

[www.alamancephoto.com](http://www.alamancephoto.com)

June 2022  
Newsletter

[www.facebook.com/alamancephotoclub](https://www.facebook.com/alamancephotoclub)

# May PhotoShow Winners "Night Photography"



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Pics  
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1st Place – Don Myles

## APC ACTIVITIES

### Next Meeting

June 20, 2022

7:00pm First Baptist Church

### Board Meeting

June 6, 2022

7:00pm Panera Bread

### Programs

June 20, 2022

Melissa McGaw

Aug. 18, 2022

Melissa Southern

Oct. 17, 2022

Bob Finley—Birds

### PhotoShows

July 18, 2022

Fences

Sept. 19, 2022

H<sub>2</sub>O Reflections

Nov. 21, 2022

Abandoned Places

### Field Trips

July—Sept. 2022

Rivers and Streams

Oct.—Dec. 2022

Group Field Trip: TBD

### Exhibits

June 2022

Burlington Artist League

Sep. 6-Oct. 15, 2022

Alamance Arts

## President's Comments—June 2022

**By Keith O'Leary**

Hey. Happy June! We had another great meeting in May. Thanks to our PhotoShow judge, Brian Fullington, who did a great job providing valuable feedback and answering questions from attendees. Thanks to all who submitted photos for the show and congratulations to the winners! Also hats off to George Bohannon who led us in a brief tutorial on sharing pictures in Google Photos. We will be sending out tutorial information that will cover the basics of using Google Photos to share and comment on photos later this month.

I hope you will make plans to attend our photo exhibit at the BAL location in Holly Hill Mall this month and invite your friends as well. Reception will be Friday June 10th from 6PM to 8PM.

Before I close, I'd like to encourage more of you to actively participate in our club activities. The more of you who participate, the more we all will benefit.

Stay well and Happy Shooting!

## APC BOARD

President	Keith O'Leary	Publicity	Carole Barnard
Vice President	Sam Lynch	Outings/Field Trips	Hugh Comfort
Secretary	George Siple	Membership	Len Barnard
Treasurer	Dianne Sellers	Web Master	Christie O'Leary
PhotoShow Chair	Dick Schenck	Past President	Scott Duvall
Exhibit Chair	Angela Bostek	Editor	Ray Munns

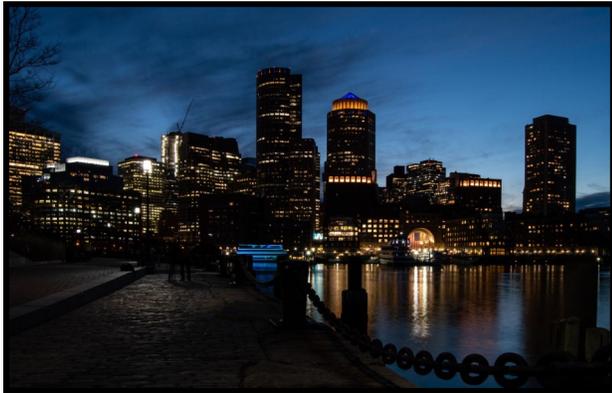
## May 16<sup>th</sup> PhotoShow



2nd Place – Keith O'Leary



3rd Place – Gary Gorby



HM 1 – George Siple



HM 2 – Ray Munns



HM 3 – Ray Munns

Brian Fullington, thank you for your time and effort in assembling and judging the APC May PhotoShow! Your experience, comments, and suggestions were very helpful in developing our photography skills. You did a great job. Also, thanks to Dick Schenck and his team for collecting the photo entries and making the PhotoShow possible.



## WEBMASTER NOTES

Visit [www.alamancephoto.com](http://www.alamancephoto.com) for the latest happenings in the club. By the way, if you are in the process of recruiting someone to the club, why not point them to our website for more information?

