

August PhotoShow Winners "Historic & Historical"



1st Place – Photo by Randy Grosch

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President's Comments—September 2026

By Keith O'Leary

Thanks to Brian Fullington for his comments and PhotoShow presentation of our Historical photos last month. I was pleased to see our average in-house attendance online and hope you enjoyed the meeting.

Hard to believe that autumn will officially be here this month. I'm looking forward to some cooler temps. How about you? Plan now to participate in 2 big events in September. Our monthly meeting on 9/21 will be a program on Astrophotography by Dr Steven Dingeldein and the following weekend is the annual Esperanza Festival in Graham on Sat. 9/26 where we have been invited to come take photos of the various events from 12:00 - 8:00. BTW: Did you know September is National Hispanic Heritage month?

Have you noticed the Alamance Arts and MPB logos in the newsletter and on our website (www.alamancephoto.com)? We have added a link behind each logo so when you click on them, you will be directed to their respective websites for more info about each organization. Try them out today.

Well, keep reading and enjoy the rest of our September newsletter. Stay well and happy shooting!

Your President,
Keith O'Leary

APC ACTIVITIES - September 2026

- **Club Meeting** **September 21, 2026**

APC Board with Contact Info



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VP/Programs

John Reich

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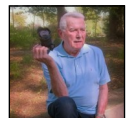
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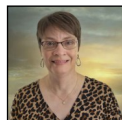
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Ray Munns

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Programs for 2026

By John Reich

- ✓ January - Sterling Stevens of Sterling Stevens Design
Subject - Architectural and Fine Art Photography
- ✓ March - Mio Winkle
Subject - Mio's Underwater Photography
- ✓ May - Joe McDonald of McDonald Wildlife
Subject - The Best Techniques and Settings for Wildlife Photography
- ✓ July - Keith O'Leary
Subject - Photo Editing with InPixio Photo Studio
- September - Steve Dingeldein
Subject - Astrophotography
- November - Ann Parks of Ann Marson Annstracts
Subject - Abstract Photography

What other program topics are you interested in? Let me know of any suggestions you may have. Thanks! - John

September Program - "Astrophotography"

By Steve Dingeldein

I'm a Greensboro native and joined Alamance Eye Center in 1988. I graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill and attended Princeton Theological Seminary. I received my medical degree from UNC-Chapel Hill and completed an internship in internal medicine and a residency in ophthalmology at UNC. I completed subspecialty training in diseases and surgery of the cornea at Louisiana State Medical Center in New Orleans. In August 1991, as the principal investigator in clinical trials on the VISX excimer laser project in NC, I was the first physician in this area to treat myopia with an excimer laser.

Even though I took a (film) photography class in college, I really didn't start photography until I started scuba diving in 1994. I wanted to document what I saw so I could figure out what I was looking at. I moved on to topside nature photos and then in recent years my intellectual ADD took me into astrophotography.

Calling for Submissions: October PhotoShow –

“Your Favorite Vacation Location(s)”

Our October PhotoShow theme is perfect for the last PhotoShow of the year..... **“Your Favorite Vacation Location(s)”**. The theme invites you to share images from a place that holds special meaning—your favorite vacation location, whether from a recent trip or pulled from your catalog of past travels. This theme is intentionally broad: it can be a quiet mountain overlook, a bustling city you love to revisit, a serene beach from years ago, or even a memorable stop from a cruise or road trip. If you are like me, I can’t narrow my trips down to one favorite, since you can submit up to three photos ---- draw from 1, 2 or 3 different locations.

Think about the places that made you pause and reach for your camera. The goal isn’t just to showcase beautiful scenery, but to share your photography and let us see the world through your experiences—*why the place you photographed mattered to you*. If it mattered to you it belongs in this show.

When you send me your photos, please include in the email where each photo was taken.

Submission Guidelines:

Number of Entries: Up to Two or Three (2 or 3) entries per member.

Format: .jpg

File Naming: Please name your photos using the following format:

Firstname.lastname_01, _02, _03

Examples: john.doe_01.jpg john.doe_02.jpg john.doe_03.jpg

Size: Between 1 and 25 MB

Email: Send all images to apcphotoshow@gmail.com

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

Example: Photos for (Month) PhotoShow – John Doe

Entry Deadline: Thursday, October 15, 2026

Please Note:

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

*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.***

Photo editing software with AI features (e.g., Affinity Photo, ON1, and Lightroom) is allowed. Total AI creation of photos (e.g., ChatGPT and CoPilot) is not allowed.



