



March 2024

<https://www.pplac.org/>



2024 President John Powers

"If you are out there shooting, things will happen for you. If you're not out there, you'll only hear about it."
Jay Maisel

Greetings, PPLAC Members:

Welcome to March! A lot happened this past month. We held our first Image Review of the year, our *Digital Photographic Competition* (DPC). There were 63 images submitted over six different categories and a number of incredible images to be reviewed by our three judges, Jim Trapp, Yogi Patel, and Troy Miller, who had their hands full providing insightful comments. And let us applaud our winners! They were as follows:

Architectural Category: Roy Patience
Landscape Category: Kevin Karzin

Nature Category: Gary Parsons
Open Category: Mel Carll
Photojournalism Category: Andrew Lewis
Wedding/Event Category: Eleanor Gray

And our *Best of Show* went to Andrew Lewis for "*The Chase!*"

Congratulations to one and all, and a tip of the hat to our very own Andrew Lewis!

Also, this past month we had our second PPLAC Outing of the year. Six of us met in Riverside for the annual *Dickensfest!* Everyone had a great time and you can see the short article on the PPLAC Facebook page. A Photo Review will follow on March 12th. Mark you calendars!

This month finds us at the *Descanso Gardens* on Saturday, March 16th. This is our monthly PPLAC Outing. Be sure to contact Liz Chalmers if you are interested in attending. Then the following week is our monthly meeting. We will meet at *Paul's Camera* once again on March 28th, just as we did for our Open House in January. We will meet at 6:30 PM. The address is:

Paul's Camera
23845 Hawthorne Boulevard
Torrance, California. 90505

And our speaker for the evening will be Elizabeth Toller. She will be speaking on "*The Power of the Personal Project!*" This is more than a conventional self-help program. It's a resource designed to empower people to enhance their creativity and embark on a fulfilling journey of personal and artistic development!

See you at our events and remember, "*Keep on clickin'!*"

John Powers, M.Photo.Cr., CPP
PPLAC President

Coming Events & General Meetings

Come join our monthly meetings held on the **4th Thursday of each month** (unless it falls on a holiday).

Save The Date

Meetings and
Events

Visit our Meetup Calendar
or website for more details**

March 12, 2024
Dickensfest Photo Review

March 16, 2024
PPLAC Outing - Descanso Gardens

March 28, 2023
**Elizabeth Toller - "The Power of the
Personal Project"**

Stay Connected

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/PPLAC/>

Meet Up

<https://www.meetup.com/Culver-City-Photography-Meetup/>

**PPLAC is a Proud Affiliate
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PPC

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PPA

<https://www.ppa.com/>

April 25, 2024
Gary Parsons

May 13 - 16, 2024
King's Canyon Adventure

May 23, 2024
DPC

June 27, 2024
General Meeting

July 25, 2024
General Meeting

August 22, 2024
DPC

September 26
General Meeting

October 24, 2024
General Meeting

November 21, 2024
DPC

**Please note that speakers/schedule may
change at any time.*

****<https://www.pplac.org/calendar>**

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John Powers

1st Vice President

(Programs, Speakers, Workshops)

Liz Chalmers

2nd Vice President

(Membership)

Roy Patience

Treasurer

Mel Carll

Secretary

Teresa Pepe

Digital Photographic

Competition Director

Gary Parsons

Digital Photographic

Competition Co-Chair

Kevin Karzin

Digital Photographic

Competition Moderators

Mel Carll

Bob Young

Fundraiser Director

Ira Mintz

Sponsor Management Chair

Mel Carll

Newsletter

Teresa Pepe/Eleanor Gray

Webmaster

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<https://skylum.com/luminar>

On1

<https://www.on1.com/>

ProLab Digital

<https://www.prolabdigital.com/>

StudioMagic

<https://www.layercakeelements.com>

Think Tank

<https://www.thinktankphoto.com/>

Topaz Labs

<https://www.topazlabs.com/topaz-photo-ai>

March Silent Auction

On1 Photo Raw Max 2024

Featuring powerful AI enhancements, improved speed and performance and a streamlined interface. There are color and tone adjustments with scene recognition. It can automatically enhance elements like the sky, water and foliage. There is a seamless transition between photo management and editing. There are over 100 new presets with AI recommended presets. There is also an excellent auto apply noise reduction and portrait retouching.

