by the moon
Mendenhall Glacier, Tongass National Forest, Alaska

Camille Lamoureux
A fortuitously arranged rainbow of colors in the autumn leaves
Kirkland, Washington
As I watched the northern lights pulse and dance on the horizon, several coyotes began to yip. It was magical!

Superior National Forest, Minnesota

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A Sunny Fall Day on North Fork Mountain

North Fork Mountain, West Virginia

---

Bruce Leventhal

Morning Light

Minnesota

---

Charles Needle

Aspen in Fog, Owl Creek Pass

Ridgway, Colorado

---

Nathaniel Peck

Ryan Pennesi

As I watched the northern lights pulse and dance on the horizon, several coyotes began to yip. It was magical!

Superior National Forest, Minnesota
Mary Louise Ravese
Rainbow Falls: Falling autumn leaves scatter like confetti around this multi-level waterfall in a narrow, stepped gorge
Rainbow Falls, Watkins Glen State Park, New York

Vicki Santello
I was shooting a sunburst beam in a gap in an old growth cypress tree. Unexpectedly, a kayaker floated into my image!
Atchafalaya Basin, Louisiana

Ronald Santini
Lightning Strike on the Mittens
Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park, Utah

Bob Watson
Sunburst near sunset on what appeared to be twin Joshua trees
Joshua Tree National Park, California
Wayne Wolfersberger
Canary Hot Spring Terraces
Mammoth Hot Springs, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

Wayne Wolfersberger
Off the Beaten Path, Mountain Top behind Grand Prismatic Spring
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

Thomas Yackley
Tremont Cascade
Tremont, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee

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Macro/Micro/All other wildlife

The Macro/Micro/All other wildlife category includes images of all non-bird and non-mammal wildlife as well as close-ups of any subject. Close-ups are intimate views, tightly framed, or close examinations of subjects in nature. The category often includes underwater life, insects, amphibians, reptiles, and flowers as well as unexpected views of frost, ice, and snow.
An occupied spider’s web casts an iridescent glow as light from the setting sun is refracted by the web

Encinitas, California

Mark Drawbridge

This photograph was taken in my backyard in April of 2020, just after the start of the COVID lockdown. It was an unprecedented time filled with anxiety and uncertainty. Fortunately, I had my family for support and entertainment and vice versa. For them, I am sure watching me get so excited about photographing this spider was entertaining! This scene presented itself spontaneously as we sat at our outdoor patio table. As the sun set, I caught a shimmer of light as a spider web was uniquely illuminated. I grabbed my camera and took a series of images before the light faded. In addition to the special memory of enduring those early months with family, this image reinforces two important photographic concepts for me: you don’t have to travel to exotic places to capture unique images and the light is king in photography!

Bio

I am a marine biologist who has worked for a non-profit research organization in San Diego for more than 30 years. My love of nature started early growing up in New England and spending time outdoors fishing and hiking. The joy in nature photography is as much about the experience and the physical and mental benefits of being out in nature. I enjoy the challenge of capturing images that are unique and dramatic even if the subject matter is common. Becoming proficient in photography and the digital darkroom will be an endless pursuit.

markdrawbridgephotography.com
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@markdrawbridgephotography

Headshot photo by Jamie Drawbridge
Lemon sharks swim past the boat at the surface during dawn

*Bahamas*

**Jennifer Idol**

I love nothing more than getting up close and personal with large wildlife such as these lemon sharks. The Bahamas is one of my favorite places to shoot because of the numerous shark species we get to see in clear water. From lemon sharks to tiger, nurse, reef, and even bull or great hammerhead species, they are all curious and engaging animals.

I particularly enjoy that sharing shark photography helps people understand these animals as more than apex predators to fear. Sharks are struggling from overfishing due to them being sport fish or for finning-related deaths to be used in products. By showcasing their beauty, we can show them as an animal with which a safe encounter was made.

**Bio**

Jennifer Idol, an expert in diving, design, and photography, connects people to the natural world. She showcased local waters in her book, *An American Immersion*, a quest in which she became the first woman to dive 50 states. She’s published in *DIVER, SCUBA Diving, and Alert Diver*. She is also recognized as a PADI® Ambassadiver (2017 and 2018) and is an Explorer’s Club Fellow. Jennifer helps others experience wildlife encounters as an expedition leader for trips with Big Fish Expeditions. humpback whales, and tiger sharks.

[uwdesigner.com](http://uwdesigner.com)

@uwDesigner

*Headshot photo by Aaron Bates*
Alexandre Andes Gascon

If you look closely you can find insects just about anywhere. This situation was no different. I wasn't deep in the rainforest but rather at my uncle's farm property just outside the center of Manaus. With that being said, a certain amount of knowledge of insect ecology was required to avoid disturbing the insect and its eggs. Additionally, I knew a single shot wouldn't suffice to capture the detail I wanted and thus the technical skills of stacking multiple images into one final composite was also necessary.

Bio
Alex is a macro photographer currently based in Miami, Florida. He has a multidisciplinary background in anthropology and entomology. As a photographer, his goal is to document invertebrate diversity and present insects in a charismatic way.

@alexandes.jpg

This adult stink bug is exhibiting parental care over its eggs

Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil
Finding camouflaged caterpillars can be challenging. I noticed a section of leaves was stripped on a young tree. A lucky search turned up this cecropia caterpillar. My initial focus was its renowned multi-colored spiny tubercles that give it a striking appearance. But when the stem flipped to reveal these amazing blue croquet "shoes", my vision changed. I shot it again two weeks later, but by then it had plumped up, reducing the visual impact of these prolegs and croquets. As I was taking this shot, I realized how beautifully illustrative the cecropia's legs and feet are for educational purposes.

Bio
Karen Campbell combines her passions as a naturalist and macro photographer to capture nature interactions in her yard and protected habitats. She got serious about macro photography in 2009 with a goal of documenting bees that had discovered their 4-acre native plant restoration. She expanded her goal to include pollinators and their relationships with plants. And then to all arthropods, plants, and fungi. She participates in community science projects, and her image catalog now includes several thousand species of plants and arthropods.

More recently, Karen transformed her photographic style to be more creative. She uses photojournalism to share stories of her subjects in articles, blogs, and social media posts. Through this work, Karen hopes to encourage people to create and protect native habitat in their own yards and communities.

focusonnatives.com
@KarenInNature

Headshot photo by Gary Campbell
Dee Langevin

I love to capture unusual images of scenes that are not often witnessed by others. Finding these glacier-polished stones nestled in the crevasses of a melting iceberg was unexpected. The beautiful, soft, refracted light filtering through the cool blue ice provided a wonderful contrast to the smooth, dark stones. The color and shapes in this unusual iceberg were intriguing and the added interest of the glacial stones told a story of a glacier from the surrounding mountains, which captured rocks and debris as it traveled slowly to the sea, grinding the stones over thousands of years before they were revealed in the melting iceberg we encountered.