Like us @[facebook.com/alamancephotoclub](https://www.facebook.com/alamancephotoclub)

Christie O'Leary  
Webmaster

## Alamance Photography Club Exhibition At Alamance Arts

All members of Alamance Photography Club are invited to exhibit at Alamance Arts in Graham from September 6 - October 12, 2022. Each participant must secure the guidelines from Dianne Sellers to participate. The guidelines are available at each meeting or Dianne will be happy to email you a copy. The deadline for getting your copy and letting her know the number of pictures (2-3) you plan to exhibit is Monday, August 15, 2022.

Dianne's email: [taikijorsel@gmail.com](mailto:taikijorsel@gmail.com)

Cell phone: 336-253-5867

## Field Trips

### 2022-Q2 In-Person Field Trip

The second quarter (April-June), the in-person field trip to Duke Gardens has already occurred (see email dated May 11 to view the results). So now is the time to start planning ahead and be scouting out locations for the Q3 (July-September) personal field trip.

### 2022-Q3 Personal Field Trip: Rivers and Streams

For the third quarter of 2022 (July 1 – September 30), our locations will be Rivers and Streams. The intent here is to show *flowing water*, not dammed up rivers (those are lakes) and not just moving water (as in ocean waves). These rivers and streams may be anywhere you happen to find them (but the time for taking the photos is Q3). More information will be published in the July Newsletter.

## June 2022 Program

### Photography for the Magazine *Wildlife in North Carolina*



For 30 years Melissa McGaw has served as staff photographer for *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine. This is her story. Look through her camera's eye as it focuses on the techniques, adventures, trials and triumphs that make up the career of a successful wildlife photographer. Meet the person behind the lens and learn the secrets behind the decades of beautiful images filling the pages of our state's premier wildlife magazine.

## Alamance Photography Club Exhibit

Photo Exhibit at Burlington Artists League (BAL) in Holly Hill Mall

June 1<sup>st</sup> thru June 30<sup>th</sup>

A Reception at BAL will be  
Friday, June 10, from 6 to 8 PM

Exhibit entries may be picked up  
after June 30<sup>th</sup>



# Membership Corner

Len Barnard 336-270-3194

2022 is looking up for our Club. In March we had three young ladies join our club. They all appear to be very excited and intrigued by being involved with photography. They are Nancy Apple, Cheryl Curley, and Lecia Booe. In fact, Lecia joined us on May 5th at the Southbound restaurant as part of the **APC Lunch Bunch**. Please notice the invitation below.

Currently, I am talking with two other potential members and will be inviting them to join us on June 2nd at the Southbound restaurant. When you see a new face, introduce yourself and say welcome to them.

I would like to encourage everyone to come to the June 20th meeting. I think you will be in for a treat. **Sam Lynch has an outstanding program planned for you!**



## APC Lunch Bunch

*Join us for lunch, the first Thursday of every month,  
at Southbound Sandwich Works, Correct Time Plaza,  
3328 S. Church St. in Burlington at 12:00 noon!*

**(Exception—Southbound is closed the first week of July)**

*No agenda, no program, no music, just friendly conversation with  
fellow photographers. Spouses of members are always invited.*

*Questions, call Leonard, at 336-270-3194.*

**Hope to see you June 2nd at 12:00 noon!**

# Spring Photos at Elon by Dick Schenck



# 15 Rule of Thirds Examples to Improve Your Compositions

By Megan Kennedy

In this article, we share 15 rule of thirds examples – so you can see this helpful compositional rule in action.

If you've been struggling to understand the rule of thirds, or if you're simply looking for rule of thirds inspiration, you've come to the right place.

Let's get started!

## 1. Focus

The rule of thirds was designed to simplify artistic composition. The rule suggests that you break down scenes into nine equal parts separated by two evenly spaced horizontal and vertical lines, like the photo below.



*The grid overlay allows you to easily visualize the rule of thirds.*

*Canon 5D Mark II | Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 II with extension tubes | f/2.5 | 1/80s | ISO 100*

Important compositional elements can then be positioned along the lines of the grid, in the off-center rectangles, or at the grid's intersections.

