THE PILCHUCKER

JANUARY   2011

The Pilchuck Camera Club Bulletin
Serving members from the Puget Sound Area of Washington State

The Pilchuck Camera Club was organized June 12, 1964 and is a member of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) and the Northwest Council of Camera Clubs (NWCCC). Membership is open to anyone interested in color or monochromatic slide or digital photography. Club meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the Baker Heights Social Hall, 1401 Poplar Street, Everett, WA. .

Pilchuck Camera Club Web Page: http://www.pilchuckcameraclub.com
Photographic Society of America (PSA) Web Page: http://www.psa-photo.org
Northwest Council of Camera Clubs (NWCCC) http://www.nwcameraclubs.org

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COMING EVENTS
Monthly Club Meeting:
January 13 2011
**7pm at the Baker Heights Social Hall
1401 Poplar   Everett Washington**

**3 regular competition images
3 PSA Travel Images
3 Images for Image of the year
3 Wildflower images
3 Assigned Subject Images**

SEND AL IMAGES
By JANUARY 11, 2011
To   lightle @Comcast.net

Dimension requirements for submitted images:
No larger than 1024 pixels wide or 768 pixels tall.

PROGRAM: BY CLAW KELSAY

**INDOOR WORKSHOP and Potluck
JANUARY 15, 2010
NORM AND JANETS HOUSE
923 Rocky Point Dr Camano Island**

JANUARY REFRESHMENTS

JANET WRIGHT

The image titled "Iris" was take with a Canon EOS 50D camera. The lens was a Canon 50mm F1.4 lens. ISO was set to 100. The exposure was 1/125 at F 1.6. I used the wide open aperture to give me an extremely shallow depth of field to eliminate as much as possible any background distractions and to concentrate as much as possible on the more delicate structures of the flower. The image was shot in the late afternoon in mid May.

PRESIDENTS CORNER
BY JIM BASINGER

Hi everyone

FYI To put a Copyrite symbol on your picture. Bring up the text button in your editing program hold down the alt key and type in 0169 on the key pad on the right of your Keyboard.

The voting machine arrived Dec 20. Installed the software on my Laptop and played around with it and it works like a charm. If it is a judges picture they put in a 0 and it averages out the other 2 scores and goes to the high side. If one judge scored a 6 and one a 9 it will give an 8.

Linda is having a total knee replacement on Jan 10. If she happens to still be in the hospital on meeting night I might be able to come. Steve already has the Judging machine so enjoy being more up to date.

The Pilchucker   **January 2011**

Pilchuck Camera Club December 2010 Competition Score sheet

Title	Maker	Score	HONOR
Ancient Soul (make up)	Andrew Rice	17	
Ant with a View (make up)	Andrew Rice	16	
Chimpanzee Face of Wisdom (make up)	Andrew Rice	15	
China (make up)	Andrew Rice	22	
Friends (make up)	Andrew Rice	11	
Golden Breasted Starling (make up)	Andrew Rice	13	
Luxembourg (make up)	Andrew Rice	22	
Neon Grafted Cactus (make up)	Andrew Rice	16	
Tourists (make up)	Andrew Rice	10	
Bodie House	Norm Kreger	17	
Cactus	Shirley Stich	14	
Canadian Elk	Linda Davis	19	
Lord of Woodland Park	Steve Lightle	17	
Cascades from Blue Mt	Kevin Siefke	21	HM
Changed Background	Jim Basinger	19	
Cats Curiosity	Jerry Sorensen	15	
Christmas 2010	Janet Wright	18	
Dawn	Bill Dewey	15	
Morning Dock	Sonya Lang	22	3rd
Lamp	Claw	14	
Peace Ship	Renata Kleinert	12	
Seashore	Joyce Harvey	16	
Iris	David VanKeuren	18	
Morning for the King	Andrew Rice	15	
Bodie Shacks	Norm Kreger	18	
Sleeping Otter	Shirley Stich	23	2nd
Church Steeple	Linda Davis	18	

