

BRENT MAIL presents...

PHOTO BOOTCAMP MAGAZINE

ISSUE 07 | October 2018



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MY BACKYARD



IN THIS ISSUE

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Cover Image: **RACHEL GILMOUR**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/16 1/60SEC | 45MM

This is a macro shot, using an old manual lens, mounted backwards. Tripod mounted. This setting allowed me to just about fill the frame and still be a couple inches away from my subject. The DoF is about 2mm. My subject, in this case, is a dead female 'Stink Bug', about 15mm long, so I didn't have to chase after it. I took 10 shots at different focus points and then did a 'focus stack' in Affinity. The image is un-cropped.

DRILL INSTRUCTOR'S MEMO

Welcome to issue 7 of Photo BootCamp Magazine!



Brent Mail

Every month in the **Photo BootCamp Challenge** I ask members to shoot something new - near to where they live. I don't want members to have to travel far to get their challenge images shot.

I've designed these challenges to be easy to take action and get feedback on images - thus becoming better photographers.

And this magazine is proof that it works!

In this month's issue: You'll learn about sparking your creativity in the most common of places... your own backyard!

See how you can find interesting subjects just by opening your mind to the wonder around you.

Sit back and enjoy the top 40 "*backyard*" images from BootCamp members.

I'm truly impressed by everyone's creativity!

**MY
BACKYARD**

MY BACKYARD

"The world of your photography
is limitless - just like your
backyard." - Nick Kelsh



MY BACKYARD

MY BACKYARD

As photographers, we can get caught up in the idea that we need to go somewhere exotic or exciting to get amazing photographs. But this couldn't be further from the truth!

The truth is that as photographers, we live in a fascinating world no matter where we are! As photographers, we have a skill - we see the world in a completely different way than most people. Our eyes are trained to see light, lines, shadows, colors, and perspectives that are unique and interesting. We see things others can't even imagine. It's our gift.

And as such, it's important to remember that we really can find photo-worthy scenes wherever we are! Which leads me into this month's topic...

"My backyard" Meaning *your* backyard, of course. :)

MY BACKYARD

CREATIVE INSPIRATION IN THE MUNDANE

Being in the same environment day in and day out (for example, our homes) can lead to a certain, shall we say, taking our surroundings for granted.

Look around you right now. I'm willing to bet it appears boring and you don't feel very inspired to get your camera out! You've seen what you're looking at maybe a thousand times. It's just not that interesting anymore.

Or is it?

What would happen if you got your camera out, put your photographer hat on, and took another look around you?

I'm willing to bet that you'd begin to see the normality of your environment in a completely different way.

This is my challenge to you this month: Grab your camera, go into your backyard and see it with a child's eye. Be curious. Look for new angles, shadows, or details. Look for what you haven't seen before. See the things you normally don't notice, the things you've become blind to, and find a way to take some interesting photos.

And remember, don't ever fool yourself into thinking your creativity is limited by your environment ever again. It is only limited by your mind. So open your MIND to the possibilities around you. Cultivate creativity by looking to the "boring" around you.

As a photographer, nothing should ever be boring..just have a look at this month's images for evidence of this. All of these amazing images were taken in someone's "boring" backyard.

Your turn! GO!

MEMBERS' IMAGES



Photographer: **EUGENE BRANNAN**

Country: **USA**

**SONY A-7 | F/4.5 1/50SEC ISO125 |
46MM**

This photo was taken earlier in the year in my front yard. I've been traveling for work and not been home, so am posting this new fern frond unfolding to the warmth of the sun in the springtime. Camera was placed on small tripod allowing camera to be lower to ground.

Feedback: **JEFF EMERSON**

Country: **USA**

Great highlight of the fern and the stem. Nice clarity of the plant and the blurred background. Cool photo.



Photographer: **JIM ALBERTSON**

Country: **USA**

F/2.8 30SEC ISO3200 | 14MM

I took this shot from the back 40 of our farm here in Central Ohio. It was the new moon (no moon) on August 11th at 10:15 at night. It was pitch black out. I used a light pollution filter to cut down on some of the ground based light pollution. In order to get my trusty 8N Ford tractor to show up, I had my trusty assistant, Lee (wife), light paint it for about the first 10 sec of the exposure. I Had her use a Maglite penlight with a focusing beam and an incandescent bulb with 2 layers of a white handkerchief over it to further reduce the intensity of the light. Whew, this was a complicated shot! I am still learning the technique and I have a ways to go yet, but I am pretty happy with the result.

