focus

SPECIAL ISSUE
An Online Photography Contest

Vote Now!

The Garden Club of America
Editor’s Note

By Blair Matthews Louis

I hope you will find this special contest issue as exciting as those who were inspired by the classes and sent in images. You will be impressed with the technical talents and will wonder how the photographers accomplished these very creative interpretations. Each image is very different and reflects the photographer’s eye. If you can choose your favorite, let us know. If you are at all like me, it will be a most difficult task. Each and every image in this contest will speak to you at some level. Have fun and send this issue to your GCA friends so they too can enjoy it and vote.

Hopefully there will be many more online contests in our future. Send us ideas for classes and your suggestions. We hope this fulfills the mission of the GCA, learning and caring for the natural world around us through the field of photography.

About the Cover: The images on the cover are not a part of the contest. We received them after their respective classes were filled. We wanted you to enjoy them and the photographers will be identified when we reveal the results of the contest.
Welcome to “My HomeTown”!

by Gay Estes, GCA Photography Chairman

You, too, can be a judge; your vote decides the winners.

In judging photos, GCA Judges look for the attributes discussed below, so please appreciate them while you are selecting your favorites and evaluating the entries. Send in a comment (optional) to explain why you made the selection, as the best statements may also be published!

Photography is a medium of light, so judges note the use of light in a photo: it defines shapes, creates depth, shadows and textures.

The “wow factor,” which combines the choice of subject matter with a creative take, is always appreciated. An unusual angle, a thoughtful or thought-provoking image and impact counts for much. Whether the distinguishing element is shape, color, size, idea, sheer technical knowledge or whatever—you be the judge.

The photo does not have to be sharp; there are a number of focuses to create different effects, soft and gauzy, perhaps? Note the mood of the photograph, the mood it creates by use of colors or tones, either warm or cool, soft pastels or hard edge. Does it evoke a response in you?

Good vocabulary includes capturing the class description, displaying great rhythm and pattern, and showing advanced photographic skills or expertise. A photo can be amusing, arresting, colorful, etc., and because you are not required to make a comment (unlike the GCA judges) you can just pick your favorite!

We hope you are tempted to enter a show and are thinking, “I can win this”! Well, give it a try. Photography is always looking for new talent. Enjoy Blair's contest and check back to see how your entry and your choice of the other entries stacked up against the favorites of the other voters. Take in the Photography Division at the next GCA Flower Show or, better yet, enter your own photograph and be proud of yourself for sharing...Congratulations to all participants.
CONTEST RULES:
1. Only GCA members are allowed to vote.
2. Each member is allowed to vote as follows:
   * One vote for the top choice in each class - 8 votes
   * One vote for a Photography Creativity Award
   * One vote for the Best in Show
3. The winners will be announced to all members of the GCA through focus, the online photography publication. There will be a 1st, 2nd, 3rd and HM in each class in addition to a Photography Creativity Award and a Best in Show.
4. Please submit your votes by **November 15, 2011**.
5. Please do not contact us about the status of the voting for the entries.

WHERE TO SEND YOUR VOTES:
Send your votes to the following GCA Photography Committee members based upon your garden club’s GCA zone:

- Sarah Hood Salomon, Zones 1 - 6  
  sarahsally@verizon.net
- Blair Matthews Louis, Zones 7 - 12  
  blairmatthewslouis@me.com

HOW TO VOTE:
Send your votes in the body of an email (or as an attachment). In the subject line, put Focus Contest Votes. To assist you, we have included a sample ballot. Please list your choices (one per line) to assist us in tallying the votes.

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<thead>
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1-A

Georgia O’Keefe

1-B

“This photo has high contrast, reflective late afternoon lighting, soft diffused colors, and swirling moody clouds like many of Joseph Mallord William Turner’s romantic paintings.”

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Class 1 In the manner of a favorite artist (name the artist)—Color
“This photograph highlights planes of color in the landscape in the style of the artist Paul Cezanne.”

“During the golden age of Dutch painting, a still life with fruits was popular; this is a modern version in a modern kitchen in the manner of Jan Davidszoon de Heem, 1629.”
“In appreciating this lovely flower in a mason jar, I, like Lee Friedlander, am often drawn to the simple stem in the water.”

“While visiting a town from my childhood, I was riveted by the beauty and simplicity of structure in this dying leaf, reminiscent of the artist, Georgia O’Keeffe.”

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“A box of squash blossoms in a farmer's market - Van Gogh could have painted this!”
"Razor Blade"
George Seurat

Georgia O'Keefe
Rose: 'Nicole', floribunda
“I wanted to capture the vitality of water, reflections and color of Claude Monet.”

