

Greater New Braunfels Photography Club (GNBPC) Score Sheet for January 2025

Judge: Tim Durham

Assignment Theme Photos - " *Rust and Decay* "

Scoring System: 3-9 pts

Image Title	Score	Comments
Aged Lone Star Flag-Thomas Soutter	7	I like the Lone Star Flag, a great way to let us know you are in Texas. This is a simple but effective image. Numerous items to look at from the bent upper left corner to the rust throughout the flag. I find the bright white background to be very distracting, our eyes are always pulled to the brightest parts of the image. Consider trying to tone down the background and get in close to the flag leaving very little background visible.
Beauty In The Mist Of Decay-Jackies Wise	7	A clever and interesting image and well handled by the photographer. My eye wants to look at the decay in the leaves to the left, but the bright color of the "beauty" keeps my eye focused there. Decay is not the main subject and should be for this assignment.
Everything is Slowly Falling Down-Sandy Gilbert	7	You have found a great subject, lots of decay to see in this image. Nice job with exposure, shadows and depth of field. There are two images here, either one could be very strong but by eye bouncing back and forth between them. Crop tightly on either of these structures and you have a great image.
Faded Glory-Craig Pellerin	9	I like the way this image has been set up. The lighting is well handled and falls off at the back of the cabinet. Clearly a storage box or cabinet from a business. The rust on the exterior tells a story but so do the interior pieces that are not rusted. Why is some of the rust missing? I want to know more about this cabinet.

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Faust Bridge-Becky Love	8	I like the angle the photographer chose for this image; it highlights the metal work on the upper structural pieces. The juxtaposition of the deteriorating bridge to the sign and guard posts adds to the story. Consider cropping some of the cement work from the front, it is very light colored and holds my attention.
Foresaken-David Koester	9	Great rust and decay, probably somewhere subject to saltwater corrosion? The photographer got close in to give us rust! I find it very interesting to look at the rust in the individual letters. This also leaves me wondering "Where is this sign?", which is a good emotional response to an image.
Fuzzy Strawberries-Edward Zukowski	9	A unique image which makes us wonder about where it came from....back of the refrigerator? Again, a good emotional response and the maker has handled the lighting, reflection and background very well. Fantastic detail in the mold filaments, seeds and leaves. Well done.
Hood Ornament of a Bygone Era-Suzanne Daunt	7	What a great hood ornament! Good job with the focus, cropping in tight and dark background. The maker has very difficult lighting with the sun from the right side. There is a lot of detail lost in the left side of the image. Consider using a deflector, if possible, to shade this section of the car and get even lighting.
Keep Out-Taryn Bradley	8	Older sections of town can be fun to shoot, this looks like a great area. Lighting is even (shade or overcast) and everything is in good focus. Love the color treatment, muted tones and not over saturated. Consider cropping tighter, I want a closer look at the corrugated panels, graffiti and rust!

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Life on the Farm-Cindy Korzekwa	7	The farm implement is a great subject; rust, interesting parts and maybe a brake or gear case. I like the weeds growing up around the old equipment. You have some very strong side lighting which makes holding shadows and details difficult. For me this would be a stronger image with less. Try focusing on one wheel area. Eliminate the distracting gate, leaf and other large white object in the front. Try cropping to just take in the wheel area on the left.
Love, Reflected-Jim Wilde	8	Great title and it really works well. Looks like an overcast day with no wind, the reflections in the water look great. You might want to remove the white branch on the left of the trestle. I want to get closer to the rusty bridge and trestle to see the decay. Consider cropping from both sides. I think centering the trestle looks good but you could offset it either way.
Primitive Equipment-Ralph Nordenhold	9	Great job of getting in close and giving us rust and decay! I really like the composition, my eye really stays in the center of this image. Lots to take in, all that wonderful rust and microorganism growth. Depth of field is good from front back on the main parts and then falls off nicely. Great job with realistic colors and saturation.
Road Treep-Anthony Shearin	9	Very interesting tree trunk. Love the colors and the focus all the way through the image. Not sure what organism created the roads but they are very interesting to ponder and look at. The bark areas really give some good color and interesting texture to the image.

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Rub a Dub Scrub-Sharlana Dillard	8	Wonderful subject and a very interesting use of an old bathtub. The openings on the tub look like eyes and a mouth, that's where my eye immediately goes. Good job getting these areas in focus and letting the background go out of focus. For me the background at the top of the image is distracting and too light. I want to look at that face, the streaks running down and the cactus spikes. I feel a much stronger image would be a tight crop eliminating the wood on the left and darkening the wooden rail at the top.
Rust AND Decay- Barbara Beversdorf	7	Lots of rust and decay in this old ford pickup! I love the front end of the pickup and a lot of other deteriorating areas. The maker has chosen to give a complete scene, and it's got some fun items. To me the sky looks a bit over processed and blue especially in the clouds. My eye tends to move around a bit between the OPEN sign, the Roughhouse Brewing and the skeleton. Try cropping in on the front of the pickup, it has great rust and decay!
Rusty Accomodations-Barry Armer	9	Very accurate title and well handled. The maker has captured this from an interesting angle and perspective leading our eye into the frame along the iron bars. Lighting has been handled very well; I like the shadows along the floor of the bars. All the lines in this image take our eye to the toilet. In this case the maker has given us decay and story to go along with by not cropping too tightly but leading our eye to the central subject.