Feedback: **CHRISTIAN PIRON**

Country: **BELGIUM**

Jim, that's an amazing picture. Good composition. Nice to see the tractor in the foreground. Your milky way is terrific. Despite the light pollution, you (and your wife) did a good job. Well done.

Photographer: **JUDY WARD**

Country: **CANADA**

F/1.4 1/500SEC ISO100 | 35MM

It's autumn where I live and the colours are bright in my cotoneaster hedge. Within two weeks most of these leaves will fall and I will be looking at twigs for the next six months. Wide aperture used to blur the layers of leaves surrounding the berry.

Feedback: **JACKIE SCHEFER**

Country: **SWITZERLAND**

Very very nice! Love the dark background, the softness of the beautiful fall colors in the leaves and perfect focus on the blackberry. Love this!





Photographer: **RICHARD HUTSON**

Country: **USA**

F/1.7 1/1600SEC ISO100 | 28MM

"Charlotte in Web" She is out on our balcony dodging the spray of water applied for effect. The shiny background is the stainless steel chimney coming up from our garden room two floors below.

Feedback: **BRENT MAIL**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

It's the light that makes this image Richard - well done. I like the way you have placed the spider against the background lights to make it stand out even more. Good idea to spray water on the web.



Photographer: **ANDREW ROBINSON**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

F/16 1/1000SEC ISO6400 | 18MM

Every backyard needs a shed.

Feedback: **SARA O'BRIEN**

Country: **USA**

Great perspective and moodiness. I like how it is almost monochromatic, with the exception of the bit of blue in the sky.



Photographer: **CHRISTINE ROCHER**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

F/2.8 1/320SEC ISO100 | 90MM

From my garden was photo stacked to get the main point sharply in focus. But I wanted to bring in a surreal fine art feel to the rest of the image. This is called 'Perpetua'. 8 images stacked and blended.

Feedback: **VALERIE WORTHEN**

Country: **USA**

Beautiful details in the flower. I love how it stands out in the middle of all the blurred images. Great job with the stacking.

Photographer: **JIM WHEELER**

Country: **USA**

NIKON D5600 | F/9.0 1/400SEC

ISO1000 | 40MM

Another attempt at shooting an insect with a macro lens. This time I did use a tripod and I was surprised the fly stayed on the rose petal long enough for me to set up and get the shot.



Feedback: **RODNEY CHARLTON**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Terrific shot Jim! You got the focus spot on with the head and eyes sharp, the fly positioned well, and everything else nicely soft. Sometimes the insects do linger that little bit longer to be helpful.



Photographer: **TESSA BLEWCHAMP**

Country: **UNITED KINGDOM**

CANON 750D | F/5.6 1/250SEC ISO1600 | 90MM

Nothing exotic in English gardens, especially at this time of year! Haven't seen a bee around in the last few days, just flies. I tried taking some shots of them, but just couldn't get them good enough, so gave up and photographed our female cat, Pip, instead.

