



# *Bluenose Focus*

The Newsletter of the Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia  
May 2014 Volume 49 Issue 2

In this issue:

A Tour of Ecuador

A Visit to the Galapagos Islands

Bots - the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Members' Galleries



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## Newsletter submissions

We welcome your submissions to Bluenose Focus, and will do our best to make sure that the best submissions make it into the newsletter.

Articles prepared using any current software may be submitted. Should there be a difficulty, the Editor will get in touch.

Submitted images should be JPEG format, sRGB colour space, and high resolution.

Submissions should be e-mailed to:

[georgefm41@gmail.com](mailto:georgefm41@gmail.com)

## The Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia

### Directors

President:	Laszlo Podor
Vice-President:	<i>Vacant</i>
Past President:	Dean Hirtle
Recording Secretary:	Pam Mills
Newsletter Editor:	George Mitchell
Treasurer:	Dean Hirtle

### Standing Committee Chairs

Program:	Fred Greene
Entry:	Wayne Garland
Judging:	Fred Greene
PSA Representative:	Viki Gaul
CAPA Representative:	Joyce Chew

### Other Committees

Public Relations:	John Wm. Webb
Honours and Awards:	Esther Thériault
Seminars:	Fred Greene
Nominating:	Dean Hirtle
Constitution and By-Laws:	Joyce Chew
Projection:	Joyce Chew
Host:	Laszlo Podor
Hospitality:	<i>Vacant</i>
Banquets:	Etta Parker
A/V Advisor:	Bill Murphy, Mervyn Kumar-Misir Peter Steeper
Statistician:	Nick Honig
Webmaster:	Darryl Robertson
Judging Equipment:	Hubert Boudreau
Event Photographer:	Hubert Boudreau
Workshops/Field Trips:	Fred Greene
Shubenacadie Wildlife Park Guides:	Jen Fried Vic Fraser, Doug Leahy
Outside Evaluations:	Colin Campbell
Digital Coordinator:	Mervyn Kumar-Misir

Visit [www.photoguild.ns.ca](http://www.photoguild.ns.ca) for more information



# Editor's Corner

By George Mitchell

I would like to thank those who sent me images for the Members' Corner (p. 29). It seems to me that it is a useful way of letting us see what some of the other members are doing. I particularly encourage newer members to submit a few of their images here.

Viki's PSA Report (p. 9) and Joyce's CAPA News (p. 15) include results of interclub competitions. Our Photo Guild images are doing very well in the wider world! For example, in the PSA Interclub competitions, we were first in the Photo-journalism Division, and fifth in the Nature Division. In CAPA Spring competitions we came first in the Open category and second in the Print category. Our images have also won a number of individual awards. By the way, Viki's report contains a number of beautiful montages. To appreciate these, you might want to enlarge the pdf pages as you read.

John Webb and Nancy Johnston have recently returned from a trip to Ecuador, including the Galapagos Islands. They have kindly, with very little arm-twisting, provided nice accounts of these adventures (p. 18 and p. 23). These pieces are profusely illustrated. Because the format is double column, the images are small, but the newsletter is in pdf format so you can enlarge the images easily (if you want!).

Some of our members have concerns about the security of images on the internet. Our webmaster, Darryl Robertson, has looked into this and has contributed a fascinating short account of internet bots (p. 7).

Again, I encourage you, our members, to submit images, news items, and articles for future issues of the Bluenose Focus. You can reach me at [georgefm41@gmail.com](mailto:georgefm41@gmail.com).

## 2014-15 Guild Themes At A Glance

### 1st Guild Assignment

“Water”

(Must have been photographed after May 1, 2014)

### 2nd Guild Assignment

“Circles”

(Must have been photographed after September 1, 2014)

### 3rd Guild Assignment

“Glass”

(Must have been photographed after September 1, 2014)

# President's Message

By Laszlo Podor



We had yet another wonderful year with lots of activities and a full slate of Guild, CAPA and PSA competitions.

As a non-profit organization, our club is based on the efforts of volunteers who spend a substantial amount of their free time on running our club.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank our Executive and Committee members and our members for their time and service to the Guild.

Thanks to Dean Hirtle for his devoted service to the Guild, for his work in nominating duties as Past President, and for taking on the Treasurer's position this year. Dean has been part of our Executive for several years wearing two hats. Despite his busy schedule at work and double duties at the Guild, he was always ready to help me out at the meetings when my work or family matters took me away from Halifax. Thank you!

My special thanks go to:

Joyce Chew for her work as our CAPA rep and for her efforts in projection and competitions, with the constitution and by-laws, and technical assistance in the Spring Show and at the Christopher Dodds presentation. She was always there when someone needed help.

Our Secretary, Pam Mills, for her help during our executive meetings, our Annual Business Meeting, and for organizing the field trip to Atlantic Motorsport Park.

