



North Central Camera Club Council

N4C December 2025 News Bulletin

Volume 61 No. 79 www.n4c.us



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N4C Members,

As the holiday season arrives, I'm reminded how powerful a single photograph can be. Whether it's twinkling lights, family gatherings, or quiet winter moments, your camera has the ability to preserve the warmth of the season long after it passes. I encourage each of you to take a moment, slow down, and capture the scenes that bring you joy. I might just dig through old photos to remind me of days gone by. May your holidays be filled with creativity, connection, and beautiful images worth sharing. **Merry Christmas to all! --Jennifer**

Are you ready?

World Premier! 2025 N4C Awards will be debuted on Monday, January 5th at Noon. This will be an online video that you can watch at any time. Your club will be able to show this at your regular club meeting any time after the debut time and date. The video presentation will be available for download or to stream from online at the link below. *We encourage you to set up a time during a club meeting or separate special awards event for your club members.* Physical awards will be shipped out to your club contact after January 5th. Your club will receive certificates, medals and larger awards directly. Run time will be less than one hour.

<https://bit.ly/48yWogB>

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, Jennifer Tigges, N4C President has announced the ZOOM 2025 N4C Awards will be debuted on Monday, January 5th at Noon (See her message for the details). 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 22-26.

****This plea doesn't seem to be working. Clubs are very slow in sending me print .jpgs. Makes it hard to get the N4C Bulletin out on a timely basis. 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.

Shutterbug Camera Club of Burlington

Topeka Camera Club

Central Iowa 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 November (2025-11) Contest Results

Digital Altered Reality

- 1st Old International at Midnight - Michael Greiner, Sioux City
- 2nd Christmas Card - Scot Howe, Des Moines
- 3rd Midnight Rider - Bob Rude, Iowa City
- HM House of the Dragon - Kevin McTague, Dubuque
- HM Fall Color Burst at Springbrook State Park - Terri Dermody, Des Moines
- HM Is the Water Cold - Deb Shoning, Des Moines
- HM Japanese Garden Koi - Janie Lawson, Des Moines

63 entries from 14 clubs. Judging Club: Omaha Camera Club. Chair: Nikki McDonald. Judges: Allen Kurth, Dorothy Sansom, Mike Barker. Comments: Though the judges enjoyed many of the entries, they felt many others - whether composites, applied art filters, or "double exposures" - were "altered" simply for the sake of being altered. Too often, there didn't seem to be a reason for the selected treatment; as a result, it did not improve the photo.

Digital B&W

- 1st Willow River Falls in January - Steve Plocher, Western Wisconsin
- 2nd Man At The Stairs - Jeremiah Gardiner, Des Moines
- 3rd PleaseDon'tCry - Melissa King, Dubuque
- HM White Lily - Peggy Boike, Saint Paul
- HM Nature's Spin - Crystal Johnson, Minot
- HM Artist & Palette - Ronnie Hartman, Saint Paul
- HM Abigail - Sharon Watson, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM The 1906 Wreck of the Peter Iredale - Mike Barker, Omaha
- HM Along the Gunnison River, CO - Terry Butler, Western Wisconsin
- HM Egg Shells - Donitta Gardiner, Des Moines
- HM Spreading His Wings - Terry Butler, Western Wisconsin

105 entries from 17 clubs. Judging Club: Women's Photography Club. Chair: Linda Rutherford. Judges: Judy Babcock, Bev Hawkins, Terri Sposito.

Digital Journalism

- 1st Hatton Grain Elevator Fire Total Loss - Sharon Watson, Fargo-Moorhead
- 2nd Firefighters Against the Beast - Craig Peterson, Minnesota Valley
- 3rd Maximum Effort - Ken Cheung, Minnesota Valley
- HM Cowboy Gives it his best attempt at the Abercrombie Rodeo - Paul Hagen, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM Edging on the Outside - Crystal Johnson, Minot
- HM The Sad Reality of the Maasai Tourist Stop - Jennifer Novack Haar, Omaha
- HM Fargo AirSho Blue Angels Number 4 - Mike Saunders, Fargo-Moorhead

65 entries from 13 clubs. Judging Club: Des Moines Camera Club. Chair: Janie Lawson. Judges: Barbra Ritchison, Nancy Heather Brown, Lindha Steffen.