In this photograph of a native fern (above), the sharpest point aligns with the top-left intersection of the rule of thirds grid. This composition generates more interest and depth than a centered subject, engaging the viewer and guiding the eye.

## 15 Rule of Thirds Examples to Improve Your Compositions . . . Continued

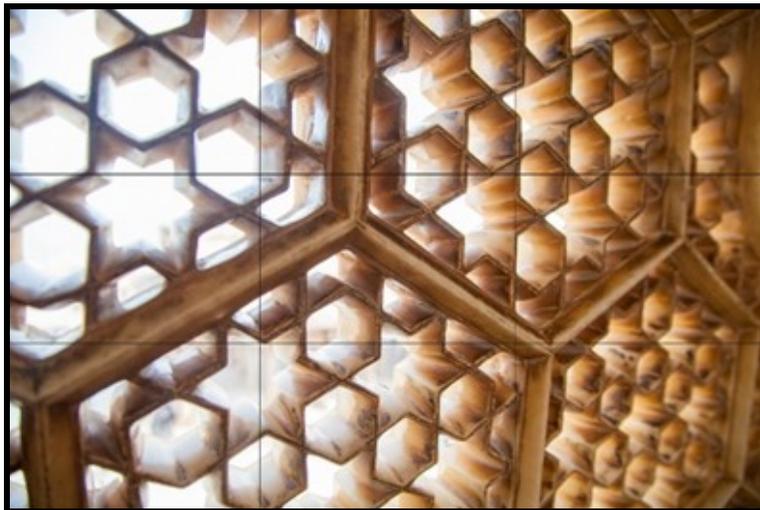
### 2. Lines



*Canon 5D Mark II | Canon EF 24-105mm f/4L IS USM | f/4 | 1/160s | ISO 125*

In this street scene, the majority of the subjects are positioned in off-center rectangles. Additionally, the two white road lines roughly align with the two horizontal gridlines. This distribution of subjects activates the edges of the photograph, adding a sense of expansion and narrative.

### 3. Pattern



*Canon 5D Mark II | Canon EF 24-105mm f/4L IS USM | f/4 | 1/100 | ISO 250*

The pattern in this decorative window suggests an overall uniformity. However, the clearest pattern elements are only visible in the upper-left corner of the rule of thirds grid.

This invites the viewer's eye to explore the various intricate perspectives that make up the scene.

## 15 Rule of Thirds Examples to Improve Your Compositions . . . Continued

### 4. Motion



*Canon 5D Mark II | Canon EF 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6L IS II USM | f/16 | 1/400s | ISO 200*

One of the main reasons for observing the rule of thirds is to discourage photographers from placing a subject at the center of a photograph. With the help of the rule of thirds, you can create more engaging interactions between the image and the viewer.

We know the standard trajectory of an aircraft. But in the example above, by framing the subject off-center, I was able to generate a clear sense of motion.

### 5. Depth



*Canon 5D Mark II | Canon EF 24-105mm f/4L IS USM | f/4 | 1/250s | ISO 100*

There are many ways to increase the sense of depth in a photograph. By offsetting the sharply focused main subject (i.e., by following the rule of thirds!), you can achieve a sense of spaciousness and three-dimensionality throughout your image.

