North Central Camera Club Council

TABLE OF CONTESTS

N4C Members,

Are you excited for Turkey Day? If you are not getting together with family and friends, please reach out to volunteer in your community. Many of us could use a little more help this season. Can't volunteer? Many food banks and organizations still take a check or online donation. If you have the means, even $10 helps.

Competitions are going well. We need to take a 2nd and 3rd look and refresher on the rules of the various categories. Reminder that submissions are not to be duplicated and winners need to be retired. Please no over processing of Journalism images. These are to look like you are a reporter in the field so to speak. Chairpersons, please make sure that submissions meet the current guidelines. Please see Carl Hardy's plea to email him winning prints .jpgs to be included in the monthly bulletins. Thank you to all who finalized your dues payments.

End of Year print competition submissions that have not already been returned will be returned very soon. We are still working on the award certificates, medals and Clubs of the Year and Photographer of the Year awards. These will be sent directly to your club after the awards ceremony airs. My apologies but this year's awards have taken months longer to complete. Hang on! We will be announcing a date for the online awards ceremony very soon. Keep shooting and stay inspired,

Jennifer L Tigges, President N4C 2024-2025
563-590-9868 call or text
Dubuque Camera Club

Bulletin Editor

1st Place Digital Images are still included in the N4C Bulletins. The N4C website http://www.n4c.us presents all the monthly Digital winners on page 1.

All Print winners are shown in this Bulletin each month.

NOTE: There are no summer competitions. The N4C Best of 2024-2025 Digital Images and Prints have been judged. Since there is NO N4C Convention for 2025, a ZOOM Meeting will be held to show the N4C Best of 2024-2025 entries and winners. WATCH FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE ZOOM MEETING. And the winners will also be shown in the N4C Bulletin as soon as the results are presented in the ZOOM MEETING.

FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FROM N4C CLUBS WEBSITES. SHOWING THE BEST OF THE BEST EDUCATIONAL ARTICLES, SEE PAGES 23-26.

**Educational LINKS ARE AT THE END OF THIS BULLETIN.

I am putting out a plea to all clubs who have monthly Print winners to PLEASE email me your .jpgs of these winners ASAP after you receive your list of winners. I include these winning Prints in the monthly N4C Bulletins. It has been difficult sometimes to round up these winning Prints .jpgs in a timely manner.

FROM LYNDA RICHARDS, N4C TREASURER
The following clubs have not paid N4C dues for 2025-2026.
Lacrosse Area Camera Club
Lincoln Camera Club
Shutterbug Camera Club of Burlington
Topeka Camera Club

If you are one of these clubs, please go on the N4C website https://www.n4c.us and pay your dues.

Where Names Become Faces and Faces Become Friends!
Carl Hardy, N4C Bulletin Editor

N4C October (2025-10) Contest Results

Digital Altered Reality
1st   Lucy Sky Diamonds - Connie Wedemeier, Iowa City
2nd   Time Served - Kevin McTague, Dubuque
3rd   Time Travel - Tim Zeltinger, Minot
HM   Taking a Walk at Sunset - Bob Rude, Iowa City
HM   Fly Me To The Moon - Tom Arnhold, Topeka
HM   50 Ford Illusion - Gordon Court, Fargo-Moorhead
HM   Washington Monument through the portal - Patricia Konyha, Wichita Area
63 entries from 14 clubs. Judging Club: Great River Camera Club. Chair: Peggy Schmelzer. Judges: Anne Olson, Sharon Snyder, Hal Woods.

Digital B&W
1st   Bruges at Dusk - Dorothy Sansom, Omaha
2nd   Rosa - Joel Hauschild, Omaha
3rd   Summer Rain Squall - Mike Barker, Omaha
HM   End Of Day - Randy Ficken, Wichita Area
HM   Day Lily - Allen Kurth, Omaha
HM   Whale of a Tail - Diane Lowry, Des Moines
HM   Glamour in the Warehouse Dist - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque
68 entries from 14 clubs. Judging Club: Sioux City Camera Club. Chair: Carl Hardy. Judges: Ed Hohenstein, Doug Conrad, Carl Hardy. Comments: The Digital Black & White images presented were outstanding with great blacks and whites, with outstanding composition, and strong interesting subjects. Very difficult to make decisions on the winners.

