

Tidewater Camera Club Competition Score Sheet

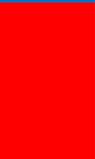
Month/Year: January 2016

Theme: CloseUp Nature Photography

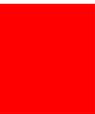
From 1-5 points for each score

Title	Comp	Impact	Tech	Total	Judges Comments
A_Drop	3	4	4	11	Nice overall image; good subject with good leading lines. Big issue and the reason for a 3 in composition category is that the heart of this image, i.e., the center of the leaf and the drop, are too centered in the image. More importantly the drop is too close to the right edge; it needs more room on the right than the left. Finally the background is very busy, use a smaller aperture. Also appears a little too bright; drop exposure some.
Autums_Beauty	4	5	5	14	Great overall image; good contrast, in focus, well composed. A nit pick and the reason for 4 in composition is that, when you want to cut something out, make sure that the viewer knowsn you meant to do so. The top of the most prominent leaf is slightly cut off; cut al little more off.
black_swallowtail	3	4	3	10	Because of the symmetry of the butterfly, this image works with the butterfly largely centered. However, the butterfly is too tightly cropped and one of its antenna is cropped and the others are awfully close to the top edge. Always leave room around the head of the insect/animal so that it appears it isn't leaving the picture. Also, using Lr's gradient tool, add some exposure to the left side of the image to even out the exposure and then add contrast to the overall image.
Blue_Poppy	5	4	5	14	Very well done. The composition is good with the flower off center and all in the image. Background is beautiful and completely out of focus while maintaining focus in the center of the flower. Well done.
Bud	4	4	4	12	Good composition; having the bud on an angle works well and the background is beautiful- completely out of focus and doesn't distract from the rest of the image. Image on my screen, which is calibrated, appears a little dark. Also, the out of focus pistels in the foreground are somewhat distracing.
Busy	3	5	4	12	Tough getting a bee in focus-tiny, fast subject. Good focus on this one however. Bigges issue is composition and it is soe easily fixed here. The subject, i.e., the flowers and bee, are dead center, making it a very static image. Crop some of the negative space on the left side of the image off to take the subject out of the center of the image. Background is beautiful with nice round bokeh.
butterfly_on_finger	4	4	3	11	Nice overall image. However, finger and butterfly are dead center; remove some of the negative space on the left side. Biggest issue is the finger appears over exposed and, as bright as it is in comparison to the butterfly, draws my eye to the finger rather than the butterfly. Use some local corrections to darken the finger. Also, the background, while out of focus, is still distracting because it has a definite shape and is very contrasty.

Cacada	2	3	3	8	Nice and close. A square and centered composition is fine for a close like this one. However, the feet and the tips of the cacada are cut off light is uneven. Don't expect much to be in focus as camera is obviously very close to the subject so physics says shallow depth of field.
cactus_bloom	4	5	3	12	Nice conceptual/abstract close up shot. The black background is very effective in setting off the color of the bloom. Crop a little off the bottom (make the aspect ratio 4x5 rather than 2x3) to tighten the composition. Also, you lost some detail in the petals; it appears that the leaves may be oversaturated; try using the HSL controls to just reduce the saturation of the leaves a little.
cactus_flower	4	4	3	11	Nice shot. Again, the black background is very effective in setting off the color of the flower. Some detail in the petals may have been lost. It appears that the leaves may be oversaturated; try using the HSL controls to just reduce the saturation of the leaves a little. Also, the light is very harsh; try diffusing the light from the flash or hot lights; also bring the light closer to make the light bigger relative to the flower.
Cardinal	1	4	4	9	Torn over whether to deduct points for this one. While you certainly got close to the bird, bird photos are generally not considered a close-up or macro because it is impossible to record it at 1:1 or even close to that. An images of the feathers or a portion of the bird wold be. Having said that, it is a good bird photo except for the cropping, e.g., good catchlight, in focus, nice background. The right side is cropped too close to the beak; there needs to be at least a little room on the right side.
cicada	3	3	4	10	Nice and close; may even be a true macro. A square and centered composition is fine for an image such as this one. Don't expect much to be in focus as camera is obviously very close to the subject so physics says shallow depth of field. Light is slightly harsh; diffuse your light.
Color_Me_Red	5	4	4	13	Nice shot; good impact. Composition is good with green leaf following the rule of thirds and use of complementary colors, i.e., green and red. Image appears a little dark.
dandelion	5	5	4	14	Excellent image. Background is beautiful although it could be darkened slightly to set off the dandelion even more. Depth of field is shallow, as would be
dragon_eyes	4	5	4	13	Very hard to photograph subject. Always want the eyes in focus and they certainly are here-perfect. Eyes aren't dead center but close; try a different crop, perhaps a 4x5 aspect ratio unless whatever was cropped off the image contains distracting elements. Also, the catchlight in the eyes appear to have been darkened. Catchlights will not have any detail and will not be gray; let them be bright white.
early bud	3	4	3	10	The folwers and where the leaves come together make a great leading line drawing the viewer into the image. Color is great. Light, however, is very harsh; this kind of subject needs a big, diffused light source.
elephant_tusk	3	2	3	8	Interesting concept. However, the most interesting portion of the tusk is cut off on the left side, i.e., the deep dark groove. Good effort, especially with the side lighting from camera right that reveals texture of the tusk.