WEBMASTER NOTES

Our website: <https://www.alamancephoto.com/> is a great way:

- To introduce potential members to the club.
- To stay up to date on the club events.

Thanks,

Christie O'Leary—Webmaster

APC Membership Corner

September, 2026

Alamance Photo Club (APC) welcomes photographers of all skill levels. We offer numerous opportunities for members to explore topics and activities that relate to their photography style.

Guests are always welcome, so please continue to invite your family, friends, and community members to our meetings. This is also an excellent opportunity for new members to join and take advantage of half-price membership dues through the end of September.

Additionally, as an affiliate of Alamance Arts (AA), we have an opportunity to display our work at **The Captain White House**. This exhibit will highlight our members' photography in a new venue and provide greater exposure for our club. If you are interested in displaying photos, please let me know.

****** See the monthly Newsletter calendar for meetings and upcoming events. ******

Resi Forrest – Membership Chair

apcmembers2@gmail.com

Fall 2026 Field Trip: ESPERANZA 2026

The final field trip for this year will be an in-person field trip to the Esperanza festival in Graham on September 2026 (see flyer below). This free event will take place from 12-8 PM on September 26, 2026, in the 100 block of West Elm Street. There will be lots of music, food, color, activity and excitement! Stay tuned for more info re: sharing your top 5 photos on an APC Google Photos album plus another for photos that will be shared with the festival planning committee for possible use in advertising future events.

Hugh Comfort – Outings/Field Trips



August PhotoShow Winners



2nd Place – George Siple



3rd Place – Tom Jamison



HM by David Hall



HM by Hugh Comfort



HM by Karen Cole-Loy

Thank you Brian Fullington for your time and effort in judging our PhotoShow! We appreciate your informative comments and the great job you did.



ALAMANCE ARTS

WHERE ART LIVES

Dear Artist,

Alamance Arts would like to invite you to participate in our 39th Annual Experience Christmas Exhibition. This showcase has become a treasured tradition in Graham and provides a wonderful opportunity for our community to shop small and support North Carolina artists. The historic Captain White House, home of Alamance Arts, is transformed into a winter wonderland of sparkling garlands and Christmas trees, providing the perfect backdrop for a wide variety of handcrafted artisan works. We hope that you will be a part of that tradition this year.

Here's what you need to know:

- Alamance Arts staff handles the displaying and sales of all artwork. Artists set their own prices, and Alamance Arts will retain a commission of 30 percent.
- Number of pieces accepted will depend on how many artists participate and the size of the art. Specifics will be worked out with each artist individually.
- There is no submission fee for this exhibition.
- Art should be delivered to Alamance Arts during operating hours starting October 1st through October 24th. If this time line will not work for you please let me know and we will work out an alternative.
- Artists will need to sign an exhibition contract and fill out an inventory sheet. These documents can be emailed to you, or you may fill them out on site.
- This exhibition will open on the evening of Friday, November 20th with a ticketed reception. We will then be open to the public November 21st through December 24th. We will have an After Christmas Sale event January 5th-9th. Discounts applied to sales will not affect artist's 70% commission.
- Unsold art can be picked up starting Monday, January 25, 2027. Further details about art pick-up will be sent out closer to the end of the year.
- Artists intending to participate should contact me, Artist Services Director, Kat Harris, by email at artservices@alamancearts.org or by phone at 336-226-4495. Indication of intended participation would be appreciated by September 18th.

Thank you for helping to make Alamance Arts a community hub for creativity. We could not exist without the participation of our dedicated artists. I look forward to seeing all the amazing pieces you each have to offer this year.