Bio

I am a retired analytical chemist with a passion for nature and wildlife photography. I became serious about photography when I retired in 2006 and have enjoyed traveling the world, capturing the beauty I find. I love being outside in nature, photographing anything from macro subjects to expansive landscapes. I am a PSA member with a GMPSA distinction and compete and judge in local and international competitions. I have exhibited in a number of museums and venues in the mid-Atlantic region and enjoy sharing my joy of photography through photo presentations around the US.

dees-photos.smugmug.com

Headshot photo by Dee Langevin

Glacial Debris

Le Conte Bay, Alaska
The European Paper Wasp (Polistes dominula) and Queen Anne’s Lace flower (Daucus carota) in this photo are very much familiar characters. Both are introduced/naturalized species in my area, so while they are not natives they are also not known to have a negative ecosystem impact. The flower is prolific, by late July its growth dominates the field. The Polistes is a common species too, usually I photograph them with a 100mm macro lens, to isolate the subject from its surroundings. Wide angle macro achieves the opposite effect, setting the subject within its surroundings. I set out to show not just this one foraging wasp but suggest that similar pollinator activity was happening on all the flowers trailing into the background.

**Luke Roman**  
The European Paper Wasp (Polistes dominula) and Queen Anne’s Lace flower (Daucus carota) in this photo are very much familiar characters. Both are introduced/naturalized species in my area, so while they are not natives they are also not known to have a negative ecosystem impact. The flower is prolific, by late July its growth dominates the field. The Polistes is a common species too, usually I photograph them with a 100mm macro lens, to isolate the subject from its surroundings. Wide angle macro achieves the opposite effect, setting the subject within its surroundings. I set out to show not just this one foraging wasp but suggest that similar pollinator activity was happening on all the flowers trailing into the background.

**Bio**  
Luke Roman is a wildlife and conservation photographer based in Toronto, Ontario, with a passion for macro photography. Trained as a biologist, he is captivated by the ability to create larger than life images of the world’s smallest flora and fauna. His photographs seek to reveal the tangled web of interactions these species participate in and the human driven threats to their biodiversity. Current projects include working with native pollinators to demonstrate their integral roles in both ecology and agriculture.

lukeroman.com  
@luke.roaming
Alyce Bender
Two to Tango
Hill Country, Texas

Karen Campbell
Spittle Bug Nymph's Bubbly Froth Transformed to Dew Drop
Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

Laura M. Eppig
Courting Dragonflies
Backyard Pond, Bay Shore, New York

Steven Long
Hemidactylus garnotii, an Indo-Pacific Gecko Rear Foot
Lady Lake, Florida
Kerri Murphy
A pink-tipped satyr sleeps under a leaf where the iridescence of its wings is accentuated by the light of the flash
Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve, Ecuador

Tom Myers
Bumble Bee Feeding
North Carolina

Tom Myers
Two-marked Treehopper, Enchenopa binotata
Kentucky

Jim Squires
Eye of the Turtle: Closeup of Caribbean Green Sea Turtle
Cozumel, Mexico
Macro/Micro/All other wildlife

Claire Waring

A quick squeeze of a puffball releases millions of spores. Capturing the moment is tricky.

Aigas Field Centre, Scotland

Barbara White

Dragonfly in Love

Laguna Beach, California

Alaska in Focus

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Macro/Micro/All other wildlife

Hector Astorga  
Ghost Glass Frog  
Limon, Costa Rica

Ray Bulson  
Round-leaved sundew (Drosera rotundifolia) in a bog in Southcentral Alaska  
Whittier, Alaska

Stan Bysshe  
Emergence  
Fauquier County, Virginia

Karen Campbell  
Perspiring Bee Fly  
Lehigh County, Pennsylvania
While watering my garden, I stumbled onto a green lynx spider who had just started to molt.

San Diego, California

Mark Drawbridge

A non-native red-eared slider is bathed in late afternoon light as it swims across the pond.

San Diego Botanic Garden, Encinitas, California

Mark Drawbridge

A blue damselfly complements the yellow core of a white daisy.

San Diego Botanic Garden, Encinitas, California

Ralph Clevenger

Non-traditional capture, action camera

Whale Shark and Freediver

Off the Kona Coast, Hawaii

Ian Frazier

While watering my garden, I stumbled onto a green lynx spider who had just started to molt.

San Diego, California
Macro/Micro/All other wildlife

Top 250

Lee Friedman
Good Vibrations
Ball Ground, Georgia

Charles Gangas
Jackson's (Three-Horned) Chameleon Pair Meeting Up
Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, Uganda

Stephanie Hogue
Happy Honu
Poipu, Kauai, Hawaii

Mike Ince
A curious spider peeps out of a poppy
Peridot, Arizona
Top 250

Margaret Larkin
Mushroom Lanterns
Snoqualmie Pass, Washington

Kevin Lohman
Honeybee on Fennel: A honeybee visits a fennel plant to gather pollen and nectar for a nearby hive
Santa Cruz, California

William MacFarland
Arachnid Orbiting for a Daytime Meal
Gaithersburg, Maryland

Tom Myers
Bearded Robber Fly
Missouri
Macro/Micro/All other wildlife

Mary Louise Ravese
Unwind: The delicate fronds of a Mexican tree fern begin to unfurl. Their intricate details and fuzzy edges are beguiling
Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

Kathy Raffel
A Crocodile Smile
Chobe River, Botswana

Gayle Neufeld
Searching for Pollen
Homer, Alaska

Charles Needle
Unusual Parrot Tulip
Keukenhof Gardens, Lisse, The Netherlands
Macro/Micro/All other wildlife

Michael Shane
Long-Legged Fly
Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica

Jim Squires
Pikeblenny
Cazumel, Mexico

Jim Squires
Black Durgon
Cazumel, Mexico

Jim Squires
Tale of the Shark: End of a Visit from a Galapagos Shark
Revillagigedo Archipelago, Mexico
Wayne Wolfersberger
Parasitism of Braconid Wasp on a Tobacco Hornworm
Frederick, Maryland

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Image courtesy of Roy Dunn Photography
Birds are a favorite subject among nature photographers, and the number of entries in this category in the 2023 Showcase competition is certainly evidence of that. Photographers submitted more than 1,200 bird images—that’s 38% of the total submissions received!
To get this image I had to be aware of the birds’ patterns and behaviors to make an educated guess as to where they may roost at night. The conditions had to be acceptable—good light to the west, reasonable wind conditions, and a clear sky to reveal the moonrise. I knew the compass direction of the moonrise, and positioned myself accordingly. I arrived at my location early, so I was not hurried, with adequate clothing and a folding chair so I was reasonably comfortable. I used a tripod with a gimbal head.