fern	4	4	4	12	Good image. The fern is in shapre focus and the centering of the fern doesn't detract from the image as it is a curved object that actually meanders all over the image. Hate the vignette; drop it.
flower_ant	3	4	3	10	Shallow depth of field can be used to isolate a subject, such as this ant. But it appears that the focus was slightly off and the ant is not in focus. If something isn't in focus, the viewer will not look at it or only give it a short look. Get it in focus.
Golden Helicon	4	3	3	10	Composition is good with butterfly head following rule of thirds; background is good. Too much sharpening; wings and antenna look crispy and plant is blown out.
lm_a_little_Concentric	5	4	5	14	Very nice image. Background is very nice and the lighting is excellent. Centering your subject, as done here, is fine as long as it is a conscience decision and it works for the subject.
Just Beautiful	4	4	4	12	Is this a photo illustration or a macro shot? Difficult to determine and always controversial. So I will just say that the underlying shot is very good. Composition is good, flower is at an angle. And, while I normally dislike digital frames, it works here because the image has been so heavily processed. Very nice but I think it is in a category of its own as it relates to the other images.
Light_painted_orchid	4	4	4	12	Nice. Purple portion of the image, i.e., the center of attention is a little too far to the right and too high in the image. It can be difficult to maintain detail in white petals. Here, however, detail is retained in the petals (except where they are out of focus). Light is a bit too harsh and uneven.
Light_painted_rose	5	5	5	15	Excellent image. Beautiful lighting and retained detail.
lily	5	4	4	13	Very good image. Biggest issue is the yellow center of the lily doesn't have detail; it appears that the yellow is too saturated. Try pulling back just a little on the yellow slider in the HSL controls (Lightroom) to see if you can access some more detail.
mandevilla_stigma	4	4	4	12	Very interesting abstract. Composition is good; colors is intense.
Milkweed_Seed_on_Red	3	4	4	11	Striking image with the contrast between the milkweed seed and the red whatever (can't tell what the red whatever is-which isn't a bad thing in this case). Milkweed seed is in focus and placed on the 1/3 vertical on the right side; however, some of the ends of the milkweed seed are cropped out. Lighting is a little harsh and uneven; some of the red is completely blown out and has no detail.
Mushrooms_on_a_Twig	4	4	4	12	Nice sharp macro image; the subject is clear to me and it isn't all the fungi just the big one in the middle designated as such because the others are out of focus. Nice clean background. The pure green background on the right side of the image is unnessary; crop it out. At least for me, it distracts me from focusing on the fungi.
Prayer	3	3	3	9	The eye on the side of the mantis closest to the fram is out of focus. The antenna is cut off at the top and the the background could be toned down, especially the white and brownish patches.



praying_mantis	3	4	3	10	Composition is okay, i.e., head in upper 1/3; however, one leg is cut off on the right side slightly. Background is very busy; use a smaller f-stop (larger aperture) to decrease the depth of field to throw the background out of focus more. This is especially important for images of subjects where their color is similar or close to the background.
Propagation	4	3	3	10	Composition is good with center of dandelion in upper 1/3 position. However, may just be a bit too high as you might cut off some of the center of the dandelion when it is matted and frames. Looks very noisy; use the Luminance Noise reduction in Lightroom.
red_fox	3	5	3	11	Great concept, the eyes are the window to the soul. Cropping, i.e., composition is way too tight with the eyes touching the side of the image; like that you weren't afraid to crop to a non-standard image size. Eyes are in focus-absolutely critical but it appears as this is a significant crop to an image as it is just on the edge of pixelation.
Shell	3	3	3	9	The entire shell is out of focus. Composition is okay with the shell going from the upper left corner at an angle to the lower right corner. Try this in black and white; there isn't much color to begin with and converting it to black and white will focus attention on its shape for potentially more impact.
the_beetle	2	3	3	8	By putting the beetle in the upper right hand corner, you have decreased its importance. When you name it "the beetle," the beetle should be the main focus. The pistil of the flower is cut off at the bottom of the image. The red in the flower looks overstaturated and there is no detail.
Trying_To_Fit_In	4	4	2	10	Clever idea. Composition is good for an image such as this, although I would use the same set up and move the grape around to verify that this is the best set up. Good lighting but the grape is hot, i.e., it is blown out on the upper right side. Also, I am subtracting the most for this, the vignette and the blurring of image around the outside is too visible--use enough feathering to hide the transition.
Tusk	5	4	2	11	Great idea and good composition. However, the lighting is very harsh and the tusk is blown out. CHECK your histogram in the field; it will instantly tell you whether you have over-exposed your image. The lighting and blown out areas of the tusk are just too obviously and visibly detracts from a great concept.
Whistling Acacia	4	4	2	10	Great idea and good composition except some of the thorns are awfully close to the edge. The lighting is very harsh and the thorns are blown out. CHECK your histogram in the field; it will instantly tell you whether you have over-exposed your image. Nice clean background.
White_cosmo	3	3	2	8	The entire image is out of focus. The flowers are too close to the left edge and the empty space on the right side of the image, makes it appear as though the flowers are moving out of the image.
Wild Amaryllis	4	2	3	9	Spot your images! There is a spot on on the vertical petal near the bottom of the image. Frames can add to an image, especially photo illustrations, but generally-as here-distract and don't add anything to the image. Drop the frame as this image is sharp, composed well and interesting. General rule of thumb is will a frame something to the image? If not, which is usually the answer, don't do it.

woodpecker_with_flurries	3	2	2	7	While you certainly got close to the bird, bird photos are generally not considered a close-up or macro because it is impossible to record it at 1:1 or even close to that. An images of the feathers or a portion of the bird wold be. Moreover, the entire image is out of focus. Also, by placing the bird far to the left, it appears that the bird is moving out of the image.
woolford	4	5	5	14	Striking image. In focus and sharp. Nit picking on the composition-the eye is very centered.
Yellow_Gladiolus	5	4	5	14	Nicely done. The pistels and petals are in focus and the black background makes the flower pop out. Lighting is beautiful as well.