Digital Nature

- 1st Sunrise; Leaving the Refuge to Feed - Ken Epstein, Saint Paul
- 2nd African elephant - Diane Sisko, Western Wisconsin
- 3rd Wildebeest on the move - Andrea Pellerito, Dubuque
- HM Wildebeest migration - Diane Sisko, Western Wisconsin
- HM Semipalmated Sandpiper Contemplating Her Reflection - Mike Saunders, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM Bee in dahlia - Canan Karatekin, Women's
- HM Bay-headed Tanager - Marianne Diericks, Western Wisconsin
- HM My Fish - Eric Williamson, Des Moines
- HM Goldfinch in Fall Plumage - Kenneth Kiss, Dubuque
- HM Lilac Breasted Rollor - Terry Butler, Western Wisconsin

100 entries from 17 clubs. Judging Club: La Crosse Area Camera Club. Chair: Cyndy Thorn. Judges: Bob Herman, Kathy Lansinger, Kim Ambrose. Comments: Wow! Tough competition! Really nice images.

Digital Pictorial

- 1st Dungeness Light and Mt Baker - Mike Barker, Omaha
 - 2nd Sunset Little Hunters Beach Acadia NP-1 - James Durrant, Dubuque
 - 3rd ICM-Symphony in yellow - Canan Karatekin, Women's
 - HM Really Why would you want to take my Picture Im just a boring gull - Paul Hagen, Fargo-Moorhead
 - HM Oregon Coast Sunset - Steve Fleagle, Iowa City
 - HM Burrowing Owl Portrait - Crystal Johnson, Minot
 - HM Blue Eye Soul - Ken Cheung, Minnesota Valley
 - HM Summer Storm - Ginny Gaynor, Western Wisconsin
 - HM Canals of Amsterdam - Kevin McTague, Dubuque
 - HM Chanhassan to Glencoe - Ken Epstein, Saint Paul
- 99 entries from 17 clubs. Judging Club: Wichita Area Camera Club. Chair: Dwight Corrin. Judges: Randy Ficken, Brenda Heard, Greg Perez.

Digital Travel

- 1st Nocturnal Goblins, Utah - Jerry Ranch, Des Moines
 - 2nd Dom Lui's I Bridge Illuminated A Porto Evening in Motion Portugal - Elliott Lindgren, Saint Paul
 - 3rd Louvre Blue Hour (France) - Mitch Keller, Sioux City
 - HM North Shore Lake Superior - Diane Lowry, Des Moines
 - HM Roadhaven Resort Apache Junction AZ - Todd Johnson, Minot
 - HM DeadVlei -Namibia - Linda Rutherford, Women's
 - HM Rotterdam at nightfall, Holland - Cindy Carlsson, Saint Paul
 - HM African Sunrise - Kenya - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque
 - HM Sunrise Thunder Hole Acadia NP ME-1 - James Durrant, Dubuque
 - HM Autumn Reflections Alta WY - Mick Richards, Minnesota Valley
- 91 entries from 17 clubs. Judging Club: Lincoln Camera Club. Chair: Oscar Sarafian. Judges: Karen Harris, Dennis Zabel, Jim Atkins. Comments: Oscar: The number of landscape entries is remarkable. Only a few strike a journalistic chord.

Altered Reality Prints

- 1st Planters in Bloom, - Ryno W Olson, Great River
 - 2nd Obsidian Twilight, - Ed Hohenstein, Sioux City
 - 3rd Zooming In, - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior
- 30 entries from 8 clubs. Judging Club: Dubuque Camera Club. Chair: Stephonie Schmitz. Judges: Bob Felderman, Kenneth Kiss, Tim Ollendick.