Pilchuck Camera Club December 2010 Competition Score sheet

Title	Maker	Score	HONOR
Sad Eyes	Steve Lightle	21	HM
Plumose Anemone	Kevin Siefke	21	HM
Ready for Takeoff	Jim Basinger	21	HM
Thestle with a Sting	Jerry Sorrensen	17	
Newborn & Dad	Janet Wright	14	
Grizzly	Bill Dewey	18	
Perfect Pink	Sonya Lang	19	
Morning Glory	Claw	16	
Relaxing	Renata Kleinert	14	
Tulips 2010	Joyce Harvey	16	
Ship	David VanKeuren	15	
The Flight	Andrew Rice	13	
Swamp Nite Heron	Norm Kreger	13	
Small Water Fall	Shirley Stich	17	
Peyto Lake	Linda Davis	17	
Mt Shuksan 2010	Steve Lightle	24	1st
White Cheeked Gibbon	Kevin Siefke	21	HM
Changed Background 2	Jim Basinger	19	
White Water	Jerry Sorrensen	14	
Rose and Glass	Janet Wright	20	
Yellowlegs	Bill Dewey	22	3rd
Seattle Winter Night	Sonya Lang	16	
Stoopid Flower	Claw	16	
Tulip Fields	Renata Kleinert	16	
Woodlover Schroom	Joyce Harvey	18	
Skyline	David VanKeuren	20	
Upsidedown Tree	Andrew Rice	16	

DECEMBER WINNERS GALLERY

MT SHUKSAN 2010
BY STEVE LIGHTLE
FIRST PLACE

SLEEPING OTTER
BY SHIRLEY STICH
SECOND PLACE

MORNING DOCK
BY SONYA LANG
THIRD PLACE

YELLOWLEGS
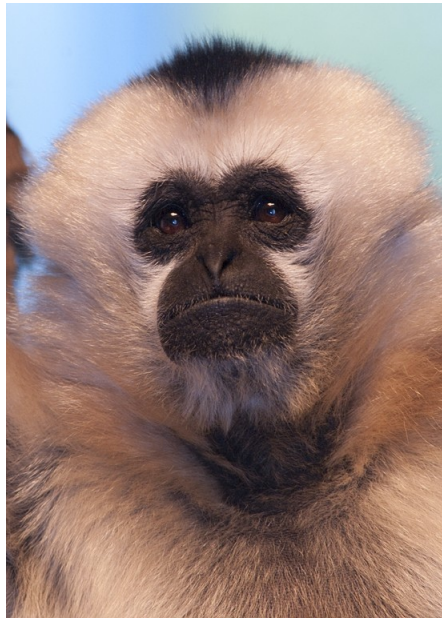**BY BILL DEWEY**
THIRD PLACE

DECEMBER WINNERS GALLERY

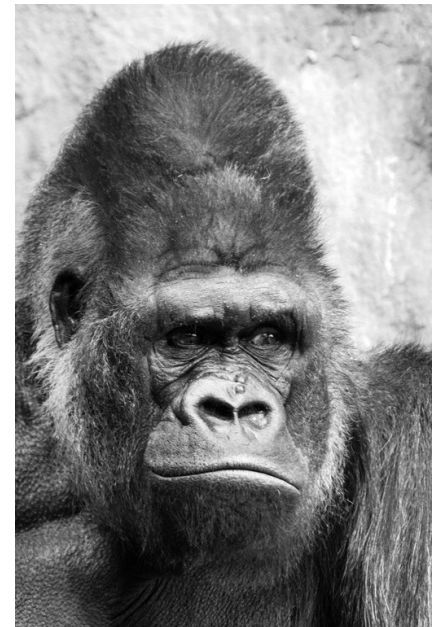**CASCADES FROM BLUE MOUNTAIN
BY KEVIN SIEFKE
HONORABLE MENTION**

**PLUBOSE ANEMONE
BY KEVIN SIEFKE
HONORABLE MENTION**

**WHITE CHEEKED GIBBON
BY KEVIN SIEFKE
HONORABLE MENTION**

**READY FOR TAKE OFF
BY JIM BASINGER**

**SAD EYES
BY STEVE LIGHTLE
HONORABLE MENTION**

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PILCHUCK CAMERA CLUB
POINTS FOR DECEMBER
PSA INTERCLUB COMPETION

Image

	Title	Maker	Score
	Cheetah Run	Steve Lightle	12
	Flower Swirl	Renata Kleinert	11
	Incoming Brown Pelican	Bill Dewey	12
	Jeep	Janet Wright	9
	Mid Atlantic Sunset	Andrew Rice	9
	Post	Claw Kelsay	9

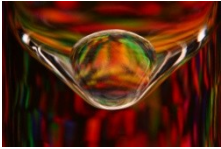|	
PSA IC Division D – December 2010	**62 Points**
Total YTD Total	**121 Points**
Club Position OA	**6th**

PILCHUCK CAMERA CLUB
POINTS FOR DECEMBER
PSA CREATIVE COMPETION

Image	Title	Maker	Score
	Alien	Jim Basinger	10
	Dahlia	Janet Wright	6
	Glassware	Jim Basinger	7
	Marble Abstract	Steve Lightle	6
	Warp 9	Steve Lightle	6
	Yellow Flower	Janet Wright	6
PSA Creative Division B – December 2010	41 Points		
Total YTD Total	41 Points		
Club Position OA	Unknown		

The Pilchucker

January 2011

How To Replace Sky or Background
Presented to Pilchuck Camera Club November 11, 2010 by Bill Dewey
****

These techniques work best with a solid color background, such as a clear sky.

