

# Tidelands Photography Club

Jan/Feb 2021  
Photography Contest

# Judge's Opening Comments

For the score, I awarded 5 points for Impact, 5 points for Technical and 5 points for Composition.

- Impact - Is the photo interesting? Does it tell a story? Does it immediately grab the viewer's attention?
- Technical - Good exposure, well focused, appropriate depth of field, good color and contrast, etc.
- Composition - Is the subject obvious? Do other objects in the image support the main subject, or are they distracting? Does the photo make good use of leading lines, framing, etc.

I have a few general comments:

There were a number of images in which the subject had areas that were over exposed. This, of course, results in loss of detail in those areas. I suggest that club members review the document on your website at the following link, entitled, "Understanding the Exposure Triangle", especially the section at the end about histograms.

<http://www.tidelandsphotographyclub.com/424225735>

I also noticed a few images that were crooked. There is no excuse for crooked horizons. Straightening an image is so easy to fix with any photo editing software.

I noticed that many of the photos were shown just as they were taken by the camera, with no apparent cropping. I mentioned in many of my comments that the image would be improved by cropping, including converting a horizontal image into a vertical one, which many photographers seldom consider.

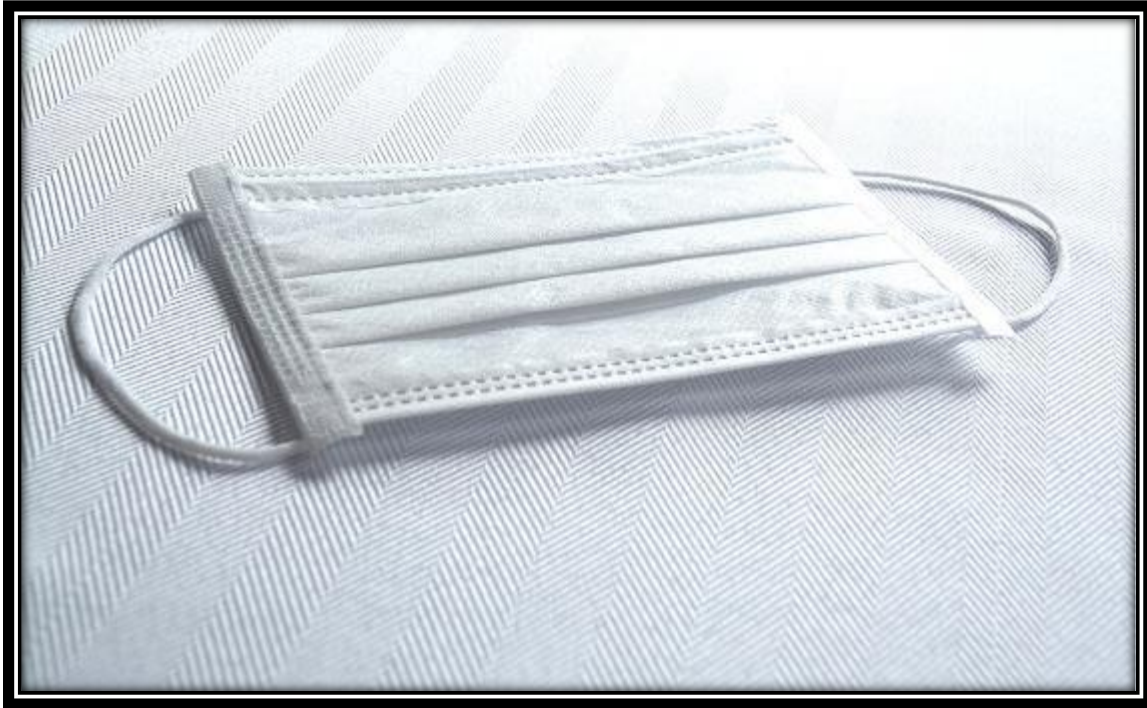
I hope my scoring and comments help club members in their journey to becoming better photographers!

Regards,  
Peggy Boike  
APSA MPSA

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**Intermediate**  
**“Pandemic”**



Intermediate  
"Stark Reality"

6

I consider this a still life, and in my opinion, the simpler the better. I think choosing a white mask on a white background was a good choice. However, the upper right quadrant of the image is overexposed, so much of the detail was lost.



