

# THE DRIFTWOOD



Official Newsletter of the Beachcombers Photography Club

November/December 2011

(The Beachcombers Photography Club is affiliated with the PSSA)



Photographer: **Reg Scully**  
*Ship Wrecked received a COM at the recent Beachcombers Salon*

To visit our website, go to <http://www.beachcombersclub.co.za/>  
To email us: [beachcombers.photography@gmail.com](mailto:beachcombers.photography@gmail.com)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Themes for 2011 & 2012 .....	2
2. Photo Tips .....	3
3. Workshops .....	5
4. Competitions .....	5
5. Upcoming Events .....	6
6. Salons 2011 .....	6
7. Member News .....	14
7.1 November Club Competition.....	14
7.2 Achievements by Beachcombers Club Members .....	15
7.3 PSSA Club Magazine and Newsletter Competition .....	15
7.4 Beachcombers Club Members .....	16
8. Year End Function and Prizegiving .....	18
9. Buying or selling? .....	19
10. Last laugh.....	19
11. The Committee.....	20

### 1. Themes for 2012

MONTH	THEME	VENUE	DATE
January	Wildlife	Mondi Sports Grounds conference room (Woodpeckers)	10 Jan 2012
February	Monochrome	Mondi Sports Grounds conference room (Woodpeckers)	7 Feb 2012
March	Zululand landscapes	Mondi Sports Grounds conference room (Woodpeckers)	6 Mar 2012
April	Practical	Mondi Sports Grounds conference room (Woodpeckers)	3 Apr 2012
May	People	Mondi Sports Grounds conference room (Woodpeckers)	1 May 2012
June	Architecture	Mondi Sports Grounds conference room (Woodpeckers)	5 June 2012
July	Motion	Mondi Sports Grounds conference room (Woodpeckers)	3 July 2012
August	Sport	Mondi Sports Grounds conference room (Woodpeckers)	7 Aug 2012
September	Man at work	Mondi Sports Grounds conference room (Woodpeckers)	4 Sep 2012
October	Art	Mondi Sports Grounds conference room (Woodpeckers)	2 Oct 2012
November	Practical	Mondi Sports Grounds conference room (Woodpeckers)	6 Nov 2012
December	Year End Function	To be confirmed	4 Dec 2012



**FOR DETAILS & MAPS OF OUR VENUE GO TO:**

<http://www.beachcombersclub.co.za/events2010.html>

## 2. Photo Tips

# 10 TIPS TO IMPROVE YOUR WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

### By Chase Guttman

Go to his website: <http://chaseguttman.com>

Go to his blog: <http://phototipworld.com>

Additional photos by Peter Guttman: <http://peterguttman.com>

### Part I: Preparation, where and what.

Wildlife photography can produce spectacular results for the well-prepared photographer. Light Stalking's newest writer, Chase Guttman, takes us through some tips to ensure your own wildlife photographs really pop.

#### 1. Do research and be prepared.

A common misconception among amateur photographers is that you must venture far from home in order to effectively capture visually arresting photographs. But even in your own backyard you can gather breathtaking portraits of wildlife.

Investigate the local species that frequent your region and be on the lookout for them (it goes without saying, you should try to always carry your camera). When scouting for wildlife, make a smart plan and take necessary safety precautions. Remember, with patience and creativity, even the most common wildlife can be vividly portrayed as an amazing subject.

#### 2. Patience and persistence are the name of the game.

The crucial photographic discipline of patience is essential in wildlife photography. Why do you think National Geographic film crews spend months on location? Those rare sublime moments of primal behavior are what makes a shot compelling (but such opportunities come about in their own time).

It's all about knowing where to be, what you are looking for in that particular species, and then waiting. When setting up your shot, be alert, keep a safe distance, find a unique viewpoint, and study your environment. In some instances, you may even be fortunate enough to encounter rare animals and behavior.

#### 3. Backgrounds, Backgrounds, Backgrounds.

In telling a visual story, your backdrop can often be as important as your subject. It provides an extra opportunity to communicate a message to your viewer.