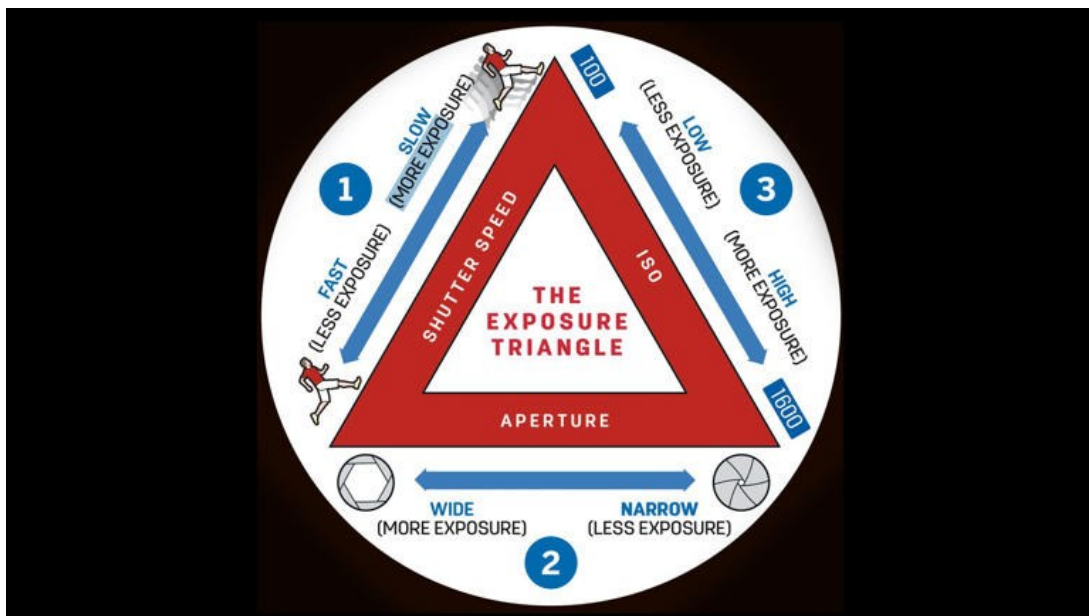
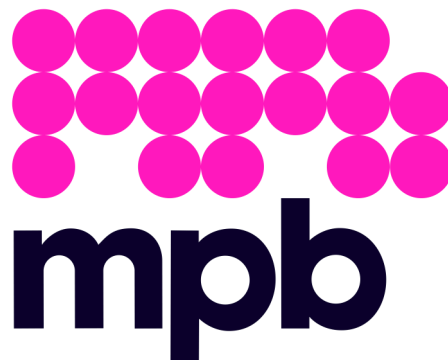
Sincerely,

Kat Harris
Artist Services Director
Alamance Arts

MPB helps you buy, sell or trade used camera gear at the perfect price.

By recirculating over half a million items annually, MPB promotes a brighter photographic future for visual storytellers of all experience levels.

Don't wait to change gear with MPB. The planet (and your pocket) will thank you. Click logo below for more info:



7 Essential Fall Photography Tips to Capture Breathtaking Photos

By Jay Patel

Autumn is coming soon to a region near you! I loved the appearance of the first fall foliage – and the inevitable explosion of red and gold as the maples shift their hue. And for nature photographers this is an exciting time of the year. The rich, golden hues of fall foliage, the crisp air, and the softer sunlight provide a perfect canvas for capturing nature's beauty before the long colorless winter sets in. Successful fall photography requires the right timing, proper skills, and keen observation of the elements around you.

Whether you're an experienced photographer or just starting, this guide will help you make the most of autumn's vibrant palette with seven essential tips for fall photography.

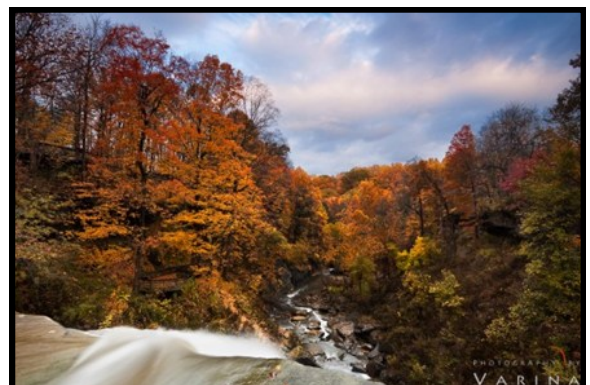
#1: Find the Right Light for Fall Photography

Lighting is key in any photography, and during autumn, it's even more critical. The soft, golden light of early morning or late afternoon, also known as the golden hour, brings out the rich colors of the season. During this time, the low-angle sunlight casts longer shadows, creating a more dynamic range of tones that can elevate your images. Another trick that pros often use when photographing fall colors is to wait until everything you are photographing is in shade. This is how I captured these fall scenes from Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio.