Digital Journalism
1st   Steer One, Cowboy Zero - Allen Kurth, Omaha
2nd   Freedom Park Memorial - Randy Schoener, Sioux City
3rd   Running Out Of Real Estate - Ken Cheung, Minnesota Valley
HM   Cowboy vs Steer - Troy Schmidt, Western Wisconsin
HM   Going for the Flag!-1 - James Durrant, Dubuque
HM   Soul in the Spotlight Teddy Swims - Doug Conrad, Sioux City
HM   Focus and Determination - Paul Zahorosky, Duluth-Superior
68 entries from 15 clubs. Judging Club: Shutterbug Camera Club. Chair: John F. Larson Jr.. Judges: Michelle Hall, Sarah Bissell, Karla Gerst.

Digital Nature
1st   Seventh Inning Stretch - Gary Gilbert, Sioux City
2nd   It Was This Big - Phillip Wonder, Omaha
3rd   Emerging Sunflower - Connie Wedemeier, Iowa City
HM   Leopard on the Serengeti - Kevin Newton, Minnesota Valley
HM   Looking Up - Steve Fleagle, Iowa City
HM   Red-tailed hawk perched - Deb Shoning, Des Moines
HM   You Again - Phillip Wonder, Omaha
HM   Eyes Wide Open - Ken Epstein, Saint Paul
HM   Ribbit! - Tom Arnhold, Topeka

87 entries from 15 clubs. Judging Club: Western Wisconsin Photo Club. Chair: Terry Butler. Judges: H Steve Cole, Steve Plocher, Diane Sisko. Comments: A large number of highly competitive entries.

Digital Pictorial
1st   Honeybee on a bed of red - Doug Long, Fargo-Moorhead
2nd   Peaceful morning - Diane Sisko, Western Wisconsin
3rd   Tossed Salad - Joel Hauschild, Omaha
HM   Giant Swallowtail Near Sunset - Terri Dermody, Des Moines
HM   Feed Me - Sharon Watson, Fargo-Moorhead
HM   Balloons - Martha Farwell, Great River
HM   And the Race Begins - David Tincher, Saint Paul
HM   Under a Stormy Sky - Margaret West, Omaha
HM   Milky Way over Lake Eleanor - Kenneth Kiss, Dubuque
85 entries from 15 clubs. Judging Club: Minnesota Valley Photography Club. Chair: Phil Davies. Judges: Bob Tourdot, Jerry Klumper, Mel Zeller.

Digital Travel
1st   Peggy's Cove Light Nova Scotia Canada - Mike Barker, Omaha
2nd   Sunrise at Devil's Tower Wyoming - Doug Conrad, Sioux City
3rd   Train on Bridge Alaska - Fred Sobottka, Western Wisconsin
HM   Sedona Landscape Arizona - Paul Hagen, Fargo-Moorhead
HM   Fargo Island Newfoundland - Diane Lowry, Des Moines
HM   Bond Falls WI - Tim Zeltinger, Minot
HM   Aurora on Fjord Norway - Diane Sisko, Western Wisconsin
69 entries from 14 clubs. Judging Club: Iowa City Camera Club. Chair: Randy Moyer. Judges: Bob Rude, Larry Luebbert, Sam Kreese.

Altered Reality Prints
1st   Painted Lady - Ryno W Olson, Great River
2nd   3 Bridges Over Mississippi River, Composition Innovation-ICM - Bob Felderman, Dubuque
3rd   Mesmerizing Music - Henry Matthiessen II, Dubuque
7 entries from 3 clubs. Judging Club: Sioux City Camera Club. Chair: Carl Hardy. Judges: Shane Monahan, Ella Monahan, Carl Hardy. Comments: Even though there were a small number of entries they were all very good and creative.

B & W Pictorial Prints
1st   View from Wolf Rd - Grand Tetons, NP - James Durrant, Dubuque
2nd   Japanese Garden - Shane Monahan, Sioux City
3rd   General's Gaze - Doug Conrad, Sioux City
HM   Lake Reflections - Peg Gilbert, Sioux City
HM   A Wistful Look - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior
HM   Tall Ships - James Voita, Saint Paul
27 entries from 6 clubs. Judging Club: Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs. Chair: Kim Walter. Judges: Debbie Bates, Linda Freeman, Vera Fengler. Comments: Lots of great photos, enjoyed judging.