## 15 Rule of Thirds Examples to Improve Your Compositions . . . Continued

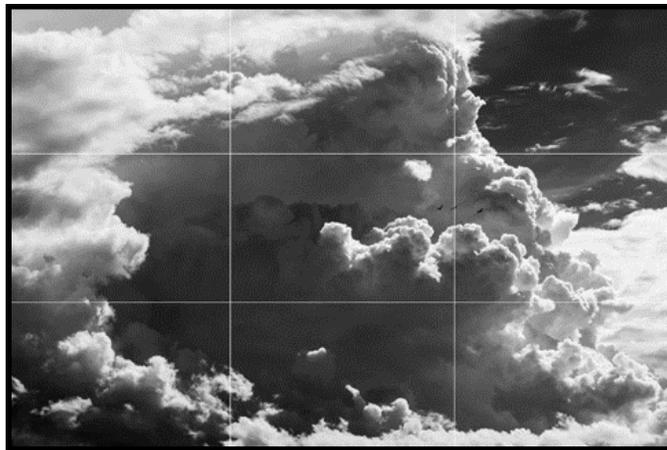
### 6. Narrative



*Canon 5D Mark II | Canon EF 24-105mm f/4L IS USM | f/7.1 | 1/100s | ISO 100*

A lot is happening in the center of this image. However, the driving figure behind the central feature is positioned off to the left, creating a shadowy clue to the story behind the photograph.

### 7. It doesn't have to be perfect



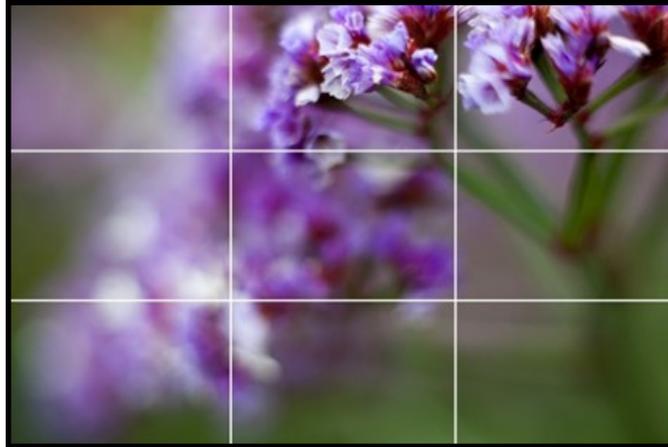
*Canon 5D Mark IV | Canon EF 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6L IS II USM | f/11 | 1/500s | ISO 100*

Despite its name, the rule of thirds is more like a guide than an unbreakable law. In the image above, three ducks make their way across a thunderous cloudscape. However, while one of the ducks is precisely aligned with the right vertical of the grid, the other two ducks are positioned independently on either side.

Nevertheless, the offset position of the ducks counterbalances the weight of the storm clouds, creating a dramatic juxtaposition. It just goes to show that the rule of thirds can be a flexible guide rather than a rigid rule.

## 15 Rule of Thirds Examples to Improve Your Compositions . . . Continued

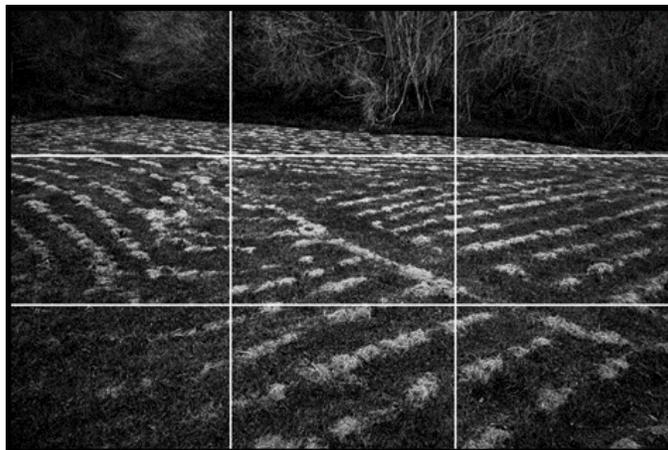
### 8. Directing the eye



*Canon 5D Mark II | Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 II with extension tubes | f/2.2 | 1/800s | ISO 200*

In this image, the emphasis is placed squarely on select areas of the flower. By positioning the subject away from the image center, you can draw the viewer's eye toward the frame's corners.

### 9. Weight



*Canon 5D Mark IV | Canon EF 24-105mm f/4L IS USM | f/7.1 | 1/100s | ISO 100*

Every element in a composition has a weight, one that's based on perceptions and real-life experience.