In wildlife photography, backdrops allow the artist to provide a context to the rest of the image. This is usually accomplished in two ways:

1. By using simple and non-distracting backdrops you are enhancing the importance of your subject.
2. By establishing the natural environment or setting of the animal you can capture an accurate representation of its day to day existence. Overall this means, pay close attention to the dramatic tableau of your image when you shoot!

Read more on [photographic backgrounds here](#).

**4. Follow the light.** Remember that lighting is an essential element of photography because it's the brush that allows us to paint our canvas. The greatest opportunities in terms of lighting, tend to come about in the earliest and later hours of daylight, when the sun falls on the subject less harshly.

Photographing within these time parameters has two major benefits: For one, this special form of lighting contributes to an atmospheric feeling that enhances the mystique of your photographs.



Peter Guttman

Secondly, during these blocks of time diurnal animals are most active, creating a hotspot for animal spotting and shooting. Lighting in its most beautiful and rare forms should always be utilized to the fullest extent.

### 5. Use motion blur.

One vivid way to depict animals is by capturing their [movement and action](#). Getting wildlife on the move adds a layer of excitement to your images. Techniques like panning are a creative way to capture the motion of animals, where the dynamics of activity tells its own tale.



Chase Guttman

### 6. Be as unobtrusive as possible.

As I've discussed in my article on how to get better [candid photography](#), the only way to accurately capture authentic behavior is by not being a distraction. This same idea applies here. Act quietly, blend in with the environment and patiently observe. Be careful with camera noises and flashes which may impair your ability to be unobtrusive. The better you fit in, the better your shots will be.

### 7. Use a telephoto lens.

Your primary goal in wildlife photography should be similar to your portrait photography goals. They both should portray a personality. In order to do so, photographers must try to get intimate with their subject. In portraits, the subject's face can certainly be isolated with a wider angle lens, but this wouldn't be advisable with a wild animal.



Peter Guttman

Instead, I recommend a telephoto lens (one that is capable of a large [focal length or zoom](#)), to allow you to safely isolate your subject through framing. In this way, you can best capture an animal's personality or essence.

### 8. Focus Manually.

It often works better to manually focus, because many animals blend into their environment and in automatic mode the sensor might focus on the wrong object. Staying in manual can be one's personal insurance of getting the focus right.

**9. Keep shooting.** Make sure to put your camera in continuous shooting or burst mode to ensure you never miss the perfect moment. Shoot a lot, even when you're in doubt because you never know what will end up being the prize winner. After all, one of the wonders of digital photography is that images can be deleted after the fact.

Timing is also a key factor here, so be alert in order to accurately anticipate wildlife behavior.

### 10. Composition is the icing on the cake.

Composition is the process of visually organizing the essential elements of your image in a logical and effective way. It's the key to turning an average snapshot into a visual statement. Look for rich textures and colors or experiment with different perspectives - these factors will help make your photographs stand out.

Click Here: [10 Tips to Improve Your Wildlife Photography](#)

### 3. Workshops

## *Photography Course By Manie Combrinck*

*Starts on 29 February 2011, every Wednesday at 18:30  
at Grantham Park Primary School, Empangeni.*

*Phone 082 490 5075*

*E mail manie.c@mweb.co.za*

*or drop in on my Facebook page*

*for more information.*

*Cost: R 1 500*



### 4. Competitions

## **Capture the Spirit of Africa and WIN big prizes with Amarula**

Are you wild about photography? We're looking for the wildlife image that best captures the spirit of Africa.

Wild magazine would like to invite your society to take part in our 2012 photographic competition. You could see your image featured in Wild magazine – plus stand the chance to win photographic equipment and outdoor gear.

This year's competition is titled "Capture the Spirit of Africa". With our sponsor Amarula, we invite you to send in your best wildlife images (pictures of mammals, birds, reptiles, insects, etc). We'll select ten finalists who will each win a R1 000 Cape Union Mart voucher. The grand prize is R15 000 photographic equipment plus another R10 000 voucher from Cape Union Mart – just what you need for your own photo safari!

Go to <http://www.wildcard.co.za/competitions.htm> for full rules and to upload your photograph. Entries close on 8 February 2012.