Esther Thériault for organizing our Spring Show. As our Honours and Awards Chair, Esther has done a great job and kept our trophies in pristine condition. She always keeps records of scores and prints many Awards Certificates of the growing number of 15s and other high scoring images. She has also donated a new trophy, the Esther Thériault Trophy this year. The new trophy will be presented at this year's Award Banquette. The new trophy will be awarded to the highest cumulative external scores for prints. Thank you Esther.

Darryl Robertson for redesigning our web site and adding so many new and neat features. Now we can enjoy the ease of checking our scores, image galleries and more.

Thank you Darryl.

George Mitchell for his work as our Newsletter Editor and for his Macro Photography seminar.

Fred Greene for double duty as both our Program Chair and Judging Chair. Just as last year, this last season's program had



# President's Message

many great seminars, workshops, field trips making this year one of the busiest years in the history of the Guild.

Wayne Garland, our Entry Chair, who ensures that the competition scores are recorded faithfully.

Viki Gaul for her workshops and for her help as PSA rep. As we have four PSA competitions with many categories, this job is quite demanding. She was doing this while her job as PSA Area Membership Director for Maritime Provinces and Quebec is keeping her busy.

Mervyn Kumar-Misir as our digital coordinator and audio visual advisor as well as his efforts in field trips, seminars and workshops.

Bill Murphy as our assistant digital coordinator. Bill has done an excellent job in operating our judging equipment and working with Mervyn to have flawless competition nights, seminars and shows. Thank you Bill!

Colin Campbell for coordinating our evaluation groups and his efforts in seminars.

Nick Honig and Tuma Young for their seminar and the weekend field trip to Cape Breton and the upcoming field trip to Brier Island.

Hubert Boudreau as our event photogra-

pher for his many images of our judges and top scorers, and for judging equipment responsibilities and assisting with our Spring Show.

Doug Leahy and Vic Fraser for coordinating Shubenacadie Wildlife Park activities.

Peter Steeper for his efforts in several workshops and field trips.

Barry Burgess, Stephen Scott Patterson, Nanciellen Davis, John William Webb, Keith Vaughan, Clarence Nowlan, Cliff Sanderson for their seminars and workshops or field trips.

Edie Greene and Viki Gaul for coordinating our Christmas and Awards banquets.

I would also like to thank all other Guild members who have contributed in some way this year including contributions to our Spring Show, seminars, leading field trips, submitting images to PSA, CAPA and Guild competitions.

We could not have captured those winning images without the support of our spouses, children and friends. I know it's a great sacrifice from them to come with us in freezing cold, rain or shine, carrying some of our gear. Thank you all! And a special thanks goes to my wife, Maria.

The Guild had a great program this year filled with very interesting field trips, workshops and seminars along with the

many competitions we got used to. All of this is possible only with volunteers whose efforts and valuable time are greatly appreciated. Although we have many volunteers, one position remains empty - we are without a VP for the third year. If you are able to contribute as a VP, becoming the President in a year, or any of the Guild activities in any way, please contact Dean or me or one of our other Executives.

Just like last year, I would like to ask you to send me an e-mail or call me with your

suggestions for our next year's program. I believe we can create another great program for next year if your input is a big part of it – so please take a couple of minutes and send me an e-mail.

Let's spend more time together and spread the joy of photography amongst other photographers in and around Halifax and throughout Nova Scotia.

Thank you.

Laszlo Podor

## *Savage Chickens*

by Doug Savage





# Bots - the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

by Darryl Robertson

Internet bots (or spiders) crawl the internet looking for stuff. Anything. Everything. Some bots are good bots. Without them a Google search would always return zero results. Some bots are bad in that they don't comply with 'bot commands' and they may look for things that you would rather they didn't find. And then some bots are downright ugly - these are the bots that search for financial records, passwords, email addresses, personal information and ways to get past firewalls. There are hundreds of bots out there crawling all over the internet every second of every day - and they are all trying to find *you*!

Google has nine different kinds of bots running on hundreds of servers all over the world. Google is the primary source of all the 'good' bots. For the Guild the main concern is a bot called 'Google Image'. This is the Google bot that just hunts for images, indexes every image that it finds and then creates a thumbnail version of the image for displays. If you have ever sent an email with an image attachment that is stored on a server, uploaded an image to Flickr, sent a post to Facebook with an image or, yes, sent an image to me for a Guild gallery then Google Image has probably grabbed your image. Unless you plan to live off the grid that is a fact of life now.

If you ever tried a Google search with something like 'your name Nova Scotia Images' you were probably horrified to see a thumbnail of every image you have ever uploaded or used on the internet, all mixed in with hundreds of other photos you have never seen before. That is creepy.

Here is the problem. Google does not honour copyrights or copy prevention plug-ins. Every image in a Guild gallery has a copyright notice and I have installed a copy prevention plug-in. Try to make a copy of an image in a gallery - I bet you can't do it. However, that same image, displayed by Google's View Image function, can be copied! By anyone. Easily. Now that is really creepy.