Feedback: **BARBARA GILBERT**

Country: **USA**

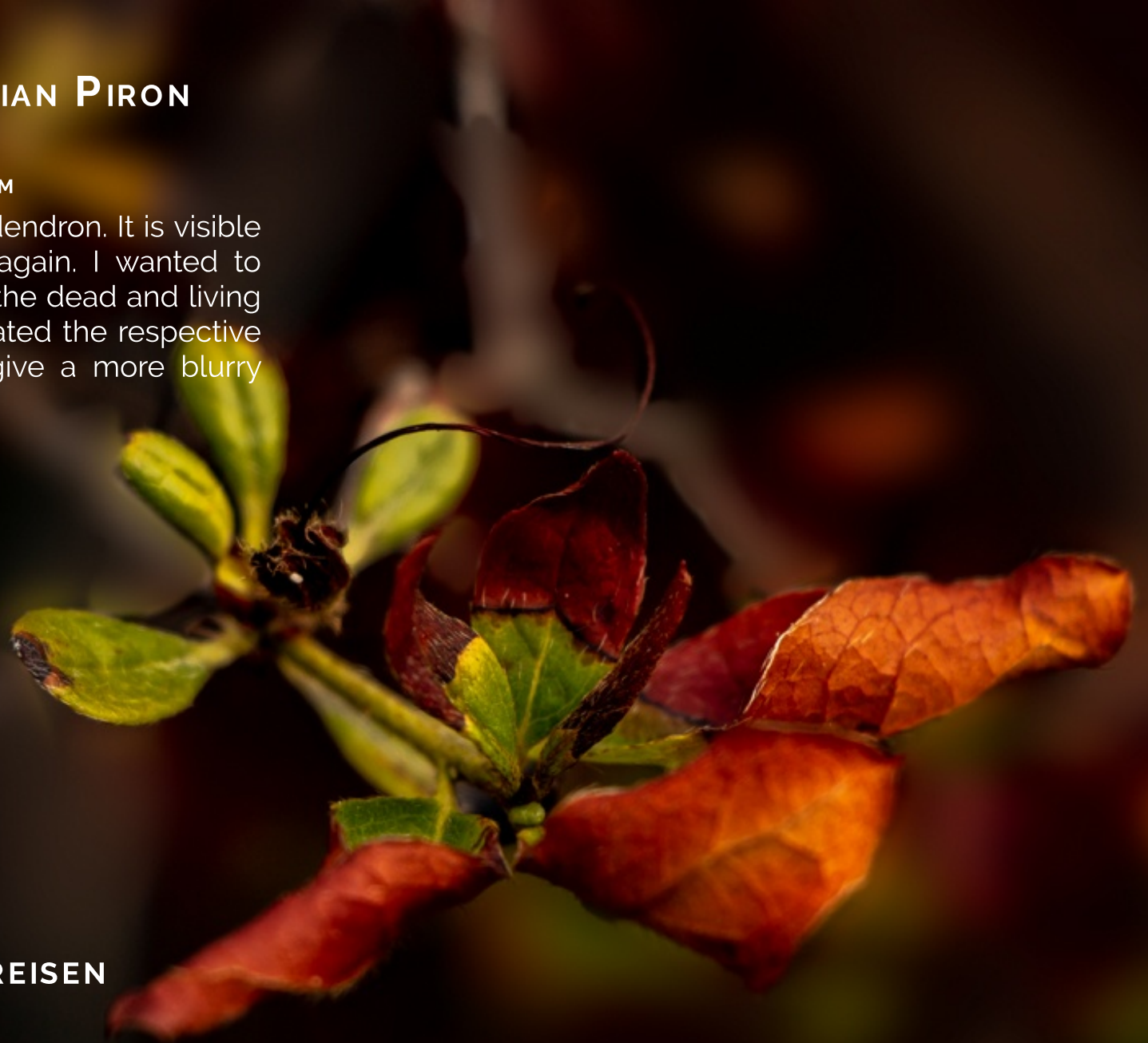
Great shot. Doesn't have to be exotic if the cat was in your yard it counts. Beautiful cat. Love the reflections and sharpness of the eyes. Great composition too! Great work!

Photographer: **CHRISTIAN PIRON**

Country: **BELGIUM**

f/5.6 1/200sec ISO100 | 135mm

This picture is from a rhododendron. It is visible that some parts are living again. I wanted to show the contrast between the dead and living parts of the plant. I accentuated the respective colours in Lightroom and give a more blurry effect in Photoshop.



Feedback: **DERRYL FREISEN**

Country: **THAILAND**

Oh yeah! Fall colours! I really like the oranges and greens and the blurred background. At first I was looking for an insect with tentacles but then realized it was just a plant!

Photographer: **SIG RANNEM**

Country: **CANADA**

SONY ALPHA 7II | F/6.3 1/125SEC ISO1600 | 191MM

Reflections in our bird bath. I have cropped the image on the RHS.

Feedback: **BRENT MAIL**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

This image rocks Sig! So creative - and you pulled it off beautifully with that shallow depth of field. Great work.





Photographer: **PETER DWIGHT**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

SONY A-77 | F/6.3 ISO800 1/80SEC | 105MM

I found this big moth on my chair in the back yard & did some searching but no name, I have never seen one before but there were a lot around in Queensland I read on Google. It has this skull pattern on its head, This one was about 130mm or 5" long, I read there was similar in USA & called a Death Head Moth.