Darker, denser subject matter feels heavier than lighter, airier subject matter. Using the rule of thirds to group darker or lighter subject matter together in one area of an image can emphasize this weight. In the image above, lighter areas toward the bottom contrast with a dense area of shadow in the top third of the frame.

## 15 Rule of Thirds Examples to Improve Your Compositions . . . Continued

### 10. Balance

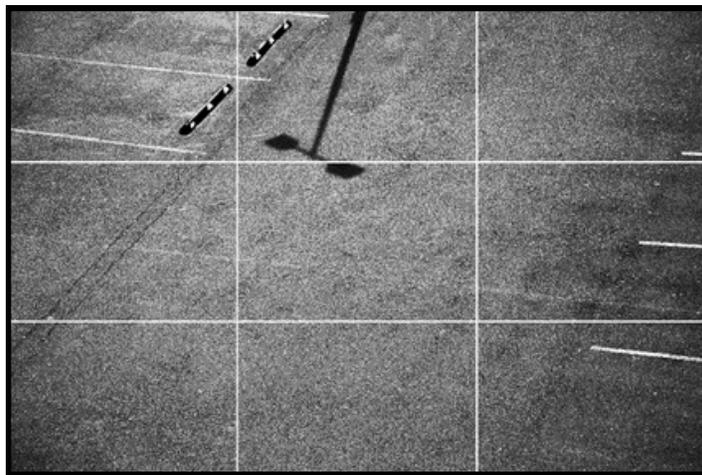


*Canon 5D Mark II | Canon EF 24-105mm f/4L IS USM | f/6.3 | 1/125s | ISO 100*

The canopy of leaves creates an engaging pattern, punctuated by the dark branches of trees – the heaviest of which are positioned toward the edges of the image.

With the help of the rule of thirds, this balance of lightness and heaviness creates an interesting and harmonious composition.

### 11. Less can be more

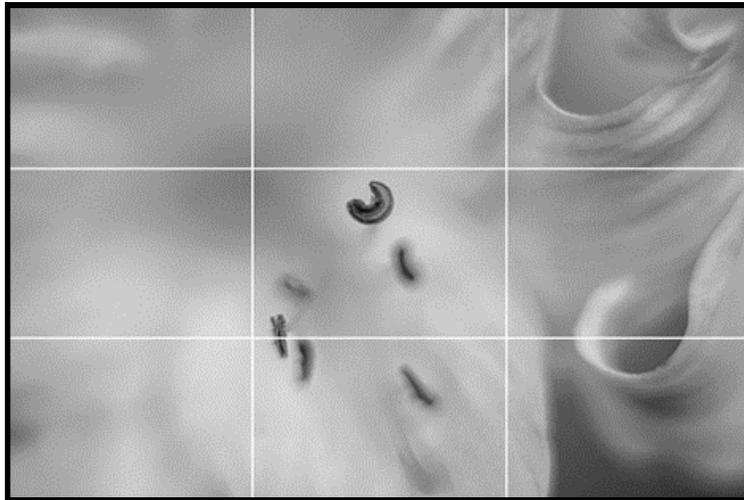


*Canon 5D Mark II | Canon EF 24-105mm f/4L IS USM | f/6.3 | 1/250s | ISO 100*

These rule of thirds examples can be a handy reminder that less is often more. By organizing subjects in accordance with the rule of thirds grid, you can give an image room to generate its own visual momentum.