Journalism Prints

1st   Bright Lights - Henry Matthiessen II, Dubuque
2nd   Gotcha - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior
3rd   Queretaro Offense - Karen Leonard, Saint Paul
HM   Buddhist Temple - Shane Monahan, Sioux City
15 entries from 5 clubs. Judging Club: Topeka Camera Club. Chair: Greg Hoglund.
Judges: Daryl Hurley, Scott Udey, Bob Wright. Comments: Great photos, some of them lacked a story for the journalism category but would fit well in other categories.

Nature Prints

1st   And Stay Away!! - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior
2nd   Orange sulphur interaction - Doug Conrad, Sioux City
3rd   Wood duck in eclipse plumage - Ken Epstein, Saint Paul
HM   Tufted Titmouse - Kevin McTague, Dubuque
HM   Swallowtail - Peg Gilbert, Sioux City
HM   The stillness between them - Ed Hohenstein, Sioux City
26 entries from 7 clubs. Judging Club: Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs. Chair: Kim Walter.
Judges: Debbie Bates, Linda Freeman, Vera Fengler. Comments: A lot of really great photos!

Pictorial Prints (Color)

1st (tie)   Solitude - Daniel Oberhauser, Saint Paul
1st (tie)   Rocky Racoon - Gordon Rath, Dubuque
2nd   After the Rain Beauty - Paul Rogne, Saint Paul
HM   From Beneath - Martha Farwell, Great River
HM   Gardens of the Gods at Sunrise CO - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque
20 entries from 6 clubs. Judging Club: Sioux City Camera Club. Chair: Carl Hardy.
Judges: Shane Monahan, Ella Monahan, Carl Hardy. Comments: These Pictorial (color) Prints were excellent with vibrant colors, excellent subjects, and good technique. It was very hard making a decision. None of the entries were below 38 scoring, and most were in the 40's. Due to not noticing that Rocky Racoon was also a 45, a tie was given to Solitude and Rocky Racoon.

Travel Prints

1st   Cascade Falls Watkins Glen NY - Karen Durrant, Dubuque
2nd   French Harbor Marseille France - Gary Gilbert, Sioux City
3rd   Deep in Capitol Reef NP UT - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque
HM   Unloading Rotor Blades Minnesota - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior
20 entries from 7 clubs. Judging Club: Topeka Camera Club. Chair: Sonja Hoglund.
Judges: Bob Wright, Greg Hoglund, Scott Udey. Comments: A lot of great shots. Had several ties in the top scores and made it hard to choose winners.

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Digital Black & White
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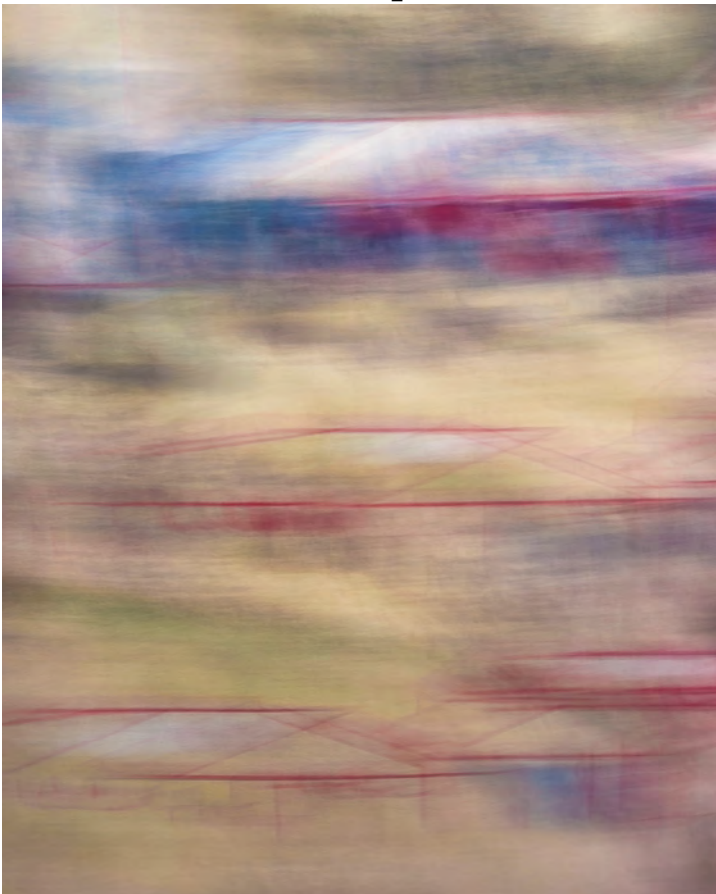
Altered Reality Prints
1st   Painted Lady - Ryno W Olson, Great River

