

2014 “Photo of the Month” Competition Winners

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Photo by Danny Graber
Photo of the Month January 2014

“I ventured out in the worst part of a snow storm. It is a scene I have been past many times before, but it has never looked like this until the moment of this capture. I was kneeling in the snow behind my camera and tripod to make sure I get what I want. When I was finished my shoes were full of snow and my pant legs wet

from the knees down. The car heater felt mighty good. The scene is merely a couple miles north of Union, Mich. Things near your home can be artistic even though they appear ho-hum to others flying by. Don’t huddle inside when the snow blows; go out, into it. Except, don’t get stuck or slide into the ditch!”

Nikon D800, ISO 400, F/8, 1/800 at 24mm



Photo by Ron McAllister
Photo of the Month February 2014

This month’s photography assignment stipulated that the *Photo of the Month* entry had to be taken within 5 miles from home. This photo was taken along State Road 8 near U.S. 421.

It’s a barn Ron has passed an incalculable number of times, never stopping to take a picture. The snow made all the difference...the rest is history.

The photo was taken with a *Nikon 5200, with a Nikor18-200mm wide angle lens.*



Photo by James Kruis
Photo of the Month March 2014

“I took this shot while visiting our daughter in California. Donna, Alex and I went down to Laguna Beach. While the girls walked the beach, I was in my own world... never short of something to shoot on the west coast. After an hour or so, I was feeling the pressure to move on back to the car and to drive and explore. If it were up to me, we'd have been there as the sun melted away, to close out another day.”

“So, here I was, waiting for the right moment...someone to pass, or a great big splash. But that strong sense that I better get on with it. And, as luck would have it, two ladies came climbing over the rock on the right. And the timing worked out.”

The photo was shot on a Canon G1X at 28 mm. Exposure settings were 1/250, f/16, ISO 100



Photo by Bob Morris
Photo of the Month April 2014

“This photo was taken on Sunday, January 5, during a big snow storm. We had just returned from church and my wife wanted a picture of the snow piling up on the limbs of her favorite tree – a willow tree in our back yard. I wasn't in much of a humor to go traipsing around through the snow banks in my church clothes so I went into the house and grabbed the nearest camera to get the photo.

The camera was a Nikon Coolpix S-70 point-and-shoot that I use to take pictures of our senior citizen Primetimer group on our outings. Had I known it would turn out this good I would have taken a few more minutes and gotten my good camera.”

Photo of the Month for May – There was a 3-way tie:



Photo by Don Hershberger
Photo of the Month May 2014

Don Hershberger – The title of Don’s photo is “Her Favorite Things”, a still life of his wife’s very favorite things. “It was quite an ordeal getting the image that I wanted for this photo. It was in a bedroom with a window rear left and one on right near the front. Flash units were used left and right rear bounced off the ceiling.

Some of the flash lights spilled directly causing shadows of the photographer in the image. One of two lamps by the head of the bed was also used. The ideal position for the camera was where the bed was.”

“One of the best compromise shots was selected and Photoshop adjustments were made for vertical and horizontal perspective, a left to right exposure correction, and an exposure correction on the selected area of the mirror reflection. Some adjustments were also made in the printer settings to get the color balance I wanted. Phew!”

The camera and lens: Nikon D5000 with 18-200 zoom lens at full wide angle (35mm equivalent of 27mm) mounted on tripod Settings: manual, f11, 2sec, focus distance about 6 to 8 ft (not recorded).



Photo by Kay Rhodes
Photo of the Month May 2014

Kay Rhodes – “This photo was taken at **Valley of Fire State Park** in Overton, Nevada. Spring 2014 was my first visit and the scenery was quite spectacular. The Fire Wave Trail is a 1.5 mile round-trip hike leading to one of Valley of Fire’s most popular rock formations, the ‘Fire Wave’. This area is where I spent several hours taking photographs...this is one of my

favorites... I love the texture of the rocks. I look forward to going back again in the future.

