

# Your Best Shot

Fort Myers Camera Club  
[www.ftmyerscc.com](http://www.ftmyerscc.com)

January 2009

Meeting Location: Fort Myers Congregational Church of Christ  
8210 College Parkway. Ft. Myers, FL 33919



## The Bar Has Been Raised

Isn't it wonderful seeing so many new faces at our meetings? I have been a member of the club for years, and have seen so many changes. The low scoring photos today would have been first place winners then. We have come so far, as a club and as individual photographers. Technology has moved us leaps and bounds, but so have the creativity and imagination that new members have infused.

I encourage the new members to introduce themselves, and hopefully our more "club experienced" members will extend a hand to welcome you.

**January 19 – Competition – STILL LIFE – A set-up image depicting unique inanimate objects, frequently in a table top setting.**

**January 29 - Field Trip - Conservancy of SW Florida and Naples Botanical Gardens, Naples**

**February 2 – PROGRAM - Dana Vannoy - Exploring the Dragon: Adventures in China**

**February 9 – EDUCATION**

**February 13-15 - Field Trip - Tampa including Florida State Fair, Honeymoon Island, Lowry Zoo and Busch Gardens**

**February 16 – Competition – MONOCHROME – A black and white image which may, however, contain a single color.**

**February 26- Field Trip - Green Cay and Wakodahatchee**

## 1ST PLACE



ASSIGNED  
CATEGORY

First place  
recognition to  
Rosalie Kreulen

Bottle Assortment

## PRINT COMPETITION

We had a lot of entries in this year's print competition. In the large print division, Chuck Fritsch, one of our newer members won the top awards. He earned scorings of 26 (two of them) to tie for first and second place, as well as a score of 25 to take third place. Suzanne George also scored a 26 with her baboon, and Nancy Gallimore, another fairly new member earned a 25 for her photo of fighting zebras.

Other high scorers for the night were Janet Bigalke, Cindy Walpole, Tom Murray and Eric Orkin. Congratulations. The bar has been raised.

Small print first place winner was Jeanne Tyrer who scored a 23, Judy Chamberlain, and Dana Vanoy who tied at 2<sup>nd</sup> with scores of 22, and third place recognition goes to Judy Chamberlain and Dana Vanoy.



Judges for this competition were Jean Reuther, Liz Kerry, and Bob Chamberlain.



### Places to shoot

I would like to ask members to add to the list of good places to shoot locally. Think our newer members will find helpful.

Ding Darling Wildlife Refuge, Sanibel Island: best time to go is dusk or dawn, especially when coupled with low tide.

Estero Lagoon, Ft. Myers Bch: Behind Holiday Inn, long stretch of sandy dunes and marshes. Good place to spot most shore birds.

Venice Rookery, Venice, Florida: wonderful opportunities to photograph great blue herons nesting, doing the mating rituals, see young in the nest. Also used by great white herons, anhingas. Some other birding exists. Red shouldered black birds, whistling ducks. Best time of day, of course, dusk and dawn. Activity is best photographed Jan. through March or April.

Butterfly World, East coast near Ft. Lauderdale; have many breeds of butterflies. Also a lot of beautiful flowers, and an aviary with hummingbirds as well as other species.

Bowditch Point Park, FMB: beautiful sunsets and shorebirds. Sunsets and clouds are at their peak in late Nov., Dec., Jan. (although sunsets are wonderful all year).

Bunche Beach, (near Sanibel Causeway) At low tide, can walk for miles in sandbars. Good birding opportunities.

Zoos: The Miami Metro, Lowry Park in Tampa, and Caribbean Garden in Naples are all good photo ops. Mote Aquarium in Tampa is also good.

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in

## What is the Regional Club Meeting?

Places to Shoot (continued)<sub>3</sub>

For those of you who are new, I'm sure that many of you are wondering what the Regional meeting is and why we're asking you to help us find door prizes. A special thanks to Bob Duckwall, who volunteered to head that committee, by the way.

It has been a tradition of the local clubs to meet at the end of the year and compete as clubs, and as individual members against the best of the best. It has been called the "Three Club Meeting" when we had only 3 clubs interested, the "Four Club" when we had 4; you get the idea. Because the number does fluctuate, we now call it the Regional Meeting.

It is a full day of mingling with club members from all around us. We learn more about what new things they are working with, we sometimes find out about new places to shoot, we have a great lunch, and this year, we have Art Morris as our speaker. He is quite famous in the photography world as being one of the best bird photographers around. He shoots other things as well, but his bird shots are spectacular. If you don't know who he is, I urge you to go to [www.birdsasart.com](http://www.birdsasart.com) to look at his work. In addition, he has published several books. He always puts on an extremely interesting show, and will be involved in the judging of the competition, along with Andrew West, who is a Fort Myers News-Press photographer, and George Graham, a nature and landscape photographer. Naturally, all clubs try to outdo each other in content, quality, fun and educational opportunities. (Quite candidly, we hold the record, and want to keep it.)

