



## Practice, practice, practice!

Did you make a photograph today?  
by Brian Loflin

Ask anyone who plays piano if practice is important and they will certainly answer in the affirmative. The same is true for photography. You must practice to keep your photographic game sharp. This means behind the camera and in front of the computer. It is so easy to forget the nuances and the small details.

I try to make pictures every day. Now, that may be a big expectation for a lot of us. But it keeps me sharp. Everyone knows I really need all the help I can get.

I also try to help myself by having a standard way I begin every shoot. My camera is set to Brian's Default at all times. That means my default choice of settings including; Image type, Image size, White Balance, Shooting mode, Metering method, Focusing method and area, and ISO. Every time. When I pick up my camera, I don't have to fiddle a lot with the controls. I simply change what is necessary for the moment. And I return the settings to the default when finished. I believe in standardization. I develop a check list to do things in a similar work flow all the time. That builds repeatable quality.

Now do we get great pictures every time we go out? No, but our number of "keepers" grows proportionately each time.

Now I just spoke of the mechanics. The real biggie however, is improving your eye. With piano practice, muscle memory is improved over time. Playing a series of scales hundreds of times develops memory. It's like that with photography. It is the art of seeing. Only through frequent practice do we begin to really see things differently, in an artistic way.

Give yourself a challenge. Develop a group of self-assignments. Just do it! You are not trying for award winners. But push yourself. Expand the boundaries.

Next time it will be easier.

But go shoot. And shoot often!

*Visitors are  
always welcome!*



**March Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 7, 2013**  
**6:30 pm**  
**Northwest Recreation Center**  
2913 Northland Dr. Austin, TX 78757

**March is Evaluation  
and Review**  
**Assignment:**  
**Go Fly A Kite!**  
Capture a kite in the air.



## Save the Date! • A fun and interesting ASC Field Trip



**March 16th** There will be an ASC field trip/tour of the UT campus led by John Patterson

At 8:30 am on Saturday, March 16th, John will meet us on the steps in front of the main building (the Tower), they are on the south side of the building.

There is a public parking garage at Whitis and 20th, across from Dobie. Also, there is surface parking on Whitis between 20th and MLK, on the west side of the street.

A lunch time and place is to be announced.

UT does not have a problem with groups touring the campus and taking pictures, most of the buildings will be closed because of spring break, but the good news is, there should only a few students on campus so that should minimize our Photoshop clean up time!

### Some new photography opportunities are just around the corner!

#### \* Digital Photo Restoration

Tuesday, March 5, 2013  
1:00 to 3:00 pm Fee: \$25

**Prerequisite:** For this class, it is recommended that you have good Adobe Photoshop or Photoshop Elements skills. The class will be taught using Photoshop CS5, but CS2 is sufficient. If you have a Wacom pad and stylus, bring them to class. Bring an old photo you have that you might get to work on.

**Description:** This is an intermediate to advanced class which will strengthen your skills using layers, blend modes and tools. This class will introduce you to the Magical World of Photo Restoration! You may think it sounds dry but it is FUN to bring old photos back to life.

**Goal:** Learn the correct way to scan photos into workable digital files.

With the many tools and blending modes available in Photoshop you will work on several scanned photos.

The class will learn how to correct common problems in old photos including very dark ones (even tin types).

We will make very faded black/white and color photos look new again.

If there is time, you will get to scan and work on images you bring.

**Instructor:** Mary Paige Huey Samples of her restorations: [www.mpaige.com](http://www.mpaige.com)

#### \* John and Kendra Abbott are offering two upcoming Macro Photography Workshops in Austin.

You can choose from one of two weekends, March 16-17 or April 20-21, 2013. They will explore different macro photographic techniques used to make the best images of insects, spiders, flowers, leaves, lizards, frogs, snakes and more. You will have the opportunity to try different equipment as well as learn how to use what you already own to its fullest potential. You will also learn a variety of post-processing techniques using Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Lightroom, iPhoto and other programs. This workshop is designed for all levels of photographers, but to get the most out of the workshop, you should own a digital SLR. Each workshop is limited to 10 individuals and includes breakfast and lunch. This workshop is sponsored by the Capital Area Master Naturalists, but is open to everyone.