## 15 Rule of Thirds Examples to Improve Your Compositions . . . Continued

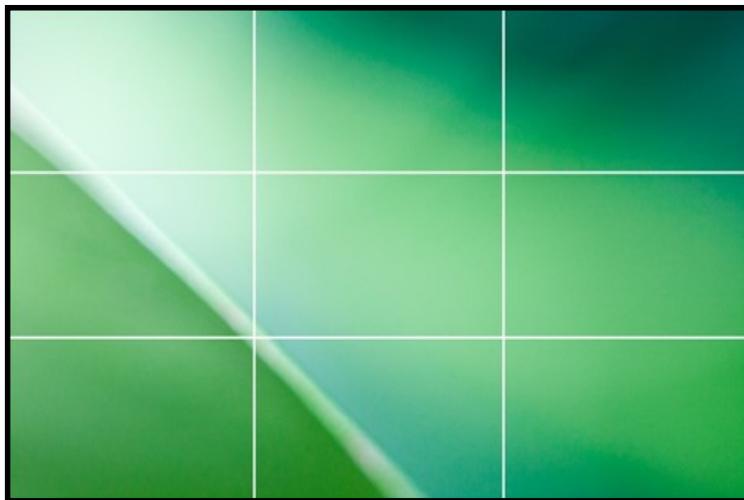
### 12. Adding detail



*Canon 5D Mark IV | Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 II with extension tubes  
f/1.8 | 1/640s | ISO 100*

This macro image of a lily contains plenty of information around the central area of the composition. However, additional off-center details make the most of the image space, adding a sense of expansive detail to the photograph.

### 13. Abstraction



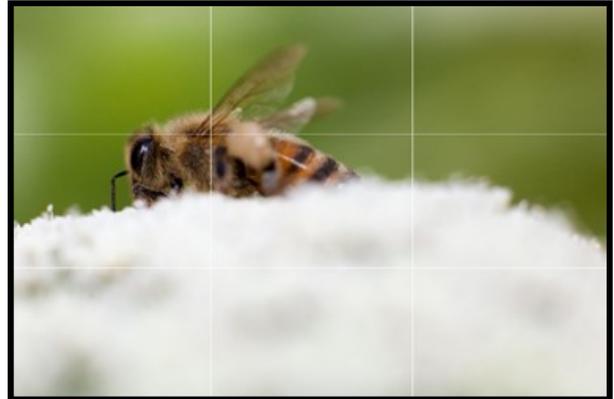
*Canon 5D Mark II | Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 II with extension tubes | f/1.8 | 1/40s | ISO 320*

Even abstract photography can benefit from the rule of thirds. Here, I've positioned an out-of-focus leaf so it intersects with the rule of thirds gridline.

## 15 Rule of Thirds Examples to Improve Your Compositions . . . Continued

### 14. Insects

*Canon 5D Mark II | Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 II with extension tubes | f/4.5 | 1/1000s | ISO 400*



Here's a fun rule of thirds example with an insect!

Insects can be tricky to photograph, but applying the rule of thirds can help create a more dynamic composition. If you compose with an insect off-center, you'll capture a more natural image that alludes to the movement and life of a living creature.

### 15. Space



*Canon 5D Mark IV | Canon EF 24-105mm f/4L IS USM | f/8 | 1/160s | ISO 100*

When a scene is full of information, incorporating an area of reduced activity can add more depth.

So rather than aligning a subject with the rule of thirds grid, try aligning the grid with an emptier portion of the scene. This allows the viewer to visually digest the image and better grasp the scene's context and behavior.

**So while the rule of thirds is more like a guide than a strict rule, use it to help you arrange the various elements of your photos.**

# How to Photograph Flowers

By Amy Renfrey

When you first discover how to take photos of flowers, it can give you many days of wonderful enjoyment. Flower photography is a favorite type of photography that many people love. It's not difficult to take photos of flowers if you get all the key elements right. If you don't have any close to you, or you do not have a garden of your own, then try a nursery or a park. You're bound to find many varieties of flowers there.

*Photo by Evangelio Gonzalez; ISO 125, f/5.0,  
1/640-second exposure*



## Light

In my experience as a pro photographer, it's best to examine your light first. It is best to use soft and filtered light for your photos of flowers. Why? Well, a strong light will reduce detail in the color and the petals. And that's where the beauty comes from. You must make sure that you bring out the detail as much as possible and that simply won't happen unless you shoot in soft light. When you make the conscious decision to choose a softer light, you'll have much better results.

Take the light on a cloudy, overcast day. It works well for flowers because it has a low intensity and doesn't create strong shadows across your flowers. These cloudy conditions are perfect for taking photos of flowers because there are no awful shadows to reduce the detail and perfection of your flower.