It took me two years to get the crane images. There are only about 2-4 evenings that this shot is possible, and then the birds and weather need to cooperate. My first attempt failed due to operator error, but last year everything flew into place.

Bio
I was fortunate to have had a father and uncle who got me outdoors at a very young age and fostered my appreciation for the natural world through canoeing, camping, hunting, and backpacking experiences. I am a recently retired M.D. (a biologist gone bad). High on my list of passions are conservation and wilderness experiences. I’ve been doing photography since I was a teen, jumping into the digital pool about 15 years ago.

@swolff55
I love it when someone asks ‘how long did it take to get that shot?’ and then see the surprised expression on their face when I say 13 years. It’s true. Every photo is part of the long journey to “the one”. This exact one was slightly shorter—maybe only five days of cruising the gravel back roads of the Northern Colorado plains. Being mildly discontented with seeing birds primarily perched on broken sticks, dying plants or fence posts, you spring into action with your finger poised on the shutter button and suddenly they fly. Well, I can’t say I dreamed exactly of this photo, but I did dream of a nighthawk in flight.

Bio

I am a rheumatologist and avian photographer who finds nature to be the perfect antidote for the challenges of medicine. The intense concentration required by photography blocks (almost) every rival thought. Originally, I was drawn to birds because they were a readily available subject when my time was limited. But their beauty and diversity captivated me and I came to respect the evolutionary solutions to their own unique challenges.

angelamccain.smugmug.com
@angelamccainphotography

Headshot photo by Larry Pullen
I have visited this location many times, and I have seen something different each time, but I had never seen so many terns on this pond. It was a rare, clear day with bright sun, and there was no wind, so the pond was like glass. When making this image, I knew the birds would fly off at some point (they had done that several times already), and I wanted to capture that moment of chaos. I also wanted to maximize the reflection in the water, so I stood high enough to see a reflection, and found a position that minimized background distractions. When they took off, it all came together.

Kevin Lohman is a nature photographer living in Santa Cruz, California. He makes wildlife and landscape images with Nikon and Sony mirrorless cameras, and edits them on a Mac computer using Adobe Lightroom. His educational background in marine science heavily influences his photography, and his career at a technology company has made him comfortable managing digital images. Lohman is a member of NANPA, and has had images recognized in various photo contests including previous NANPA Showcase competitions, Audubon Photography Awards, and he is currently a finalist in the 2022 Comedy Wildlife Photography Awards.

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@kevinlohmanphotography

Headshot photo by Kevin Lohman

A Flock of Elegant Terns Takes Off
Moss Landing, California
This image is special to me because it captures a fleeting moment of beauty in nature that could have easily been missed or overlooked. I came upon this black-capped chickadee next to the trail, raised my camera, and shot a burst of images before it darted away. From the first frame with no snowflake, to this frame with the perfect crown, and then to the last frame with a plain head again, only a couple seconds elapsed.

One of my passions as an artist is to capture that unseen beauty that is all around us in the natural world. My hope is to inspire others to look for these precious moments in the world of those creatures living around them, and to join in efforts to help preserve it.

**Bio**

David M. Young is a New England-based photographer who thrives on finding and capturing the beauty of nature. Through his own personal journey, he has found how nature can nourish the spirit and renew a sense of connection to the world. By patiently observing and being fully present in the outdoors, one can discover unseen treasures and serendipitously encounter magical moments that can enrich and transform the soul. Young hopes that his photography can provide a glimpse of that beauty, and become an inspiration to seek out, appreciate, and protect the natural world.

[dmyoungphotography.com](http://dmyoungphotography.com)
[@dmyoungphotography](http://twitter.com/dmyoungphotography)

Headshot photo by David M. Young
Ken Archer
Rattling this great blue heron’s nerves, a bald eagle jets over him to grab a meal in the water just beyond
Washington

Letitia Ballance
Male Roseate Spoonbill Fight
St. Augustine, Florida

Rick Beldegreen
Flamingo Medley
Rift Valley, Lake Magadi, Kenya

Todd DeWald
Duel of Siblings: Two juvenile peregrine falcons test out their wings and their talons
Waterford, Connecticut
Mark Drawbridge
Kermit Meets Big Bird: A green heron snatches a young bullfrog, who surrenders to its fate among the lily pads
San Diego Botanic Garden, Encinitas, California

Carol Grenier
Eurasian Jay Taking off from Snow-Covered Branch
Finland

Carol Grenier
Siberian Jays Backlit at Sunset
Finland

Elizabeth Holmes
Fresh Morning Catch: Osprey with fish directly after sunrise
Tierre Verde, Florida
Sarah Killingsworth

Lunch: A barn swallow comes in to feed her fledglings, who noisily beg for the insect clamped in her beak

Point Reyes National Seashore, California

Kevin Lohman

Adult Elegant Tern Feeding a Juvenile: A reflection of a tern feeding a fish to a juvenile on a glassy smooth pond

Moss Landing, California

Kevin Lohman

Cedar Waxwing with a Berry: A cedar waxwing grabbed a cotoneaster berry and tossed it in the air before swallowing it

Santa Cruz, California

Kevin Lohman

Hummingbird Flare: An Allen’s hummingbird flares his feathers before flying off to chase other hummingbirds away

Santa Cruz, California
**Kelley Luikey**

**Happily Perched**: A painted bunting perched atop summer sunflowers  
*Edisto Island, South Carolina*

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**Kelley Luikey**

**Beach Beauty**: Great egret basking in my favorite light, the atmospheric condition known as the Belt of Venus  
*Beaufort, South Carolina*

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**Patrick Pevey**

**A neotropic cormorant repositions a suckermouth catfish in order to swallow it**  
*Pantanal, Brazil*

---

**James Picardi**

**Dancing Western Grebes at the Crossroads**  
*North Park, Jackson County, Colorado*
Corey Raffel
A male mountain bluebird has caught a dragonfly and looks around before flying to his nest hollow to feed his nestlings
Central British Columbia, Canada

Melissa Rowell
Flamingoes Swooning Over One Another On A Lake Shore
Nduutu, Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania

Vicki Santello
A female ostrich suddenly interrupted her leisurely dust bath when frightened by the appearance of a jackal
Hoanib River, Namibia