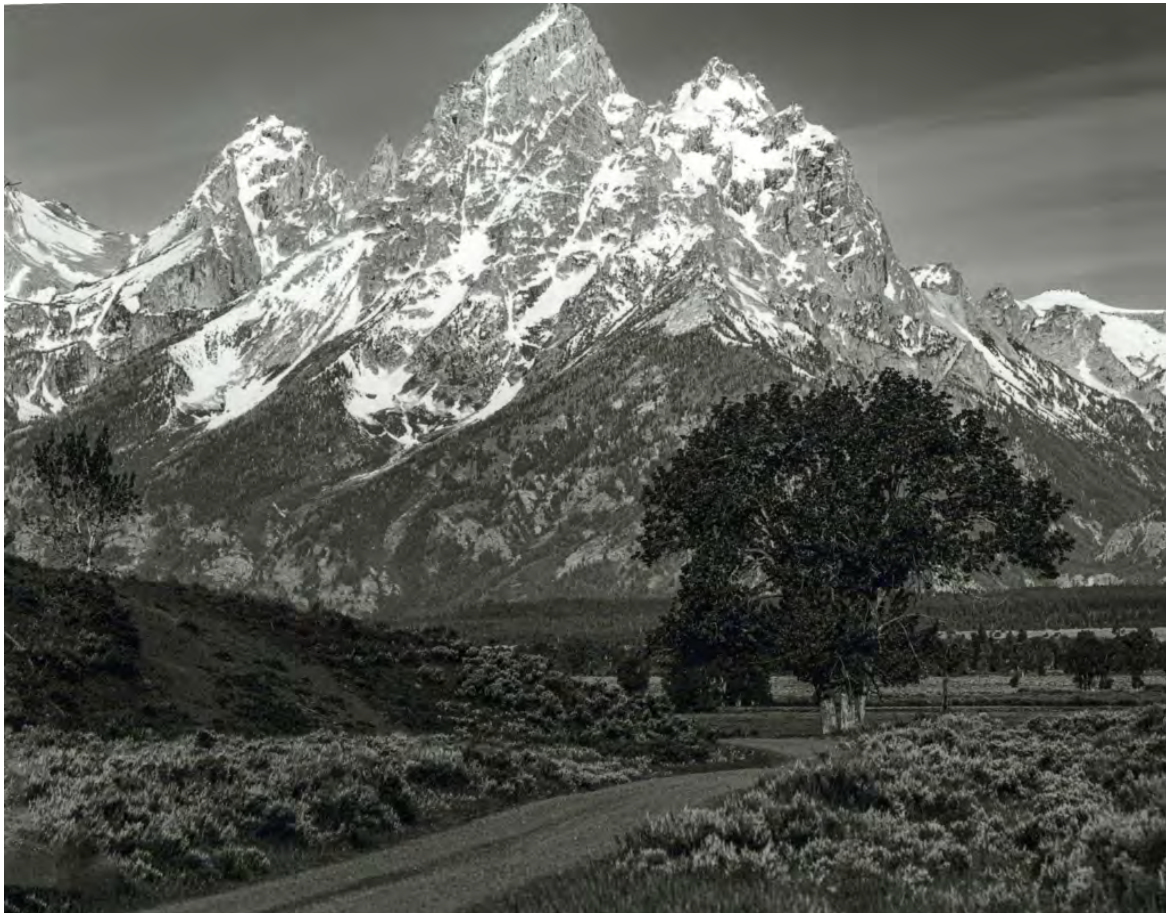**2nd   3 Bridges Over Mississippi River, Composition Innovation-ICM - Bob Felderman, Dubuque**