B & W Pictorial Prints

- 1st Egret's Catch - Terri Dermody, Des Moines
 - 2nd Protector - Debbie Bates, Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs
 - 3rd Silhouetted Leaves - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior
 - HM Grandpa's Bed - Carol Crowds, Minot
 - HM Grackle Sticks the Landing - Ted Samsel, Saint Paul
- 22 entries from 8 clubs. Judging Club: Sioux City. Chair: Carl Hardy. Judges: Kevin Smith, Carl Hardy, Nick Massuen. Comments: Clubs not labeling the back of prints correctly member missing numbers. Wrong category listed on print compared to sheet. Not enough postage.

Journalism Prints

- 1st A Near Miss - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque
 - 2nd Teddy Swims on the Grandview Stage - Doug Conrad, Sioux City
 - 3rd Froster Score Round - Karen Leonard, Saint Paul
 - HM Great Grandms's Farm - David Tinch, Saint Paul
 - HM Wheelchair Racer - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior
- 13 entries from 6 clubs. Judging Club: Minot. Chair: Tim Zeltinger. Judges: Bvetty Nordstrom, Adam Papin, Danielle Schmidt. Comments: Missing numbers on entries.

Nature Prints

- 1st Camouflaged - Ronnie Hartman, Saint Paul
- 2nd Messy Easter - Gordon Rath, Dubuque
- 3rd My Nose Itches - Kim Walter, Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs
- HM Humminbird Moth - Stephanie Nelson, Des Moines

21 entries from 8 clubs. Judging Club: Sioux City. Chair: Carl Hardy. Judges: Kevin Smith, Carl Hardy, Nick Massuen. Comments: Clubs not labeling the back of prints correctly member missing numbers. Wrong category listed on print compared to sheet. Not enough postage.

Pictorial Prints (Color)

- 1st In the Light of Spring Unfolding - Lindha Steffen, Des Moines
- 2nd First Time at Golden Gate Bridge - Ella Monahan, Sioux City
- 3rd Coyote - Patty Foster, Des Moines
- HM After the Blizzard - Mary Klauer, Sioux City
- HM Little Bee Eater - Terri Dermody, Des Moines
- HM Aztec Dancer - Ronnie Hartman, Saint Paul

30 entries from 8 clubs. Judging Club: Dubuque Camera Club. Chair: Stephonie Schmitz. Judges: Bob Felderman, Kenneth Kiss, Tim Ollendick.

Travel Prints

- 1st Echos of Time Sturgis SD - Doug Conrad, Sioux City
- 2nd Discovering the Driffless IL - Henry Matthiessen II, Dubuque
- 3rd Martique France - Gary Gilbert, Sioux City
- HM Grand Prismatic Spring WY - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior
- HM Barn Bluff Red Wing MN - David Tincher, Saint Paul

25 entries from 7 clubs. Judging Club: Minot. Chair: Tim Zeltinger. Judges: Bvetty Nordstrom, Adam Papin, Danielle Schmidt. Comments: Clubs not labeling the back of prints correctly member missing numbers. Wrong category listed on print compared to sheet. Not enough postage.

