

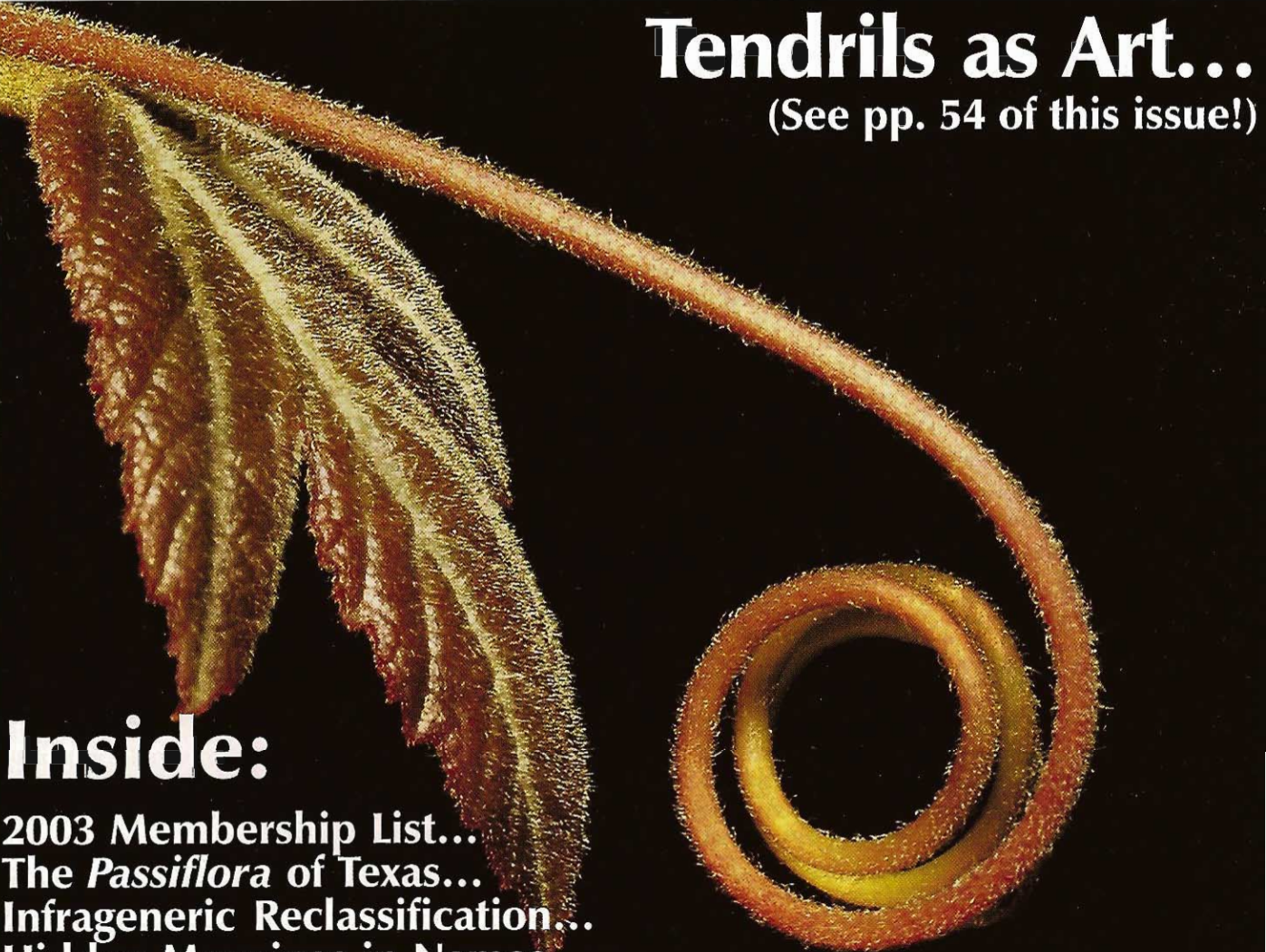
More photos on pp. xx



Passiflora

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Tendrils as Art...
(See pp. 54 of this issue!)



