

Archives

Banff Mountain Photography Competition Winners 1999



Grand Prize

Elk Skull under Ice

Alec Pytlowany, Banff, Alberta, Canada

"The winter of 1998 began with a long drought. However, the cold temperature and lack of snow made for several weeks of excellent ice skating on the lakes and rivers around Banff. A friend told me about some excellent ice skating just west of Banff at a place called the Backswamp. He also told me of an elk skull trapped under the ice that was easily visible. Skating around, I found several skulls, most in pieces, but this was in perfect condition. I spent about ninety minutes photographing the skull late the next afternoon and was thrilled with the results. I felt lucky to have found this natural phenomenon."

Alec Pytlowany is a professional sports and landscape photographer based in Banff, Alberta. He regularly photographs a variety of mountain, adventure and competitive sports, as well as the nature and landscapes he explores in the Canadian Rockies and beyond. Throughout his twenty-year career, he has provided a broad variety of worldwide clientele with successful stock and assignment photography.



Best Photo on Mountain Culture

Monk, Syabru, Nepal

Nelson Chenkin, Fort Collins, Colorado, USA

"Mesmerizing Bhuddist chanting drew my wife and me towards a wooden house in Syabru village, in Nepal's Lantang valley. My wife, speaking some Nepali, asked if we could enter and we were invited into one of those timeless moments that Nepal offers visitors. This lone monk was performing a puja ceremony for the family. Except for a few plastic utensils on the shelves, the scene could have been from a past century. We drank chang and a dreamy hour slipped by. When the ceremony ended the monk shocked us back to the present by smiling at us and said in perfect English, "What did you think?" We spoke about his life providing services to the villages along the Bhote Kosi on both sides of the Tibetan border. I asked if I could take his photograph, and he readily assented. The room was dimly lit by diffused sunlight from a single window. My tripod was in camp, so I squatted on the floor, braced the camera on my knees and held my breath while squeezing off a few shots."

Nelson Chenkin, a software engineer and self-taught amateur photographer, has taken his camera 200 feet underwater and to the summits of 21,000-foot peaks. His subjects range from coral reefs and sunken ships in Micronesia and the Caribbean, to rainforests of Central America and Southeast Asia. The Himalaya remains his favourite destination.



Best Photo on Mountain Landscape

Northern Lights, FishCreek, Yukon

Phil Hoffman, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada

"The Yukon is famous for its northern lights. Occasionally they erupt into brilliant displays. Rarer still is to have a display bright enough to be visible in the moonlight. Since moving to the Yukon several years ago, photographing the aurora has become something of a passion. This photo was made on October 22, 1996 at Fish Creek near Whitehorse, during one of the most majestic displays I have witnessed and photographed. It was particularly impressive because of its long duration - at least one hour of intense activity. Photography is really about the quality of light and the Yukon has some of the most wonderful light going: long periods of golden morning and evening light in the summer and short but low-angle light in the winter - a landscape photographer's dream."

Phil Hoffman is a former high school teacher who now divides his time between raising two children (full-time) and stock photography (part-time). He specializes in landscape and nature photography. His work has appeared in calendars, books and magazines such as Photo Life, Men's Journal, Nature Canada, and Canadian Geographic.



Best Photo on Mountain Adventure

Canoe on Bennett Lake, Yukon
Darwin Wiggett, Jasper, Alberta, Canada

"This is a photo of wilderness guide and survival instructor Dick Person, giving solo paddling lessons on Bennett Lake, Yukon. I used black and white film and sepia toned it to give it an ageless appeal. The look of Dick's traditional turn-of-the-century clothing is enhanced by the sepia tone."

Darwin Wiggett is a professional photographer who shoots for magazines and calendars worldwide. He also writes regularly on photography in Photo Life and Outdoor Nature Photography. Formally trained as a wildlife biologist, Darwin has spent most of his adult life in the wilderness, either doing wildlife research or making photographs.



Best Photo on Mountain Flora & Fauna

Early Snow & Aspen Leaves, Kananaskis Country
Darwin Wiggett, Jasper, Alberta, Canada

"This photo was taken during an early September snowfall in the Sheep River Valley, west of Turner Valley. To achieve the "painterly" effect, I double-exposed the photo with one exposure in focus and one exposure out of focus. Canon EOS-Elan and 100-300 zoom lens."

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Best Photo on Mountain Environment

Teton Range Reflected in Barn Window
Windland Rice, Jackson, Wyoming, USA

"This photograph was taken with a Nikon n90s on Kodak E100SW film with the camera mounted on a tripod. I used an aperture of f/22 to get the mountain reflection as sharp as possible. The shot was taken about 7 a.m. as morning light hit the mountains. I used aperture priority to keep the depth of field I wanted and metered off the neutral tones in the barn wood for the exposure. The barn is one of the original homesteads of the Jackson Hole valley and is now within the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park."

Windland Rice has been photographing wildlife and landscapes for seven years. A native of Memphis, Tennessee she has lived in Jackson, Wyoming for five years. Her images have appeared in National Geographic's WORLD magazine, Natural History, Disney's Animal Kingdom, Scuba Times, Wild Outdoor World, and Nature's Best.. She photographs exclusively in 35mm and her favorite subjects are elephants and dolphins.



Special Mention

Guanaco against Cerro Paine Grande
Mark Carroll, Nashville, Tennessee, USA

"During a 200-mile solo trek through ruggedly beautiful Patagonia, I stopped on the shores of Lago Nordenskjold in Torre del Paine for a rest. For 15 minutes the winds were mercifully still, allowing the lake's surface to turn to glass." As I sat photographing the reflected mountain, a group of guanacos - a wild cousin of the llama - made its way along the shoreline. I waited without moving and shot several frames as this animal made its way slowly yet deliberately between me and the tranquil mountain scene."