OK, so someone can find your image and copy it. What will they get? Unless you uploaded a 26M RAW version of your image somewhere they won't get much - at least not from a Guild gallery. I resize all gallery images to be relatively small with a moderate compression quality. Good enough for a gallery display but hardly commercially viable. However, someone could still use those images for some nefarious on-line purpose.

Google, and all 'good' bots, will comply with 'bot commands' if those commands are coded into a website. I always

thought these bot command files had to be uploaded to a *server's* root (top level) directory. Google says they do. Wikipedia says they do. The Guild's website is on a shared server so I don't have access to the root level. However, after talking to the owner of our web hosting company, it turns out that a bot command file can be uploaded to the *website's* root level and it will still work. I do have access to that.

I have written a bot command file and I uploaded it to the Guild's website on May 24, 2014. This file tells Google Image specifically to stay away from our entire website and it tells all other bots to stay away from our galleries, competition upload areas and members only documents. Good bots will honour this.

What about all those gallery images that Google Image has already indexed and listed? The command file can not tell Google to get rid of images that it has already found. To do that I had to convince Google that I was the owner of the Guild's website and to go through Google's verification procedure. After that I was able to use Google's Website Tools to tell Google to delete all the copies that it may have made of any image that it found in any of the Guild's galleries. If you can still find an image of yours by doing a Google search it didn't come from a Guild gallery.

Now you have no more excuses to not send me some of your images from a field trip. :-)

*Darryl Robertson*





# PSA Report

By Viki Gaul



## PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA



Photojournalism Division

## AWARD OF MERIT

For receiving 274 points in the 2012-13 PJD Inter-club Competitions  
... the highest scoring club of the competition year.

## Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia

Issued this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014

**Joseph K. Kubala, PPSA**

Director, PJD Inter-club Competitions

**John F. Larson,  
APSA, MPSA**

Chairman Photojournalism Division

# PSA Report 2013-14



During each Photo Guild season, we hold 4 events called PSA Competitions. In each of these competitions, members can enter 2 images in each of five DIGITAL categories. Nature, Projected Image, Photojournalism, Photo Travel and Creative. There are also five categories in the PRINT section, Large Colour and Mono, Small Colour and Mono and Creative. 6 Digital images from each of the 5 Digital categories and 4 from each of the Print categories are chosen (by score) to be 'SENT-AWAY' to represent the Guild at PSA INTERCLUB Competitions, held at host clubs in North America and in the UK.

This is a wonderful tool we have through PSA CLUB Membership, enabling us to compare our images with those of our peers, in a very broad circle.

While this article is being prepared for the Newsletter, I have the following PSA Interclub results, 2013-14.

## DIGITAL INTERCLUB STANDINGS 2013-14

**PSA Nature Interclub (complete)**-2 tied for 1st place, 2 tied for 2nd place and so we came 5th, in Group A which consists of 25 Clubs (61 clubs in total).

**PSA Projected Image Division Interclub**-With one more round to be judged we stand in 6th place in Group A which has 25 clubs (125 clubs in total).

**PSA Creative Interclub**-With two rounds yet to be judged we are in 6th place in our group (41 clubs total).

**PSA Photo Travel**-We are tied for 9th place with two rounds to go before the final results are known.

**PSA Photojournalism**-With 1 round to go we sit 3rd in Group A (12 clubs).

## PRINT INTERCLUB STANDINGS FOR 2013-14 SEASON (complete)

**PSA Large Colour Prints**- 3rd Overall

**PSA Large Mono Prints**- 4th Place

**PSA Small Colour Prints**- 4th Place

**PSA Small Mono Prints**- 4th Place

**PSA Creative Prints**- 2nd Overall

During the Guild season 2013-14 there were many Interclub Awards and Honourable Mentions received. These are announced through the Google-Groups email system, on the PGNS website and the PGNS Facebook page. I will continue to do that the next season because it seemed to be a good way to get the news out to the Membership.

I would like to thank the PGNS Executive for its continued support of PSA Interclub activities. PGNS is a well respected and recognized club all over the world, and this is a direct result of our involvement with PSA Interclub Competitions.

If anyone would like information on the Photographic Society of America, its many programs and activities, or if you are interested in Individual PSA Membership....please contact me at [mudroom@mac.com](mailto:mudroom@mac.com) and I will help you in whatever way I can. Along with being the PSA Club Rep I also hold the position of Area Membership Director for the Maritimes and Quebec.

On that note, I wish you all a wonderful summer. Full of 'picture taking adventures'. We all look forward to seeing the images you will bring to show us next season and I personally look forward to being the one who uploads the best of those images to compete with clubs all over the globe.

Maybe in the many ribbons and awards next season one or two will for an image you bring to our screen at the Museum....You never know!!!! Can't wait for that to happen, so get out there and get busy! 📷

..... **PGNS ROCKS !!!** .....