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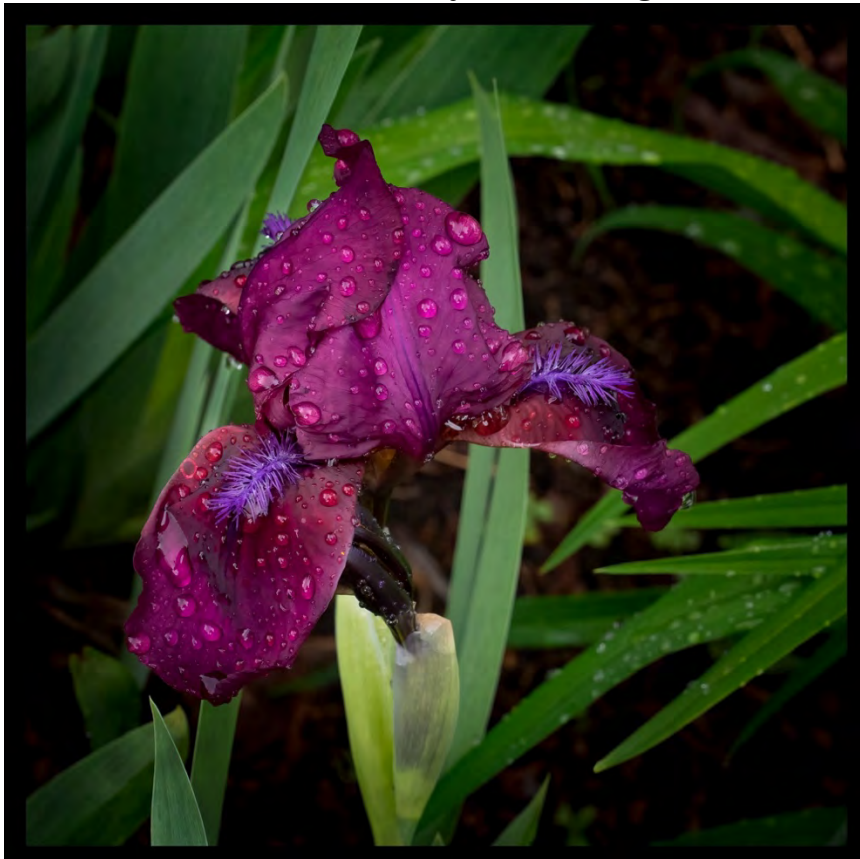

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Enhancing Images Using Vignettes (in Photoshop)

Creating a vignette to highlight the subject of your photograph is an excellent way to enhance your images and is extremely easy to do in Photoshop CS6. Here are Step by Step directions to make your images more powerful with vignettes. (While not exactly the same, these instructions will also help you create a vignette in Photoshop Elements as well.)

Step One
Open your image in Photoshop like usual. Use your usual workflow to correct and adjust your image. Once you are satisfied with your final image, make sure the top layer is selected and press CTRL+SHIFT+ALT+E to merge all layers into a new layer.

Step Two
Decide whether you want an elliptical or rectangular vignette and then choose the Marquee Tool by clicking on its icon or pressing "M" (or "SHIFT+M" depending on how you have your Preferences set up) to choose the Marquee Tool.

Step Three
Set the Feather setting in the Toolbar to somewhere between 100 and 250 pixels depending of the resolution of your image and the smoothness of the transition you want between the vignette and your subject. Left click your mouse in the upper left hand area of your image, and while holding the mouse button down, drag down and to the right releasing your mouse to create your selection. (TIP: If you hold down the Spacebar while holding the left mouse button down you can re-position the selection anywhere in the frame.)

Step Four
Now you have your subject selected but you want the vignette around your subject, not on it, so we need to reverse the selection. Do this by pressing CTRL+SHIFT+I (the letter I), or go to the Select menu and choose "Inverse."

Step Five
Add an adjustment layer by choosing either a Levels or Curves adjustment. You can now choose to create either a light or dark vignette by dragging the appropriate slider or curve.

Step Six
Once you have completed your vignette, save the image with a new name to avoid overwriting your original file.

There are several other ways to create a vignette for your photograph, but this method is the one I use most often for its simplicity and great results. I hope this helps you to create stronger, and more compelling images … to better express your vision.

- Don Barnes
North Iowa Camera Club

Digital Mats & Frames (Photoshop)

There are several reasons for creating a digital mat or frame for your image. Maybe you just want to enhance your image for online viewing. Perhaps you don't have the tools and materials to make a traditional mat for your image. Possibly you can't find the right color or texture of mat to compliment your image. For all these reasons digital matting and framing may be the answer to your needs.

Digital mat and frames can be very elaborate and complex or very simple and basic. Just like the mats themselves, some Photoshop techniques are very complex and intricate, while others are very easy to learn and also look great. This tutorial will help you create digital mats with techniques that are easy to learn but look like you spent hours creating them.