Feedback: **CHRISTINE DOMINGO**

Country: **USA**

WOW! What an amazing looking moth and what a sharp image. I can see every hair!!

Photographer: **KERRIE CLARKE**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

F/5.6 1/100SEC ISO400 | 85MM

I was watering some herb pots next to this daisy bush, and noticed some spray on the flowers. Thought I'd try to capture it side on, rather than straight into the flower. Shot in late afternoon sun.

Feedback: **RACHEL GILMOUR**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

I love those colors Kerrie. The minimalist in me wants to see that blossom by itself, with the stem coming out of the lower right corner. With that dark background it would be awesome framed on the wall. :)





Photographer: **CHRISTINE DOMINGO**

Country: **USA**

I submit a confused bee on a Harley. Yes, I was in my garden looking for plants or bees or insects to shoot. So I was tracking bees and taking what seemed to be the same shots I always take and some friends of my husband pulled up on their motorcycles. We were all chatting and I was looking at this one bike which the guy must have spent a small fortune customizing, and a bee landed. It seemed confused, like where's the pollen? I realize this isn't the normal back yard shot but it was in the front of my house.

Feedback: **CHRISTINE ROCHER**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Interesting shot, love the colours and the perspective given the colouring of the bee. I think it adds to the image!

Photographer: **ROMY VILLANUEVA**

Country: **PHILIPPINES**

F/5.6 1/100SEC ISO100 | 80MM

This is a high contrast, black and white rendition of a photo of Dieffenbachia leaf. Unfortunately, the left side of tip of the leaf is blurry because it's out of the focal plane.



BEFORE



AFTER

Feedback: **BRENDA POTTS**

Country: **USA**

This leaf looks fantastic in B/W! You really focus in on the patterns. Beautiful.



Photographer: **BARBARA GILBERT**

Country: **USA**

**NIKON COOLPIX P1000 | F/5 1/250SEC
ISO100 | 117MM**

Alright so I went outside today and looked real hard for something to shoot. Finally ran across some butterflies, which were hard to capture since they wouldn't sit still. This is a Variegated Fritillary butterfly found in the D.C area. Though I found him on the Eastern shore of Maryland which my home is directly across the Chesapeake bay from D.C. So I think they come to visit sometimes.

Feedback: **SIG RANNEM**

Country: **CANADA**

Great capture - I can just imagine how much patience you needed to get this shot! Well done!



Photographer: **DEBY
ZWIERLEIN-CARTER**

Country: **USA**

f/2.8 1/640sec ISO800

I actually shot this photo in my back yard in January 2017. This was a very dark day with rain puddles being created on our Paver Stones. I immediately thought to grab my Rubber rain boots, set them up outside, then snap a photo with my Canon GX7 point and shoot. I believe I did most of the editing in Apple PHOTOS program to bring a little life to it. I don't remember if I used any other editing program.

Feedback: **PETER DWIGHT**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

They are the flashiest Gumboots I've ever seen. I love the colors & the rain spots in the puddle, great shot.



Photographer: **EREZ SHILAT**

Country: **ISRAEL**

F/5.6 1/80SEC ISO200

One of few that is still blooming now.

Feedback: **JIM ALBERTSON**

Country: **USA**

Really nice capture Erez! I love the lighting effect and the colors.

Photographer: **JACKIE SCHEFER**

Country: **SWITZERLAND**

CANON 5D MARK III | F/4 ISO640 | 100MM

Another nice inhabitant of my garden.
Caterpillar *Daphnis Nerii* or Army Green
Moth.



Feedback: **EREZ SHILAT**

Country: **ISRAEL**

Great image Jackie. Sharp and interesting
in an especially large magnification.
Wonderful work.

Photographer: **ALEX COOK**

Country: **NEW ZEALAND**

F/4 ISO 400 | 35 MM

I confess this one is not in my backyard, but it is in my neighbours backyard, which is much more interesting than mine. So I'd like to think it almost qualifies. I'd been thinking about taking a photo of this fountain for a while so this challenge was a good enough reason to finally do it. I used an ND filter to slow it down to 1/6 of a second, to get a nice soft look for the water. It was a cloudy day so no harsh sunlight. I tried different crops and I also took landscape orientated shots but liked this best, with all the ferns behind it, and even the submerged slab it's sitting on looks okay. The moss growing on it looks the part too.