I like your choice of objects for this still life, and it certainly fits the "pandemic" category. When I arrange objects in a still life, I like to keep them close together, rather than placed side by side with space between them. I suggest trying various other arrangements to find an arrangement that would be more interesting.

Intermediate  
"Medley of Masks"

7



I think this was a clever shot for this category. You did a good job on depth of field, with everything in sharp focus. To me the mask should have been emphasized more by zooming in closer or by cropping. I suggest cropping to include just the newspaper and the man roughly from the waist up.

Intermediate  
“Social Distance Please”

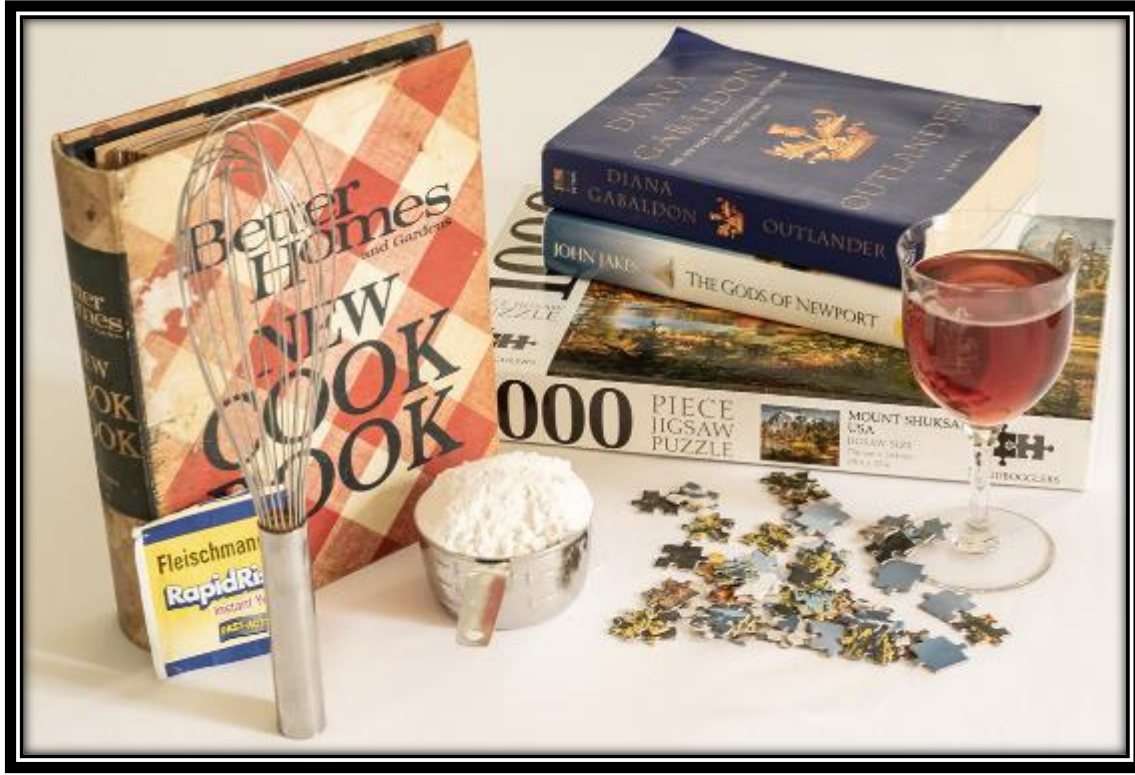
8



I think this is a great snapshot of an important event. The trees as well as the people are nice and sharp and the color and exposure are good. However, I don't think it has much appeal to anyone other than the family and friends of the bride and groom.

Intermediate  
"Wedding in the Woods"

8



To me and many others, still lifes are fun. I like the objects you selected for your pandemic still life. I think there are too many of them, however. I would eliminate the baking items and just include, and then rearrange, the books, puzzle and wine glass. This would result in a less cluttered and more appealing image, in my opinion.