<https://www.on1.com/>

March Sponsor of the Month **Think Tank**

<https://www.thinktankphoto.com/>

John Grusd
Parliamentarian
Nikki Washburn
Event Photographer
Angela Chen

Happy St Patrick's Day - 3/17

Happy Easter - 3/31

May your thoughts be as glad as the
shamrocks.

May your heart be as light as a song.

May each day bring you bright, happy
hours

That stay with you all the year long.



Special Award - George DeLoache



**2023 Photographer of the Year
Gary Parsons**

Look for our new feature below:
"PPLAC Tips Tricks and Techniques"

February 2024 DPC

Best of Show
Best of Category-Photojournalism



"The Chase"
Andrew Lewis



Best of Category - Architecture
"Union Station Dome"
Roy Patience



Best of Category - Landscape
"Winter Wonderland!"
Kevin Karzin



Best of Category - Nature
"Dinner Time"
Gary Parsons



Best of Category - Open
"A Perfect Line"
Mel Carll



**Best of Category - Portrait
"Modern Swahili Woman"
David LaNeve**



Best of Category - Wedding
"Precious Moment"
Eleanor Gray

Coming Events!

Meetings/Outings

March 28, 2024
Elizabeth Toller



**PPLAC General Meeting
Presentation
Thursday, March 28, 2024
6:30 PM**

“The Power of the Personal Project!”



This is more than a conventional self-help program. It's a resource designed to empower people to enhance their creativity and embark on a fulfilling journey of personal and artistic development.



Elizabeth Toller, C-B&A

Elizabeth Toller has a rich background in the creative arts, Elizabeth’s journey began in the world as a performance artists (ballet, tap, theater arts, and community theater) . After a car accident that ended her dance career, her fascination with photography took hold and she established her own portrait studio. After more than a decade as a portrait photographer, Elizabeth felt a profound calling to reconnect with her artistic origins. This inner yearning led her back to fine art photography, which had captivated her during her college years. Today, Elizabeth dedicates herself to pursuing her passions as a fine art photographer, while also guiding and empowering fellow artists in building their own businesses through education and mentorship.

**Paul’s Camera, 23845 Hawthorne Blvd
Torrance, California 90505**

Outings/Safaris/Adventures

February Outing



PPLAC Outing
Sunday
February 25th, 2024

Dickensfest!

Jurupa Valley, California

Join us as we venture to the Riverside area to photograph one of the more unique reenactments: mid-nineteenth century Victorian characters!



The venue location has changed this year. It will be at the Jensen Alvarado Historic Ranch & Museum, located at 4307 Briggs Street, Jurupa Valley, California 92509.

For details about the *Dickensfest*,
you can read more at their link:

<https://dickensfest.com/>

The entrance cost is \$10.

If you're interested in attending, contact
John Powers at:

johnpowers@hotmail.com



Photos by John Powers

PPLAC Outing: “*Dickensfest* in Riverside”



Pictured above: Natalie Patience, Roy Patience, Diana Lundins, John Powers, Angela Chen, and Heather Dinkens

On Sunday morning, February 25th, 2024, six of us gathered together for the PPLAC Outing of the Month, this time to Riverside for the *Dickensfest*. This was a new venue where things were spread out more. The weather was great and the company wonderful! We spent several hours photographing various characters right out of 19th century England. Then we gathered for lunch to talk over our adventures. A grand time was had by one and all!

We will meet via Zoom on Tuesday evening, March 12th, at 7:00 PM for our PPLAC Photo Review so that we can see all the great images that everyone took. Mark your calendar to join us for a fun evening! I will send out the Zoom link the day before. You don't want to miss the great photos everyone took!

John Powers
President, PPLAC

March 16, 2024 Outing Tulips at Descanso Gardens

Details coming soon - check the website at <https://www.pplac.org/calendar>

May Adventure



Four-Day/Three-Night
Adventure!!

May 13-16, 2024

Sequoia/Kings Canyon Adventure!

Join us on this scenic exploration
into California's spectacular
Sierra Nevada!



On this PPLAC Adventure, John Grud will lead us on an amazing photographic journey to the biggest trees, deepest canyons, wildest rivers and the highest peaks in America! We will also be on the lookout for wildlife!