Feedback: **JUDY WARD**

Country: **CANADA**

Alex, mission accomplished. The fountain of water is nice and soft, without losing all definition. For me, the icing on the cake is the brighter tips of the palm fronds. They are subtle arrows of light pointing to the fountain and waters. Excellent composition.





Photographer: **ANNETTE HALLORAN**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

NIKON D5300 | F/6.7 1/500SEC ISO200 | 34MM

I was desperately trying to get some creative juices running as I feel they are exceptionally rare in my case. I am not sure if this fits the bill but would very much appreciate your comments and suggestions; late afternoon with all lights on in the room. It was actually hand held as I was frustrated with the tripod and just started snapping. Enhanced a little in Lr.

Feedback: **SARA O'BRIEN**

Country: **USA**

Annette, my sister doesn't think she is creative either and she makes the most beautiful greeting cards. You have nailed it with this one, it is very creative. I like the vibrance of the flower and the contrast of the music. Well done.

FEATURED ARTIST

**FEATURED
IMAGE**

**VALERIE WORTHEN
USA**



Photographer: **VALERIE WORTHEN**

Country: **USA**

F6.3 1/800SEC ISO1800 | 90MM

I am still practicing with my macro lens and experimenting with settings to try to get an anticipated result. Needless to say it is still a work in progress. These two Yellow Jackets were invading the bird house on my deck.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR FEATURED ARTIST:

Brent: How did you get started in photography? What was your inspiration?

Valerie: *When I was in my early twenties I had a 35mm film Nikon Camera, several lenses and a passion for photography. Life happened, with work, marriage, family etc., and I got away from my photography. Three years ago my husband purchased a new Nikon D610, three lenses and some accessory equipment for me as a retirement gift. That was the renewing of my photography journey.*



**VALERIE
WORTHEN** | **USA**

Brent: What is it you hope to express to your audience with your photography? What is your strategy for accomplishing that goal?

Valerie: *I want to share my passion for the outdoors, nature and the beauty our world has to offer by producing photos that illustrate that beauty as I see it in reality. I love the outdoors and all of the seasons and where ever I am I look for the opportunity to share what I am experiencing through photography. In my spare time I try to improve my photography skills through a variety of learning opportunities.*

Brent: How do you educate yourself to improve your photography skills?

Valerie: *I buy and read books about photography, I research on line, I take both in person and on-line training classes. I watch photography documentaries from well know photographers. I spend time with other photographers and try to learn everything I can from them. I try to take photos of something every day and apply what I am learning along the way.*

PHOTOGRAPHER | VALERIE WORTHEN

Valerie's favorite inspirational quote:

"To Everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

PHOTOGRAPHER | VALERIE WORTHEN

Brent: If you could travel anywhere in the world specifically to take pictures, where would you go? Why?

Valerie: *I don't really have any one particular place but several places that would entice me such as Africa for all the wild animal opportunities, Australia for both the wildlife and the scenery, I hope to make all the 50 states in the United States to capture what each state has to offer and finally I hope to capture an action photo of a grizzly bear in Alaska and the Bald Eagle in Yellowstone National Park.*

Brent: What inspires and motivates you to continue taking pictures?

Valerie: *I am inspired by the many great photos you see every day. When I see a photo that speaks to me I want to know just how they were able to capture it and where it was taken. I want to be able to reproduce that shot myself and hopefully have it speak to someone the way it spoke to me.*



Valerie Worthen

PHOTOGRAPHER | VALERIE WORTHEN

Brent: What is the most challenging photo you've ever taken and how did you overcome those challenges?

Valerie: *I love taking photographs of birds in flight and I have a vision of what I want to capture and I hope the bird will present that vision when I am in the right place at the right time. My first winter back into photography I sat out in the cold winter weather for several days over several hours each day trying to capture the trumpeter swans coming in for a landing on the snake river. After several hundred photos, many different camera settings and some cold challenging winter weather I was able to capture a couple of decent photos which are some of my favorite and have inspired me to learn to be a better photographer.*

PHOTOGRAPHER | VALERIE WORTHEN

Brent: Tell us about the featured image: What was the inspiration behind it? What was your process to get it? How did you do the post processing?