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Rusty Milk Jug-James Moseley	8	I like the feel and placement of the milk jug and small cart or planter in this image. The maker has given us lots of rust and in two different forms on the different items. There are some burnt out areas on the milk jug due to the strong backlight. Two things the maker might try, shallower depth of field to blur the background foliage and either stack images or take images when these are in shade.
Stages of Autumn-Suzanne Packard	5	The maker has given us the stages of decay but overall, the image lacks emotional impact. The maker could consider shooting on a white or black background to give us a low key or high key image. I think an image with a dozen or so leaves in the last 3 decay stages could be very interesting.
Staying Hydrated- David Harris	5	I like the rusty chain, and the image is focused well. However, the strong backlighting detracts from the image. The background is very light and my eye tends to stay towards the top of the fire hydrant. Make sure you include the base of the hydrant and level your images. You might try cropping in tight on the chain and right side of the hydrant.
The Good Days Are Gone-Horst Schoninger	7	The good days now will be compost. I like the decay and the various levels of decay in this image. I find there is too much foreground and background which don't add to the image or subject. You might want to crop tight on the center section of decay and those leaves with all the texture and browning.

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Weathered-Christiane Menelas	9	This is well weathered! Glad you got in close on this image and the letter B and partial A makes me wonder what was written. I really like how the maker has used the side lighting to add more interest and not centered the letters. The peeling paint and rust are different in the various areas of the image, giving our eyes a lot to look at. Nice job giving us rust and decay.
Withering Beauty-Patricia Jones	8	Instead of beauty we get decay. I like this image for the subject. The mold in the center, spiderwebs at the top of the flower and overall decay and wilting of the petals. I like that the upper right background is out of focus but so too is the center front of the flower. The front of the flower really needs to be in focus, if the back portion is soft that would be okay. Consider cropping in tighter to eliminate some of the negative space at the top of the image.

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1932 Studebaker on Route 66- Barbara Beversdorf	8	The maker has done a great job of selecting the angle and time of day for this image. The car has details from front to back and they have handled the shadow areas very well, giving us a lot of detail. I do like the at some of the interior is pure black and I feel the choice of sepia toning was very effective. You might consider cropping out half the sky, there are very few clouds to give any interest, and it would keep my eye on the Studebaker not the brighter areas of the image.
Binky Bro-Christianne Menelas	8	Great shot of the baby! The maker has held the whites and blacks very well in this image. The detail in the eyes and eyelashes really grab your attention. One area that catches my eye is directly above the child hat in the center of image, you might consider removing that distraction. The other is the bright white area along the left side of image, consider toning this area down and you might consider the use of a very slight vignette to bring more focus the face area.
Campus Life-Becky Love	7	A very nice image and capture the daily life of students with backpacks going to class. Good detail in the stonework and good tonality. I like that you did not center the arch. The area under the arch is very bright and burned out. This is a difficult image to take with moving subjects. You might consider bracketing and stacking images or exposing for the brighter area.
Come to My Window-Taryn Bradley	9	Excellent use of the tree to frame the window and great use of the various textures in the scene. I like the way this image has layers, the tree, siding, window frame and curtain. I want to know what's inside. Excellent tonality across the image, white whites and deep rich black where needed.

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Flower_s Glance-Craig Pellerin	9	Very nice placement of the flower and the choice of the background is excellent. I like the way the maker has given us the hint of detail in the deepest shadows and all the texture in the flower. The angle of the flower allows for the detail in the center, leaves and petals to give us layers to view. There is a slight vignette which keeps my eye centered on the flower.
Keeping it Classy- David Harris	5	I like the subject of this image very much and the unusual angle of hat. Unfortunately, the silver band is not in focus in the center of the image. I would like to see a little more space around the top and right edge of the hat. The hat stand has a very bright area which competes for my eye with the silver area of the hat band.
Misty Morning-Sharlana Dillard	8	Beautiful image taken at the right moment; I especially like the way the light is hitting the trees on the right. Where my eye wants to be is looking at those trees. Consider cropping 1/3 from the bottom water and half of the sky. Good job of holding the whites and letting some of the blacks go to deep black.
Nest Building Time-Sandy Gilbert	9	Fantastic capture of the two birds. The eye of the bird in the tree is very crisply in focus. The maker has used a fast enough shutter to capture the beautiful detail in the feathers of the landing bird. I like the detail in the branches of the tree and the sky has been well handled to keep it from being distracting.