John Singleton
Misty Vigil: Blue heron in the early morning fog doing some breakfast hunting
James River, Richmond, Virginia
Thomas Trogdon
Decisions, Decisions
Kane County, Illinois

Stephen Vaughan
Northern pygmy-owl adult male at nest with ornate tree lizard
Southern Arizona

Sharon Wada
Bugstache: A song sparrow heads back to its nest with a beak full of juicy bugs
Port Townsend, Washington
Rick Beldegreen
These lesser flamingos were photographed from a helicopter while flying over a soda lake in Kenya
Rift Valley, Kenya

Alyce Bender
Lunch to Go
Gainesville, Florida
**Alice Cahill**
Wings Up: A male California quail landing on a branch
Santa Barbara County, California

**Savannah Burgess**
The Lovers
Teton Village, Wyoming

**Peter Brannon**
A red-shouldered hawk snacks on the last part of a snake that it had captured in the wild grass
Temple Terrace, Florida

**Peter Brannon**
Purple Haze: A territorial dispute between two purple gallinules
Lakeland, Florida

**Peter Brannon**
Purple Haze: A territorial dispute between two purple gallinules
Lakeland, Florida
**Alice Cahill**

White-tailed kite pair preparing to mate
*San Luis Obispo County, California*

**Alice Cahill**

Young great horned owlet is being groomed by its parent
*Morro Bay, California*

**Christopher de Souza**

Humming in the Rain
*Cloud Forest, Costa Rica*

**Barbara Fleming**

A white-fronted bee-eater perching and hunting among the papyrus plants along the Okavango River
*Okavango River, Northern Botswana*
Lee Friedman
Not in My Backyard!
Roswell, Georgia

Ann Gillis
Dalmatian Pelican
Greece

Ann Gillis
Booted Racket-Tails
Ecuador

Robert Gloeckner
The Last Tickle: A baby alligator gets a pretty good hold on the beak of a great blue heron.
Circle B Bar Reserve
Lakeland, Florida
Robert Gloeckner
Just The Tip: Graceful spring cleaning for a roseate spoonbill
Honeymoon Island State Park, Dunedin, Florida

Bill Gozansky
Brown-Hooded Parrot (Pyrilia haematotis) in Flight
La Laguna del Lagarto Eco-Lodge, Boca Tapada, Costa Rica

Carol Grenier
King penguin arriving on shore
South Georgia Island, Southern Ocean

Carol Grenier
Snowy Egret Preening
Costa Rica
Birds

Mark Hoyle
Green Hermit Hummingbird
Costa Rica

Mary Anne Karren
American Avocet Embrace: The male briefly captures his partner with wings and beak in an intimate moment after mating
Great Salt Lake, Utah

Kevin Lohman
Territorial Willets: Willets claim territory at the beach. The one on top chased away the other and resumed foraging
Moss Landing, California

Lynn Long
Intertwined: Mated pair of great white egrets in their nest
Cypress Wetlands in Port Royal, South Carolina
Angela McCain
Greater Prairie-Chicken: These birds find their mate by meeting in a lek and demonstrating their fighting skills
Wray, Colorado

Cami Marculescu
A Snake for the Baby
Charleston, South Carolina

Lynn Long
Great white egret flying in sunset
Colleton County, South Carolina

Angela McCain
Dickcissel: Singing their mating song on native brush, they sit high on the perch and are impossible to miss
Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge, Texas
Marina Scarr
Black skimmer chick is testing its wings at sunset
Redington Shores, Florida

Janice Rosner
Portrait for a Dalmation Pelican
Lake Kerkini, Greece

Marina Scarr
Barred Owlets Wing Test
Myakka River State Park, Florida

William Pully
Short-Eared Owl in the Moonlight
Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Delaware
Yaron Schmid
A dream come true for me: Photographing a snowy owl, in flight, during a snowstorm
Connecticut

Rachel Spencer
Walking on Air: A female lesser goldfinch moving on from a native vitex tree to find seeds
Kerrville, Texas

Emilie Talpin
Eye: Northern gannet resting
Île Bonaventure, Quebec, Canada

Sharon Wada
Face Off: A bold red-winged blackbird harasses a great blue heron that is fishing near its nesting area
Juanita Bay, Washington
Sharon Wada
Feeding Time: A Virginia rail watches intently after giving her chick a fresh worm for breakfast
Union Bay Natural Area, Seattle, Washington

Scott Wolff
A common loon rests quietly, but remaining aware of the presence of a human
Wetlands near Duluth, Minnesota

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Mammals

Mammals is the second most popular category for submissions in Showcase and includes both land and sea mammals, big and small.
Craig Elson

Returning to Namibia this year for the first time in 24 years, one of the images I most wanted to capture was an aerial shot of gemsbok “small in the frame” amidst the country’s iconic sand dunes. I love wildlife images that convey a sense of place with the animal in its environment, and this can often be best conveyed with an aerial perspective. I managed to find all these elements, and then some, on my final helicopter trip just inland from the Skeleton Coast, south of Walvis Bay. The interplay of light and shadow, the texture of the sand, the leading lines of the animals’ tracks, and the silhouetting of the gemsbok in black and white all come together to make this image. My work encompasses wildlife, landscape, and aerial photography and this image is the best representation of all three combined that I have managed thus far.

Bio

Craig A. Elson is an award-winning American photographer based in Los Angeles, California, who has traveled to more than 60 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe and the Caribbean over the past 30 years. He is focused primarily on wildlife, landscape, and aerial photography and is happiest when shooting in golden light anywhere in Africa.

craigelsonphotography.com
@craigelsonphotography

Headshot photo by Craig Elson Photography
Impala In Golden Light

Mana Pools, Zimbabwe

The magical light of Mana Pools, Zimbabwe, filters through the woods and creates hazy streams and an ethereal feel. It is really a special environment because of the light and is a place I had long wanted to experience. Walking with a guide through the forest not knowing what we would come upon was truly unique. I loved how this Impala stood facing us with his horns prominent in silhouette. He is small in the frame and I’m not sure whether you would say he is the subject, or that the light and the forest are the subject. I’m always looking for scenes that elicit an emotional response or where mood is really integral and I felt this scene provided that opportunity.

Bio

Vicki is an award-winning wildlife and nature photographer currently living in Downingtown, Pennsylvania. Her goal is to ignite a passion in others for enjoying and preserving our natural world and animal friends. Her images have won awards in leading international and national competitions and can be found in magazines, educational materials, advertisements and books. She is most proud to have images support major conservation efforts such as Remembering Wildlife, Prints for Wildlife and The New Big Five. She has also authored two children’s books to engage young readers in the need to protect shore birds.

babylonandbeyond.com
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Headshot photo by Cameron Riera
Belinda Bridwell

This scene stood out because of the beautiful sky and reflection and the lone coastal brown bear digging in the mud to find a clam. I feel like the scene has a calm and dream-like quality.