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Digital Black & White

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Digital Travel

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Altered Reality Prints

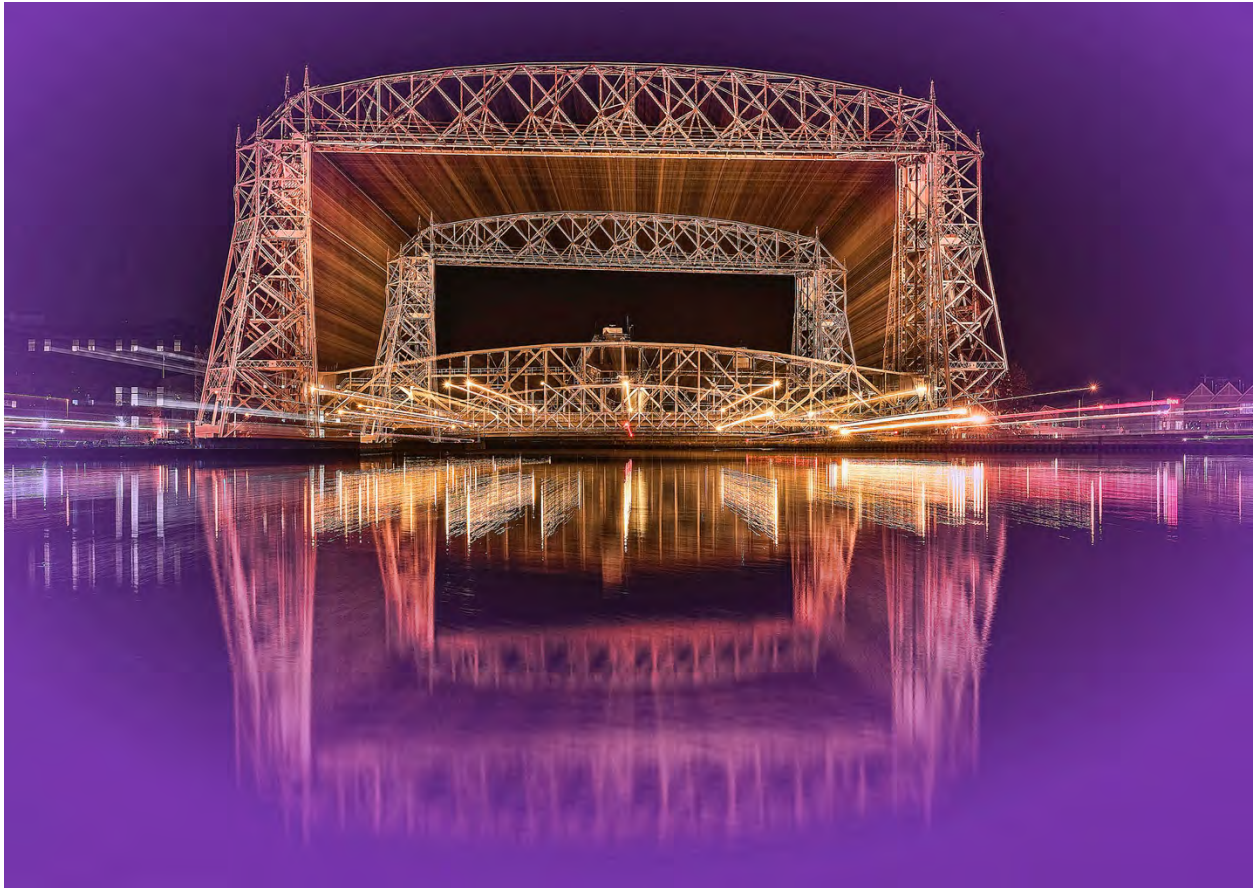
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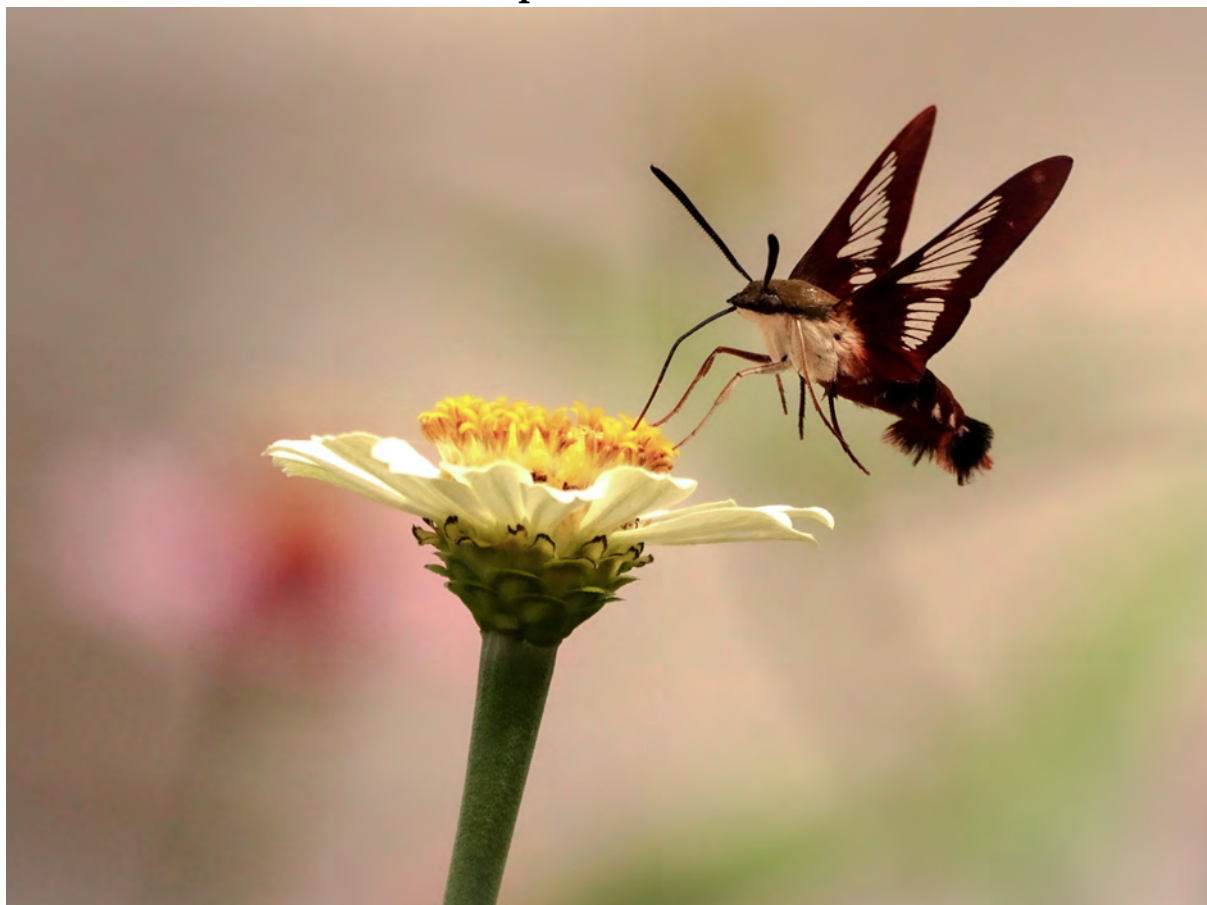
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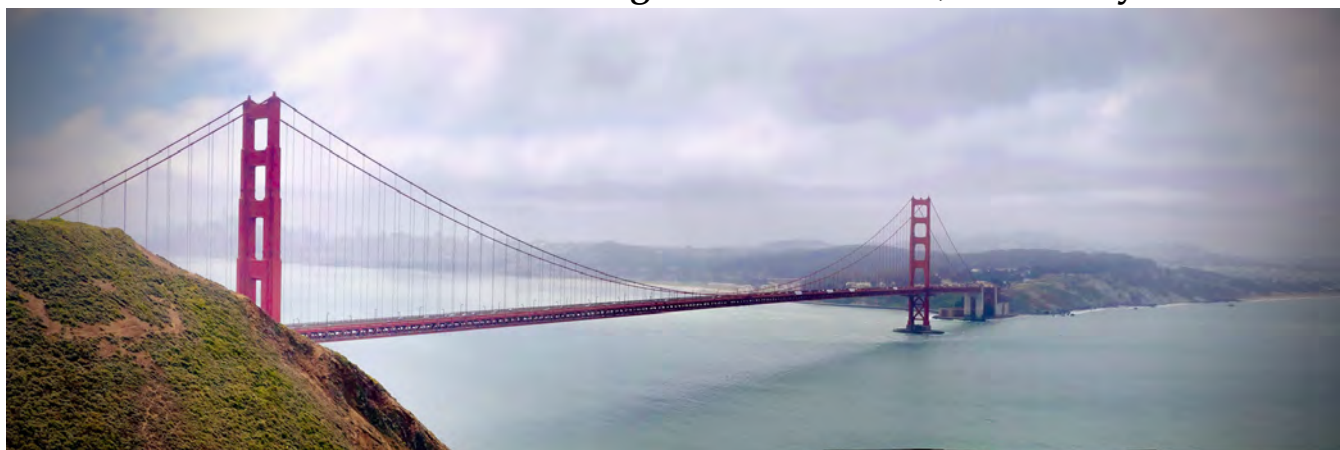