Valerie: *I have been inspired in Boot Camp by the many impressive insect and bee photos that have been posted. This back yard challenge was the perfect opportunity for me to begin to respect insects in nature rather than run from them! It was also an opportunity to learn to use a macro lens that I have had for quite some time and never really experimented with. Over several different occasions I tried to capture the Yellow Jackets, a fly, a grasshopper, a butterfly and only came away with out of focus images. The day I submitted this photo I saw several of them flying in and out of my bird house so I decided to take my time and wait for the photo. I sat my camera up on my tripod about three feet from the birdhouse and I just began to take a variety of photos at different settings. I experimented with different angles, distances and directions of viewing. This photo was the last one I took. I use Lightroom as my post processing software and I used the Ultimate Lightroom Workflow presets to post process. I cropped the photo, darkened the exposure .25, reduced the highlights and shadows .25, applied a medium vignette, light saturation and clarity and then made a slight tone curve adjustment. The one thing I did not do was adjust for noise. I really like the Lightroom Workflow as it makes post processing simple and quick.*

Valerie Worthen

MEMBERS' IMAGES



Photographer: **DERRYL FRIESEN**

Country: **THAILAND**

F/8 1/320SEC ISO12800 | 476MM

Nothing common about Common Mormon swallowtail butterflies chasing each other and playing in the bamboo next to our House of Shade in Chiang Mai, Thailand. I cannot believe how fast these little guys zip in and out of the leaves and stalks way up high. It was quite dark up in the bamboo and had to pump ISO way up to get a decent shutter speed.



Feedback: **JEFF EMERSON**

Country: **USA**

I like this better, it tells a better story with the two butterflies. I like how you gave the butterflies room to fly in the photo. Great highlight on the first butterfly and showing the light coming through the wings. Well done..

Photographer: **NICK ELLIS**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

F/4.5 1/200SEC ISO200 | 100MM

Cymbidium Orchid. I've been waiting for the buds to burst into their glory. This is a stacked focus image and taken with a black cloth behind the plant. I tried the peg trick and even then had to wait for the breeze to die down for each exposure. The only editing was to remove a bud from the bottom right of the image.

Feedback: **JUDY WARD**

Country: **CANADA**

Nick, I think you have nailed that focus stacking technique. The detail here is glorious, and I really like that black background to isolate the orchid. So glad it made it onto your garden stage to be included in this challenge.





Photographer: **DENIS O'BYRNE**

Country: **IRELAND**

F/9 1/500SEC ISO200 | 50MM

We had a mother of a storm for this part of the world. Anyway, shot 3 for this challenge. Will call this one "Wet or Dry".

Feedback: **CHRISTIAN PIRON**

Country: **BELGIUM**

Denis, that is indeed a lot of water. Good composition. Nice colours. Well done.



Photographer: **BILL HANSON**

Country: **USA**

F/2.8 1/4000SEC ISO100 | 90MM

This is my feeder! Three hummingbirds square off for possession of a feeder. Taken in my backyard in southern New Mexico, USA.

Feedback: **JUDY WARD**

Country: **CANADA**

I really like the way the birds stand out against the soft blue background. You were in the right time and place to capture this shot! Nice job.

Photographer: **CRAIG MOSTERT**

Country: **SOUTH AFRICA**

f/8 ISO400 | 600MM

Crowned Eagle eating one of my chickens :(in my garden. Pic taken yesterday. He hammered the chicken and spent the next 45 minutes eating much to the consternation of the rest of the chickens and then casually took the rest as a take away.

Feedback: **RACHEL GILMOUR**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Wow, that is one fierce looking bird. Awesome capture and great detail. For your next opportunity, maybe 'shutter priority' and auto ISO. Brent has mentioned this and also a bird photographer in the group, that it's the best setup for this type of photography. Especially when you're using that long of a lens.





Photographer: **RODNEY CHARLTON**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

F/5 1/250SEC ISO800 | 60MM

While shooting my previous photo of the knot in the fence paling I noticed a spot in the corner of the viewfinder. On closer inspection I found this little insect (approx. 5-10mm long), so changed to my macro lens and kept shooting.

Feedback: **RACHEL GILMOUR**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Oh, a queen ant looking for a new home! Really good macro shot. Focus is spot on.



