



By Sam Lynch

APC ACTIVITIES

Next Meeting

TBA

Programs

PhotoShows

2021

Jan. 18, 2021

Strange Signs

Exhibits

Mar. 15, 2021

Winter

Dec. 5-Mar. 24

CCL

May 17, 2021

Duplicates

Field Trips

July 19, 2021

Pets/Animals

Jan.-March 2021

Downtowns

Sept. 20, 2021

Hills & Valleys

April-June 2021

Parks

Nov. 15, 2021

Time-lapse (using tripod)

July-Sept. 2021

Cemeteries

Oct.-Dec. 2021

Country Roads

President's Comments—January 2021

The New Year with Scott Duvall

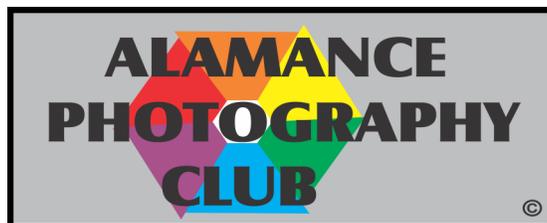
I'm sure most of us are glad to have left 2020 behind. It certainly had a disruptive effect on our Photo Club as outgoing President Mike King described in the December Newsletter. I give a BIG THANK YOU to Mike for all that he did while he was our President. Nancy Jacobus has an Appreciation Award that she will present to Mike as soon as we can get together.

Our club activities will continue to be affected by the COVID pandemic well into 2021. We will continue to have our Photo Shows and Field Trips although adapted as necessary because of the pandemic. Eventually the pandemic will end, and we will be able to return to our regular monthly meetings at Twin Lakes complete with in-person speakers for our technical presentations and in-person judges for our photo competitions.

Most members of our Photo Club Board will remain the same including Sam Lynch as Vice Present. Keith O'Leary's wife Christie will become our new Publicity Chairperson. Sandra Whitesell will no longer be the Exhibit Chairperson. It would be appreciated if another club member would like to take on this responsibility.

With all the disruptions it has been easy to forget that we would like to continue to grow the club's membership. In particular, it would be nice to get some younger members to give us more diversity. I appreciate suggestions as to how we could accomplish this.

Scott Duvall
APC President Duvallse@earthlink.net
336-438-1791



**The Alamance Photography Club Members and Board
express their great appreciation to**

Mike King

**for his selfless dedication, leadership, and time given to the
success and growth of the club as**

President

2019—2020

APC BOARD

President	Scott Duvall	Outings/Field Trips	Hugh Comfort
Vice President	Sam Lynch	Publicity Chair	Jayne Tapia
Secretary	George Siple	Exhibit Chair	
Treasurer	Nancy Jacobus	Membership Chair	Carole Barnard
PhotoShow Committee		Twin Lakes Rep.	Len Barnard
Chair	Keith O'Leary	Web Master	Christie O'Leary
Members	Herbert House	Past President	Mike King
	Gene Lentz	Editor	Ray Munns

January 18th PhotoShow: Strange (*uncommon*) Signs

Keith O'Leary, PhotoShow Chair

We encourage ALL members to submit photographs for our bi-monthly Photo Show and would like to see EVERYONE represented!

We try not to exceed 50 photos per show. Therefore, we ask that you submit a maximum of two (2) photos. We may only use one of your photos based on the number of entries so PLEASE indicate your preferred photo in the file name of each photo (01 or 02; See naming information below). If you have any issues with formatting or submitting, please let us know at apcphotoshow@gmail.com and we will be happy to assist. Also let us know if your submitted photo is not acknowledged within a few days and/or by the deadline.

Submission Details

Number of Entries:

Max of two (2) entries per member. Please indicate your preferred photo with the number 01.

Size:

No larger than 25 MB.

Preferred minimum size is 1024 x 768.

Format:

.jpg

File Naming:

Please rename your photo submissions using the following format:

Firstname.lastname_01 or _02 (*per use preference*)

Example: john.doe_01.jpg john.doe_02.jpg

Email:

Email Address: Send all images to apcphotoshow@gmail.com

Email Subject Line: Include the month of the PhotoShow and your name

Example: Photos for Jan Photoshow – John Doe

OUR JANUARY SHOW WILL BE MEMBER VOTING!

Be on the lookout for an invitation to complete the online voting form!

Entry Deadline:

5 PM on Friday, Jan. 8, 2021. Online voting to occur Sat, Jan 9th thru Fri, Jan 15th.

Please Note:

Submissions that do not adhere to the guidelines above may be returned.

Don't forget: Photos may be submitted early for the following show!