Our photography websites are: <http://www.abbottnaturephotography.com>

<http://www.flickr.com/abbottnaturephotography>, <http://www.facebook.com/AbbottNaturePhotography>

Workshop registration details: <http://abbottnaturephotography.ticketleap.com/macro-workshop/>

#### \* Brian & Shirley will also conduct a series of Wildlife Photo Workshops at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, near Glen Rose, TX. One day workshops: June 8, and September 14, 2013 and Two Day workshops: May 18-19 and October 5-6, 2013. Visit this link for more information on Fossil Rim workshops: <http://www.fossilrim.org/workshops.php>

## Austin Shutterbug Club Meeting Minutes February 7, 2013

President, Brian Loflin, called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Visitors were introduced and welcomed by all.

This evening's refreshments, coordinated by Bev McCranie and Beverly Lyle, were provided by Janet Barrington and John Baker.

Paul Munch, Treasurer, explained the dues paying process and passed the envelope around the room.

Tom Barton, Events Coordinator, announced upcoming club events:

- March 16th: There will be a field trip to UT lead by John Patterson
- April 13th: The club will go to Cuero to shoot wildflowers
- May 11th: The club will go to the Botanical Gardens in San Antonio

Pete Holland, VP and Programs, introduced this evening's speaker, Jeff Parker. Jeff is a naturalist and nature photographer, presently living in Smithville, Texas. Jeff's photographs have appeared in many publications and websites including Audubon Magazine online, NANPA's Expressions 2012, Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine and Texas Wildlife Magazine. His work has also been published in the books "Borderlands of Laredo, Texas Edition", "Wildlife in Focus IV" and "Wildlife in Focus V." He was an award winner in the 2010 Images for Conservation Pro Tour. Jeff leads photo tours, workshops, and critter crawls on a regular basis. Visit [www.JeffParkerImages.com](http://www.JeffParkerImages.com) for more information.

Jeff's presentation was focused on the upcoming Coastal Bend Photography workshop contest, showcasing many of his award winning images.

After Jeff's presentation, Brian gave away some 2013 calendars.

Brian reminded the group about the upcoming club exhibit to be hung in the North Hills Gallery July 3rd through July 28th, 2013. The call for entries will be announced at the March meeting.

The next meeting will be March 7th. Evaluation and Review will be the program for that night. The assignment is "Go Fly a Kite." It must be an image of a kite in the air. For more specific details, please go the club website at [www.austins shutterbug.com](http://www.austins shutterbug.com). Note: The Zilker Kite Festival is scheduled for March 3rd.

Brian asked that anyone with Capital Bar images from Socorro, NM, please send to him so he can forward them to the Capital Bar.

Member, Linda Sheppard, presently has an image in a show at the Austin Art Space.

Member, Mary Paige Huey, will be teaching at Photo Restoration class March 5th at the Senior Computer Lab, through AGE (Austin Group for the Elderly). Please contact Mary Paige for more information.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

## Save the Date!

### 2013 Gallery Exhibition for Austin Shutterbug Club at North Hills Gallery

**Show Dates:** July 3, through July 28, 2013, Hanging: July 2, Removal: July 29  
**Artist's Reception** July 7, 2013 12:30 PM

### Call for Entries

A Smith Gallery, Johnson City, TX  
Call for Entry: Sports  
Juried by D. Clark Evans  
Entry deadline: April 10, 2013  
Exhibition dates: May 17 to June 29, 2013  
Reception: May 25 and June 29, 2013  
For more information and entry forms:  
<https://www.asmithgallery.com>

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For more Call for Entries see:  
[www.texasphoto.org/NatNewsCompetitions.html](http://www.texasphoto.org/NatNewsCompetitions.html),  
The website of the Texas Photographic Society

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For Classes see  
<http://precisioncamerauniversity.com/classes/>

### Club Leadership for 2013

President	Brian Loflin	331-2820
Vice President/Programs	Pete Holland	689-5939
Secretary	Jane Kelley	261-3572
Treasurer	Paul Munch	836-6379
Competition Chairman	Fred Peebles	441-7913
Competition Co-Chairman	Linda Sheppard	306-1516
Competition Committee	Dolph McCranie	394-9031
Events Coordinator	Tom Barton	373-3150
Events Coordinator	John Patterson	
Hospitality Chairman	Nancy Naylor	
Newsletter Editor	Kathy McCall	264-9602
Refreshments Chairman	Beverly Lyle	336-5370
Refreshments Chairman	Bev McCranie	394-9031
Exhibits	Shirley Loflin	331-2820
Webmaster	Barbara Hunley	250-1144
Electronic Communication	Rose Epps	502-0608
Roster and Name tags	Rose Epps	502-0608