Intermediate  
“Pandemic Activities”

8

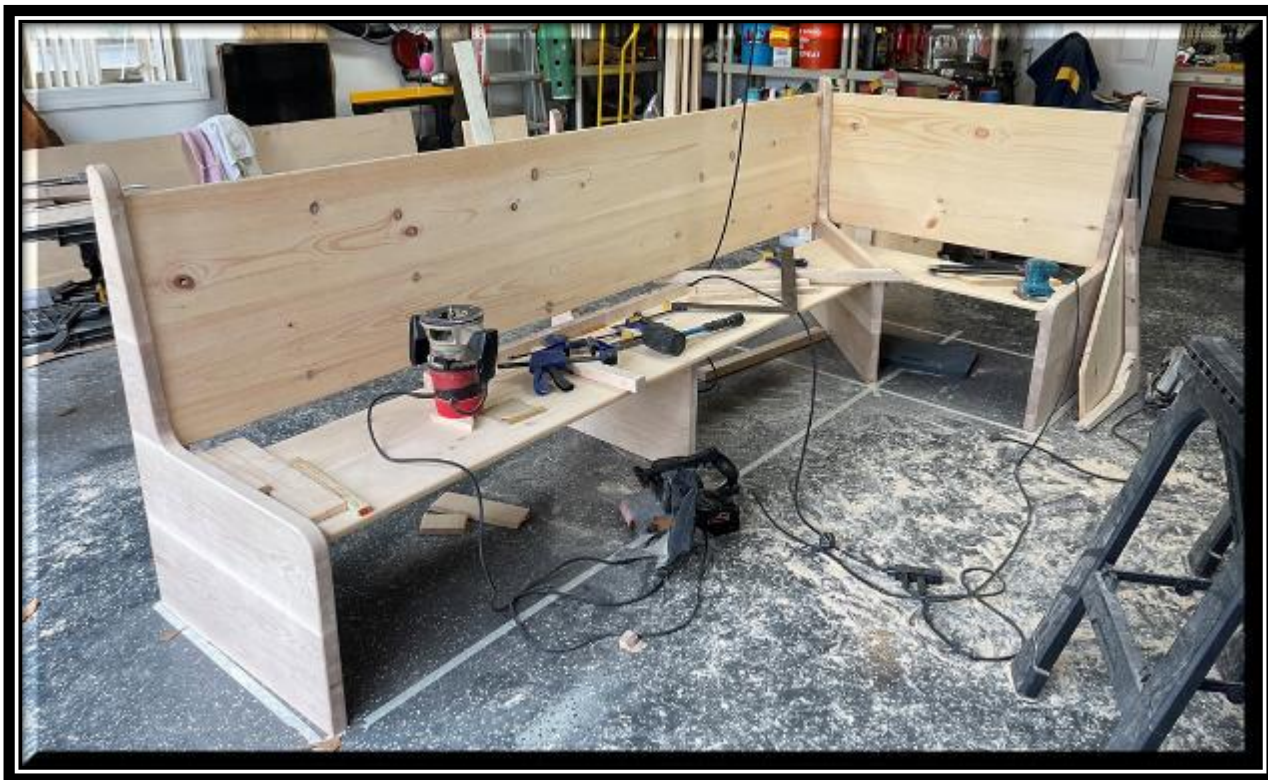




I like this action shot. Taking the shot from down low was a good choice. I feel it would have been better to include the entire right side of the blue structure, which serves as nice framing.

Intermediate  
"Pandemic Marathon"