Viki Gaul, PGNS PSA Club Rep








Congratulations - Tuma Young  
Honourable Mention Ribbon...  
PSA Print Interclub Round 2  
Anna's Hummingbird



Congratulations - Marg Nolen  
Honourable Mention Ribbon  
PSA Print Interclub Round 2  
Spanish Dancer




2013-2014 PJD Interclub Competition Round 2 Awards and Honorable Mentions



ADOL Group A, Open, 2nd Place, Motorcycles Mod 4571, Fred Greene, Nov/PSA, CEMSA, Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia

**FRED GREENE, CEMSA 2ND PLACE GROUP A CONGRATS!**

2013-2014 PJD Interclub Competition Round 2 Awards and Honorable Mentions



ADOL Group A, Open, Honourable Mention, Cowboy Hops, Lita Rider 1275, Viki Gaul, Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia

**VIKI GAUL HON MENTION GROUP 1 CONGRATS !!**



**CONGRATULATIONS PGNS MEMBERS**  
**Some of the many PSA INTERCLUB AWARDS and HMs 2013-14**



2013-2014 Photo Travel Interclub Competition Awards & Honorable Mentions, Round Two



108-HM - Tibetan Yak And Friend - Colin Campbell - Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia

**HON MENTION PHOTO TRAVEL CONGRATULATIONS COLIN**



PSA Round 2 Photo Travel Interclub Competition Awards & Honorable Mentions

PSA - PJD SECOND PLACE Fred Greene

PSA - PJD HONORABLE MENTION Viki Gaul

PGNS Images for 2013-14 Interclub

Many Hon Men and awards! \*Congrats\* PGNS

PGNS sits 6th after 3 Rounds - Round 4 Results still pending!

125 Clubs 25 in our group

  
Hubert Boudreau

  
Marian Boyer

  
Marian Boyer

  
Marian Boyer

  
Marian Boyer

  
Joyce Chew

  
Joyce Chew

  
Viki Gaul

  
Viki Gaul

  
Viki Gaul

  
Viki Gaul

  
Viki Gaul

  
Fred Greene

  
Fred Greene

  
Fred Greene

  
Fred Greene

  
Nick Honig

  
Eugene Mio

  
George Mitchell

  
George Mitchell

  
George Mitchell

  
George Mitchell

  
Darryl Robertson

  
Joanna Satel

**-PID- Projected Image Division**  
**4 Rounds**  
**Interclub**  
**Competitions 2013-14 Season**  
**+ Rounds x 6 beautiful PGNS IMAGES!**

PSA INTERCLUB NATURE ENTRIES 2013-14

3 PSA 'INTERCLUB' Rounds  
6 images each round  
End of 2013-14 Season  
64 clubs compete  
25 in Class A with PGNS  
2 tied for 1st, 2 tied for 2nd, then US!

				
Paul Boyer	Joyce Chew	Jen Fried	Viki Gaul	Viki Gaul
				
Viki Gaul	Mona Ghiz	Fred Greene	Fred Greene	Nick Honig
				
George Mitchell	George Mitchell	Marg Nolen	Darryl Robertson	Darryl Robertson

PSA INTERCLUB  
"CREATIVE"  
PGNS Images  
2013-14

				
Marian Boyer	Marian Boyer	Marian Boyer	Marian Boyer	Joyce Chew
				
Joyce Chew	Jen Fried	Jen Fried	Viki Gaul	Viki Gaul
				
Viki Gaul	Viki Gaul	Viki Gaul		
				
Mona Ghiz	Fred Greene	Fred Greene	Fred Greene	Mervyn Kumar-Misir
				
Marg Nolen	Tuenis Obdam	Darryl Robertson	Darryl Robertson	Darryl Robertson

Only 3 Rounds  
of the 4 are complete  
at this time!



PGNS Photo Travel Images  
Used in PSA Interclub Competition  
---2013-14---  
In a group of '34 PSA CLUBS'  
we are in a 3 way tie for 14th place!



Colin Campbell



Viki Gaul



Mona Ghiz



Fred Greene



Fred Greene



Fred Greene



Nick Honig

PHOTO TRAVEL



Nick Honig



Mervyn Kumar-Misir



Eugene Mio



Eugene Mio



George Mitchell



George Mitchell



Marg Nolen



Marg Nolen



Marg Nolen



Laszlo Podor



Joanna Satel

PHOTOJOURNALISM

PSA - PJ

Interclub Competitions - 2013 - 14



Marian Boyer



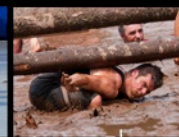
Joyce Chew



Joyce Chew



Joyce Chew



Joyce Chew



Jen Freid



Viki Gaul



Viki Gaul



Viki Gaul



Viki Gaul



Mona Ghiz



Mona Ghiz



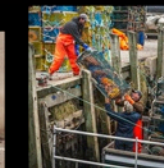
Mona Ghiz



Mona Ghiz



Mona Ghiz



Fred Greene



Fred Greene



Fred Greene



Fred Greene



Sean Kelly



Mervyn Kumar-Misir



Mervyn Kumar-Misir



Eugene Mio



Joanna Satel

There are 12 clubs in our group!  
We are tied at 3rd  
place after  
3 of the 4 rounds.