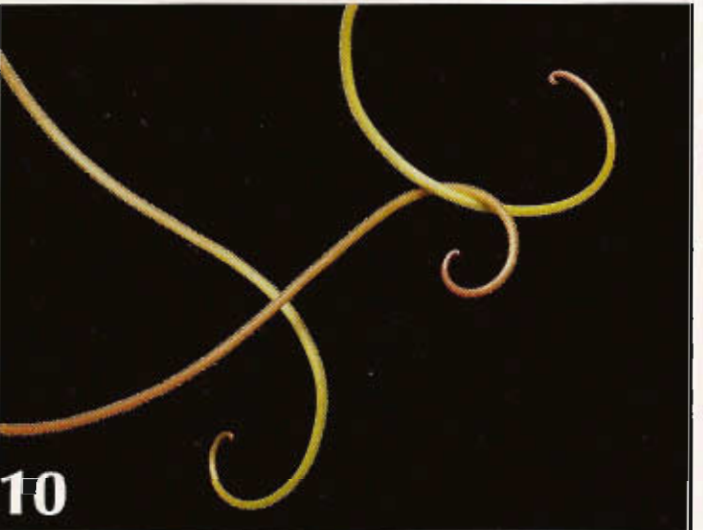
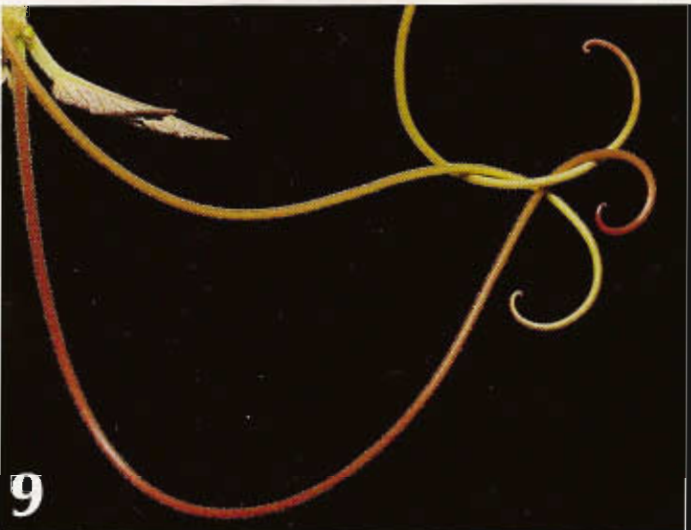
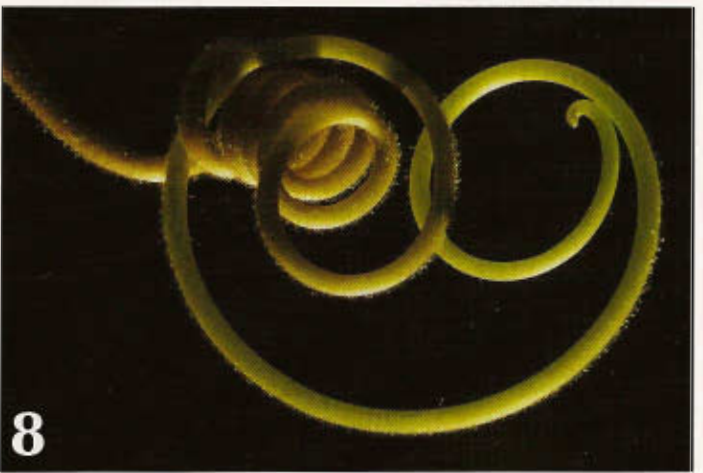
Inside:

- 2003 Membership List...
- The *Passiflora* of Texas...
- Infrageneric Reclassification...
- Hidden Meanings in Names...
- 2003 PSI Meeting Report and Photos...
- ...and more!



Tendrils Fantasy...

Passiflora vitifolia tendrils inspire photographer Mark Bartosik of Houston with their natural fantastical shapes. See his description of his work on pp. 54. **1.** Rainy days give lovely effects. **2.** It takes time and patience to find tendrils that form extraordinary shapes and compositions. **3.** Using the flash on an off-camera extension cord lets you control the



direction of light illuminating the subject. **4.** When shooting using available light try early or late in the day (or in the shade) to avoid harsh light. **5.** A tripod is recommended when taking macro shots like these but it is difficult to place in the right position. Using high-sync flash helps to avoid blur and gives more freedom in the photographer's movements. **6.** Tendrils are three dimensional—to keep the best possible DOF (depth of field) close your aperture to the maximum (largest f number). A good flash helps. **7.** Again, time and patience is needed it to see what will happen next. **8.** Obtaining a dark or black background is easy—use flash in shade or at night against empty sky. **9.** Just another wonderful natural composition. **10.** Tendrils meeting in empty space try to use each other for support.

Passiflora Tendrils: Fantasy Art in Nature

Mark B. Bartosik

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I consider myself a nature photographer. With a background in biology (entomology and herpetology), I have always been fascinated by nature's creations and try to show their beauty in my photos. One of the most unique examples of natural art that I know of are *Passiflora* tendrils.