Bio

I have lived all of my life in East Tennessee. After retiring from a career in information technology, I took up photography. I tried many types of photography, but after a trip to Big Bend National Park in 2016, I discovered that photographing nature, especially birds, was my passion. My goal is to capture amazing experiences in nature and to share those experiences with others. By sharing this work, I hope others will connect with nature.

belindabridwell.com
@belindabridwell

Clamming on the Mudflats

Lake Clark National Park, Alaska
Corey Raffel

This photograph is a departure from my usual style of sharp, detailed images, but when taking the shot, I was drawn to the colors of the sunset and to the way the mother elephant protects her baby by standing over it as the two of them drink from the river. I think this image meets my goal of trying to become less of a documenter and more of an artist when I am taking photos. I especially like the way the two elephants have a similar pose despite their difference in size.

Bio
I am an amateur wildlife photographer based in the San Francisco Bay Area. My favorite subjects for photographs are parrots in the wild. My interest in wildlife photography began in 2016 when I went on a trip to see parrots in the wild. One of the great things about looking for wild parrots is that you see lots of other animal subjects while looking for the birds, and I am quite content to photograph any animal that I see. Thus, I also spend lots of time looking for and taking photos of almost any wildlife. I am a neurosurgeon by profession. This means that I am very demanding of precision and am quite intolerant of sloppiness and errors. Thus, I really strive to take images that I call “scalpel sharp”, rather than “tack sharp!” Taking pictures of animal displaying typical behavior is a goal for much of my photography.

@cr_wildlife

Mother and Child Bush Elephants Drinking in Silhouette

Chobe National Park, Kakoaka, Botswana
Mammals

Ken Archer
The playful mood rubs off on the adult red foxes as their young kits play and rough house nearby
Washington

Hector Astorga
Mother’s Love
Maasai Mara National Reserve, Kenya

Angie Birmingham
Need a Toothpick?
South Africa

Ralph Clevenger
Long-Beaked Common Dolphin
Santa Barbara Channel, California
**Jacqueline Deely**
Beautiful reflections of Peale's dolphins as they accompany us en route through the Beagle Channel
*Beagle Channel, South America*

**Carol Grenier**
African elephant uses its trunk to delicately hold a water lily
*Chobe National Park, Botswana*

**Torie Hilley**
Giants Ballet: Two young bull giraffes practice necking (fighting)
*Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Nature Preserve, South Africa*

**Charles Janson**
Reassurance of Mother Bear: The cub sought protection from its mother as a large male bear approached them
*Lake Clark National Park, Alaska*
**Mammals**

**Vicki Jauron**
A lioness carries one of her two cubs gently in her mouth
Maasai Mara National Reserve, Kenya

**Bill Klipp**
Pack of Wild Dogs Taking down a Warthog
Okavango Delta, Botswan

**Harry Lerner**
Spider Monkey Baby Waving
Arenal Volcano National Park, Costa Rica

**Kevin Lohman**
Red Fox with Squirrel: A red fox trying to grab a squirrel tosses it in the air when the squirrel kicked the fox
San Jose, California
Tom Nicholson
Hitching a Ride
Ranthambhore National Park, India

James Ramakka
Cavorting Cottontails
Near Aztec, New Mexico

Yaron Schmid
A baby elephant is trying to keep up with the rest of the herd
Amboseli National Park, Kenya

Jennifer Smith
A young cub of the year has a discussion with his mother
Katmai National Park, Alaska
Jennifer Smith
Family: A cow muskox keeps close tabs on her calves
Nome, Alaska

Jennifer Smith
Ice Bear! As the temperature drops an Alaskan brown bear becomes engulfed in ice
Kodiak, Alaska

Deena Sveinsson
Two bull moose decide the best way to spar on a warm winter day is to play in the water with the Tetons as a backdrop
Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming

Kathy West
Mountain gorilla (Gorilla beringei beringei) silverback resting, Katwe family
Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda
Mammals

**Ken Archer**
A herd of bison meander through the winter landscape of Lamar Valley
*Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming*

**Ginger Barger**
White Lion inside of a Giraffe Carcass
*South Africa*

**Rick Beldegreen**
Blue Hour Giraffes
*Zimanga, South Africa*

**Rick Beldegreen**
Feeding in the Forest
*Zimbabwe*
**Mammals**

**Rick Beldegreen**  
Lion Triumphs over Croc  
Maasai Mara National Reserve, Kenya

**Marv Binegar**  
Wolf Survival: With the October snow beginning to fly, this wolf was trying to fatten up on the carcass of an elk  
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

**Karen Blackwood**  
Star-Dazzled Sunset  
Manyeleti Game Reserve, South Africa

**Savannah Burgess**  
Timber  
Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming
Mammals

**Michael Cohen**
Vixen and Kits: Mom is looking back at me as the kits are licking with anticipation for a little loving
San Juan Island, Washington

**Sue Dougherty**
Cheetah Chaos
Samburu National Reserve, Kenya

**Craig Elson**
On the March: An elephant family walks with purpose across the dry savannah of Amboseli
Amboseli National Park, Kenya

**Donna Feledichuk**
A coastal brown bear waits in the sand for the tide to lower to fish as the rays of the morning sun touch its fur
Lake Clark National Park, Alaska
**Donna Feledichuk**  
A black bear lays down in a field of grass and dandelions as it enjoys a snack  
Jasper National Park, Alberta, Canada

**Bruce Finocchio**  
A young yellow baboon sucks its mother's nipple for nourishment  
Ruaha National Park, Tanzania

**Ann Gillis**  
Puma  
Torres del Paine National Park, Patagonia

**Jeffrey Goudy**  
Dinner Is Served: Fox dad brings home a mouthful of baby rabbits  
Colorado
Mammals

Adriana Greisman
Long-Tailed Weasel with Breakfast
Chino, California

Carol Grenier
Hippo Fight
Chobe National Park, Botswana

Peter Ismert
Rocky Mountain Goat Trio
Clear Creek County, Colorado

Vicki Jauron
Three zebra drink from the water in perfect symmetry with stunning patterns and reflections
Amboseli National Park, Kenya
Vicki Jauron
One of Africa’s largest tusker elephants, Craig, poses in front of Mount Kilimanjaro
Amboseli National Park, Kenya

Mark Kelley
A mother seal checks in on its pup
Tracy Arm, Tongass National Forest, Alaska