2021-Q1 Personal Field Trip: **Downtowns**

Hugh Comfort, Outings/Field Trips Coordinator

Keith O'Leary, PhotoShow Chairman

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, field trips will be conducted on a personal level vs as a group event. Please practice social distancing and do not trespass in the effort to get that perfect shot. Be well and be safe.

For 2021, we will have one field trip per quarter. Pictures must be taken during that quarter and may be submitted *anytime* during the quarter. i.e. Jan 1st thru March 31st for Quarter 1. A link to all submitted photos will be shared with the club on the first day of the month following quarter-end. Up to 5 field trip pictures may be submitted per member to share with the club. Based on participation, we may only share your top 3 or 4, so please number them in the order of your preference. See below for details.

Field Trip Photo Submission Details

Number of Entries:

One (1) to five(5) entries per member. Please indicate your preferred photo with the number 01.

Size:

Due to the number of photos for this event, we ask, if you are able, to resize your photos to 1-2 MB if possible, but nevertheless not to exceed 20 MB.

Format:

.jpg

File Naming:

Please rename your photo submissions using the following format:

FirstName.LastName_nn, where nn is the number (01-05) indicating preference where lower numbers are more preferred than higher numbers.

Example: john.doe_01.jpg john.doe_02.jpg

Email:

Email Address: Send all images to apcphotoshow@gmail.com

Email Subject Line: Include the Field Trip "topic" and your name

Example: Photos for Downtowns Field Trip – John Doe

Entry Deadline:

Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

A link to view all submissions will be emailed to members by Thursday evening, April 1, 2021.

Please Note:

Pictures not taken in field trip time period (Jan-Mar) are subject to rejection as these should be recent photos taken specifically during these personal field trips timelines.

Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro, NC



The Center will be closed Dec 23 through Jan 3. Laura will be back on campus Monday, Jan 4. Starting Jan 4, members can call Laura directly (336-708-2495) to set up times for visits. Visitors should try to come during business hours.

Individuals and small groups are both welcome. Everyone needs to wear a mask, will get their temps taken, and will answer a few questions about current health. I can also send you a sheet to print and sign with those questions, and you can bring that with you. We just need to keep the number of visitors within the Governor's current mandated numbers. They would not allow visitors during the week of the next program, Jan 11-14.

I will keep you posted if additional dates are available for visits.

(I will arrange a time after the new year to capture some photos of the exhibit for the website and newsletter).

Mike King

"Stay at Home" Member Photos



By Ray Munns



“Stay at Home” Member Photos



By Keith O'Leary



“Stay at Home” Member Photos

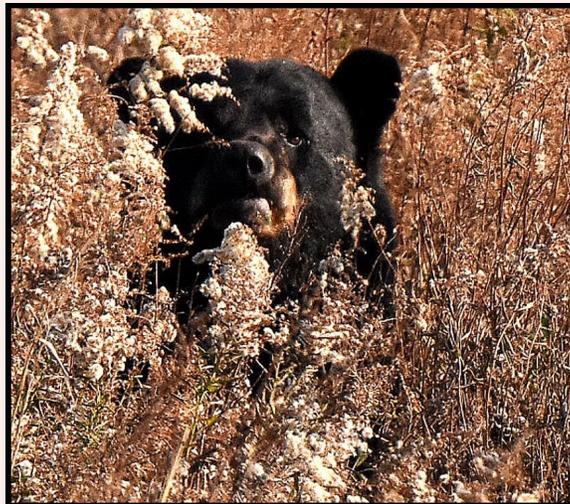


By Herbert House

“Stay at Home” Member Photos



By
Bob Finley



Frost and Ice Photography Tips

By John Maxymuik

In previous articles we've considered photography tips using water as an ideal photo subject during warm seasons when it involves waves, waterscapes, waterfalls, reflections, abstracts, spray 'n splash, bubbles 'n foam, puddles, condensation, hail, mist and fog to help us out of the photo doldrums. Now, let's consider some of its cold season photo ops for doing that.



Photo by Paxson Woelber

Water is unique because it can be found in all three basic states: vapor, liquid and solid. In the cold seasons, when it can turn crystalline or solid, is when it can produce truly fascinating and amazing pictures. Here are some photography tips for that season:

Frost

Frost transforms things into artwork. On leaves and vegetation, subtle edge and vein patterns stand out boldly as intriguing designs. On window panes frost patterns can be fascinating. Again, it's mainly a matter of checking out your local weather forecast, knowing your surroundings, what to expect, and getting there with your camera before it melts!