Mark Carroll has worked as a freelance wilderness photographer and multimedia artist for four years. He graduated from Boston University with degrees in both marine biology and photojournalism and has also studied at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole and with renowned nature photographer John Netherton. Mark's still photography has appeared in conjunction with the United Nations Environment Programme and at the 1998 World's Fair in Portugal. Since branching into multimedia, his interactive work has received recognition for its art design at the International Wildlife Film Festival and has been exhibited at other festival venues including galleries in New York and Japan. Recently, he covered shark research in Brazil as an on-line correspondent for the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution.



Special Mention

Rafting - Zimbabwe
Sylvie Chappaz, Grenoble, France

"This photo was taken at "Kayak Rodeo in Oblivion", Rapid Number 18, at the 1995 Camel International Whitewater Challenge (World Championships) on the Zambezi River, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe."

Sylvie Chappaz had her first photo exhibition in Paris in 1986. Her work has appeared in numerous publications, and she has photographed such diverse events as the Olympic Games in Albertville, the Sailboard World Cup in Nouvelle Calédonie, and Catherine Destivelle climbing on the Drus.



Special Mention

Catherine Destivelle on Shishapangma
Erik Decamp, Les Houches, France

"On a 1994 climbing trip in Tibet, we ascended the south-west face of Shishapangma on the Loretan-Troillet route in two days, bivying in a snow cave. This photo was taken at 7950 m."

Eric Decamp was born in Paris in 1954, began climbing at the age of 19 and was a mountain guide two years later. An engineering consultant and mountain guide, he has also had numerous articles and photographs published in various newspapers and magazines. He has written and co-written five books, and in 1997 produced the film **Le Cascade**. He and his wife, Catherine Destivelle, live in France with their two children.



Special Mention

Peace, Nepal
Beverley Hall, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

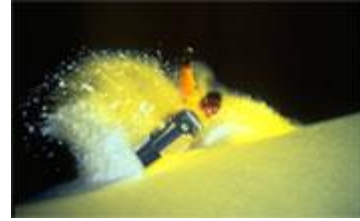
"This photo was taken at the end of a memorable day. Although all members of our trekking group were suffering from varying degrees of altitude sickness, we had left in sunshine to hike over the Laurebinayak Pass (4609 m). Soon the clouds descended and all views were obscured. After many hours on leaden legs, we descended to the Gosainkund Lakes in the mist and then climbed again. The sun and cloud played catch, giving us magnificent glimpses of the canyon on which our trail hung. As we left the canyon, this view was before us."

Bev Hall was born in Kimberley, B.C., one of Canada's highest cities. She developed a love of the mountain environment at an early age. After attending the University of Victoria, she worked there as a research assistant and later at Royal Roads Military College, where she is now the lab instructor in the Environmental Science Program.



Special Mention

Full Moon Setting on Everest Shadow, Nepal
Tom Heinrich, Berthoud, Colorado, USA



Special Mention

Yellow Flash, Nando Plötzeneder, Japan
Peter Mathis, Hohenems, Austria

"The rider in this shot is Nando Plötzeneder in Rusutsu, during a snowboarding trip to Japan in March of 1996. The yellow light is from an artificial reflector, and the light streak comes from the flash with a 15th of a second."

Peter Mathis was born in 1961 in Hohenems, Austria. After school he became a professional carpenter. In 1986, after 10 years working as a carpenter, he began working as a professional photographer. He has been published in many magazines around the world, as well as in eight books and approximately thirty calendars and eight books. In 1998, he participated in an exhibition at the Nikon Gallery in Zurich.



Special Mention

Powderdream, Peter Bauer, Chugash Mountains, Alaska
Peter Mathis, Hohenems, Austria

"The rider in this shot is Peter Bauer in a first descent of Tainted Blood, Chugach Mountains, Valdez Alaska. The shot was taken during a helicopter snowboarding trip in April 1999."

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Special Mention

Stream Below Mount Assiniboine
David Keaton, Orinda, California, USA

"This image was made in the summer of 1996 and was taken with a Nikon N90 and 28-mm lens. The film was Fuji Velvia."

David D. Keaton is a writer and photographer specializing in landscape, travel and adventure photography. Combining his interest in mountaineering with photography, he has explored the remote mountains of the eastern Pamir along the Tajikistan-China border and journeyed from the icefields of the Antarctic interior to the jungles of Irian Jaya. In 1994, he climbed to the summit of Mount Everest with camera in hand. A year later he became the first person to have visited both the seven continental summits and the fifty U.S. state high-point summits. His images have been published in calendar, newspaper, book, magazine, and greeting card formats.



Special Mention

Dare
Lenard Sanders, Prince George, British Columbia, Canada

"On the drive to a rafting expedition, I stopped at a friend's house in Smithers, BC, where I met a group of paragliders heading out for some fun. I decided to join them, hoping to get some interesting shots. I used an Olympus OM4 with a 2.8, 70-200 Tamron lens and Velvia film. This photograph represents the challenges, excitement, and rewards of extreme sports."

Lenard Sanders purchased his first camera when he was 14. Since then he has combined his love of the outdoors with his passion for photography. Much of his time is spent exploring the backcountry, either hiking, skiing, horseback riding, canoeing, rafting or kayaking. Lenard doesn't need to travel far from his home in Prince George to experience some of the most beautiful wilderness areas in the world.