

TIPS FOR TAKING GREAT PHOTOS

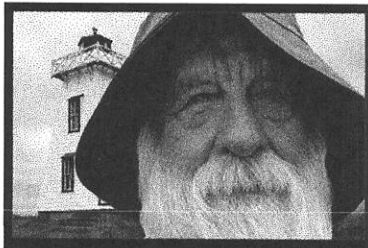


photo by Fran Wehner

By by Clem Wehner



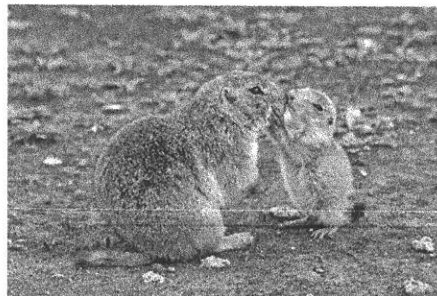
With a little knowledge you can take great photos with any camera!



"It's what's in your head, not what's in your hand."

First, get down on your subject's level.

photo by John Powers



Don't shoot down on animals

not this

photo by Clem Wehner



this

photo by Clem Wehner



Don't shoot down on people.

Move yourself down to their level.

not this

photo by Clem Wehner



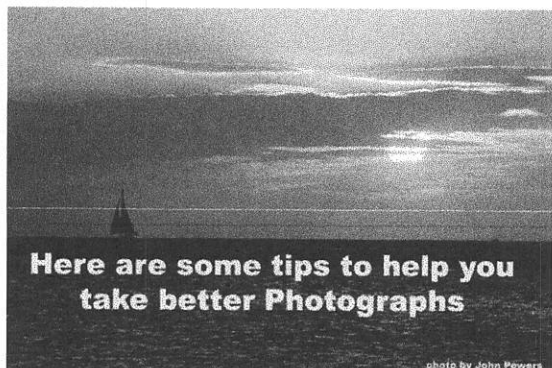
this

photo by Clem Wehner



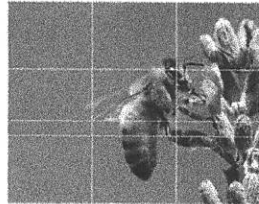
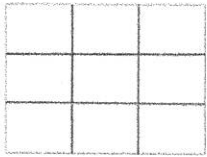
Here are some tips to help you take better Photographs

photo by John Powers



The "Rule" of Thirds

1. Divide image (in viewfinder) into thirds each way.
2. Place center of interest at an intersection of lines.



Using the Rule of Thirds

Both good

photo by John Powers



photo by John Powers



Position the subject using "The Rule of Thirds"

OK

much better

photo by John Powers



photo by John Powers



Using the Rule of Thirds

Both good

photo by Clem Wehner



photo by John Powers



Using the Rule of Thirds

OK

better

photo by Clem Wehner

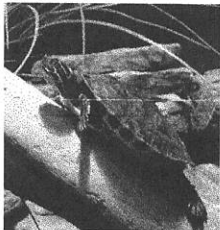


photo by Clem Wehner



But, the "rule" is really only a suggestion

These photos DO NOT follow the rule of thirds

but, both are good

photo by John Powers



photo by Clem Wehner

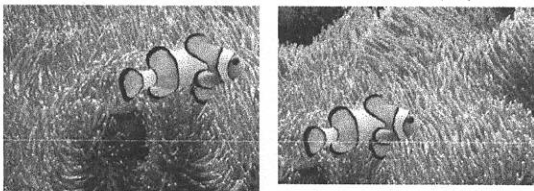


Plan placement of subject

Leave room in front of moving subjects


not this this

photo by Clem Wehner photo by Clem Wehner



Leave space in front of moving subject

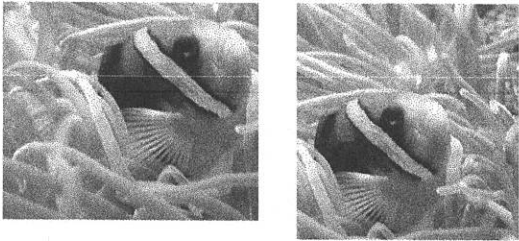
not this this



Plan placement of subject

not this this

photo by Clem Wehner photo by Clem Wehner

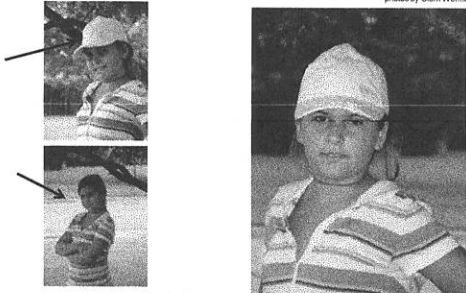


Watch for distractions

Avoid branches, objects thru image, etc.