## Polarizing Filters

Another great tip for photographing flowers is to use a polarizing filter. The filter darkens everything in your scene once you place it onto the lens. Bright light can cause a loss of detail on your flower because it's so small and fine. The camera finds it hard to photograph detail in flowers if there's too much light flooding the petals. Use this filter to darken the light and bring out the detail.

## *How to Photograph Flowers . . . Continued*

### **Shutter Speed**

Another method for good flower photography is freezing the movement. There is nothing more frustrating than when you have carefully lined up your shot, and the movement from the wind creates out of focus images. This is a common problem. It usually takes place when you're shooting in low light and using the auto setting. The shutter slows down in overcast light and, as a result, anything moving may not look sharp.



*Photo by natlas; ISO 200, f/5.6, 1/1600-second exposure*

### **Tripod**

Keep the camera as still as you possibly can. If you don't know much about shutter speed, that's OK, just keep the camera really still. Use a good tripod. This will help a lot. Using a sturdy tripod gives you more of an advantage to create sharper and clearer photos, because the camera is rock steady.

### **Depth of Field**

The next thing to be mindful of is your sharp focus. Have you ever heard of depth of field? Depth of field just means "the range of what is in focus". When we photograph flowers, we only need a small section of the photograph to be in focus. This is called a shallow depth of field. It means the camera is not "looking" very far. It also means that when you keep your flower in focus, you can blur your background. This is a really nice effect. In close up shots of flowers, we don't need a clear background.

Want your flower photos to be sharp? This is where f stop and aperture come in to play. When you have a narrow aperture (high number f stop), it means you have a greater chance of creating sharper images. What is f stop? F stop refers to your aperture, which is a small opening in your lens that lets light in or reduces it. When you have a smaller opening, the camera is able to sharpen its view, so to speak. Once you get the hang of this, try wide apertures (low number f stops) to try to reduce your depth of field and blur out the background. For now, just watch your lighting. That's the main thing.

## *How to Photograph Flowers . . . Continued*

### **Composition**

When you place your flowers well, it means you're getting better with your photographic composition. Your composition is best kept uncomplicated. (That's why a blurry background works.) To avoid distractions in the background, I suggest tightly cropping your flower photographs.

Flower photography works when you have a really good angle. This is also known as "photographic composition", or just "composition". This relates to where you deliberately position the interesting things in your photo. You may also like to call it placement of your flower petals.



*Photo by John Uhrig; ISO 200, f/32.0, .5-second exposure*

When you zoom right in to get up close to your flower, you create a tightly cropped picture. The more you zoom, the more you start working with a smaller area. A smaller area has less light. Less light means a slower shutter or a wider aperture will probably be required. Either way, the closer you get, the more light you need.

Flower photography is the best type of photography, in my opinion. You can make your shots turn out really well if you apply the things I've shown you here today. Once you apply good lighting, composition, and technical methods, you'll quickly find you just know how to take photos of flowers easily and quickly.

# 8 Tips to Minimize Memory Card Problems

By Megan Kennedy

Memory cards are a crucial component of digital photography. Here are 8 tips to help minimize memory card problems.



*The unfortunate result of a memory card issue.*

## What is a memory card?

A memory card is a storage accessory that records the image data you make while taking photographs with a digital camera.

Square or rectangular in shape, a memory card slots into your camera and reads/writes each image file you create.

At the end of a shoot, the memory card can be removed from the camera and connected to a computer where images are then transferred for viewing, editing and storage.

There are many different memory cards built to suit different needs, camera models and budgets.

Memory cards are no doubt an amazing piece of technology, but they do require care. Fortunately, a bit of research can help minimize memory card problems.



## 8 Tips to Minimize Memory Card Problems . . . Continued

### 1. Use a good card reader

As I mentioned before, there are various types of memory cards, each with different specifications and levels of quality. There are also card readers of different qualities to match.