Photographer: **ANDREW THOMPSON**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

NIKON D5300 | F/6.7 1/500SEC ISO200 | 34MM

Today I started the clean-up and in the process at the base of one of my dead palm trees I found some different Fungi. This one really caught my attention, but how best to capture it. I have learnt of late that the real beauty of mushrooms and fungi is underneath but they tend to grow quite low to the ground. I must have taken over 100 shots of this one but although I still didn't manage the front to back crispness but I still quite liked the result. I should point out that I do not have a macro lens and I think that is why I could not get the DOF right.

Feedback: **JIM WHEELER**

Country: **USA**

Cool shot Andrew. I like the composition with the perspective looking up and being so close to the POI using the wide angle lens. I like the lighting too. Great job.

*Andrew Thompson
Duke to Dawn Photos*



Photographer: **KATHY POTTER**
Country: **USA**

F/6.0 1/180SEC ISO1250 | 185MM

I am lucky to have two backyards, one in North Dakota, the other in SW Florida. I was about to walk to the beach and I saw this roseate spoonbill in the pond next to my condo. Golden hour was just ending and I was able to capture the spoonbill with the reflection of the building in the water. I had to bump up the ISO with the low light so it is a bit grainy.

Feedback: **CHRISTIAN PIRON**
Country: **BELGIUM**

Kathy, nice picture. Good composition. Nice colours. Great view on those ripples and the reflection of the construction. Because of the weaved texture of the latter it doesn't disturb me in the whole picture. Well done.

Photographer: **KERI DOWN**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

F/5.6 1/2000SEC ISO1000 | 250MM

Love this idea as we see the same thing over and over. Reminds us we are surrounded by cool and interesting things. I have gone to the bird life for this 1st shot.



Feedback: **SHEREE EBANKS**

Country: **CAYMAN ISLANDS**

Beautiful bird. You have a lot of movement in this with a perfectly in focus head and eye. I also really like the water which he has splashed all around from the bath. Fabulous!

Photographer: **BONNIE SPONSELLER**

Country: **USA**

F/5.6 1/125SEC ISO640 | 90MM

A view of the Praying Mantis.

Feedback: **RACHEL GILMOUR**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Great shot Bonnie. I like that you managed to capture the whole mantis (except antenna LOL!). That board gives you a perspective of just how big this thing was.





Photographer: **JOHN DONNELLY**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

F/4.0 1/125SEC ISO400 | L35MM

I came across a photo book showing an Australian 'Rat of Tobruk' (WW2 1941, western desert) photographer next to his camera so I am showing the modern camera over the old.

Feedback: **VALERIE WORTHEN**

Country: **USA**

Super creative photo. I love the story it tells. Nice job.



Photographer: **HILARY WRIGHT**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/6.3 1/320sec ISO100 | 206mm

This tree is a Paulownia, about 15m tall, and one of the first things to bloom in spring. It is a lovely shade tree but the flowers come before the leaves. Unfortunately I can't get far enough away to photo the tree - too many other trees, the house etc in the way. Had the idea to go underneath and photo upwards to get one group of blossoms with a background of the rest of the blooms.

Feedback: **TESSA BLEWCHAMP**

Country: **UNITED KINGDOM**

I like the combination of soft colours in this shot Hilary and the angle of the shot from underneath the tree. I agree that a tighter crop on the group of blossoms might give a clearer POI and bring out more detail on the blossom.



Photographer: **KATHLEEN FEELEY**

Country: **USA**

F/2.8 1/60SEC ISO100 | 100MM

And because I dislike spiders so much, I found another photogenic one...all for the sake of my Art!

Feedback: **VALERIE WORTHEN**

Country: **USA**

Very colorful spider, I have not seen one like this before which is probably a good thing as I am not a spider fan either. I especially like how you were able to capture the web. Good composition. Well done.

Photographer: **JACKIE SCHEFER**

Country: **SWITZERLAND**

F/6.3 1/1000SEC ISO320 | 534MM

I'm not a pro but very happy with the Sigma 150-600mm lens. Here is a shot of a Red-Crowned Crane in flight. It was my first try with this lens.

Feedback: **SHEREE EBANKS**

Country: **CAYMAN ISLANDS**

Such a cool photo, nicely framed. Realizing you were quite a distance away, the focus is pretty good! Love that you have the pine branch they were perched on and the rest seemingly surrounding them!