## PSA "Interclub" Print Competitions

5 sections in each of 4 Rounds per season  
 Large Colour and Mono, Small Colour and Mono and Creative  
 4 prints are picked to 'go away' from each section  
 in each of the 4 rounds for a total of 80 images per season.  
 Images receiving an AWARD or Hon Mention are sent  
 to compete in the End Of Year Competition (EOY) July 2014-UK  
 Wish us LUCK \*\*\*\*\*!!!!!!

CAR	HM	R-3, Feb	Alien Planet	Darryl Robertson	PGNS	2 0 1 3 - 1 4
LC	HM	R-3, Feb	American Tree Sparrow	Darryl Robertson	PGNS	
LM	HM	R-1, Oct	Big 8 Wheeler Mono	Fred Greene	PGNS	
LC	2nd	R-3, Feb	Snowy Egret 2105	Fred Greene	PGNS	
LC	2nd	R-1, Oct	Pink Splendor	Ken Renton	PGNS	
LM	HM	R-4, Apr	Indian Holy Man	Marg Nolan	PGNS	
CAR	1st	R-4, Apr	Vietnamese Girl In Charcoal	Marg Nolen	PGNS	
LM	HM	R-2, Dec	Spanish Dancer	Marg Nolen	PGNS	
CAR	HM	R-1, Oct	Umbrellas at Dusk	Mio Eugene	PGNS	
LM	3rd	R-1, Oct	Johnny Vector	Peter Steeper	PGNS	
SC	3rd	R-1, Oct	Cheryl at Pollys Cove 1	Peter Steeper	PGNS	
SC	HM	R-2, Dec	Anna's Hummingbird	Tuma Young	PGNS	
CAR	2nd	R-3, Feb	Mud Expressions 5005	Vicki Gaul	PGNS	
SM	HM	R-1, Oct	3 Starlings	Viki Gaul	PGNS	
LM	3rd	R-3, Feb	Vulture On Watch Mono 8553	Viki Gaul	PGNS	
SC	3rd	R-3, Feb	Brickton Cardinal 6527	Viki Gaul	PGNS	
SM	1st	R-3, Feb	Preening Under Wing 5072	Viki Gaul	PGNS(2)	



# CAPA News

By Joyce Chew



In 2013-2014, the Guild improved in the national club competitions, placing within the top 50% of competing clubs in each Division except for Altered Reality and Theme.

In the Spring round, we placed 1<sup>st</sup> out of 30 clubs in the Open category with 141 points, and we were only 1 point away from 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Print Division. Congratulations to Fred Greene for his 2<sup>nd</sup> place Certificate in the Spring competition for his print entitled “The Pirate 5149”!

The Guild finished 15<sup>th</sup> out of 26 clubs in the Altered Reality competition, 19<sup>th</sup> place out of 22 clubs in the Theme Competition and we were 7<sup>th</sup> out of 29 clubs in Nature Division. The Creative (Altered Reality) category is one that our members seem to have difficulty with in CAPA and PSA. In an effort to improve our understanding of images that meet the criteria for this category we will be acquiring the ProShow file of the top scoring images for the Altered Reality

Competition for viewing at the club. We will also have the chance to view the work of individual CAPA members this fall when we host the individual round of the Nature Competition.

“**Misty Water**” is the theme for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CAPA’s Annual Digital competition. If you are an individual CAPA member you can enter this contest by September 30, 2014 to win prizes sponsored by vendors such as Sony, Adobe, Manfrotto, Hahnemühle and Blurb.

Next year’s CAPA interclub theme will be “**Light**”. Images should be defined by light and light must play an important role in the composition. In other news, starting on September 1, 2014, CAPA will increase the accepted dimensions for its images to 1400 pixels wide x 1050 pixels high. Have a great summer “chasing the light” and see all of you in the September.

Happy Shooting!



## Digital Open- Hosted by Delta Photo Club

Entry			
No.	Image Title-Photographer Name	Score	Awards
1	Banff Reflections- Eugene Mio	21	
2	Thorny Perch- Marian D. Boyer	23	
3	Light up the Night- Mona Ghiz	23	
4	Yellow Duckling 9892- Fred Greene	25	
5	Long Lake Sunrise- Darryl Robertson	24	
6	Jay and Starling 9209- Viki Gaul	25	
Total Score		141	1st of 30

## Altered Reality Digital- Hosted by Scarborough Camera Club

Entry			
No.	Image Title-Photographer Name	Score	Awards
1	Old Farm - Nick Honig	17	
2	Creative Turkey 0779- Fred Greene	18	
3	White Beauty- Teunis Obdam	16	
4	Twisted Bricks- Ken Renton	21	
5	Butterfly Onion- Joyce S. K. Chew	18	
6	Darryl Robertson- Lynx Face	21	
Total Score		111	15 <sup>th</sup> of 26 clubs