Charles Maas
Collared Pika Collecting Vegetation
Hatcher Pass, Alaska

William MacFarland
Non-traditional capture, remote activated/trail camera
The Anacostia Returns: A fox takes stock
Washington, D.C.
Mammals

Larry Miyamura
Cheetah Chasing a Thomson’s Gazelle
Maasai Mara National Reserve, Kenya

Larry Miyamura
Coastal Brown Bear Cub and Mom
Lake Clark National Park, Alaska

Gary Paige
Elephant Reflections: This mom and calf were so nicely reflected in a favored watering hole near sunrise
Mashatu Game Reserve, Botswana

Patrick Pevey
A Group of Waterbucks on Alert
Mana Pools National Park, Zimbabwe
Mammals

Patrick Pevey
Mating jaguars often snarl and show aggression toward each other
Pantanal, Brazil

Zita Quentin
The Migration
Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania

Melissa Rowell
Raccoon Crossing the River
Vestal, New York

Vicki Santello
A young serval kitten steps through tall grass on the hunt for mice. He moves instinctively despite being inexperienced
Maasai Mara National Reserve, Kenya
Yaron Schmid
A topi looks towards her baby as it’s emerging from the birth canal
Naboisho Conservancy, Kenya

Yaron Schmid
A pride of lions (cubs) watches over a herd of elephants as they drink water from a nearby stream
Maasai Mara National Reserve, Kenya

Michael Shane
Flying Squirrel Monkey
Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica

Elizabeth Shen
A female brown bear is fishing at the end of salmon run
Lake Clark National Park, Alaska
MORE THAN A PHOTOGRAPH, AN EXPERIENCE

An African photo safari is a large investment. Piper Mackay thoroughly understands this because she has been roaming Africa’s wilds, photographing remote tribes and wildlife for nearly two decades and now lives in Kenya. From all her years of logistical experience with boots on the ground and a large network of partners, each itinerary is handcrafted with unparalleled photographic opportunities and immeasurable experiences.

WEBSITE

Drop by the exhibit hall at the NANPA summit and meet in person

EMAIL info@PiperMackayPhotography.com
Altered reality

This unconventional category may be confusing to some. NANPA’s definition of altered reality is images that display a change in natural color, form, shape, or any combination of these that deny the photographic process. The image is enhanced or transformed beyond the way the subject appears in nature.
Altered reality

I was on a photoshoot with members of the Georgia Nature Photographers Association at a sunflower farm. One of the members had left a tripod near the edge of the field. For some reason, this gulf fritillary butterfly kept returning to the tripod. Every time it left and returned I took a burst of photos. I was hopeful that I could combine them in some way, but the concept had not solidified in my mind yet.

Bio
Award-winning photographer Thomas Yackley's lifelong fascination with the printed image began when he joined his high school newspaper staff in 1973. He's been shooting digital and developing with Photoshop since 1999. He is a member of Georgia Nature Photographers Association, Southeastern Photographic Society, and North American Nature Photography Association. He has over thirty years high school music teaching experience and five years teaching photography. Digital photo painting, compositing, and photo encaustic are among his favorite techniques. The natural world is a major theme in his images. Besides shooting landscapes and wildlife, Yackley enjoys leading photo workshops and teaching photo classes through his website. Along with his wife, Robin, he is Co-Artistic Director of the Alpharetta Community Chorus and leads the Park Place Social Singers.

thomasyackley.com
@thomasyackley

Flight of the Fritillary

Cumming, Georgia
What is extraordinary about this is how close you can safely get to wild elephants. Though many of the elephants, like this one, have never been under the care of humans, they see you as no threat when you are in the company of the keepers they see frequently and know to be friendly. I was on foot and about 75 feet from the bull with him looking directly at me. When I learned masking and texturing techniques I knew I had to revisit this image and use those techniques to isolate my subject to convey emotion of that moment. The orange-red dust-like texture was perfect to simulate the red dust that is typical of the Tsavo area.

Bio
From the age of five when I started taking blurry pictures of wildlife (mostly squirrels and chipmunks with the occasional moose or bear) as through the years our family traveled to most of the national parks in the western US, wildlife was always my favorite subject. My dad and I would process our film in the darkroom he had fashioned in our bathroom. In 2011, I went on safari in Kenya and my passion was rekindled. I now travel to Kenya as often as possible where I have a small safari company. I really enjoy sharing my passion with my guests whether they are point and shoot novices or highly skilled photographers. I love wildlife photography for the places it takes me in nature, its role in conservation, and for its ability to engage both sides of my brain.

loishildphotography.com
@loisphotosafari
Headshot photo by Lois Hild
Wendy Kaveney

I’m fascinated with the quiver tree (‘kokerboom’ in Afrikaans). It has the appearance of a tree but is actually a succulent aloe plant. (Aloidendron dichotomum) Just outside of Keetmanshoop, Namibia, is a natural forest of quiver trees. Hiking the rocky landscape among the protected quiver trees is a surreal experience. I felt that blending the environmental image of the whole plant with close up images of its detailed parts would capture and convey the wonder of my personal experience.

Bio

I have always enjoyed photography and have been a professional photographer since 2002. I enjoy traveling, seeing new places with fresh eyes, and I am constantly seeking new perspectives through my camera lens. I am particularly drawn to wildlife and the natural world, enjoying the challenge and the photographic process to make the most unique images I can.

I currently live in Carmel, Indiana, and have been a member of NANPA since 2004. My images are represented in the Jaynes Gallery at The Danita Delimont Stock Photography Agency and have been published nationally and internationally.

wendykaveney.smugmug.com
@wendykaveney

Headshot photo by Michael Kaveney
Charles Needle

This photo was made at one of 20 gardens I visited while scouting for a photo tour of private and public English gardens I’m offering. For me, the final image represents the culmination of many years of experimentation with in-camera multiple exposures in dozens of gardens around the world, including Monet’s Garden in Giverny, France, where I practiced what I call a “Multiple-Exposure Monet” technique whereby a series of sharp exposures are superimposed upon each other to render a painterly scene. Over the years, after many failed attempts and much trial and error, both on and off the tripod, I was able to produce pleasing results with a somewhat predictable outcome. Since then, making Impressionistic photographs, such as this one, has become a signature part of my personal growth as photographic artist. This image expresses the euphoria I was feeling in this moment while surrounded by a beautiful meadow of summer wildflowers.