Frost and Ice Photography Tips . . . Continued

Ice



Photo by Kasia

If there are puddles, or a pond or lake nearby, check out the edges when the water freezes. There will be ice captives—leaves and twigs—just below the surface encased in the ice, sometimes with air bubbles and patterns in the ice itself. Just be careful about thin ice and how far out on the ice you venture when taking such pictures!

Re-Freeze

Here is a special ice situation to look out for: it snows, then turns mild and rainy, then suddenly cold snaps. Check out the depressions and roadside ditches. The snow has been ‘sculptured’ by the melt and run-off, then encased (along with leaves, etc.) in the clear ice from the rain and cold snap, producing some very unusual subjects.

Frost and Ice Photography Tips . . . Continued

Is there a lively stream or brook nearby, one which tumbles and bubbles over stones, rocks or fallen trees and branches, generating splash and spray? When the temperature drops well below freezing you'll find a delicate embroidery-like ice (hence the name) forms on the edges of things from the spray.



Photo by Justin Fincher

Self-Assignments For Above Photography Tips

Choose the projects that interest you most. Follow the photography tips conscientiously. Re-shoot when you aren't satisfied. Do it until you are satisfied. It'll take all your patience and passion. Your skills and eye will improve with the practice. Shoot especially in early and late light. Use a tripod as much as possible. Edit your results relentlessly. Pin small samples on the wall for a few days to study before making final prints for wall art.

Frost

During winter cold-spells choose a window that faces the rising sun and place a humidifier in front of it. Open the inner window about $\frac{1}{4}$ " to let warm moist room air enter and contact the outer window to form Jack Frost on it. Take pictures as the sun rises and shines through the frost.

Frost and Ice Photography Tips . . . Continued

In late fall and early spring when the forecast predicts frost, get outside early and look for fallen leaves and grasses with frost on them. Take pictures.



Photo by Ruth Hartnup; ISO 80, f/2.0, 1/100-second exposure

Ice

When it's cold enough for ice to form, locate some large puddles or a pond and look for "ice captives" (leaves) just under the ice surface, and take pictures of them through the ice.

Re-freeze

When the weather does a snowfall, then a thaw with rain, then a re-freeze, get outside and check the depressions and roadside ditches for snow swirls under clear ice with leaves, etc., caught in it and take pictures.

Tenacious Grace

When the weather turns really cold, locate a nearby stream that briskly tumbles over rock piles and branch jams and you'll find 'Grace'. Find a pleasing section of it with water running by it and shoot with a slow shutter speed to blur the water in contrast to the sharply detailed ice.

Lens Hood: A Vital Piece of Camera Equipment

By Brian Leng

“What’s that weird thing on the front of your lens?” This is something I hear every time I teach a photo workshop. Well, you can’t blame the students. They’re usually beginners, and since we were all beginners once, I try to cut them some slack.



Various lens hoods

Lens hoods or lens shades are a vital piece of camera equipment that you must have on all lenses. Why? Because its main purpose is to prevent lens flare, which happens when you point your lens toward the sun at just the right angle. It looks like a series of translucent rings. Sometimes you’re able to see them through your eye piece and are able to change your angle, but most of the time they appear unexpectedly—and they aren’t easy to Photoshop out.

A lens hood keeps the light from entering the lens from the sides and degrading the quality of your image. It helps improve the saturation, color, contrast, and density of the photograph.

Why do I have so many students come to class with “naked lenses”? The reason is simple—they aren’t told that a lens hood is an essential piece of camera hardware for the production of quality images.

Lens hoods are also good protection for the front of the lens, keeping it safe from damage and fingerprints. The tulip shaped lens hoods are used on zoom lenses to accommodate the many focal lengths of the lens. Lens shades for fixed focal length lenses are not tulip shaped.

Lens Hood: A Vital Piece of Camera Equipment. . . Continued



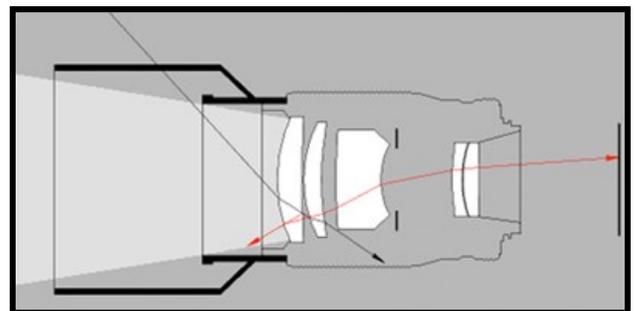
An example of lens flare

There are many different lens hoods produced by third party manufacturers, which are less expensive than brand name equipment. They can be made out of plastic, metal, or rubber. Rubber lens hoods are ideal, because they're best for shooting through glass; the rubber may adhere directly to the glass without slipping and thus reduce reflections. As an added bonus, rubber lens hoods can collapse to take up less room in a camera bag.

