



Urban Wildlife Photo Club

June 2020 Newsletter

Next Membership Meeting: June 8th 7 PM

Online meeting.

Link will be sent a day or two before the meeting

Club Contact Information

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Montview Pres is still closed to outside groups through June and possibly into July, so we will again utilize ZOOM for our June meeting. ZOOM has announced and is shipping rev 5.0.2 which is supposed to address the security and privacy issues that have been the subject of recent press coverage. We will do critiques as part of the online meeting this month. We'll start at **7 PM**. I'll open the meeting at 6:30 to allow folks to sign in.

June Speaker - Sarah Marino

Beyond the Grand Landscape: Expanding Your Vision to Include

Nature's Smaller Scenes - Nature photography is about so much more than epic grand landscapes. In this session, Sarah will teach you how to see beyond the grand scenes to expand your photographic opportunities, improve your observational skills, work with any kind of light, and bring diversity to your photo portfolio. Sarah will share a lot of examples of intimate landscapes, abstract renditions of natural subjects, and portraits of plants and trees to inspire you to seek out small scenes next time you are outside with your camera.



Sarah's Bio: Sarah Marino is a full-time nature photographer, photography educator, and writer who splits her time between a home base in rural southwestern Colorado and nomadic traveling in an Airstream trailer. Sarah's portfolio features a diverse range of subjects including grand landscapes, intimate landscapes, abstract renditions of nature, and creative portraits of plants and trees. Sarah's teaching, through speaking and in-person workshops, eBooks, and video tutorials, focuses on personal expression, seeing opportunities in any landscape, photographing nature's small scenes, and a slow style of photography focused on exploration and connecting with nature.

MEMBER MONTHLY IMAGE SUBMISSION

Members and first-time guests are encouraged to submit images for a gentle critique. We are not a competitive club, but we do strive to help our members learn and improve their photographic skills. Guidelines are below.

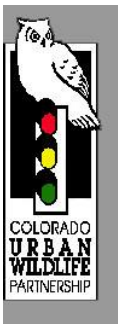
We have both open and theme image categories:

June images due by June 1st

Send to: uwpcimages@comcast.net

June Theme - Flowers

July Theme - Panorama



PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS FOR IMAGE LABELING, ESPECIALLY THE USE OF SPECIAL CHARACTERS (NO @) AND NAMING NEEDS.

PLEASE TRY TO ADHERE TO THE DATE & SIZE REQUESTED -1MB or less
Two categories at each meeting - THEMED AND OPEN

- Maximum of 4 images total and no more than one themed image
- Email files one week before the scheduled meeting to uwpcimages@comcast.net Please use this one!
- Send themed category images in an email titled 'themed images'
- Send open category images in an email titled 'critique images'
- If your image is selected to appear on the club website, the website caption will be derived from the file name. Be sure that your name and the image title as you would like them to appear on the website are included in the file name. Use only letters (a-z and A-Z), numerals (0-9), dashes (-), underscores (_), and the single dot before ".jpg" in file names. Avoid using blanks. Use dashes (-) underscores (_) and capitalization to indicate word boundaries (e.g. Bob_Dean-Trees_In_Snow.jpg or BobDean-TreesInSnow.jpg). It is acceptable to include other information that identifies the image in file names, but you risk the possibility that this information will be misinterpreted by the webmaster. Although it's unlikely, the image BobDean_TreesInSnow_27583.jpg might end up on the website with the title "Trees in Snow 27853."

OPTIONAL Descriptive information for each *critique image* should be as follows:

Exposure data should, for example, include f/stop, shutter speed, ISO, any exposure compensation, and any filter information. Post processing enhancements should include only those things beyond simply cropping, sharpening, noise reduction, etc. such as HDR, panorama work, color enhancements, exposure changes, etc. If you can put the image data (if you choose to include it) **as text** in the body of the email as opposed to an attached word or excel file, it would be appreciated! Makes life easier if everyone does the same thing.

MEMBER IMAGE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

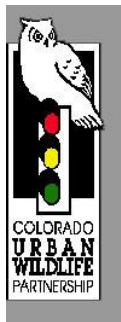


IMAGE	IMAGE TITLE	SPECIES	LOCATION	CAMERA	LENS	EXPOSURE DATA	POST PROCESSING ENHANCEMENTS
Critique 1							
Critique 2							
Critique 3							

Please don't use an @ in the exposure information as when I copy it into the slide presentation, the computer sees it as an email address, and I need to retype rather than copy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTES

Writer's Wanted

We are ALWAYS looking for material to put in the newsletter. If you want to be "published," feel free to write (and add images if you want) on any subject about which you think the members would like to read. Don't worry about grammar or style, we'll do a bit of editing if you'd like. Send them to uwpc@comcast.net.

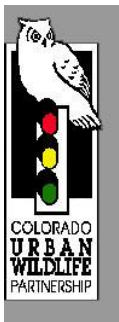


The other website!