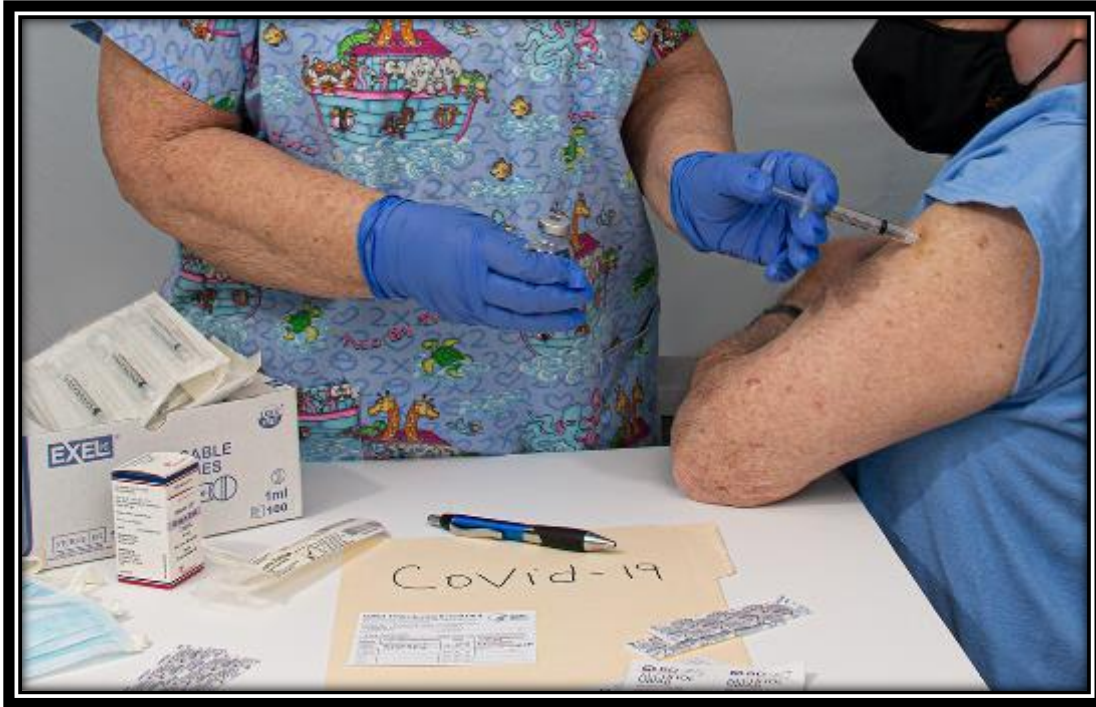
11



I think the composition of this photo is very good, with the bench serving as a strong leading line into the scene. The color and exposure are good, with good depth of field. I like that the subject is obvious, and the title tells it all.

Intermediate  
"Staying Busy During  
Pandemic"

13



We have all seen many shots like this one on the news lately. This image was done well, with good exposure, good depth of field. All in all, a very nice image. Good job.

Intermediate  
"1 of 2"  
13



Very fun! I like the obvious point of the image. I find it interesting that one of the packages has been opened and rolls of toilet paper placed here and there. This causes my eye to roam around the image, back and forth. Good idea and nice shot!

Intermediate  
"Pandemic Shopping"

14

# Tidelands Photography Club

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Advanced  
“Pandemic”



Advanced  
“Pandemic Christmas”