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No Wind, No Water-Anthony Shearin	7	Very interesting windmill, I like the details in the wood and the windmill. The trees make a good backdrop to the image. You have done a good job getting some details in the shadows but allowing areas to go black in the deep shadows as they should. Unfortunately, the sky is very bright and a bit distracting. You might consider cropping more off the top to eliminate more sky. Try some alternative cropping even getting in tight on the windmill and top deck.
Soldier at Rest-Patricia Jones	6	I like the detail in his face and think not looking at the camera adds some mystery. It took a bit to notice it was a soldier when I noticed the netting on the helmet behind his head. Almost a 1/3 of the image is his leg or blank space to the right. Consider cropping a little tighter on the bottom and right side. It looks like a blurring treatment has been added to the background unevenly and it has also affected the soldier's head.
Still Standing-David Koester	7	This looks a lot like the cypress trees around Monterey, CA. I like the creative thought of posterizing a monochrome image. Good detail in the foreground trees and their many shapes and crevices. Some of the trees that are grey and white tend to take my attention away from the more interesting textured trees and there are some very large black areas with little interest.

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Those in the Shadow You Will Not See-Horst Schoninger	9	This is such an interesting image and subjects. I like the way the tones have been handled and the conversion to a graphical image. The models to the right are a little more prominent and then then falling off as you move to the left. The perspective the image was taken, lower than the models is very nice. I like the fact that you left a bit of the top area to give us a sense of height. I would like to see a bit more ground in front of the model to walk into that space.
Under the Moonlight-Cindy Korzekwa	5	Conceptually a very interesting image. I like the light rays coming off the moon and the lighting on the stream. Overall, the scene is very dark. I do like the foliage to the right. When shooting at night you should consider either stacking images or using a split neutral density filter.
Waiting-Edward Zukowski	6	It looks like this one waited a bit too long. Great subject, I like the curves of the animal's skeleton. Good job getting the focus on the head and I like the blurred background. I am distracted by the amount of very bright spots in the image. This was taken in direct sunlight resulting in very light and very dark areas. Consider shading your subject to get more diffuse lighting and you can get much better detail in the image.
Wildflowers In The Dark-Jackies Wise	6	I like the lighting on the flowers and the separation from the background. Only a few of the flowers look to be in focus but each of the white area gets my eye to look at and I'm not sure where I should focus. There is also a lot of background to the left. Consider cropping so the flowers fill the frame or even crop down to a cluster of flowers.

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Winter Street-Jim Wilde	9	Great winter image with light fog at the center and sides of the trees. I like the perspective of this image was shot, down lower and with a slight rise in the street. The image brings me into the trees and then into something unknown past the slight rise. I like the way at this point in the image the focus starts to drop off just a bit, good use of depth of field. Very good use of leading lines and leaving more tree branches toward the top gives a great feeling of height.
Wonderland-James Moseley	7	I like the excitement this image portrays. You have captured the emotion of a live performance and focus is very good on the main singer. I would like to see the singers' eyes. We really want to make that connection when we see a picture of a person. Something to do with all images is edge patrol and remove distractions. I would eliminate the small amount of arm at the lower left corner. You might consider cropping from the left to eliminate the band member behind the singer.

I'm a native Californian, raised in Fresno and moved to Merced after college. I've worked in food processing my entire career, mostly as a Plant Director in tomato processing and currently in a cheese plant manufacturing Mozzarella and Provolone cheese. I began photography with the purchase of my first camera in college. I took typical photos of friends, family, landscapes, and travel photos. I became more serious and took photography classes at Merced JC in the early 90's primarily working in Monochrome. Work, sports, and coaching pushed photography to an occasional if not rare hobby for many years and work still limits my photography.

I gave up sports after serious knee surgery and bought my first digital camera in 2010. I joined the Merced Camera Club and began competing at the club and the San Joaquin Valley Camera Club Council where members from 7 photo clubs compete. I enjoy landscape, sports, still life and wildlife photography and am continually learning. Over the past 5 years I have added night photography to my list.

I shoot with Nikon equipment; D750, Z7 and Z8 and several lenses from 14 to 600mm but use my Apple iPhone occasionally as well.

I'm fortunate to live in central California and have access to 4 nearby National Parks, multiple wildlife refuges, the San Francisco and Monterey areas and a host of other interesting areas for photography. I completed the PSA Image Analysis Course in 2019 and started judging to give back for all those who have judged my images in the past and guided me on my photography journey. I enjoy viewing all types of photography and hope to offer some constructive comments that may help you on your photographic journey.

As a judge, I also welcome your comments to help me become better at encouraging and furthering others in their photographic journey.

Below are comments Tim wanted to share with the photographers and a few images he sent with his BIO.

- Keep competing and asking for others to judge your work, I'm still struggling with cropping my own images.
- In many cases crop tighter, give us the areas of interest. Grand landscapes and panos required a lot of space but sometimes less is more.
- Our eyes will naturally look to the brightest area of the scene, if not immediately soon thereafter. Make sure your image keeps most of the eye's focus on the primary subject.
- I find when I get feedback it helps to go back and reshoot the scene to see what I could have done better.

Broken Chrysler



Milky Way Over Bodie