## Open Digital Theme- Humorous- Hosted by Woodstock Camera Club

Entry			
No.	Image Title-Photographer Name	Score	Awards
1	I Said Piggy-Back- Marg Nolen	17	
2	Yikes, I Saw a Squirrel- Mona Ghiz	17	
3	Found Waldo- Sean Kelly	16	
4	Boxed and Ready To Go- Mervyn Kumar-Misir	16	
5	Don't Look Up- Viki Gaul	20	
6	Curious George- Joyce S. K. Chew	18	
Total Score		104	19 <sup>th</sup> of 22 clubs

# CAPA News

## Nature Digital- Hosted by Montreal Camera Club

Entry			
No.	Image Title-Photographer Name	Score	Awards
1	Rhea- Sean Kelly	18	
2	Returning to the Nest- Joyce S. K. Chew	18	
3	Pair of Cattle Egrets 8669- Viki Gaul	24	
4	Great Egret Big Stick 1528- Fred Greene	24	
5	Meadowhawk Pair- George Mitchell	22	
6	Junco with Snow- Darryl Robertson	24	
Total Score		130	7 <sup>th</sup> of 29 clubs

## Print – Hosted by The Darkroom Group

Entry			
No.	Image Title-Photographer Name	Score	Awards
1M	Rue Aumone Vielle- George Mitchell	21	
2M	Meeting of the Minds- Ken Renton	21	
3C	Bald Eagle Tilt- Darryl Robertson	23	
4C	Gator With Snowy Egret- Viki Gaul	23	
5C	Looking Pensive- Marg Nolen	24	
6C	The Pirate 5149- Fred Greene	27	2 <sup>nd</sup> CM
Total Score		139	2 <sup>nd</sup> of 12 clubs

# A Land Tour of Ecuador

by John William Webb

After doing a coast to coast cycling tour of Costa Rica for two weeks, I flew to Ecuador and met up with Nancy Johnston. We prearranged a Galapagos Island tour on a boat for 8 days and 7 nights. Nancy will cover this most wonderful adventure in her words. We also booked a week land tour of Ecuador. We had a dedicated English speaking guide and



vehicle, just for the two of us. Our first day was free for us to acclimatize to the 9350 ft. above sea level of the highest capital city in the world. The historic center of Quito has one of the largest, least-altered and best-preserved historic centers in [the Americas](#). Quito and [Kraków](#) were the first [World Cultural Heritage Sites](#) declared by [UNESCO](#) in 1978. The central square of Quito is located about 25 kilometres (16 mi) south of the equator; the city itself extends to within about 1 kilometre (0.62 mi) of zero latitude. A monument and museum marking the general location of the

equator is known locally as [la mitad del mundo](#) (the middle of the world) (1), to avoid confusion, as the word equator is [Spanish](#) for equator. Our tour guide



showed us how water will flow clockwise or anti-clockwise depending on whether the container is below or above the GPS equator line.



After our free day of touring the historic center of Quito, our guide picked us up and we then visited an active volcano, Pululahu, where the locals live and farm



# A Land Tour of Ecuador

(2). Our guide also took us to a rose farm (3), where all year round at the end of the day, roses are trucked to the airport and shipped fresh to N. America, Europe, and Russia. Also bananas, coffee, and other fruits and vegetables, along with many local crafts of leather



goods, Panama hats, carvings and clothing are shipped throughout the world.

Our land tour across the Andean mountains continued after we flew 1,000 kms to the Galapagos Islands for our boat



tour. Our guide then took us for a day tour of old Quito (4), and then 5 days of traveling the highlands of the Andean

Mountains. This tour included driving in the rain and fog of the Cotopaxi National park. Cotopaxi is the highest active vol-



cano in the world. We climbed over 15,500 ft and the temperature dropped to 4 deg. C (5). We also toured Baños, a town in a rugged mountainous area with many waterfalls (6), rock climbing, boating adventures and cable cars crossing precipitous ravines.



One of the highlights of the land tour was taking a scenic train tour starting in Riobamba, called the "Devil's Nose" railway (7,8,9,10). This railway was designed and built to climb the Andean



# A Land Tour of Ecuador

mountains from sea level to mountain top. This was accomplished by thousands of immigrants from the Caribbean,



including 500 prisoners who would be pardoned if they survived. The railway was built in such a way that it could



climb the mountain by passing the next railway line, switching the rail, then



backing up the train to the next level of track and then proceeding engine first. This operation was performed until the whole train was either on top of the



mountain or at the bottom.