6

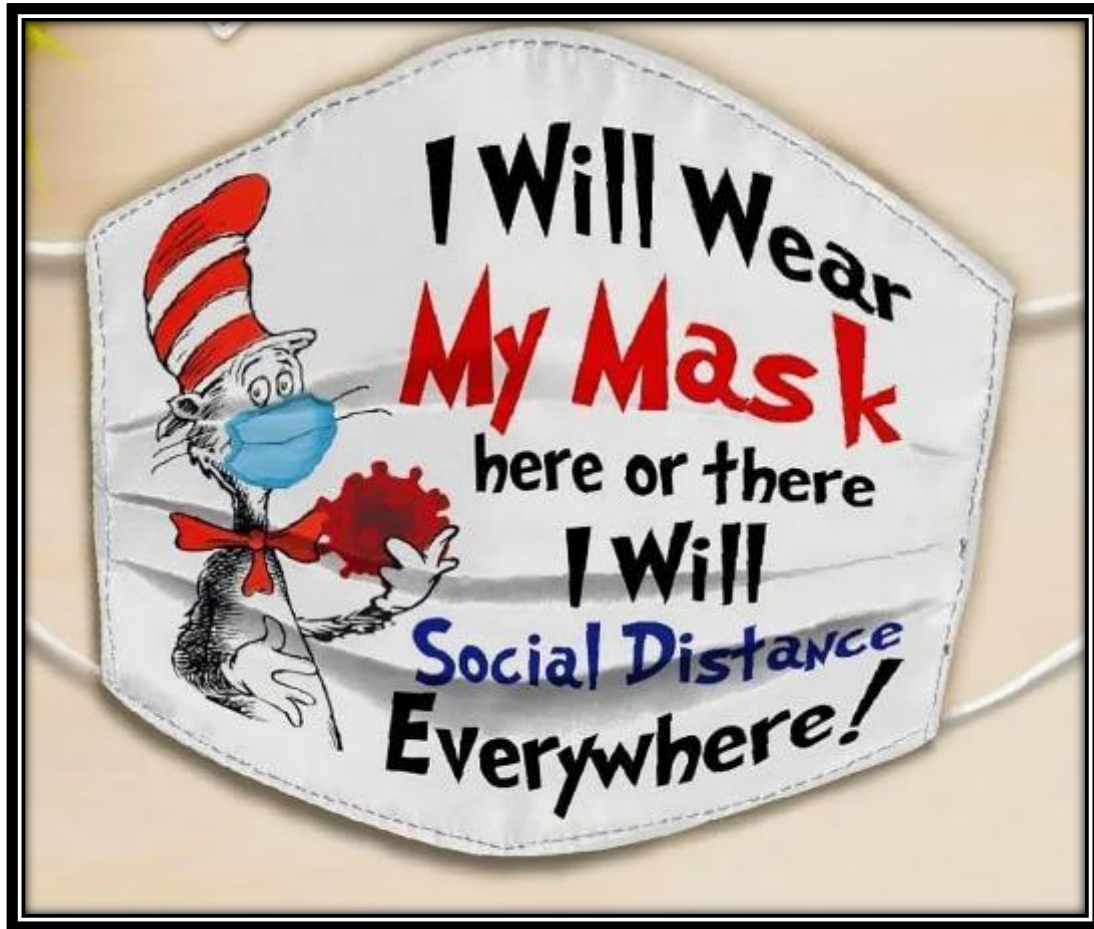
The subject is tack sharp, and I like that the image includes the man just from his chest up. I don't know what to make of the color. The mask is obviously in color, but the man's face and jacket seem to be black and white, while the background seems to be sepia. I find this very distracting.



I feel this was a great idea for a pandemic photo. I like the placement of the bear. I find the blotchy (just left of the bear) and scratchy (above the clouds) artifacts of the added treatment (filter?) very distracting.

Advanced  
"I'm So Lonely"

7



I love the mask. Very clever. I think the image would have been better if you had moved the objects in the upper left out of the way and included a bit more of the table surface along the top edge. I also notice that the mask is crooked in the frame.

Advanced  
"Words to Live BY"

9





I find the chosen objects for this image to be interesting. The exposure is good and everything is tack sharp. To me the colors are oversaturated and the fact that the objects are floating in mid-air is unsettling. In my opinion this shot would have been better with a simple background and showing at least a hint of the surface on which they were sitting.