Included is a workshop: "Knowing Your Gear! - Field Techniques from Focus and Sharpness to Tripods" The aim is to help you improve your approaches, techniques and efficiency while out on location.





The PPLAC Multi-Day Adventure fee that includes four days of guidance, a pre-trip informational Zoom meeting and a post-trip review of our images is \$70 per person.

Lodging and transportation are not included. We will be based in the town of Three Rivers at the Comfort Inn.

For questions or to register for this event, please contact PPLAC 1st VP, Liz Chalmers - liz@lizchalmers.com



Join us on this inspiring 4-Day PPLAC Adventure!

Sponsor of the Month

Think Tank

<https://thinktankphoto.com/>

March Silent Auction

On1 Photo Raw Max 2024

Featuring powerful AI enhancements, improved speed and performance and a streamlined interface. There are color and tone adjustments with scene recognition. It can automatically enhance elements like the sky, water and foliage. There is a seamless transition between photo management and editing. There are over 100 new presets with AI recommended presets. There is also an excellent auto apply noise reduction and portrait retouching.

<https://www.on1.com/>

PPLAC Tips Tricks and Techniques

Photographing a Solar Eclipse

Normally this column will contain helpful tips that you can apply to your photography but I thought the coming Total Solar Eclipse on April 8th would be a great place to start because, in a general sense, it applies to every photographic endeavor we take on. Basically, it breaks it all down to Planning, Preparation and Practice.

Planning: When and where will the Eclipse take place. Do your research! What are the logistics of being there when it occurs? The path of totality runs northeast from Mazatlán, Mexico to Nova Scotia and crossing a large area of the U.S. Outside of the path of totality, the eclipse will be a Partial Eclipse but still very interesting to photograph.

Preparation: What do you need to photograph the Eclipse? You probably have a telephoto lens and a tripod. You will also need a Solar Filter to photograph the partial phases. That is essentially a 16 3/5 stop neutral density filter that fits on the front of your lens. A partial phase is anytime you can see the sun, no matter how small of a slice is visible. You will also need solar viewing glasses (or a viewing card) if you want to simply watch the partial phases with the naked eye.

Practice: Well before the event, acquaint yourself with the set-up and procedures. Photographing the partial phases is one set-up and you can practice that at home anytime when the sun is high in the sky. Photographing totality is a different set-up where you will bracket a number of images to be assembled later in processing. Also importantly, there are phone apps that you can practice along with and the same app can guide you through the eclipse in real time.

If photographing the eclipse interests you, the PPLAC website has a detailed, downloadable outline that will tell you everything you need to know. Here is the link:

[Member Extras | PPLAC](#)

Whatever you are photographing, If you diligently **Plan, Prepare and Practice**, you will be more at ease, more creative, better able to improvise and more efficient while photographing on location! It will also allow you to enjoy the event much more than if you are struggling with your equipment and settings. Don't forget to enjoy the show! I'll see you out there!

John Grusd
M-Photog, Cr, M-PPC

Notes on the images:

Image 1 – Sequence of the partial phase captured every 6 minutes. Settings: f/11, 1/1000 second, ISO 400. (with solar filter on lens) Images assembled in Photoshop.

Image 2 – Bracketed images ½ second to 1/8000 second, f/8, ISO 400 (without solar filter) and assembled in Photoshop.