Fall photography in shade from Brandywine Falls, Cuyahoga National Park

Fall photography in soft light from Brandywine Falls, Cuyahoga National Park



7 Essential Fall Photography Tips to Capture Breathtaking Photos . . . Continued

#2: Look for Macro Photography Opportunities

Autumn is the perfect time to get up close and personal with nature. Don't limit yourself to the broad landscapes; instead, explore the small wonders that often go unnoticed. Macro photography allows you to capture the intricate details of fall—dewdrops on a leaf, the textures of tree bark, or the veins of a leaf that's changing color. Use a macro lens to bring out the fine details in your subject, and focus on elements like mushrooms, acorns, and even insects that make their appearance during the fall.

Look for interesting patterns and textures and pay close attention to your background. Use the negative space to create a sense of place and create a mood.

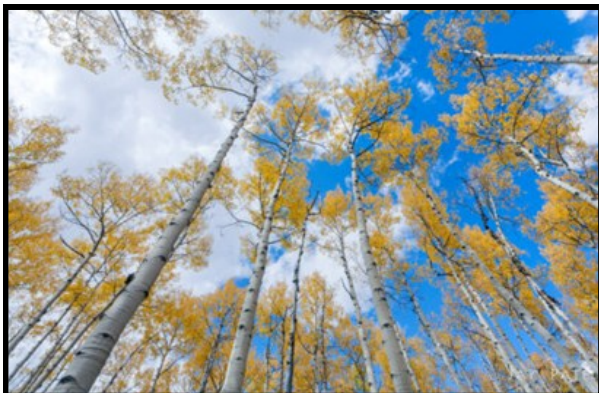
Varina captured this beautiful aspen leaf in Marble, Colorado with a macro photography lens using a diffuser to modify the light on a small subject.



Fall macro photography with Canon 180mm F3.5 macro lens, Marble, Colorado

#3: Use a Circular Polarizer Filter

To make the vibrant colors of fall pop, consider using a circular polarizer filter. This tool helps to reduce glare from reflective surfaces like wet leaves, streams, or lakes, which can otherwise distract from your subject. A polarizer also enhances contrast, saturating the reds, oranges, and yellows in the foliage, giving your images a deeper, more vivid look. Additionally, this filter brings out rich colors in the sky and creates dramatic complementary colors between warm fall foliage and blue skies.



Fall foliage and blue sky – complimentary colors from Snowmass Wilderness, Colorado

7 Essential Fall Photography Tips to Capture Breathtaking Photos . . . Continued

#4: Use Reflections for Fall Photography

Fall offers ample opportunities to play with reflections. Lakes, rivers, and puddles can serve as natural mirrors, doubling the effect of vibrant fall colors. Position yourself to capture the reflection of trees or skies in the water for a more immersive and symmetrical image. If the water is still, you'll create a mirror-like reflection, adding depth and interest to your composition. This technique works exceptionally well during calm, early morning shoots, when the wind is minimal, and the water surface is smooth.

In this photograph, Jay used the calm waters of Maroon Lake in Colorado to capture the reflection of the fall colors on the mountains. Jay chose not to use his circular polarizer filter because it would have minimized the reflections of the mountains and clouds.

Autumn photography with reflections – Snowmass Wilderness, Colorado



#5: Set Your Camera Exposure Correctly

When photographing fall scenes, it's easy to overexpose or underexpose different parts of your images. Be mindful of your exposure settings to ensure you capture the full range of tones. Use your histogram to check for blown-out highlights, particularly when shooting sunlit leaves or bright skies. If the highlights are overexposed, consider bracketing your shots—taking multiple exposures at different settings—to blend later in post-processing or to choose the best exposure. You can also use exposure compensation to slightly underexpose, preserving the details in the bright areas.

I took this fall photo in the Grand Staircase of Escalante. We arrived just before sunset and Varina used a wide angle lens to capture the color in the sky before it faded. I had to use exposure bracketing for this autumn photo in order to capture the entire dynamic range and then I used Photoshop layers and masks to manually blend different exposures.