In the past I have grown some *Passiflora* plants and I have always been in love with their magnificent and unique flowers. Lately, living in a townhouse with a lot of restrictions, I can't do that any more, however, a few years ago someone gave me a large potted *Passiflora vitifolia* and I entered fantasyland again.

I have easy access to my *Passiflora* as it is growing next to my front door so I can check the plant a few times a day looking for new shapes and compositions. Nature is so creative that I don't ever have a feeling that I need to try to improve anything! My photos are taken without trying to change anything, showing authentic tendrils on a living plant, although I often manipulate the light that illuminates them.

My "passion" has been amply rewarded:

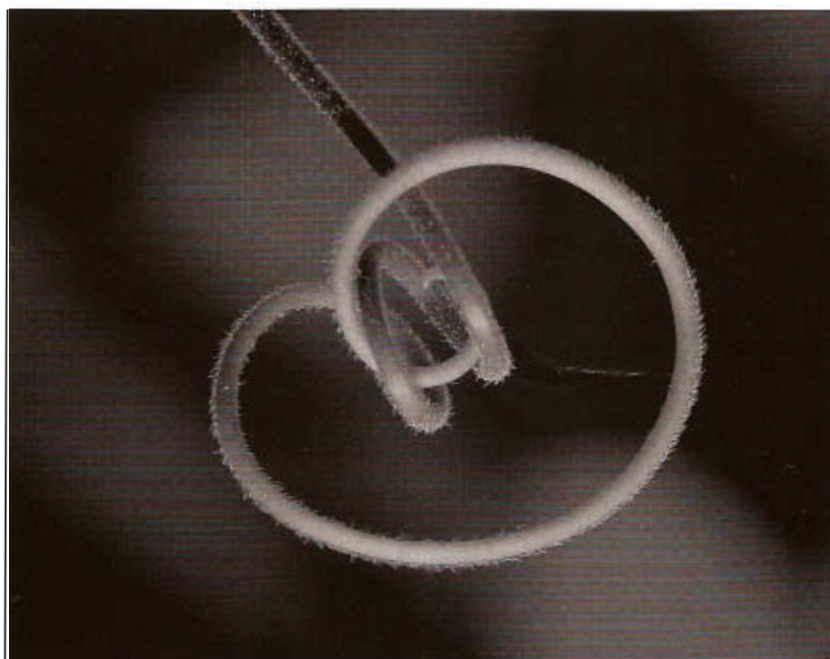
many photographic competitions and art galleries have accepted my work. Those magic moments when new tendrils grow are saved and many people can become familiar with nature's wonders though they last only short moments. With lack of support they grow in forms of pure fantasy and their shapes are aesthetically pleasing to the choosiest tastes.

I consider it a challenge to catch the best moment to photograph. From hour to hour the same tendril can have

totally different shapes. If one wants to photograph the best moment of an interesting tendril, one has to check them at least every hour.

Growing *Passiflora* in a pot with a trellis gives an extra benefit for the photographer. Many new growths hopelessly search for support and some tendrils improvise unique and original forms in the empty space.

Just a few words about how I photograph tendrils in case somebody wants to try it and doesn't want to repeat the many mistakes I have made. Avoid strong direct sunlight; shade, early morning or late evening is the best.



Some tendrils will form a "Gordian Knot" after they meet in empty space.

I almost always use a fill flash that is mounted on a loose extension cable so I can position it independently from the camera at any angle I want. I never use a direct flash but rather bounce it from the special inlet on the top of the flash head. I bounce back only 20% of the light, which is usually, enough for most cases.

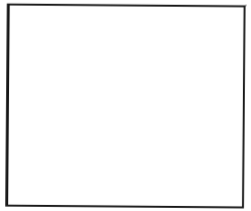
To get a very dark background I take photos in very deep shade against empty space or even at night against dark sky. The biggest challenge is

with very little tendrils (inch or less long) as one has to have a very good macro lens and will face limited depth of field so a lot of patience and repeat shots are required.

I know that readers of this publication know more about *Passiflora* than I do but if you have a question about any of the technical details of my photographs, please contact me and I will try to help as much as I can.

Passiflora Society International

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Coconut Creek, FL 33073
USA



Passiflora vitifolia tendrils and leaves sometimes provide a photographer with a real fantasy in natural composition when you see it from a specific angle. Photo by Mark Bartosik. See more of his photos of tendril fantasies on pages 2-54 of this issue...