

# KelbyOne Community

## Who's Who in the KelbyOne Community

Last issue, Dave Clayton interviewed **Jocelyn Petruccio**, this year's Best of Show Guru winner at the **Photoshop World Conference 2016** in Las Vegas. This issue, Dave spent a few minutes with **Jeff Dannay**, the **Guru winner in the Photography category**.

### First, congratulations on your Guru award. Was this your first Photoshop World?

No, this was my second Photoshop World. My first was last year and I liked it so much that I signed up for a second one. Now that I was fortunate enough to get a Guru award, I have to go next year too!

### What made you want to enter the Guru awards?

I've been thinking that my photography has been improving year after year. At least that's what my wife has been telling me! We visited Myanmar and Cambodia earlier this year where I took some very nice photos of incredible subjects, receiving accolades from others than my wife. With my confidence brimming, I felt I should compete against some of the best photographers around. And I am very glad I did.

### What was your inspiration to become a photographer?

I started getting serious about photography about four years ago. My father-in-law got hooked by the photography bug and started winning local contests. My wife and I, being very competitive, decided to start learning the craft so we could spend time with him shooting and hopefully surpass him. Unfortunately, he got very ill and passed away soon after we started. He gave me his camera (a Nikon D800), which only spurred me on further. In the beginning it was for him. But after a bit, the students surpassed the teacher. Now it's all about going to fantastic places and taking the best images we can.

### Why do you shoot mostly travel and landscapes?

I started with landscapes because they don't move. It gave me plenty of time to set up my shot and shoot it over and over until I got it right. It didn't hurt that I was shooting sunrise and sunset at beautiful locations. I worked hard at capturing the light. Then the travel bug hit. I tried to capture the essence of the locations we visited, then write about it in our **blog**. Family and friends started to follow us and enjoy what we were writing. It was a great feeling to share what we were seeing and feeling at locations all around the globe. As soon as we finish a trip, we're planning the next one. It's a great life.



Jeff Dannay

### Why did you decide to start teaching workshops?

I have teaching in my blood, as my father was a teacher in New York during my formative years. Although I didn't go into that profession (I went into software instead), I always like helping people learn. Doing workshops is very new to me. I have taken workshops with excellent professionals and have learned a lot. But what could I offer that they do not? I don't want our workshops to be a "me too." We want to set ourselves apart and offer something unique. We settled on offering workshops where we go to great places but also provide the ability for our customers to travel and eat gluten free (my wife being celiac). We now offer "Gluten Free Photography Workshops." We're hoping to mesh safe travelling with excellent instruction.

### What's in your kit bag?

My trusty Nikon D800E (hopefully to be upgraded to a D5), a 14–24 f/2.8, a 24–70 f/2.8, an 80–400, and some ND filters. These, with my Really Right Stuff tripod and ballhead, make me ready for most anything.

### When and why did you become a KelbyOne member?

I joined about four years ago. I'd been looking for online training and came across a video clip of Scott Kelby and another of Matt Kloskowski, one teaching composition and the other teaching Lightroom. I was hooked with the content but mostly their style. I quickly joined and have watched many courses since. The education is top-notch.

### What have you learned from being a member?

Being a member has helped me quite a bit. First and foremost, the classes are superior. I also take advantage of the KelbyOne community. I didn't realize how strong the community was until I went to PSW last year. Now I've built a nice network of photographers that I can shoot with and confer with. For new members, I recommend watching a class and then go out and shoot. Then, watch another and shoot some more. I did this for a couple of years and my photography improved dramatically. ■

CLICK TO RATE ★★★★★