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Slow Down

by STEVE BERARDI



In today's fast-paced world of instant gratification, it's easy to get sucked in and join the rush. And although being in a rush can help you get a lot of things done, it also makes you miss out on truly experiencing moments. It's like you moved so quickly that you were never really "there."

Lately, I've really tried to slow down in a lot of areas in life in order to be more present and experience moments more fully. I've slowed down my normal hiking pace and I've been stopping more frequently to take a look around. As a result, I feel like I've seen many places more deeply and have seen things I wouldn't have noticed at all if I was in a rush.

I often see people walk up to a flower, quickly take one photo, and then move on. And this is perfectly fine if you're just looking for a record of seeing the flower, but if you're looking to create an image that expresses something more about your subject, then consider slowing down and spending more time with your subject before you even start thinking about taking a photo.

Being in a rush can make it seem like you're more likely to "get the shot," but rushing will make you overlook so many opportunities. Many times, when you start slowing down, you'll start off wanting to photograph one thing but then as you spend more time exploring that subject you notice something even more interesting to photograph.

When you're in a rush, there's more mental pressure to get a good photo. When you choose to slow down, and just be present in the moment, then the photo becomes secondary — just as it should be. In photography (and any form of art), if you really want to capture the beauty of a scene, you must first really experience it. This leads to you really "seeing" your subject for what it really is, and helps you determine what you want to say about your subject.

Simplify

by STEVE BERARDI



“The art of art, the glory of expression and the sunshine of the light of letters, is simplicity.” – Walt Whitman.

One of the first lessons I learned when I got into photography is to simplify your composition. Decide what your subject is, and then compose your shot so it only includes your subject or things that support the subject (for example, natural lines that lead the viewer’s eyes to the subject).

A common problem is trying to include too much in one photo. This makes it hard for the viewer to figure out what the subject is, and how to navigate the image. You want to make it as easy as possible for the viewer. **So, here are some ways to simplify your composition:**

1 – Awareness of Your Subject

You should always start by deciding what your subject is and what you want to say about your subject. Then, start looking around the scene for things that might complement or get in the way of your subject. If there are too many distracting elements around or the conditions aren’t right for photographing your subject in a way that communicates the message you’re trying to send, then don’t be afraid to move on and look for other opportunities to photograph your subject.

For example, if you stumble upon a beautiful flower, start looking at it from different angles to see what kind of backgrounds you can photograph it against. And, think about other things too, like the lighting conditions. Is everything good for creating the image you're looking for? If yes, then continue, if not, move on and keep an eye out for other opportunities.

2 – Depth of Field

One of the most simple ways to simplify your composition is to use selective depth of field to make your subject in sharp focus while everything else is out-of-focus.

A common belief in nature photography is that everything besides your subject should be completely out-of-focus, but I don't agree with that anymore. I think having some non-subject elements just a little out-of-focus is enough, and can often help complement the subject. For example, in the photo below, I purposely made the sage branch in the center in sharp focus while keeping the two branches in the back just a little out-of-focus. This helps the viewer know that the center branch is the main subject, and the other two are in a supporting role.



3 – Position of the Camera

Another thing you can do to simplify your composition is to position your camera so only your subject (or supporting elements) are in the frame. Ansel Adams used to say that “A good photograph is knowing where to stand.”

So, like I talked about earlier, be aware of your subject and its surroundings: walk around your subject (as long as it doesn't harm any plants or the surrounding environment) and look for the best angle to photograph your subject from to minimize distractions in the frame. Sometimes this can be as simple as just “getting closer” to your subject.

GO TO THIS LINK FROM THE N4C WEBSITE. Resending these. Important videos.

<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



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