## **Beeld en Canon soek jou beste foto!**

Stuur tussen 9 Desember 2011 en 17 Januarie 2012 jou natuur-, vakansie-, kuns-, of nuusfoto na [oog@beeld.com](mailto:oog@beeld.com) om in te skryf en jy kan groot wen.

[Kliek hier om die res van die storie en vir die voorwaardes en bepalinge te lees...](#)

## 5. Upcoming Events

### Our Next Meeting

Our next club meeting will be held on Tuesday, 10 January 2012 at the Mondi Sports Grounds conference room (Woodpeckers) in Richards Bay at 19h00. The theme is Wildlife. The following is the PSSA definition for the theme *Wildlife*: "Wildlife is defined as one or more organisms living free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted environment. Photos of zoo animals or game farm animals do obviously not qualify."

### The Next Special Interest Group Meeting

The Committee has decided to implement Special Interest Groups (SIG) that will meet once a month additional to our normal Club meetings for those who want to learn more about specific areas of photography. It will give members the chance to learn from each other, go to different places to take photographs and get to use equipment that they may not have access to. There will be a coordinator for each group who will arrange the meetings/ outings.

The SIG's will be as follows:

Macro Photography with coordinator Hendrik Louw

Studio Photography with coordinator Manie Combrinck

Wildlife Photography with coordinator Sias van Schalkwyk

Photoshop with coordinator Peter Martin.

## 6. Salons 2011

Get all the information on the upcoming salons from the PSSA website at [www.pssa.co.za](http://www.pssa.co.za). We also wish to remind you that a trophy is awarded to the Club member who receives the most number of Salon acceptances during the year. You must therefore ensure that you enter as many salons as possible. You also need salon acceptances to be promoted from three to four star and four to five star.

<b>NOVEMBER 2011</b>	<b>SALON</b>	<b>Bloemfontein National Salon</b>
	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>Bloemfontein, South Africa</b>
	<b>CLOSING DATE</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> November 2011</b>
	<b>JUDGING DATE</b>	
	<b>INFO</b>	<p><b>Salon Director:</b> Robert Bragg (c) 082 850 9515  <i>email: <a href="mailto:bragrr@ufs.ac.za">bragrr@ufs.ac.za</a></i></p> <p><b>Categories:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature Zoology</li> <li>• Nature Botanical and Nature Land/Seascapes</li> <li>• Pictorial Sport</li> <li>• Pictorial</li> <li>• Altered Reality</li> </ul> <p><b>Brochure:</b></p> <p> <a href="#">Brochure</a></p>

<b>FEBRUARY 2012</b>	<b>SALON</b>	<b>Second Clarens Salon of Monochrome Photography</b>
	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>Clarens, South Africa</b>
	<b>CLOSING DATE</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> February 2012</b>
	<b>JUDGING DATE</b>	
	<b>INFO</b>	<p><b>Salon Director:</b> Hans Slaghuis FPSSA, APSSA (Vers)  <i>email: <a href="mailto:hansslaghuis@mweb.co.za">hansslaghuis@mweb.co.za</a></i></p> <p><b>Categories:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People (excluding children)</li> <li>• People (young children)</li> <li>• Land-, city- and seascapes</li> <li>• Open</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional info:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Website</a></p> <p><a href="#">Clarens Photographers</a></p> <p><a href="#">Salon</a></p>

Congratulations to the following members who had accepnces at the Beachcombers Salon:

## MANIE COMBRINCK



Strandwolf Drink – Nature



Rasta 2 – Pictorial



Ballerina 4 – Pictorial



Forest Tree Frog Portrait – Pictorial



Lotheni River – Scapes



Kokerboomkloof – Scapes



Thanda 2 – Monochrome



Polish Girl Remade – Sport



Kumble – Sport

JANE FERRARIS



The Body is a Temple – Altered Reality



Adoration – Pictorial



Morning Glory – Nature



Brooklyn Bridge – Scapes



Portrait of an Unlady - Pictorial

SIAS VAN SCHALKWYK



Watching You – Nature



Thirsty Runner – Sport



Smokinng – Sport



Redbull Gives U Wings – Sport



Smoking Pitt – Monochrome

**HENDRIK LOUW**



White Crab Spider – Nature



Angry Banana Bat – Pictorial



Flying Fish – Nature – COM



Aggressive Crab – Nature



Reedfrog on Lilly – Pictorial

**CHANTELLE KING**

Dewy Dandelion – Nature



Hello There – Monochrome



Candy – Monochrome

**MARTHIE COMBRINCK**

Flowers - Scapes

Weskus Bote - Scapes

**HENDRIK McCARTHY**

Avatar

**REG SCULLY**

Ship Wrecked – COM – see front page photo

**PETER MARTIN**

Boy in Window – Monochrome



Fairlane - Altered Reality

**NOBBY CLARKE**

Raindrops – Nature

**LARA STAAL**

Splendour - Scapes

## 7. Member News

### 7.1 November Club Competition

Congratulations to the winning team of our October Shootout - Hendrik, Marthie, Niko and Sias with their model, Angelique. Well done to Hendrik on capturing the overall winning photo of the evening. A huge thank you to our models and organizers – great fun was had by all!



Hendrik – Winning Image



Marthie Combrinck



Niko



Sias

## 7.2 Achievements by Beachcombers Club Members

Congratulations to **Manie Combrinck** on his outstanding achievement in the Rio Tinto Bird photographic Competition. Below are the images which have won him a first and second place in the Water Birds Category, Fanatics Section. Well done on another great achievement Manie!



Egyptian Geese



Egret

Congratulations once again to **Nobby Clarke** on yet another great achievement! Nobby's photo of a cheetah appears in the latest issue of the UK magazine Photo Plus, and his HDR photo taken at Monte Casino has been published on the 2012 Foto Fanatix calendar (bottom right).

Your Photos

**Short Tail Cheetah**  
By Nobby Clarke

**Canon EOS 500D**  
**Sigma APO 150-500mm f/5-6.3 DG OS HSM**  
Aperture f/10  
Shutter speed 1/160 sec

**Nobby says** "We were traveling in the Umfolozi Game Reserve in South Africa when I saw this cheetah standing on a log. Its tail was quite short and the white tip was missing, so I assumed it had been lost in a fight. It was a sunny day with intermittent clouds, so I parked my vehicle opposite the cheetah and used my beanbag to support the camera, while taking a number of shots of this beautiful animal. The ISO was set at 400, which gave me a good exposure with a shutter speed of 1/160 sec and an aperture of f/10. The cheetah must have posed on the log for about three minutes before disappearing into the tall grass. When I downloaded the image, I found it to be a bit flat so I decided to convert it to monochrome in Photoshop. To make the cheetah stand out from the background, I selected it and used Curves to lighten it too."

**Steve says** "This is a well-composed image, with the cheetah in the left part of the frame, so you get the feeling that she is surveying her world. In the bright African light, ISO400 might have been a bit high for a non-action shot. If you had shot at ISO100, and exposed at f/5.6, the background would have been more blurred, helping the cheetah to stand out, due to the shallower depth of field, but it's a great picture, Nobby!"

**PhotoPlus Verdict**

- ✓ Excellent composition with space for the cheetah to look into
- ✓ Good choice of location that conveys a sense of wilderness
- ✗ The sharp background could have been blurred with wider aperture
- ✗ A lower ISO would have created a more suitable, wide aperture



JULY 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4

## 7.3 PSSA Club Magazine and Newsletter Competition

*The Driftwood* has once again achieved a top 3 placing in the PSSA Club Magazine and Newsletter Competition with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The winner this year was Vanderbijlpark Fotografiese Vereniging with their *Kollig* magazine, followed by Pretoria Photographic Society with their E-Flash newsletter. Congratulations to Nada, editor of *The Driftwood* for her accomplishment and all her hard work!

Congratulations to Nada and family on the safe arrival of baby Hanru!