Bio

Charles Needle is an award-winning, Colorado-based, fine art nature photographer, author, speaker and workshop leader with a unique eye for design and artistic interpretation. He specializes in creative macro and Impressionistic photography and has more than 20 years of full-time teaching experience in the U.S. and abroad.

charlesneedlephoto.com
@charlesneedlephotography

Headshot photo by Melissa Needle
Hector Astorga
White Rhino Congregation
Ol Pejeta Conservancy, Kenya

Frank Clemmensen
Intimate Offering: A cedar waxwing offers a treat to its mate
Durham, North Carolina

Charles Janson
Explosive Energy: Six images of a running bear cub taken about 1/4 second apart on an Arctic beach
Lake Clark National Park, Alaska

Bruce Leventhal
Screech Owl in Nesting Cavity
Southeast Texas
Kristin Rahn
Lunar Eclipse Cycle: May 2022 full moon with full lunar eclipse cycle
Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina

Betty Sederquist
Brown Pelican with Textures Added
Moss Landing, California
Alice Cahill
Quail Flight: A composite of four sequential images of a male California quail taking flight
Santa Barbara County, California

Bob Coates
Bluebirds in Pyracantha
Sedona, Arizona

Bob Coates
Command to Look
Fort Worth Zoo, Fort Worth, Texas

Ron Day
Grin in Submission. This is the unique behavior of a fox showing fear when approached by another fox
Eastern Oklahoma
Altered reality

**David Johnston**  
Lunar Eclipse at Seneca Rocks  
Seneca Rocks, Monongahela National Forest, West Virginia

**F. M. Kearney**  
Impressionist View of White Cherry Blossoms  
Central Park, New York City, New York

**Seth Mayer**  
Contemplation  
San Diego, California

**Cheryl Medow**  
Snowy Egret in the Bayou: Multiple images were used to create this final image  
Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge, Louisiana
Cheryl Moore
On Thin Ice: Sandhill crane lightly walking through the thin ice-covered marsh where he spent the night
Monte Vista, Colorado

Steve Munch
Dreamscape: Ocean sunset photograph
Poipu, Kauai

Charles Needle
In-camera, multiple-exposure rotation in a field of lupine and daisies
Madeline Island, Wisconsin

Jane Scott Norris
At the Waterhole
Zimanga Private Game Reserve, South Africa
Altered reality

Vicki Santello
Impala take a fatal risk when they lower their heads to drink. They are skittish for good reason!
Mashatu Game Reserve, Botswana

Maryellen Stone
Leaves Abstract
Batsu Gardens, San Gerardo de Dota, Costa Rica

Thomas Trogdon
Sandhill Sunset
Walworth County, Wisconsin
Naona Wallin

Fresh Catch: Black bear emerging from the creek with a salmon

Herring Cove, Ketchikan, Alaska
NANPA added a sixth category, conservation, to its annual Showcase competition in 2020. Simply put, a conservation image tells a story with an important environmental issue behind it. Its purpose is to raise awareness and evoke emotions that affect human behavior.

The premise of conservation photography is not new, and NANPA members certainly have been using photographs to raise awareness, advocate for nature, and effect change for decades. But as environmental threats continue to mount and an increasing number of species become endangered or extinct, we’ve watched the demand for high quality conservation photographs rise—and the number of NANPA members specializing in this type of nature photography rise in turn.

The difference between a nature photograph and a conservation photograph is often explained something like this: a nature photograph is a lovely photo of a pretty flower. A conservation photograph is the same pretty flower with a bulldozer in the background approaching it. Ideally, conservation photos have an element of impact beyond a typical beautiful image. One shouldn’t have to read the caption to know there’s something different about the image, but the words can add a full understanding about what’s going on, without forcing a story. Elements in a conservation photo cannot be altered, added or removed to affect the meaning or integrity of the scene.

The growing field of conservation photography doesn’t mean beautiful photographs aren’t important or capable of raising awareness or affecting behavior. Quite the opposite, we need images of both kinds to reveal the full story of our natural world—and in Showcase, like in the real world, the beautiful image and the one that may be hard to look at sit side by side for the world to ponder.
Free-roaming cats are non-native predators who pose a significant threat to native wildlife, especially to endangered species. Some are free-roaming house cats, some are feral, while some are homeless, hungry cats. Their lives are also precious. This was my first time ever seeing one that successfully caught a prey. It was walking toward me in a protected area where I had no access. To get a powerful shot, I wanted the cat to look at me. I adjusted my position as the cat continued to move, hoping it would turn its head and look in my direction. When this cat looked straight into my camera, it felt like she or he stared right into my soul asking, "What did I do wrong?" The cat was sending a silent message to humans.

Bio
I've always had a soft spot for all kinds of animals. Before getting into photography, I used to ask myself, for a super introvert like me, what else I could do for the animals? If animals and Mother Nature could talk, what would they say to us? What would they want us to know? The answer to my own quest came in 2019. I want to be the voice of the voiceless. Be their voice and tell their stories through my photography. Wildlife photography has been my passion since then. I'm an amateur wildlife photographer and a finance professional. I was born in Taiwan and live in California with my 5 rescued bunnies.

@elizabeth_shen
Headshot photo by Elizabeth Yicheng Shen
America's Covid Cleanup

Driftwood Beach, Coupeville, Washington

Jann Ledbetter

As masks became part of the everyday lives of many Americans, they became a new form of litter on the landscape. This eagle appears to be doing its part to help with the cleanup of masks that can be found casually disposed of everywhere.

This photo was shot not far from my home, in a bird- and wildlife-rich area I visit regularly. I see eagles there quite often and, truthfully, rarely stop to photograph them anymore unless they are exhibiting unique behavior of some sort. When I saw this bird, I thought he was pulling on something that he was eating so I drove closer to see what it might be. When I saw that he was pulling on the strap of a Covid mask, I knew I had a special shot.

Bio

I am a passionate nature and wildlife photographer — with the emphasis on passionate! I love photography and have my camera in hand every day. Wildlife photography requires me to slow down, pay attention and be present, while being out in nature is always restorative. If I come home from an outing with a good photo, that’s a bonus. Whether exploring near my home on Whidbey Island in Washington, or traveling elsewhere, I am always on the lookout for “the presence of wonder.”

I volunteer with several local organizations aligned with these interests and values. I feel moved to share my nature and wildlife photos with the hope that they will inspire others to notice and appreciate the beauty around us and, in turn, to take good care of the Earth.

@jannledbetter

Headshot photo by Mike Holtby
My guide and I were on one last morning hike before my plane was set to arrive to fly me out. After hiking up the edge of a cliff, I looked down below toward the water and noticed a lone seal sitting on the rocks. I paused for a moment after realizing that the seal was injured. I used my camera’s lens to investigate further and noticed a blue netting with rope that appeared to lacerate the skin. My guide and I discussed options to help, but quickly realized there simply was no way to access the seal. I captured this photo because I felt otherwise useless to this poor seal. “If the photo can raise awareness to help prevent this from happening again, at least it’s something,” I thought.