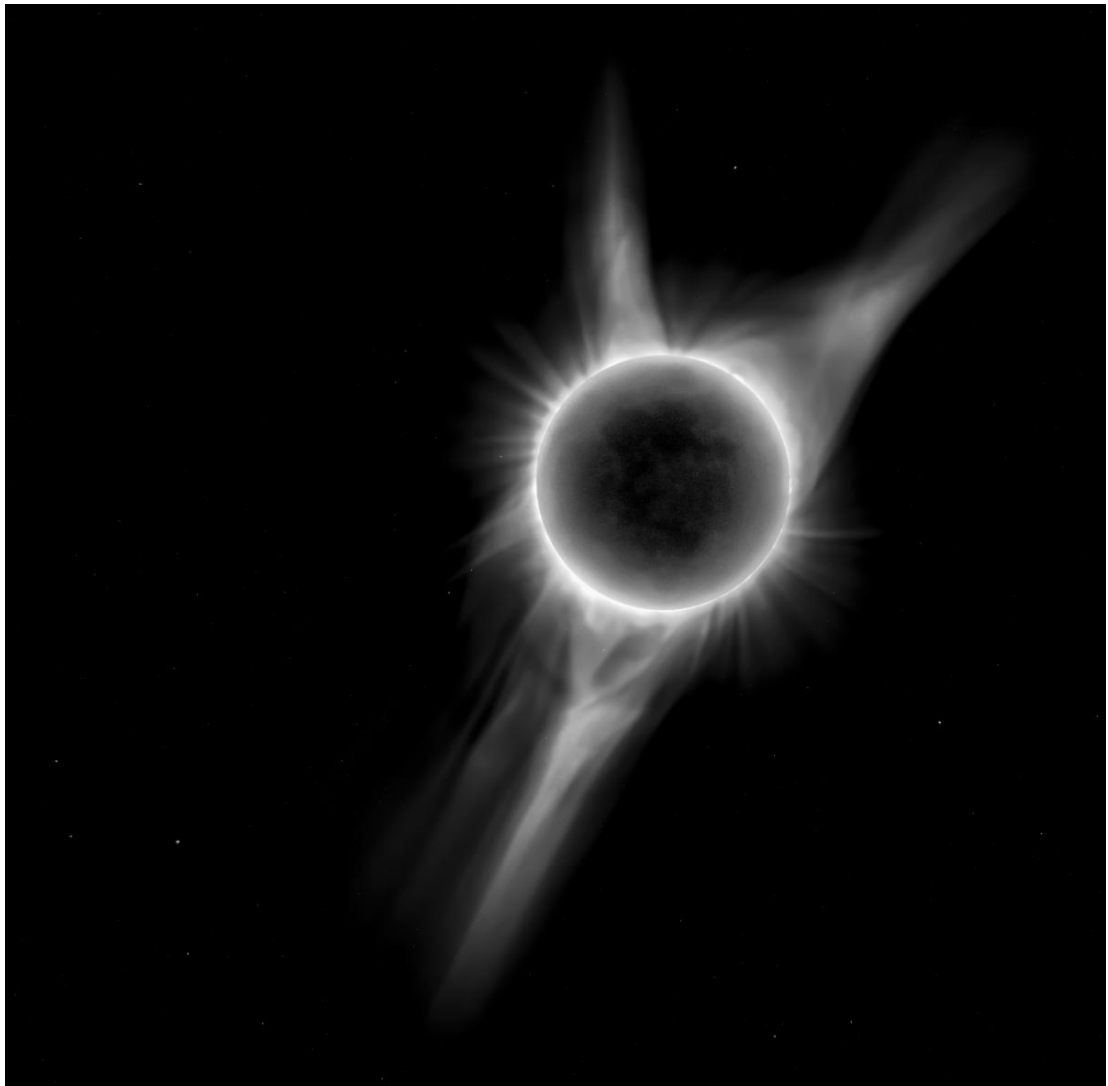
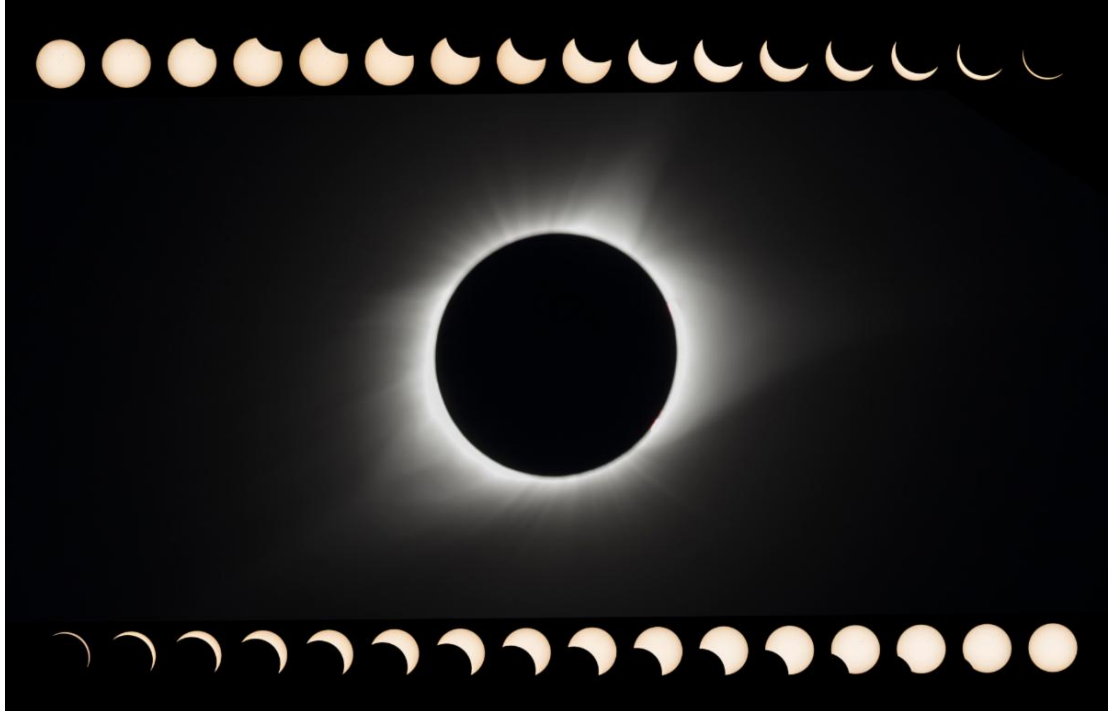