The most important thing to remember when buying a lens shade is to find one to correspond to your lens' focal length. An incorrectly matched shade will produce "cut off" on the corners of your image, which is just as bad as lens flare, if not worse. The rim of the shade contains the necessary information for matching it to the lens. The shade will list the circumference of the corresponding lens in millimeters, and it will also show the focal length of the lens which the shade was designed to be used on.

Why some manufactures don't include a lens shade with the purchase of a new lens is beyond me, but what I find even more startling is that camera stores don't recommend lens shades to their customers. It's no wonder so many people fail to realize the necessity of this equipment. I personally have lens hoods or shades for all of my lenses and use them whether I'm photographing indoors or outdoors.

How light slips through the sides of the lens without a lens hood. If you'd like to improve the quality of your images, I highly recommend that you buy a shade for all of your lenses.



11 Tips for Awesome Abstract Photos

By Anthony Epes

I don't consider myself a genre-specific photographer. For me, sticking to specific genres is so limiting. I like to go out, explore the world, and see what attracts my eye.

So although I am going to share some ideas about abstract photography – it's not definitive or exclusive.

These ideas and photos are aimed at inspiring you and sparking ideas for your photography.

Of all the arts, abstract painting is the most difficult. It demands that you know how to draw well, that you have a heightened sensitivity for composition and for colors, and that you be a true poet. This last is essential. —Wassily Kandinsky

And I feel the same is true of abstract photography. It seems easy and simple – but in fact requires real attention, a 'heightened sensitivity' to both composition and to the world around you.

So What is Abstract Photography?

There are many definitions, but what it means to me is that you are removing the context of the subject so that you don't know what you are looking at.

You are creating a photo that is all about color, light, shape, form, or texture.

And you are re-forming the world to make your own subjects, things that are not what they appear to be in real life.

It's a really fun medium to play with because I think so much of photography can be about recreating reality. This genre is about breaking rules and escaping reality.

My definition of an abstract image is when someone looks at it and they say: what is that?



*11 Tips for Awesome Abstract Photos . . . Continued***1. Abstraction is Pure Imagination**

I talk about imagination a lot in my courses because imagination is so important to my photography.

It's all about looking around the world and letting my imagination run completely free.

Asking questions and dreaming up scenarios....

"That reminds me of..."

"That makes me think of..."

"I wonder what that would look like if..."

To deal with the chaos of life, I escape into the prism of glass, dancing to the visual music in my mind. My photographs express my interior movement from darkness into light and back. —Polly Norman

This to me is like some old broken, 70's color TV.

*Window on Regent's Street London
Dirty greenhouse roof*



11 Tips for Awesome Abstract Photos . . . Continued

2. Textures



I love to capture textures, and they make a great focus for abstract shots.

Textures are a really easy way to create a feeling in a photo, to translate how something feels when you touch it.

Textures are a way of thinking not just what your subjects look like, but what the textures that make up the world are:

The fronds of long grass. The sleek shine of marble. The unctuous feeling of bread dough. The tense feeling of the grit in the pavement.

How can you play with textures in your photography?

3. Reduction

Photography for me is what you take out, not just what you include. Because often people include too much or don't consider every element of their frame, leaving bits and random pieces in their shot that distract the viewer's eye.

Abstracts are a great way to focus so completely on your subject, you can be ruthless in reducing what you include in the frame.



You can also play with color.

11 Tips for Awesome Abstract Photos . . . Continued

4. Abstracts Can Invoke a Feeling of Mystery

Abstraction generally involves implication, suggestion and mystery, rather than obvious description. —Robert Genn



This photo is not maybe what you would think of as abstraction – but to me it looks like a lost head on a moon crater:

It's a little mysterious right?

Looking at the world beyond the obvious, finding the mysterious all around you – using suggestions and questions...these are all good things to consider.