Step One
Open your image in Photoshop. (I'm using CS6 but this technique will work with any of the full versions of Photoshop.) Notice that your image is on a layer called the background layer. Also notice that there is a small lock symbol on the right hand side of this layer. The lock indicates that this layer cannot be moved so we will need to change this setting before we continue. Double click on the background layer. A *new layer* dialog box opens and the default name for the layer is *Layer 0.* You can change the name if you wish or just click OK. Now you will notice that your layer name has changed and the lock on the right side of the layer is gone. This will allow us to go on to the next step.

Step Two
Go to the bottom of the layers palette and while you hold down
the *CTRL* key, click on the *create a new layer* icon which is the second icon
from the right (next to the delete layer.) This will create a new layer below
your image layer.

Step Three
Click on the *Image* tab in the Toolbar in the upper left portion of your
Photoshop window. From the drop down menu choose *canvas size. The
dialogue* box that opens will show the dimensions of your canvas. You can
choose to see them in inches, pixels or a number of other choices, by
clicking on the arrow in the drop down box in the *New Size* pane. Decide
how big you want your mat/canvas/frame to be and enter the appropriate
amount into the width and height boxes. Then, if you want to have your
image centered in the canvas, just click *OK*.

Step Four
You should now have a transparent frame around your image. We will
now fill this frame with a color by going to the bottom of the layers palette
and clicking on the *create new fill or adjustment layer* icon (black and white
circle.)   Choose *solid color* from the menu. You may pick a color from the
color picker window or click on a color in your image to choose it for your
mat. Click *OK* when you are satisfied with the color.

Step Five
Now select the layer containing your image by clicking on the layer in the
layer's palette. Go to the bottom of the *Layers Palette* and click on
the *fx* symbol to open the options menu. Choose *Drop Shadow*. Position
your cursor on your actual image and holding the left mouse key drag
down and to the right. You should see a black shadow begin to appear
below and to the right of your image. Position the shadow where you like
it. In the *Drop Shadow* dialog box play with the *Spread* and *Size*sliders until
you have the look you want.

The DROP SHADOW effect looks great with most images and may be all
you need to do with your digital framing. If you would like to try some
other effects consider –

1. Create a *Stroke* around you image by clicking on your image layer in
the *Layer's Palette* and then clicking on *fx* at the bottom of the *Layer's
Palette* and choose *Stroke.* In the dialog box that opens change

the *Position* drop down box to *Inside*and adjust the *Size* and *Opacity* sliders to suite your taste. Changing the color of your stroke is easily done by clicking on the black rectangle next to *Color* in the *Fill Type* box. Choose your color just as you did when creating your background layer.   Click OK to save and apply your stroke.

2. Similar techniques are used to add a texture to your background mat. With the bottom layer in your *Layer's Palette* selected open the options menu by clicking on *fx* at the bottom of the *Layer's Palette.* Choose *Bevel and Emboss.*   In the dialog box that opens click directly on the word *Texture* that appears under *Bevel and Emboss* on the upper left side of the *Styles* box. Choose a texture to add to your mat by clicking the down arrow next to the pattern box. Double click on the texture you like. This will return you to the *Texture Elements* box where you can adjust the scale and depth sliders to modify the texture. Click *OK* when you are satisfied with the result.

Remember that your goal is to produce images that reflect YOUR VISION.   I hope this information will help you achieve that goal. If you have any questions contact me at don@dbarnesphotography.com

- Don Barnes North Iowa Camera Club

GO TO THIS LINK FROM THE N4C WEBSITE.

https://f64academy.com/tutorials/

GO TO THIS LINK FOR FROM THE N4C WEBSITE ON CREATING A VIDEO SLIDESHOW IN PHOTO SHOP. NOTE: GO TO THE YOU TUBE VIDEO TO LEARN HOW TO CREATE A VIDEO SLIDESHOW FOR THE N4C VIDEO ESSAY CONTEST. WE NEED MORE ENTRIES, CARL HARDY, COMMUNICATIONS CHAIRMAN.

https://youtu.be/9O_QjfUEUv0?si=ciyN2lAA9rq79HT4

The N4C Bulletin is the official publication of the North Central Camera Club Council which serves camera clubs in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, WisconsinPublished Monthly and sent out via .pdf file. N4C is affiliated with the Photographic Society of America. N4C Bulletin Staff Editor/Publisher: Carl Hardy, torchenterprises72@gmail.com

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