Fall Photography at Sunset – Paria Townsite, Grand Staircase-Escalante, Utah

7 Essential Fall Photography Tips to Capture Breathtaking Photos . . . Continued

#6: Create In-Camera Effects with Motion and Blur

To add a creative twist to your autumn photos, experiment with motion and blur effects. One method is *intentional camera movement (ICM)*, where you move the camera during a long exposure to create abstract, painterly streaks of color. Another technique is subject motion blur, where you keep the camera still but let the subject (like falling leaves or moving water) blur through the frame. These effects can give your images a dynamic feel, evoking the sense of movement in nature and adding artistic flair to your work.

Intentional Camera Movement

This technique involves moving the camera while the shutter remains open. Rather than creating a tack sharp image, the resulting image will be a blurry fine art abstract similar to the photo Varina captured in Marble Colorado.

Creative fall photography using in-camera motion

If you are shooting during the day, you may need a neutral density filter (ND filter) to slow down the shutter speed during the in-camera motion. You may find that in-camera motion requires experimentation (such as varying the direction and speed) to get the desired results.



Subject Motion Blur

In this creative fall photography technique, you can use wind or water to create motion blur in the fall foliage you are trying to capture. You may need an ND filter to create the long exposures that are necessary to capture the motion blur with the moving subject.



In this image from New Mexico, Varina used a long exposure to capture blurry fall photos on a windy day. She wanted to capture the beauty of the landscape as high winds and heavy clouds announced a coming storm in New Mexico. She was drawn by the rich orange colors and the complimentary deep blue/grey of the sky.

Image #1: Long exposure fall photo from Bosque del Apache Wildlife Preserve, New Mexico

7 Essential Fall Photography Tips to Capture Breathtaking Photos . . . Continued

#7: Pay Attention to Your Post Processing

Even after you've captured stunning fall photos, your work isn't done! Post-processing is a crucial step in bringing out the best in your images. Adjust the saturation and contrast to emphasize the warm autumn tones, but be careful not to overdo it—subtlety is key to keeping the image looking natural. Consider tweaking highlights and shadows to balance exposure, white balance, color saturation to enhance depth & vibrancy. If your photo has distracting elements, cropping or cloning out small imperfections can make a big difference. Programs like Lightroom or Photoshop can help fine-tune the final touches to create a polished, professional look.

In photo #1 on the previous page from New Mexico, Varina used exposure bracketing guided by her histogram readings to manage the dynamic range challenges common in fall photography. In addition to this, white balance proved to be tricky. Since Varina used a wide-angle lens, the lighting varied significantly across different areas of the scene. The foreground required one white balance setting, while the sky needed a completely different adjustment to achieve a balanced look.



Image #2: White balance: 7000K for foreground – Bosque del Apache Wildlife Preserve, New Mexico

In this image the foreground colors are perfect, but the sky appears unnaturally white. This happens because the light's white balance in the sky differs from that on the ground. When Varina adjusted the white balance for the fall foliage, the sky looked off.

Image #3: White balance: 4900K for Sky – Bosque del Apache Wildlife Preserve, New Mexico

In this image she adjusted the white balance in the RAW converter until the sky looked correct, even though this distorted the colors of the foliage. She then blended the two versions using Photoshop layers and masks, combining the best of both to achieve the final balanced result.



7 Essential Fall Photography Tips to Capture Breathtaking Photos . . . Continued

Do Your Research

In many regions, the fall photography season is brief, making it crucial to be in the right place at the right time. A quick Google search can help you find numerous websites that track fall foliage in real-time for your destination. Be sure to do your research ahead of time to maximize your chances of capturing the vibrant autumn colors at their peak.

Fall photography is all about capturing the fleeting beauty of the season. From understanding the light to experimenting with motion and blur, these seven tips can help you make the most of autumn's unique opportunities. So grab your camera, head outside, and start exploring the magic that unfolds with every falling leaf! Happy shooting!



Inspirational Photography Quotes

"You don't make a photograph just with a camera. You bring to the act of photography all the pictures you have seen, the books you have read, the music you have heard, the people you have loved." — Ansel Adams

"Light is beautiful and if you expose for it, it will look awesome." — Daniel Aguilar

"The most important thing for us is to always be learning, push the boundaries, and to find something new and different with each shoot." — Daniel and Lindsay Stark

"What's really important is to simplify. The work of most photographers would be improved immensely if they could do one thing: get rid of the extraneous. If you strive for simplicity, you are more likely to reach the viewer." — William Albert Allard

"Don't pack up your camera until you've left the location." — Joe McNally

8 Tips for Better Coastal Photography

By Kurt Budliger



Shooting coastal photography can yield some of your most breathtaking shots, but it's not without its difficulties. Here are eight professional tips that will help you capture the wild beauty of the coast in high-quality images.