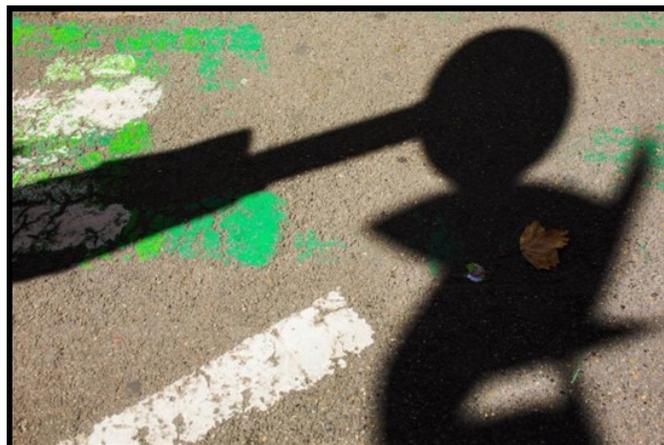
5. Breaking the World Down into Elements

For me, abstraction is all about having FUN. Making images that are strange or weird or mysterious.

It's about breaking the world down into elements, but more than that, into its purest forms, making what we see in the world completely about shape, color, light, and form.

It's not recording a subject but almost inventing your own subjects.

What are the elements that make up our world? What do things look like when disconnected from their whole?



11 Tips for Awesome Abstract Photos . . . Continued

6. It's Not Easy Photography

In fact, it's harder to make abstract photos interesting because there is less going on. Abstraction forces you to reach the highest level of the basics. —Alan Soffer



It's celebrating the simplicity of elements, forcing your brain to disassociate from the known and making the simplest of lines and shapes interesting.

7. Bringing the Essence of Our Subject Out

To abstract is to draw out the essence of a matter. To abstract in art is to separate certain fundamentals from irrelevant material that surrounds them. —Ben Shahn

Using shape and form, color, and light, to create something completely new.

To try and capture the feeling of different elements around you – and bring their inherent qualities to the forefront of your images.



11 Tips for Awesome Abstract Photos . . . Continued

8. Refreshment for the Eye, and the Imagination!

Abstract images are creating something stripped down and giving the eye and the mind something completely different to look at.

I understand abstract art as an attempt to feed imagination with a world built through the basic sensations of the eyes. —Jean Helion

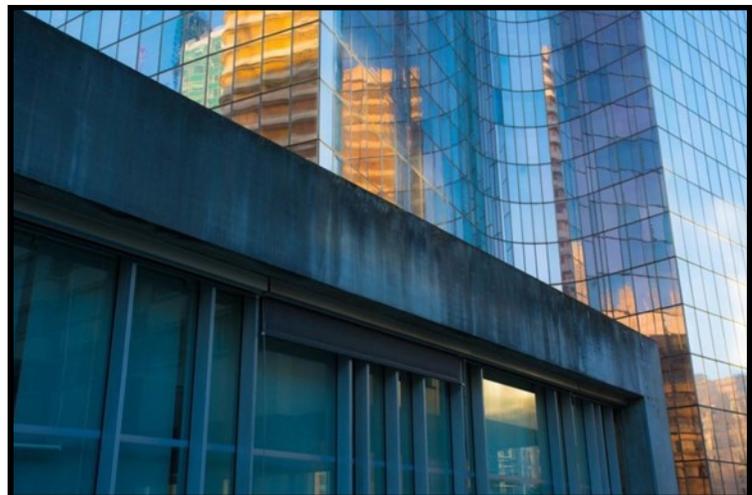


And I love that! Feeding the imagination, and generating different sensations for the eye to behold.

9. Perspective



Finding unusual angles for things is a great way to shoot everyday things so they appear untethered from what you usually see.



11 Tips for Awesome Abstract Photos . . . Continued

10. Celebrating the Pure Emotional Impact of Form or Color or Light

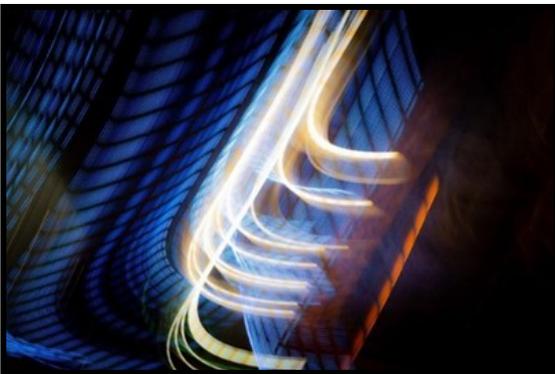


Abstract art has helped us to experience the emotional power inherent in pure form. —Anton Ehrenzweig

I love anything that is about creating simple images that evoke feeling through color and shape.

11. Light

And, of course, because for me everything is about light – playing with light to make your elements more interesting, more imaginative, and more exciting to look at. Or even just capturing light by itself.



I want to have a lot of fun with my photography.

To play, to be absorbed in it, and to have it really enhance my life.

I hope these ideas have helped spark some ideas about what you can do with your photos this week. Regardless of whether you are inside or able to explore outside.