Card readers are the devices that transfer data from the memory card to your computer.

While card readers seem like a pretty straight-forward piece of equipment, you don't want to run the risk of corrupting files as you upload them to the computer.

Investing in a good memory card reader can save a lot of stress down the road.

### 2. Purchase quality cards

Uh, oh...the result of using a cheap memory card. Unfortunately, the image at the right couldn't be saved.

Purchasing a good memory card is key to safeguarding your images. While quality cards may be more expensive, a cheap memory card can compromise your photography.



Brands like SanDisk and Lexar are a go-to for professional photographers. Steer away from deals that look 'too good to be true' or obscure brands with poor reviews.

### 3. Eject your memory card from the computer safely



While it might seem harmless to remove your memory card from the computer without ejecting, you could be putting your next shoot at risk.

Not ejecting your card may result in corrupted data or card failure. To minimize memory card problems, always eject your card through the computer before removing it.

### **8 Tips to Minimize Memory Card Problems . . . Continued**

#### **4. Turn your camera off before removing your memory card**

Another simple way to minimize memory card problems is to turn your camera off before removing your card. Removing your memory card while the camera is still on can interrupt the writing process and potentially corrupt your image files.

In addition, avoid shooting while your camera battery is low. If your camera runs out of power while reading/writing it can be detrimental to all the data on your memory card.

#### **5. Don't completely fill your card with images**

It sounds counter-intuitive, if you have the space, why not fill the card...right?

The fact is, just like a maxed-out hard drive, a card nearing capacity under-performs, and this can compromise your images.

To avoid this issue, invest in a large memory card, keep an eye on your image-count, don't fill your card over 85-90% capacity, and always have a spare card at the ready.

#### **6. Don't switch devices without formatting**

Switching a memory card into different camera devices risks compatibility issues that can corrupt the data of the whole card.

If you need to change equipment, formatting a card before use or using a new memory card is the safest way to go.



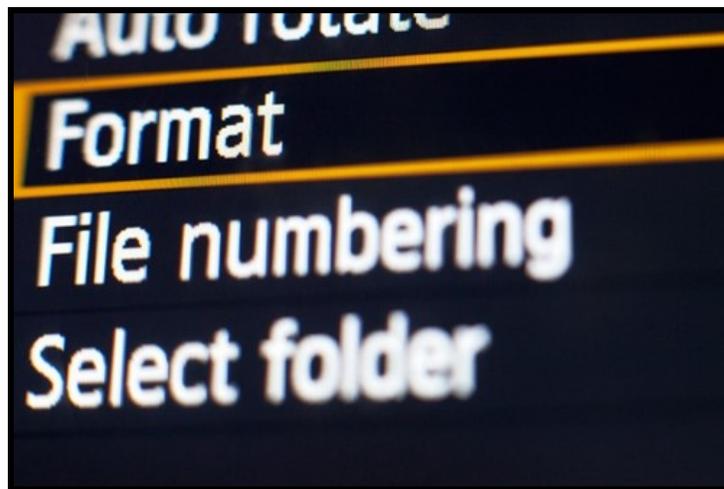
## 8 Tips to Minimize Memory Card Problems . . . Continued

### **7. Don't delete files in-camera**

If you take a photograph you aren't too keen on, it's tempting to erase the image then and there. However, deleting photographs individually in-camera can result in corrupted images.

Going through and deleting images can also soak up valuable shooting time. Wait till you have uploaded your files to the computer before you start deleting content.

### **8. Format your memory card before using it**



At the start of a new shoot, you want a memory card that is ready to read/write plenty of new data.

To do this properly, it's a good idea to format your card in-camera first.

Selecting the format option in your camera menu will clear the card, readying it for new image files.

Formatting before a shoot also minimizes the likelihood of scrambling new images with lingering data left on the card from previous shoots.

### **Conclusion**

Memory cards are amazing little pieces of technology. With a few simple steps, you can minimize memory card problems, allowing you to focus your attention on image-making instead!