“This is an effort at trompe l'oeil that I did long before I found Collier's painting; did I channel him without even knowing him?”
Class 2  Fit for foodies or restaurant scene edibles—Color

2-A

“Rainbow Chard fresh after an afternoon rain.”

2-B

“A decadent Dessert.”
“Other than amazing golf, there's one more thing to enjoy in St. Andrews, Scotland...and it's sticky toffee pudding!”
“Nothing better than cooking with produce from a summer farmers’ market, fresh from the fields.”
"Dahlia bulbs have a surprising variety of flavors, and their big, beautiful blooms brighten gardens in all their glory."

“A colorful spread for the hikers’ lunch.”
“Photo taken in Santa Fe, NM for my husband who is a Hot Pepper fanatic.”
2-K

Sweet Corn

2-L

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Class 3  Fit for foodies or restaurant scene edibles—Creative Techniques

3-A

“By the sum of all it's part, it's still a tomato.”

3-B

“Rotten and Ripe, Unfit and fit for foodies”
“Dreaming of summer peach crumble”

“To create a marriage of sorts that will celebrate Rat, a Maine Lobsterman, Sam the chef from Sooke in British Columbia, a fishing village on Prince Edward Island and summers’ flowers in New Brunswick... a picture taken at a time and place that never was.”
3-E

“Soupe de Concombre avec Homard - OUI!”

3-F

“An unusual edible combination of colorful nasturtiums with a cheese filling.”
“A bounty of Romas awaiting the Marinara.”

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“The most divine pears come from the Columbia River Gorge.”
“Marriage is a dinner that begins with dessert.” - Toulouse-Lautrec

“This photo taken during a morning of blueberry picking in Cooperstown, NY in August, 2011.”
Class 4  Spans of any kind—Color

4-A

“Full of grace: Willows in the Mist”

4-B

“2011.08.16 Bryce Canyon”
“Forgotten spaces under the freeway see a new life as bike paths and Willamette river esplanade.”
“After all hell broke loose”
“Wingspan, above New York”

4-G

4-H
4-K

“Angel Pass of the North Rim of the Grand Canyon”

4-L

“Midnight Rainbow by the light of a full moon.”
Class 5  Spans of any kind—Monochrome

5-A

5-B
“This photograph highlights an osprey who is showing off his beautiful wing “span” while landing….after successfully catching a fish for dinner.”
“The archway of an entry point at the Denver Botanic Gardens.”

“Magnolia Plantation, Charleston SC”
“The quietness of the canal and the rusty train trestle evoke memories of the early days of transportation in America.”

“Span of 3 generations: 2 grandchildren on the truck, Grandmother (me), and Father in the reflection of the truck.”
“Elk Lake located in the Beartooth Mountains, Roscoe, Montana”
“The hard edges of the city are softened and find their soul in the softness of the prairie garden.”

6-A

6-B
“Fences can't hold back the weather in Big Sky country!”

“This man-made landscape was photographed on Kauai, Hawaii.”
“School children on Lopez Island, Washington, created this display to honor the men and women who have died fighting for our country.”

“The tension of the soft billowy cloudscape colliding with the angular landscape made this dramatic scene complete.”
“I wanted to capture the rustic beauty and solitude of Devil's Thumb Ranch near Tabernash, Colorado.”
“My summers are spent in Crested Butte, CO.”
“This photo was taken in Greenfield Hill, Fairfield, CT ..."My Home Town."
Class 7A  Reflections of any kind of water, or not—Color

7-A

“Reflections of a Different Color”

7-B

“Reflections of a Different Color”
“Sunset on the Allegheny River.”

“A pause for reflection and serenity.”
"I am fortunate, indeed, to live on the Silvermine River, and Fall is the most spectacular season of all."

"I saw this as a study in opposites appreciating the rough/smooth, light/dark, and lines curved/straight as well as up/down."
“To capture evening light on an Adirondack Lake.”
"Reflecting on Frank Cabot's Garden at Les Quatre Vents in Quebec"

“This is an un-manipulated photograph showing the reflections of willow trees and a red azalea bush.”
“Sunset over the Channel Islands National Park.”
Class 8  Plants on their best behavior—Color Macro

8-A

8-B
Identifiable Plant: *Crassula rupestris x perforata* ‘Baby Necklace’
“It was exciting to photograph this wonderful hellebore after a very long winter.”
Viburnum tinus 'Spring Bouquet'

“Petal Perfection”
"Heliconia Hula in Backyard in Hawaii"

"Bee haven"