Contributions to oururbanwildlife.org have been stagnant for a few months. At this point, we don't need any administrative help with the site, but we do need contributions. Here are some of the ways that folks could help:

- Contributing photos
- Contributing blog posts (Curtis *might* edit posts, but only lightly for clarity)
- Soliciting others to write blog posts – any friend, acquaintance, or family member with special interest or knowledge of wildlife would be welcome
- Contributing articles
- Finding articles that we can reprint and getting permission to do so.
- Promoting the site to other clubs. I've found that promoting the site in person has been more effective than other methods.
- Promoting the site on social media. We already have a Facebook page set up for it and could add folks as admins to that page. We can work together to set up Twitter or other social media accounts.
- Contacting "celebrity" photographers for contributions – written or photographic. These folks could be known as photographers – such as John Fielder – or known for other work (journalism, politics, business, etc.) with an interest in photography – such as Tom Green on 9 News.

Please consider doing something to help this project along! If you have questions, contributions or ideas and are not sure what to do, contact me at uwpc@comcast.net or Curtis Johnson at curtis.e.johnson@comcast.net



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTES

The Planned Fall Field Trip

At this time our fall trip is up in the air (COVID-19). We'll make a decision based on guidance from local authorities, hotel and restaurant availability, but my guess is maybe next year.

Back Button Auto Focus by Bob Dean

Digital SLRs activate auto focus when you push the shutter button half-way down. We all are very familiar with that. If you want to recompose after the camera focuses, you need to hold the shutter button halfway and hope you don't accidentally press hard enough to trip the shutter. If you want to take a series of exposures, the camera will refocus every time you push the shutter button. There is a better way that's not very widely publicized. Canon, Nikon, and Sony have a way of taking the auto focus function away from the shutter button and assigning focus to a button on the rear of the camera. Other manufacturers may or may not provide the same capability. Olympus and Pentax do have a continuous AF capability.

What are the advantages? Back button AF moves the focus from the shutter button to an alternate button, meaning the camera does not refocus every time you push the shutter button. Let's look at some situations.

- As we discussed above, we can now focus on the image element we want, recompose, and make the image.
- Back button auto focus is also extremely helpful when shooting at dawn or dusk (or at night) when only a small part of the image is bright enough (think of the moon) for the auto focus to work.
- It also is quite a help if you want to use auto focus for close up or macro.
- It's a really great tool for action and wildlife images as you can follow the action and let the continuous AF of the camera keep up while you make a series of images, all in focus.
- When shooting stationary wildlife, just think of how you can set focus on the critter's eyes, then recompose to get the composition you want.



The best way (in my opinion) to use Back Button AF is to select the AF points best for your situation. I like a single or small group center set. Set your camera on AI Servo (Canon), AF-C (Nikon) or Continuous Auto Focus (Sony). Now you can select your central element, focus by pushing the back button and holding it until the camera focuses on the element, recompose, and make your image. By using the continuous AF mode your camera will follow the element you selected, maintaining sharp focus and allowing a series of shots for a moving subject. To refocus on another element, just push and hold the AF button after selecting that element until the camera refocuses. A quick word of caution, (base on personal experience) the first couple of times you use your camera after selecting Back Button AF, you may forget and wonder why your camera won't focus when you push the shutter button halfway. Once you get used to Back button AF, you'll wonder why you waited so long to use it.

How to Set Your Camera for Back Button AF:

Depending on your camera make and model, selecting the back button for AF is a straightforward series of steps. Here are some notes that may help, but the best way is to RTM (Read the Manual). It may take a bit of searching to find the right place in your manual. Nikon uses terminology AF Activation, Canon has the Custom Control buried in the menu, and I'm not familiar enough with Sony to help.

Nikon, this website looks at a number of Nikon models:

<https://www.wikihow.com/Switch-Your-Nikon-Camera-to-Use-Back-Button-Focus>

Sony: Sony cameras: α 7RII or α 7SII.

1. Choose Menu > Custom Settings > Custom Key Settings > AEL Button > AF On.
2. Choose Menu > Custom Settings > Custom Key Settings > AF/MF Button > AF/MF Ctrl Toggle.
3. Choose Menu > Custom Settings > AF w/shutter > Off.

Canon: Depending on the Model, Choose Custom Function C: Fn and select one of the options or select Custom Controls - Shutter -AF On.

An Internet search for Back Button Autofocus will provide hours of reading on the hows and whys.

PHOTO CONTESTS



Some thoughts on Photo Contests:

Whenever you think about entering a photo contest you should very carefully read the Ts and Cs. I know that the legalese can be daunting but there are a lot of contests out there that are a “rights grab.” Make sure that the ones you enter specifically lay out the image ownership agreement. Whenever you send in images to a contest you are entering into a contract. You really should consider only those contests that have very limited usage of your photos and state in their rules that YOU retain full ownership of the image. When you read the fine print on image usage, watch out for those contests that demand the right to use all your entries for their own purposes, not just the winners.

Ongoing Contest

BBC Wildlife Magazine Monthly Photo Contest

Information at:

<http://www.discoverwildlife.com/your-photos/photo-contest>

Contest Information Website;

If you'd like a resource that has just about all of the contests out there, take a look at Photo Contest Insider at <https://www.photocontestinsider.com/contest/all-themes/>

When considering a contest, heed the warnings in the “Some thoughts..” box above.