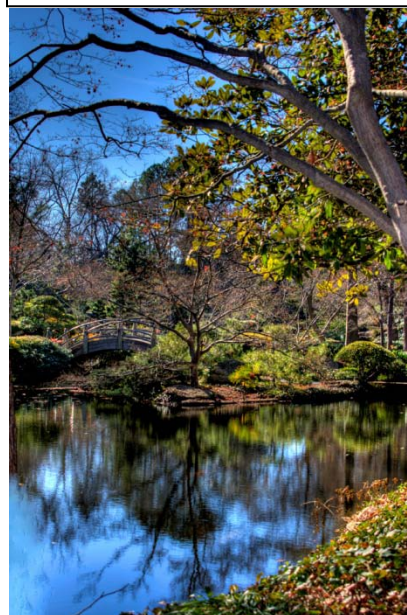
PRIVATE TUTORING FOR INDIVIDUALS OR SMALL GROUPS AVAILABLE AT A VERY REASONABLE RATE. Karen Lund works with beginning through intermediate Photoshop students using Photoshop Elements through CS4. She can be contacted at [www.karenlunds@aol.com](mailto:karenlunds@aol.com).

Sarasota has a wonderful selection of flowers; exotic orchids.



First place –  
Creative Category  
Karen Lund  
Big Catch

First place – General  
Marie Murray  
Japanese Tea Garden





First place – Nature  
Frank Wilson  
Dragon Fly  
pointing at sun to  
control heat

Bob Chamberlain has been a long time member of our club. He had acquired the paperwork kept in the past of various club activities. He was kind enough to share this information with me. I must admit, I had been hoping for more factual data regarding the club's formation, charter members, etc. I did not find that.

What I did find, however, was a reminder of how many forward moves we have made. There were some old newsletters. Some were hand printed, some were typed. Some had articles cut and pasted from magazines, and some had little seals attached. I can't imagine trying to do a newsletter without a computer.

Interesting little tidbits from a 1985 newsletter still hold true.

## HOW TO TAKE A WINNING PHOTOGRAPH

No matter how spectacular the colors may be in a rainbow or a sunset; regardless of how much you love those kids or how far you have traveled to see that magnificent waterfall.... If your image fails to tell a story, it fails. Of absolute necessity you must have:

1. Good Composition
  - Simplicity – no clutter evident
  - Rule of thirds – Center of interest is off center
  - Leading Lines – leading the eye
  - Balance – large spaces should be balanced or off set by smaller spaces masses and colors.
  - Framing – use something to give your photos depth
  - Lack of Mergers – don't let trees grow out of someone's head
2. Selective Focus
  - While the center of interest should be "tack sharp" the back Grounds and foregrounds can blur to give more depth.
3. Illusion of Depth
  - a. Use of foreground, background, and framing can make it possible
4. Technical Quality
  - Did your camera jiggle? Is the horizon straight? Are there distracting spots or shadows? Is the exposure correct? Too light or too dark?
5. Have you told a story?
  - If you need to explain the photo, (other than where it was taken), it probably isn't a winner. The best photographs tell their own story.

These contacts are also on the web site but it might be handy to have them in this format, too.

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*"A great photograph is one that fully expresses what one feels, in the deepest sense, about what is being photographed*

*.- [Ansel Adams](#)*

## Nomination of Officers for New Year

All of us have witnessed the recent inauguration of our new president as he pledged change. He told us that it required all of us working together. The same holds true for any successful club. Without new thoughts, new blood, and new involvement, we become stale. In addition, the same people should not have to carry the burden year after year. We really need some new interest in our club. Even if you're new, you can contribute a lot. You can share your reasons for being here, and your vision on a direction for the future.

A special thanks to all who filled out and returned the survey given out at the Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Several of you seemed willing to work on various committees. You can add a lot, without really giving a lot. Together, we can make this a first class club that fills the needs of all of us.

Some of you may be called by the nominating committee. If you are, give it a lot of thought before you say "no". You can make a difference.

## 2009 NANPA Road Show Tampa

NANPA Road shows provide in-dept classroom style photography instruction focused on nature photography. These events provide you with knowledge and skills to enhance your photography immediately. Good opportunity to interact with pros and peers in a small group experience.

March 13-15, 2009

Hilton Garden Inn Oldsmar 813-891-9990

Oldsmar, Florida.

For more information, GO TO [WWW.NANPA.ORG](http://WWW.NANPA.ORG).

NANPA is the North American Nature Photographers Assoc.