BEFORE



Photographer: **KATHLEEN MUHLE**

Country: **USA**

F/4.5 1/60SEC ISO500 | 70MM

This was the backyard of a cabin we stayed in. Early morning fog after a weekend of rains and a small herd of deer came by. Taken through the window, sun coming from the right illuminating the deer. Hope you enjoy it.

Feedback: **CHRISTIN PIRON**

Country: **BELGIUM**

Kathleen, nice picture. Good composition. You got your dreamy effect. Well done.



AFTER



Photographer: **LEILA GONZALEZ SULLIVAN**

Country: **USA**

NIKON D5300 | F/16 1/80SEC ISO400 | 300MM

Here is my Halloween post on my back deck. I can't buy real pumpkins any more as these darn squirrels finish them off overnight and make a giant mess (have photos of that too). I was surprised that they didn't scamper when they saw my camera but the pumpkin must have been too tasty to give up.

Feedback: **EREZ SHILAT**

Country: **ISRAEL**

Such a great image Leila. Great focus on the little fellow and the pumpkins. He looks as if trying to communicate.



Photographer: **ROMEO VILLANUEVA**

Country: **PHILIPPINES**

NIKON D5300 | F/16 1/80SEC ISO400 | 300MM

It has been hot and dry in the past month with only 2 days of rainfall in last 2 weeks and my backyard has nothing but dry, cracked red clay soil with some grass. Still waiting for the rains to come more regularly. My front yard still has some life in it due to constant watering of the garden. For this week I am posting a photo of my parched backyard. The original photo just showed the texture of the clayey soil without any POI except the cracked soil. Had to crop tightly just to show something of interest.

Feedback: **BARBARA GILBERT**

Country: **USA**

Okay you have inspired me to shoot my boring backyard. LOL. Despite the no rain this is a great shot. The cracked earth has great texture, color and sharpness. The green grasses help to break up the reddish cracked earth. This is a excellent shot!



Photographer: **SARA O'BRIEN**

Country: **USA**

I was walking around the yard, and thought an extreme close up would work for this one. A bit challenging as the wind was out and it is overcast. I tightened the crop and adjusted the colors slightly. I like the succulent look of the sedum and the variety of colors they come in.

Feedback: **JUDY WARD**

Country: **CANADA**

I like your tight crop and the soft lighting provided by that overcast day; shadows from a bright sun would have given more shadows & made the image feel busier. I also like taking photos of clusters where just a few are in bloom, and the rest are waiting their turn.

Photographer: **TONY MELILLO**

Country: **USA**

NIKON 3400 | F/6.0 1/640SEC ISO800 | 260MM

Funny thing about this is my tiny back yard was host to 7 deer, so I had lots of subjects to practice with. I tried to reduce the highlights in the bushes/background while bringing up the highlights a touch in the deer. I couldn't figure out how to do both without the effect overlapping.

Feedback: **STEVEN KIRK**

Country: **USA**

Very nice shot, Tony. Great detail in the deer; I especially like the texture in the folds of skin around the neck. Well done.





Photographer: **SHEREE EBANKS**

Country: **CAYMAN ISLANDS**

NIKON D750 | F/5.6 1/500SEC ISO1000 | 170MM

On reflection. It was such a beautiful morning and wanted to capture the roots on this red mangrove. The orange sun really highlighted them. I did a bit in post by bringing up the shadows as the PoV is primarily the reflection in the centre. I think if the ripple was not there the reflection and the roots would have merged to one. This is hand held as I had to crawl on the back of the boat to get the right angle.

Feedback: **ROMY VILLANUEVA**

Country: **PHILIPPINES**

Fantastic reflections, almost like a mirror image. Your efforts paid off. You nailed it. Great capture. Well done Sheree.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR TEAM

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About this publication:

Photo BootCamp Magazine was created to showcase the art, skills, and camaraderie of the recruits from the Academy. Each month, Brent leads members in a new drill, teaching them what they need to know to get out in the field and create images using their new skills.

About Photo BootCamp Academy:

Photo BootCamp Academy is a community of like-minded photography students who come together to learn in the fastest, most fun way - how to harness the magic of photography, improve their craft, gain confidence, and sometimes even win awards!

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