1. Shoot Early or Late

Coastal photography is beautiful any time of day, but you'll get the most vivid colors and dramatic lighting right before and after sunrise and sunset. Regardless of your coast, sunsets produce deep blue colors when you are shooting toward the ocean. Conversely, when you shoot into a sunrise or sunset you can get great warm tones in red, orange, and yellow. So, embrace the unpredictable and use these gorgeous tones to your advantage.

2. Get to Know the Wildlife

Much of the American coastline remains surprisingly untamed. Do a little research ahead of time and reap the rewards of understanding what wildlife to look for and when they are most active. You may end up with stunning, active photos of whales, dolphins, seals, pelicans, or even fish.

8 Tips for Better Coastal Photography . . . Continued

3. Bracket Your Shots

Challenging lighting and unpredictable conditions make achieving correct exposure especially difficult in coastline photography. To work around these variables, try bracketing your shots so that you get additional frames that are underexposed and overexposed, just in case. You can also blend exposures together for more of an HDR look for terrific detail in both the sea and sky.



4. Play with Scale

Without a reference point, photos of the coast can appear to be a very large or small space. Including a reference point — a person, building or lighthouse — makes it easier for the audience to understand what they're seeing. You can also obscure the scale. Waves, for example, appear similar whether large or small, which allows you to capture great photos without adding visual reference.



8 Tips for Better Coastal Photography . . . Continued

5. Weatherproof Your Equipment

Sand, salt, and water can wreak havoc on your equipment. Do your best to protect your gear by using a filter and hood on your lens, and avoid changing lenses in windy conditions. If possible, consider waterproof housing to protect your camera.



6. Elevate Yourself

Beach views run the risk of looking fairly ordinary, with a lot of sand and sky. Finding a higher vantage point allows you to frame up more of the ocean and highlight striking coastal features.



8 Tips for Better Coastal Photography . . . Continued

7. Look for Reflections

Water has great reflective qualities. If the water is still, look for reflections of rocks or birds. If you're walking along the shoreline, you may find interesting reflections in the thin layer of water moving with the tide.



8. Invest in a Polarizing Filter

Polarizing filters are fun toys for a photographer at the beach. Not only will they help to protect your lens, they also reduce glare and make your blues deeper and more vibrant — a perfect combination for a bright, reflective environment. You get what you pay for, so think carefully about your purchase, and if possible, invest in a nice filter that won't degrade your image quality.



Stop Letting Your Camera Make This Decision

One of the biggest benefits of Manual Mode isn't simply having more control over your camera.

It's that it forces you to **photograph with intention**.

Instead of raising the camera and letting it make every decision, you begin asking yourself: What do I actually want this photo to look like? More on this below.

Start With the Creative Decision

Before touching your settings, decide what's most important.

Want a soft, blurred background? Choose your aperture first.

Want to freeze action? Choose your shutter speed first.

Want silky water or motion blur? Choose a slower shutter speed.



Once you know what you're trying to accomplish, Manual Mode becomes much easier. You're no longer randomly adjusting three settings—you're choosing settings for a reason.

Then Balance the Exposure

After making that first creative decision, adjust the remaining settings to get the exposure you want.

For example, if you choose f/2.8 for shallow depth of field, select a shutter speed fast enough to avoid blur, then adjust ISO as necessary.

And if controlling all three settings feels like too much at first, there's an excellent stepping stone.

Use Manual Mode with Auto ISO. You control aperture and shutter speed—the two settings that often have the biggest creative impact—while your camera automatically adjusts ISO for the changing light.

Stop Letting Your Camera Make This Decision . . . Continued

The Real Benefit of Manual Mode

Manual Mode isn't necessarily about getting a "better" exposure than your camera can. It's about slowing down just enough to think:

- What do I want to be sharp?
- Do I want motion frozen or blurred?
- How much depth of field do I want?

That's when you're no longer just taking pictures.

You're making photographs intentionally.

PICTURECORRECT.com

RM



ALAMANCE ARTS

WHERE ART LIVES

Alamance Photography Club
is an affiliate of Alamance Arts