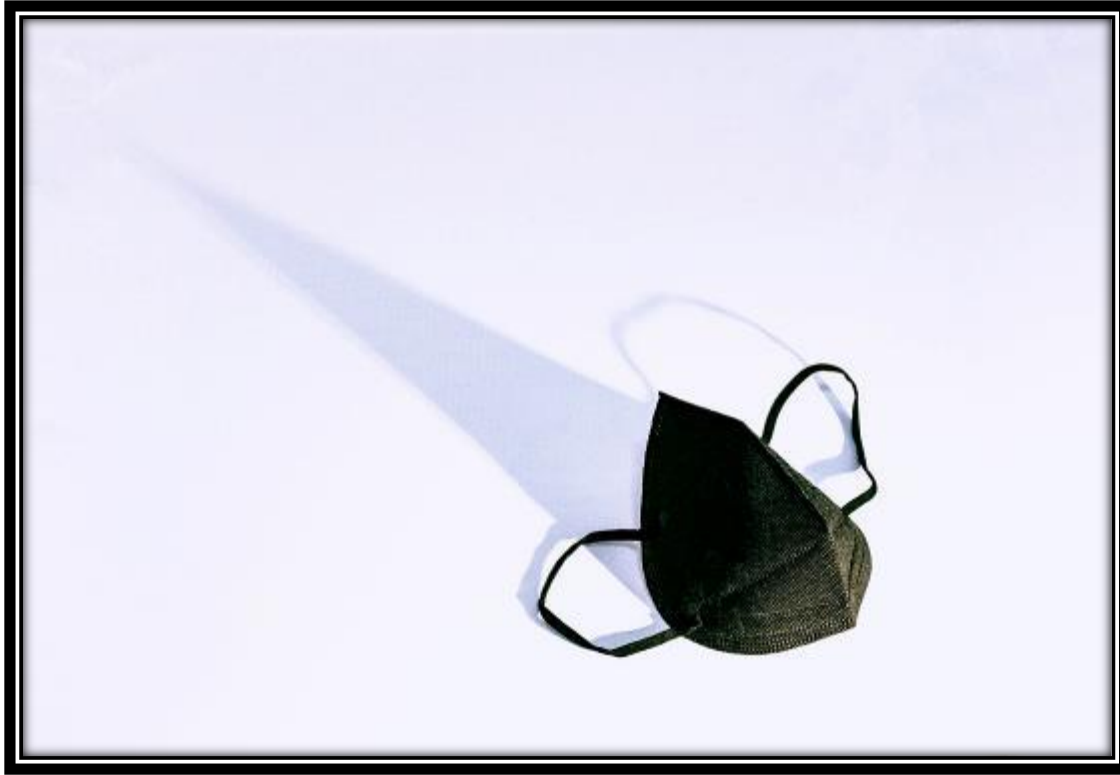
Advanced  
"Be Safe"

11



Advanced  
"Cost of Covid"  
11

I feel this is a very thought-provoking image. It fits the category very well. The composition is good, although I would have included a bit more of the container with the flowers. The color treatment is interesting, but seems a bit over saturated.



I think you did a good job setting up this still life. I like the shadow on the white background. The image is sharp, exposed well, and has good impact.

Advanced  
“Mask of Hope”  
12



I think this image was very well done. Good idea for the subject, good depth of field, great lighting. My only suggestion, which is very minor, for improving this image would be to selectively desaturate the green color in the background in the upper right corner. Good job!

Advanced  
"Moderna Vaccine"  
15

# Tidelands Photography Club

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Open



Open  
“Peaceful Awakening”  
7

The title describes the image well. The scene does look peaceful. I don't exactly know what the subject is. My eyes search around the frame and don't know what to look at. The bright areas of the sky are very over exposed, which to me is distracting. I think the image would be more appealing if you had included more of the reflection in the foreground and less of the blown-out sky.



Open  
"Pelican"  
9

I like that the bird is tack sharp and the lighting was great. I think the image would have been better if there were more water, especially at the bottom of the frame. I note that the image is very crooked. When photographing birds in the water, be sure to straighten horizontally on the ripples in the water.



I really like the idea here, and I love the young lady's cap and blouse. I also like her pose, looking down. The top right of the image appears to be blown out, and I think her face is just a bit too "washed out" by the treatment you applied.

Open  
"Giving Thanks"  
9





Open  
"Rainbow"  
9

To me this is a nice capture of the sky and the rainbow. I can see that you used a long exposure, which blurs the water. This is appealing, however, what appears to be people in the water are also blurry. I find that distracting and would clone them out in post processing. I can see the horizon all the way across the image, and the image would be improved if you would straighten it on the horizon. I would also crop about 1/3 off the right side, which would result in the rainbow being more prominent.



Open  
"Lila Lee at Sea"  
10

This was a wonderful capture of Lila Lee rocking in the waves. I like that it was taken at sunrise or sunset. The clouds are very appealing to me. I think you could have included a little more of the scene, especially in front of the boat, giving it room to "move" forward within the frame. I find the strong blue cast distracting. I suggest correcting the color in post processing.



Open  
"Dragonfly Mates"  
10

I think this is an interesting nature shot. I wonder whether the dragon flies are huge or the lily pads are very small. I can see that everything in the shot is sharp and the color is good. The white flower is slightly over exposed. As for composition, the image is what I would describe as cluttered, which you can't do much about. My only suggestions would be to clone out the two small objects at the top and darken/blacken the water.