Exposure settings were 1/640, f/8.0, ISO 100. It was taken with a Canon 60D camera with a EF-S15-85mm lens, focal length 35mm.”



Photo by Ellen Stevens
Photo of the Month May 2014

Ellen Stevens – “These lilies of the valley were taken from my son’s house in Ohio when he moved to Tennessee.

He had a beautiful field of them in his backyard and I wanted to keep them in my garden to remind me of Ohio and of family. Almost all of the flowers in my garden have been shared from friends and family and I return the favor.

This was shot with a 60mm Tamron lens. Exposure settings were 5 sec., f/16, ISO 100.”



Photo by Joe Guth
Photo of the Month – June 2014

Joe Guth – “I was out practicing, looking for a good foreground element for my photos. I had gone to the park in Mishawaka by the St. Joe river. I noticed a piece of driftwood had stopped on the edge of one of the falls. I thought that would be interesting and then it was a matter of lining up the other compositional elements.

With the setting sun providing some nice light, the building was glowing and there was a nice reflection in the still water. I used some of the lines in the waterfalls for some leading lines and the moon was just a nice added touch.”

Exposure settings were 1/25, f/8.0, ISO 200. It was taken with a Nikon D7100 camera with a 16-85mm f/3.5-5.6 lens, focal length 30mm.

Photo by James Kruis
Photo of the Month – August 2014



James Kruis – “This photograph was taken in the Guangdong Province, a couple hours north of Shaogaun.

Walking into a small village, we met a man riding a motor bike. He stopped to inquire of our visit. After my translator explained my interest in photos, he invited us to his home where he and his wife offered tea. After some conversation, I learned he had grown up in a remote mountain village, to which he offered to

take us.

The 60 km drive to his hometown was rather treacherous with wash-outs in many locations along the mountain road. Certainly one of the most dangerous drives I’ve experienced.

This photo is of a man in his early nineties. I was told he and his wife had never left the small, remote village we had visited. I suppose it is possible I was the first non-oriental he had ever seen. I hope his impression was favorable. I certainly had a favorable impression of what many would call the “very poor life” in China. The villagers seemed quite content with life.”

Camera setting: Fujifilm X-T1 body, 1/2700 sec, f/1.4, ISO 400, 23 mm lens with 1.5 crop, 35 mm effective



Photo by Don Hershberger
Photo of the Month – September 2014



Photo by Don Hershberger
Photo of the Month – September 2014

Don Hershberger – “I took several photos of this hummingbird and selected one which I decided to work with. This original is included for comparison. The settings used: Handheld Nikon D5000 in aperture priority for f11. ISO 500, White balance auto, 18-200 mm lens at 200mm, auto focus off and manually pre-focused on flowers, resulting shutter speed 1/800 sec. I decided to replace the background of green grass lawn. I made 2 versions. One with a picture I had taken of sky with clouds and one with a simulated sky made with a gradient of pale blue to pale pink. I showed the pale sky version to an interested party who ordered a 6×8 in. print. I printed 2 and decided I also liked the pale bald sky version to enter.”



Photo by Danny Graber
Photo of the Month – October 2014

Danny Graber -

“I’ve never been able to get people to pose properly for me. Horses are a cinch by comparison. This photo was a matter of waiting patiently. There were twelve horses total in the field. They all kept roaming around including

walking up to me to see who I am. All of a sudden this scene unfolded. All I had to do was snap.”

Nikon D800, 24-120mm lens shot at 30mm. ISO 400, f/8, Shutter 1/1000.



Photo by Ron McAllister
Photo of the Month – November 2014

Ron McAllister -

“This was taken from Clingman’s Dome in the Great Smoky National Park, near the Tennessee and North Carolina border. It is the highest point in Tennessee. I’ve been here many times

over the years. It’s difficult to take a bad picture, although I have managed that feat in the past. This time I had my trusty Nikon 5200/18-0-200.0 mm lens. I used the auto-exposure.”