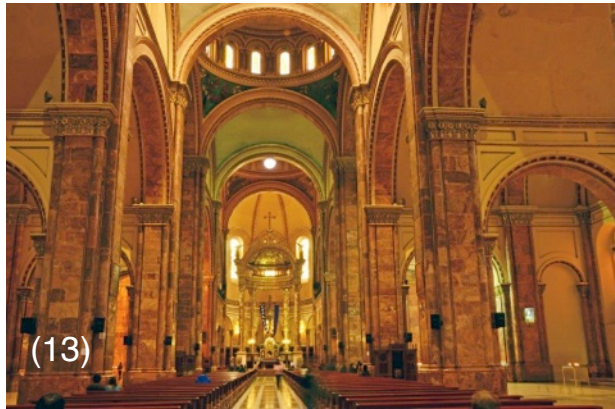
Our guide took us to a unique ruin site called Ruins of Ingapirca, the largest known Inca ruins in Ecuador. The most



significant building is the temple of the sun (11), an elliptically shaped building constructed around a large rock. The building is constructed in the Inca way, without mortar in most of the complex. The stones were carefully chiseled and fashioned to fit together perfectly (12).

# A Land Tour of Ecuador

The temple of the sun was positioned so that on the [solstices](#), at exactly the right time of day, sunlight would fall through the center of the doorway of the small chamber at the top of the temple.



We then spent two nights in Cuenca, the center of the city is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Trust Site, because of its many historic buildings. Cuenca is located at the confluence of four rivers, and is the Amazon river watershed. We toured the old cathedral which is now a museum and the new Catedral Nueva built in 1880 (13), and some local craft markets. A highlight of the city tour was of a panama hat factory (14, 15), the Homero Ortega P & Hijos factory. Five generations of the family have been creating the 'Genuine Panama Hat', the craft symbol of Ecuador, which involves a variety of intertwined skills and is shipped to five continents around the world.

We then drove to the coastal city of Guayaquil, driving from over 9,000 ft with temperatures in the single digits to sea level where the temperatures hit 34 Deg. C. Here we finished our land tour and flew back to Nova Scotia via Bogotá, Colombia and Orlando, Florida to Halifax N.S.





## A Land Tour of Ecuador



# The Galapagos Islands: A Visit in March 2014

by Nancy Johnston

The Galapagos Islands, Ecuador's largest national park, are a group of volcanic islands in the Pacific ocean close to the equator. The islands, which offer a unique ecosystem, are located 600



miles (970 km) off the coast of Ecuador. This fascinating and beautiful environment creates an opportunity for unprecedented contact with wildlife, and provides an opportunity for fabulous photography. The Galapagos consist of 13 main islands, 6 smaller ones

and 107 islets (1). The islands were made famous as the islands that formed Charles Darwin's theory of evolution after his visit in 1835.

The attraction for humans to visit the islands is to see birds and animals which have no fear of man, and so no need to flee or be defensive. It is an unforgettable experience to be able to get close to the wildlife and sit down on



the sand or lava rocks and photograph them to your heart's content.

We spent 8 days and 7 nights in March, 2014, on the boat, the one-year-old Majestic (2). The boat was equipped with cabins for 16 passengers, one guide and a crew of 8. The guide's knowledge, training, enthusiasm, experience and English determines how well the trip goes. We were fortunate to have a guide who anticipated our every need, and since he was the only person on the ship's crew who spoke English he worked hard to ensure that all the pas-



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sengers had the trip of a lifetime. Guides, who go through various levels of training to become certified, change boats weekly so you do not know ahead of time which guide will be on your boat. John and I were the serious photographers in our group, and our



guide, Peter, generously understood that we were happy trailing the group. The weather was perfect for our week, and the water was mostly calm and very warm. Our daily itinerary con-



sisted of breakfast at 7:00 am, followed by disembarkment at 8:00 am on one of

the two pandas (dinghy/ zodiac) (3) to visit an island or to snorkel or take a small tour, possibly to a land attraction such as the turtle site, or the Charles Darwin Research Station, or to the highlands to see volcanic craters. Temperatures while at sea were in the 30s so casual attire was the norm - shorts and t-shirts; however, light long sleeve shirts and pants were also useful to provide sun protection. Vegetation on



the beaches or on our hikes consisted of bare bushes or broken up lava rock. This terrain did not provide any shade. Some of the passengers used an umbrella for sun shade. Lots of sunscreen was used, and as it is very expensive in the Galapagos visitors were encouraged to leave leftovers for the boat crews.

The islands we visited while on the Majestic were as follows: San Cristobal, Floreana, Espanola, Santa Cruz,

# The Galapagos Islands

Genovesa, Chinese Hat and Mosquera. We generally motored during the night.



Continuing the day's itinerary, we left the boat in 2 pandas at 8:00 am to go a short distance to a sandy beach for either a wet or a dry landing. Wet meant we landed in shallow water either barefoot or wearing water shoes. Some passengers put socks and sneakers in their back packs to put on for hikes. Closed-



toe shoes protected our feet from lava rock scrapes. Dry landings meant that we could wear our walking shoes be-

cause we would land on the sand and not get wet.

The short hikes were generally on flat land and on sandy man-made paths or else on the lava rocks which were rough and sharp and unpleasant for walking. We (5 Canadians) minded the heat, having left minus 12-16 temperatures only a few days earlier. Moving slowly was our main method of travel as we listened to our guide, watched the birds and sea lions, and took photos.