Open  
"Wildcat Upper"  
10

I like how this scene is framed by the leafy branches at the top and on the sides of the falls. The colorful orange leaves on the ground also frame the falls nicely. I find the purple color of the water very unnatural. I think the image would be much improved if the colors were adjusted in post processing to eliminate the purple.



Open  
"White on White"  
11

To me this is a great capture of the goose. I like that the bird is flying towards the light and that I can see nice detail in the wing feathers. I think the image would be improved by cropping in on all four sides. The viewer doesn't need to see quite that much sky. Also, the bird appears to me to be slightly over exposed, losing detail at the base of its neck.



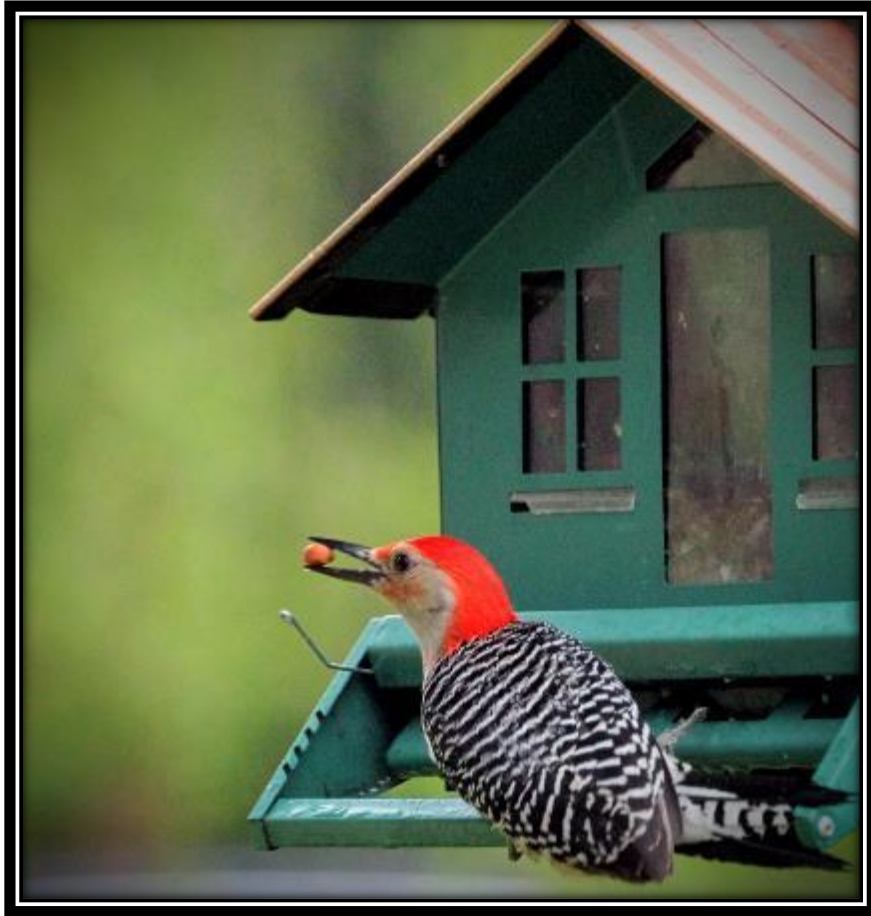
Photos of inquisitive young children are always fun. This image captures the young boy's interest well. I am not fond of the filter you applied. I think the image would be improved by cropping off some of the right side, especially the dark area.

Open  
"Young Boy with  
Canon Wheel"  
11



Open  
"Lily of the Pond"  
11

This is a very nice capture of the water lilies. They are sharp and well exposed. I think the image would look better as a vertical and would crop off about 1/4 on both sides. It's ok to crop in the middle of the lily pads, and cropping would more effectively make the flowers the main subject.



I like the composition on this shot, and you captured the bird at the right time, with it holding the seed in its beak. There appears to be some motion blur, and a faster shutter speed might have helped in that respect. The red feathers seem to me to be over exposed, so some detail was lost as a result.