Photoshop, using 'Blend-If' techniques and 'Layer Masks'

Reference Links: a Google Search for "Blend If Photoshop" finds many good articles such as: http://www.adobepress.com/articles/article.asp?p=686520 http://www.graphics.com/modules.php?name=Sections&op=viewarticle&artid=572

Starting with images of the same dimensions makes the copying and creation of layers much easier. The two images in this demonstration have been sized identically. The first image, Orig_D015727.jpg is the base image with a boring solid blue sky, no clouds. The second image, SkyClouds_D020565finished.tif, is the image of an empty sky with clouds. The plan is to replace the boring sky in the original image with a nice sky containing fluffy clouds.

1. Open the two files in Photoshop

2. Drag the Sky image onto the Orig image, the Osprey will disappear

3. Double-click on the Lock Icon in the Layer Palette for the Background Layer to convert to a normal layer

4. Select the top layer in the stack, the Sky layer, right-click and select Blending Options

5. Be sure that the "Blend If" setting in the bottom dialog is set to "Gray", we will be working with the "Underlying Layer" sliders as we want the bottom image to blend through

6. Alt-Click on the Black triangle to separate the two sliders, move the right half to the right. As you do you will see the darker parts of the image blending through

7. Do the same on the White triangle, moving the pieces of the triangle to the left

8. Continue until you are happy with "the look" You may notice that not all of the underlying image has come through, or that you lose too much of the Sky layer if so, follow on to Step 9, otherwise on to 12

9. Change the layer to a Reveal layer by choosing the Layer Mask-Reveal All option from the Layer menu. This will allow us to "Reveal" the underlying layer

10. Be sure you have the brush enabled, set to a size of your choosing and set the foreground color to black

11. Brush over the parts of your image that you want to "Reveal" until you are happy. If you "Reveal" too much, or in the wrong place, switch your foreground color to White and brush back over what you did not want to reveal

12. Flatten your image, save as needed

You can also just use the Layer Masks techniques to accomplish much the same; I find that Blend If makes it easier to have very smooth transitions. Most often I use a combination of the two. Here is a reference for using Layer Masks:

http://photoshoptips.net/2006/07/25/layer-masks/

Photoshop Elements 9, Gradients, Selections and Layer Masks
Three methods will be shown to create the same type of effect within Photoshop Elements. Elements does not include the Blend If option, but some workarounds do exist.

Layer Mask Technique
The first method is to utilize the same Layer Mask technique used above noted in the Photoshop section. This is the simplest method to use where Blend If is not available. Many, including me, find this easier than trying to do a Selection of your subject, especially if the subject has complex edges, such as hair and feathers.

1. Open both images

2. Copy the Sky image as a New Layer on the Orig image

3. On the new layer create a Reveal All Layer Mask, Layer->Layer Mask->Reveal All.

4. In order to make work easier, set the Opacity on the Sky layer down to something around 60% so you can see what you wish to expose

5. Be sure your foreground color is set to Black and that the Layer Mask thumbnail is active on the Sky layer

6. Select the Brush tool, set the size as appropriate and brush over your image until the parts you want are exposed

If you brush too far, select White as your foreground character which will expose the Sky layer again

Background Selection and Removal Technique
This technique uses Selection and background removal to replace a sky or background. When you use this technique the
part that I find most difficult is in refining the selection around complex images. The full set of instructions is found here:
 http://graphicssoft.about.com/od/pselements/ss/replacedullsky.htm

Create Gradient Maps
This technique describes the creation and use of Gradient Maps to mimic the Blend If capabilities of Photoshop. While it is interesting, I find this the most difficult of the techniques to use.
The tutorial can be found here: http://retouchpro.com/tutorials/?m=show&id=111
Note that this tutorial does not contain a full description of sky replacement, although it does show the method and use of the gradient map.
This tutorial also contains a good write-up on the use of Blend If in Photoshop.

The Pilchucker   **January 2011**