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JULY ICELAND

JULY NAMIBIA

AUG KENYA WOMENS SAFARI

AUG KENYA SAFARI

SEP KENYA SAFARI

NOV ICELAND



For detailed Itineraries email or text us at:



Sharon Lobel
(818)802-7597
ShutterbugSharon
@aol.com

David LaNeve
(714) 398-0138
DavidLaNeveCPP
@Gmail.com



SPECIALIZING IN LUXURY PHOTO TOURS



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PPC News

<https://ppconline.com/>



Beginning Flash Photography with Kevin Karzin

**March 16, 2024
9am - 5pm
25675 Yucca Valley Road Valencia, CA**

Kevin will teach students how to use their flash units and not be afraid to use them, we will cover quality of light, bounce, TTL, manual, modifiers and using off camera flash.

**Premium Member: \$99
PPC Member: \$129
Non-Member: \$179**

Register at www.ppconline.com
800-439-5839 ext. 1



Carlsbad Flower Fields

**April 20, 2024
9am - 2pm**

5704 Paseo Del Norte Carlsbad, CA 92008

Purchase your ticket at www.theflowerfields.com
Join us at San Diego County Carlsbad world famous flower fields.
50 acres of ranunculus there's also a number of opportunities
to eat, learn, relax, and play. Take our wagon ride, learn about our garden,
sweet pea maze, and more! (You may bring a tripod)

**Members - \$25
Non-members - \$30**

**Register at ppconline.com
Information: 800-439-5839 ext. 1**





PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS OF CALIFORNIA

2024 STATE PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION



SAVE THE DATE

COMPETITION DATE: NOVEMBER 2-3, 2024

(Competition will be on November 2 and critiques will be on November 3rd via zoom)

REGISTRATION OPENS: OCTOBER 1, 2024
REGISTRATION CLOSES: OCTOBER 25, 2024 (noon)