Open  
"Feeding Woody"  
12





Open  
"Standing Guard"  
13

I like the posture of the egret, as you said, standing guard. The exposure is well done and the background is misty/blurry, so as not to distract the viewer from the main subject. I would crop off all of the tree except the branch that the bird is perched on. To me it is leading the viewer out of the frame. This would, of course, turn the photo into a vertical, rather than horizontal, and would still leave plenty of space at the right for the bird to gaze into.



Open  
"Wild Flower in the Wild"  
13

I think this is a lovely image of this wildflower. The long petals serve as strong leading lines and placing the center of the flower slightly off-center was a good choice. The depth of field could have been better; i.e., to include long petal on the left. All in all a very nice image.



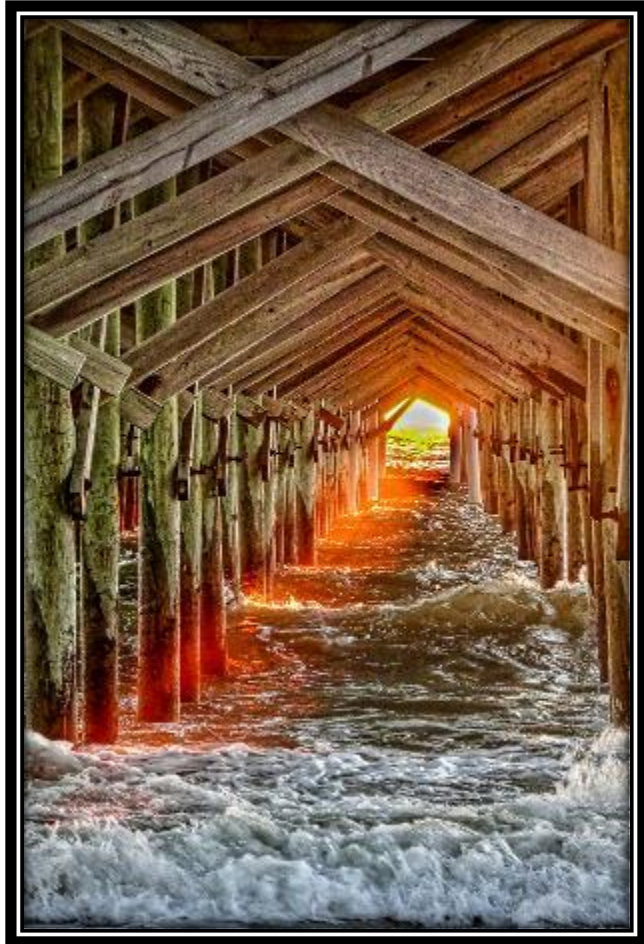
I really like this image. The colors are very appealing to me. I like the apparent treatment (filter?) you added. I think this image would be much improved by cropping about 1/3 off of the right side.

Open  
"Beeg Hug"  
13



The daffodil on the left is stunning, and I love the water drops on the petals. The other flowers, in my opinion, add little interest to the scene. Thus, I think the image would be better if you cropped in tighter to include just the one flower.

Open  
"Fence with Daffodil"  
13



To me this is a very clever shot, with the sunlight strongly leading us into the scene. The pier adds very nice framing, keeping the viewer's attention within the frame. I think the stream of sunlight is a bit over saturated; i.e. too orange. I would tone that down a bit.

Open  
"Sunrise Through the Pier"  
13



Open  
“Live Oaks Grove”  
14

To me this scene is very appealing. I would have loved to have been with you when you took the shot. The shrub with red flowers adds extra interest and draws the viewer's eye across the image, only to be brought back to the other side by the tree's horizontal branch. Lovely colors. Good exposure and depth of field. Nice shot.



Open  
“Apache Pier”  
14

The sunrise/sunset was nicely captured and the color is good. The pier leading into the frame works well. My only suggestion would be to crop 15%-20% off the top and off the left side, to bring us closer into the scene.



Great shot of this lemur(?). Its face and fur are very sharp. Good depth of field, blurring the background. I like how you captured it staring intensely off into the distance. My only suggestion would be to brighten/enhance the catchlight in its eyes in post processing.

Open  
"I Love Starbucks"  
15