After each beach outing, we returned to the boat for fresh juices and snacks. There was always coffee, water and tea. Sometimes there was a second panda trip before lunch followed by snorkeling and/or another beach landing to see wildlife. In the afternoon, we went out in the pandas to snorkel, swim or hike.

At 6:30 pm everyone met in the ship's lounge for a daily talk and a briefing about the next day's activities. Videos, coffee table books and a small library were there for our reading pleasure.



# The Galapagos Islands

Each morning we could read the day's itinerary which the guide wrote on a board.



During our seven days at sea we were fortunate to see birds, sea lions, tortoises - both on land and in the sea. Hammerhead sharks were in the water and some of the people snorkeling saw them.

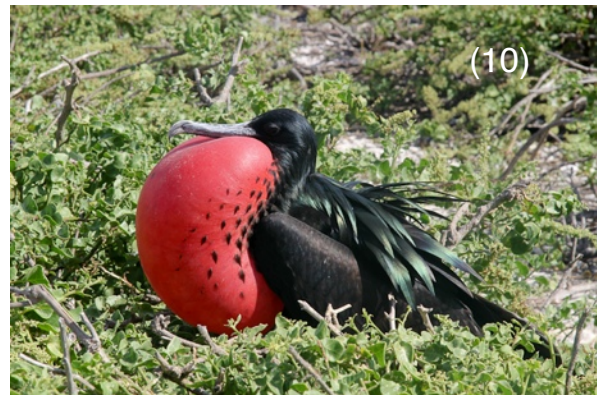
Each island is unique and offers extraordinary animal, plant and geological diversity.

Animals - the sea lions were the only large mammals, and they play in the water or stretch out to sun-bathe on the sand oblivious to us humans. We watched and walked among the mothers feeding new babies, and males overseeing their charges (4,5,6). We also saw Galapagos fur seals.

The land and marine iguanas were strange looking reptiles with lumpy

skin, long nails, and slow moving with long skinny tails. The first ones we saw were half red/purplish orange with green scales and sometimes crawling all over each other, oblivious to the humans around them. Later on when we returned to land we watched iguanas in a park climbing trees and swimming in a pool in the middle of the city, Guayaquil.

We watched Sally Lightfoot crabs (7). These were large crabs with beautiful bright orange, yellow, pink and red shells. We saw green sea urchins, one lava tube, and a beautiful crater filled with water, and from the boat we watched Dolphins and a large ray (manta?) jump out of the sea.



Large Pelicans (8) often flew low and around us and grabbed fish and other small sea life from the ocean and off the shoreline. Sometimes one would catch a fish in its large pouch beak, or steal it in a flurry of flapping wings.



# The Galapagos Islands

We saw turtle tracks (9) heading up from the sea past the high tide line on the sand. They come out of the ocean at night to lay their eggs. We also saw the large turtles swimming while we were in the pandas or snorkeling. A land visit



to a turtle farm was enlightening because we watched and photographed them walking around the woods and even came across one pair mating.

So much, so magic, and all so special.

I got to swim with a sea lion - they love to play in the water when they are not sunbathing. I swam one day in shallow water and a big sea lion appeared under me and swam around with me. That was a thrill.

We saw many birds, including Finches, Lava and Swallow-tail gulls, Blue-footed (11), Nazca, and Red-footed boobies, Yellow Warblers, Penguins, Hood mockingbirds, flightless Cormo-

rants, Cattle Egrets, Night Herons, one pink Flamingo, Galapagos Doves, Great Frigate birds with a wing span of 2 meters (10) and one Galapagos hawk. It was too early in the spring to see the Waved Albatross who arrive around the end of April to mate.

Plants - the island vegetation we saw in March was mostly bare bushes, although it depended on where you go on the islands. We saw different kinds of cactus, some with small yellow flowers and lone cactus trees (12) hanging on outcrops of lava when we were in the pandas and circling rock islets. There were also Lava cactus, Giant Prickly Pear cactus and Candelabra cactus on the islands.



Snorkeling was exciting and some people rented short-sleeved wet suits for \$40 weekly. Masks and snorkels were provided free and most wore only bathing suits as the water was very warm in

# The Galapagos Islands

March. Snorkelers saw hammerhead sharks, colorful fish, sea turtles, and sea lions.

The Galapagos are a surprise and a thrill. The sights provided us with a

memorable once in a lifetime experience to be so close to birds and wildlife and to have an opportunity to watch them and to photograph the awesome beauty of the Galapagos Islands.



# Members' Galleries



photos by Hugh McKervill





# Members' Galleries



photos by Jennifer Raven



# Members' Galleries



photos  
by  
Ed Dawson





# Members' Galleries

photos by Elio Dolente





# Members' Galleries

photos by Jen Fried





# Members' Galleries

photo by Carolynne Renton



photo by Nanciellen Davis





# Members' Galleries

photos by Victor Fraser





Kribi Woman by Sean Kelly