For official Rules and Registration: www.ppconline.com

Questions and Information: 310-408-3953 or duganmarcy@gmail.com



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WCS News

<https://www.westcoastschool.com/>



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June 9-14, 2024

Hyatt Regency Valencia, CA

OUR INSTRUCTORS

Michael Collins

Photoshop – Zero to Sixty in a Week



Scott Detweiler

AI & Portrait Photography
Leveraging Technology to Sell More Portraits



Sharon Lobel & Karen Nakamura

Macro Photography and Floral Compositing



Tim Meyer

Fundamentals of Lighting and Posing



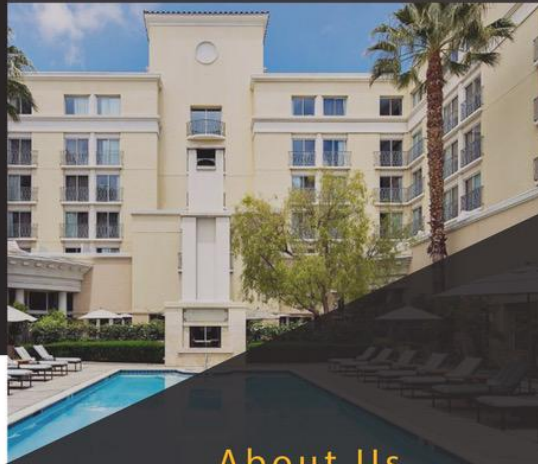
Pete Rezac

Hard Light, Soft Light, Window Light, Strobe Light
BLACK AND WHITE DONE RIGHT



Register online at:

www.westcoastschool.com



About Us...

West Coast School is a week long photography school offering an outstanding lineup of instructors and a full schedule of special events. Our commitment has been to teach attendees practical, real-world skills that can be used to build a satisfying and prosperous career in professional photography. Come experience an incredible week of networking, education & fun.



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MICHAEL COLLINS

PHOTOSHOP - ZERO TO SIXTY IN A WEEK

Learn the basics (and not so basics) of Photoshop in a week-long program. We'll work Hands-On learning the tools, actions, other techniques for speeding up your images snap, crackle and pop. Camera Raw, retouching, cloning, healing brush, keyboard shortcuts and many more ways to help build your skills. We'll show the easiest ways to remove people and objects from your image. How to composite, change colors of various things. We'll learn layers, masks, brushes, type tool along with tips and tricks to make it easy.



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SCOTT DETWEILER

UNDERSTANDING AI & LEVERAGING AI FOR AMAZING PORTRAIT SALES

This program will cover AI and how it can have a huge positive impact on your business. We will begin by covering how it works. We will then explore many of the tools available and go in-depth into many of them throughout the course. This will also include Large Language Models like ChatGPT and how to actually use it at an expert level.

This class will also go quite deep into Photoshop and the use of AI for compositing. We will also be covering other areas of retouching and composition as well, as the overall goal of this class is to open the doors to creating more fine-art and to drastically improve your wall art sales within your portraiture business.



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PETE REZAC

HARD LIGHT, SOFT LIGHT, WINDOW LIGHT, STROBE LIGHT - BLACK & WHITE DONE RIGHT

Pete will help you secure the confidence to make your black and white portraiture sing showing you how to use LIGHT! Be it soft, hard, natural, or electronic! Lighting skills never go out of style, and there are so many styles than one to use! Pete will show you how to block and tackle light to make any subject it illuminates sing - especially in black and white (works for color too!)

Light doesn't care what light sensitive material it's hitting, so be it silicon or silver Pete will help you get the results you are after, and if you know Pete, you will have a TON OF FUN doing it.



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TIM MEYER



THE ESSENTIALS - LIGHTING AND POSING

Join Tim as the class will focus on the fundamentals of quality lighting and posing, emphasizing the basic elements of studio and outdoor portraiture. With style as a consideration and in a hands-on environment, Tim will illustrate how your choice of light shaping tools, metering, ratios, facial and body analysis, and posing work together to produce dynamic results and consistently high quality images.



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SHARON LOBEL & KAREN NAKAMURA

MACRO PHOTO TO ART

Learn how to find, approach and photograph captivating insects in natural light. Sharon will teach you her flower, water drop & insect macro techniques.

Karen will teach you how to incorporate your images and turn them into pieces of art through editing or compositing. Take your floral images to the next level by designing a beautiful art piece with unique backgrounds using Photoshop techniques. You will also learn how to photograph flowers in the studio to match the light of your subjects.

Some of our little insect friends and waterdrops will be photographed in a studio setting. And, if nature is nice to us, we will be photographing butterflies hatching out of their chrysalis. We have a lot more in store so have your cameras, tripods and computers ready!



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The 12 Elements of a Merit Image

<https://www.ppa.com/ppmag/articles/12-elements-of-a-merit-image>

If you are curious or interested in becoming a Certified Professional Photographer check out the PPA link below:

<https://www.ppa.com/credentials-mem/cpp-mem>

Please note that PPA has a page dedicated to what is available. You DO NOT need to be a PPA member to look at their website.....and they are offering a lot of webinars this year!

LET'S CONNECT

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