## 7.4 Beachcombers Club Members

We would like our members to get to know their fellow members and will try to get photos of all of you so that we can start by learning each other's names! Below is what we have so far. Thank you Jane, for taking these photos of our members for us. One thing is for sure – we are a friendly bunch!



Werner-Hein Zeelie



Sias van Schalkwyk



Reginald Scully



Peter Lickfold



Nobby Clarke



Cornelius van der Merwe



Mrs. Khan



Farouk Khan



Manie Combrinck



Lara Staal



Debbie Smith



Mark Sanders



Jeremy Smith



Hennie Homann



Connie McCarthy



Hendrik McCarthy



Gavin Fordham



Danie Nell



Annett Nell



Patricia



Sean King



Chantelle King



Peter Martin



Arista Daley



Yvonne Louw



Chrissy Crichton

We still need photos of these members:

Marthie & Marnus Combrinck  
 Evert & Nada Crafford  
 Mr Crichton  
 Judy Dearling  
 Jan Erasmus  
 Allan & Jane Ferraris  
 Johann Hamman  
 Norman & Pauline Hibbert  
 Elize Kemp  
 Hendrik Louw  
 Bronwyn & Steve Macdonald  
 Pat Maritz  
 Natascha Meunier  
 Desmond Millin

Celeste Morkel  
 Gerda Pistorius  
 Peter & Beverley Ramsay  
 Mike & Andrea Sneddon  
 Graeme & Tristan Swarts  
 Willem v d Walt  
 Barbara v Rooyen  
 Gerhard v Rooyen  
 Gerrit van Huyssteen  
 Eleanor van Schalkwyk  
 Collette van Staden  
 Anthony & Sanet Woodhouse  
 Richman Zondi

## 8. Year End Function and Prizegiving

The Annual Beachcombers Prizegiving and Christmas Dinner was held at the Mondri Sports Ground this year and was an evening not to be missed - it was wonderful to see so many members and partners enjoying the evening!

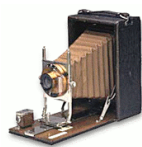
Thank you to Hennie for arranging the venue, wonderful catering and the beautiful décor.

Congratulations to the following Award Winners on their achievements over the last year:

- Photographer of the year .....Manie Combrinck
- Most Salon Acceptances .....Manie Combrinck
- Photograph of the year .....Chantelle King: Raindrops on Roses
- Novice photographer of the year.....Chantelle King
- Most photographs entered.....Manie Combrinck
- Most improved photographer of the year .....Lara Staal
- Most Salon Points: Beachcombers Salon .....Bronze Medal: Manie Combrinck



**9. Buying or selling?**



NOTE POSTED BY HANS SLAGHUIS

NIKON 7000 with a NIKKOR 18-105 VR, won as a prize and still in their original and SEALED boxes for sale.

The current retail price is about R14 500

NOTE POSTED BY THYS VAN DER MERWE

Canon EOS 1d MarkII camera for sale. Professional camera: 8.2 Megapixel, 8.5 Frames per second. Camera in excellent condition with charger, battery and dc connector in original box. Price: **R9000.** (I have 2 available). Contact Thys van der Merwe: [thys@vidafrica.co.za](mailto:thys@vidafrica.co.za) Tel: 083 441 3108



**10. Last laugh**

<http://www.whattheduck.net>

What The Duck



© 2011 Aaron Johnson  
WTD 1280 "Social Networking"

## 11. The Committee

<p><b>President:</b> Manie Combrinck Cell: 082 490 5075</p> 	<p><b>Secretary:</b> Marthie Combrinck Cell: 082 879 9249</p> 	<p><b>Web Master:</b> Sias van Schalkwyk Cell: 083 229 9258</p> 	<p><b>Additional member:</b> Hennie Homann Cell: 082 898 1204</p> 
<p><b>Additional member:</b> Chantelle King Cell: 082 773 6646</p>	<p><b>Additional member:</b> Werner-Hein Zeelie Cell: 082 214 6117</p> 		

Please email any information that other members might find interesting to me at [chantelle@cre8designandprint.co.za](mailto:chantelle@cre8designandprint.co.za) so that it can be put in the Driftwood.