

Heide Stover, APSA, QPSA

I took up photography as a teenager, eventually combining my love of nature with my love of photography. I spend many early mornings out on backroads and wildlife reserves watching, listening to, and photographing animals. I believe in patience. Chasing, scaring, disturbing the wildlife in any way is not something I do. There is a code of conduct to photographing wildlife and I follow that. Part of being a wildlife photographer is respecting the animals and environment.

I spent 14 years working for a photo finishing plant, mostly in quality control, which moved me around to various plants. I went from San Diego, California to Omaha, Nebraska, then back to California to the Palo Alto plant and on to the Manteca plant. With Digital Photography on the horizon I decided to leave the company. Good choice as it no longer exists today.

In the past I have had photographs published in the San Diego Union Tribune. I worked as a staff photographer at The Villages Golf and Country Club in San Jose. I have photographed a number of charitable golf tournaments for retired pro football players. I was also photographing events for St. Joseph Dignity Health at no charge to give back for the care I received as a cancer patient.
I just retired from spending the spring and summer months photographing horse shows and working part time for a company photographing college and high school graduations.

I am the president of the Stockton Camera Club as well as the president for our Camera Club Council. I am active in PSA serving as the Nature Division Secretary, PID Chair, and the Director of the PSA PID Digital Study Groups. PSA has an online judging program for PSA Clubs and councils. I am the director of that, setting judges up for the clubs as they need them and am also one of the judges. A few years ago, I was mentored by Jon Fishback to go in person to clubs to teach his image analysis workshop. After COVID and not being able to travel, I was doing the workshop via Zoom. That is working very well so we have continued doing this as a zoom program.

When looking at an image I look for good technical work. Such things as composition, focus, color, light, etc. I take a few minutes to see how the image makes me feel. Impact also plays a roll. I try to be kind with my comments as this is about learning. I think it is important to bring out good things in an image, not just what I feel could be corrected. When I judge it is my opinion that people are hearing. Not everyone may feel the same way about an image.

I have learned that, for me, photography is not about sitting in front of a computer playing with images or about winning awards. It is about getting out there photographing, learning more each day and enjoying what I am doing. And I do love what I am doing.
I hope that I can help others with my comments. But the best advice I can give is to have fun with it. Enjoy what you are doing. And always respect the world around you as you are doing it.