Bio
Brennon Hensley works as a wildlife photographer based in the Pacific Northwest of the United States. He travels fulltime to reach remote areas of the outdoors in order to capture images of wildlife. He uses his background and expertise in wildlife rehabilitation and veterinary nursing to ethically capture photos of wildlife in their natural habitat. His focus in the field is to minimize his presence while monitoring the facial and body mannerisms of his subjects in order to capture their full essence and emotion. He hopes to bring awareness to the animals he photographs in a way that drives others to help conserve and protect not only the animals, but also the ecosystems which they call home.

brennonhensleyphotography.com
@brennonhensleyphoto

Headshot photo by Brennon Hensley

Please ... Help!

Saint Paul Island, Alaska
This male greater roadrunner maintains territory within a wildlife sanctuary in California, and has always been one of my favorite characters to photograph. I learned to listen for his calls, and during mating season it wasn’t uncommon to find him running around with a food “gift”, in case he found a female (or more often, his reflection in something shiny). Being able to anticipate behavior is key in wildlife photography. On this day, I knew he was looking for something to present to a potential mate, and to see him find and carry a cigarette butt was disturbing. This reaffirmed for me that I want to tell meaningful conservation stories with my photos.

Bio
I believe a picture can speak a thousand words, and I strive to use my camera as a voice for nature. The addition of a small zoom lens to my equipment in 2014 completely changed my life and expanded my world. Now, by focusing on my knowledge of ecology and animal behavior, I continue to capture unforgettable moments through a long lens, while allowing nature to continue undisturbed. My goal in photography has always been to inspire others to become more connected to nature and conserve our planet’s amazing biodiversity, by offering unique perspectives into the lives of all creatures.

natureinperspective.com
@nature_in_perspective

Headshot photo by Nicollet Overby
Frank Clemmensen
Beach Re-Nourishment Project: Short-Term Bonus for Gulls, Long-Term Questions
Most studies of beach re-nourishment and its impact on the environment are performed by project promoters or interested parties. These reports lack rigorous scientific parameters and ignore or understate the environmental impacts associated with these projects. The sudden input of sand, at a minimum, interrupts and disturbs the natural order of sea life.
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Karen Povey
As part of the Cascades Butterfly Project, this Arctic fritillary was captured for identification and is about to be released back into its mountain meadow home.
Mount Rainier National Park, Washington

Corey Raffel
A male southern white rhino, with his horn removed, wanders in the Kalahari Desert
These animals are a conservation success story, increasing from less than 100 individuals at the start of the 20th century to more than 20,000 individuals today. Numbers are again declining due to the killing of adults for their horns. To prevent poaching, horns are being removed with chain saws. Unbelievable that the illegal trade in rhino horns has forced this to be a potential solution.
Kalahari Desert, Botswana
Kevin Barry
A roadside sign alerts motorists to the possibility of Black Bears crossing
Ocala National Forest, Florida

Teri Franzen
A Sign of the Times: A facial mask mimics a black skimmer one windy afternoon at Nickerson Beach

Nickerson and Lido Beaches, New York

Carol Grenier
Wild grazing animals, such as bighorn sheep and pronghorn antelope, are often capable of jumping fences installed to control livestock. But many individuals, especially young ones, prefer to go under or through fences if there is adequate clearance. Barbed wire may injure or kill animals attempting to pass. The fencing shown in this image has barbless wires that are spaced far enough apart that wild bighorn sheep were able to pass through without difficulty.

Paradise Valley, Montana

Sarah Killingsworth
A newly hatched and banded western snowy plover chick stands on the beach

Point Reyes National Seashore, California

A newly hatched and banded western snowy plover chick stands on the beach

Point Reyes National Seashore, California
Karen Povey

California condor L4 warms in the morning sun pre-flight on Navajo Bridge in Arizona’s Marble Canyon

She was hatched in the wild in 2011, becoming part of a steadily growing population saved from extinction by decades of captive breeding and reintroduction efforts.

Navajo Bridge across the Colorado River, Arizona

James Ramakka

Lion Cubs Playing with Litter

Eastern Serengeti, Tanzania
A Young Moose Stands in the Burn Scar of the East Troublesome Fire

On October 14, 2020, a small wild fire started outside of the west entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park in Arapaho National Forest. One week later, high winds through beetle-killed and dry timber caused the fire to grow more than 87,000 acres in one evening. By October 22, the fire grew to 187,964 acres.

Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado

Heather Valey
heathervaley.com
Purple Martin Landlord (Captive)

Andy Balinsky carefully shades a two-day-old hatchling from the sun as he ages the baby bird on a sizing chart. Andy keeps track of all of the birds born in his purple martin colonies and submits his data to researchers.

Hornsby Bend, Austin, Texas

Dawn Wilson
dawnwilsonphotography.com

A Young Moose Stands in the Burn Scar of the East Troublesome Fire

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Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado
Why enter a photo contest?

Winning a photo contest can elevate a nature photographer’s credibility and visibility. But winning isn’t everything.

Entering photo contests puts your images in front of audiences. Images can influence and affect people, change opinions, or make a difference. It isn’t unusual for photographers participating in photo contests to be contacted about licensing their images for publication.

Contests also allow you to see how your work measures up to others. They are an opportunity to learn what makes one image unique in a field of thousands, what moves viewers or resonates with them, and—perhaps frustratingly—that no two judges are completely alike. Contests are, in short, one way to publish your work.

Participating in NANPA’s Showcase is also a way to use your images to support NANPA and help the organization attract and engage new nature photography enthusiasts. The annual photo competition raises money not only to provide cash prizes for the Top 24 winners but also to support the ongoing education, networking, conservation, and advocacy efforts of NANPA.

Mark your calendars. The 2024 Showcase competition will open for submissions on August 1, 2023.
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About NANPA
NANPA is a nonprofit membership association that helps North America-based nature photographers at all levels of experience grow as artists, citizen scientists, and entrepreneurs through education, networking, and advocacy. Together with our members, we advance conservation and foster ethical field practices for the long-term benefit of all.

Mission
NANPA promotes the art and science of nature photography as a medium of communication, nature appreciation, and environmental protection.

NANPA provides information, education, inspiration, and opportunity for all persons interested in nature photography.

NANPA fosters excellence and ethical conduct in all aspect of our endeavors and especially encourages responsible photography in the wild.

Learn more about NANPA and how to get involved at nanpa.org.

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