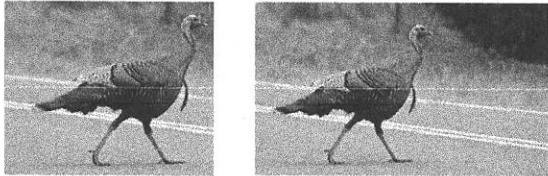
not these this

photos by Clem Wehner



Give the subject room to move

not this this

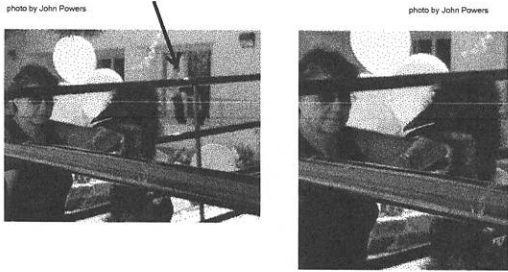


Re-compose to eliminate distractions

Move yourself to hide problems

not this this

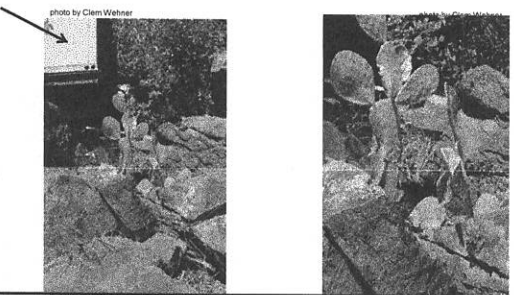
photo by John Powers photo by John Powers



Recompose to eliminate distractions
Zooming in often helps

not this this


photo by Clem Wehner



Compose to give a sense of scale
Put something in the foreground.

ok much better

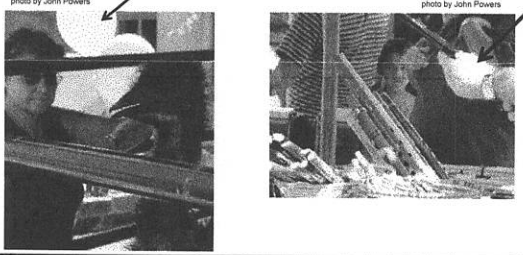
photo by John Powers photo by John Powers



Beware of bright objects
They draw attention away from the subject.

not this (balloons) not this, either (hand)

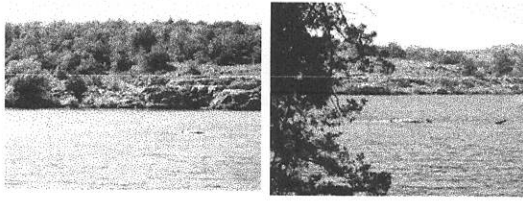
photo by John Powers photo by John Powers



Use foreground objects to frame image


ok better

photo by Clem Wehner photo by Clem Wehner



Try vertical and horizontal compositions
Pick the one you like best.

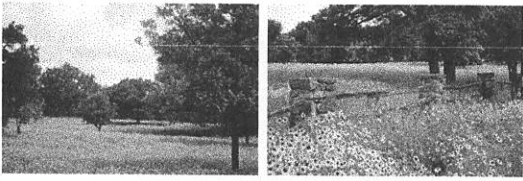
photo by John Powers



Use foreground objects to add interest

good much better

photo by John Powers photo by John Powers



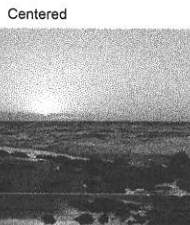
Use foreground objects to show depth

photo by Clem Wehner



Put the horizon off center

Not this



Centered

Upper third



these

Lower third



Photos by John Powers

Use "leading lines" to direct attention

photo by John Powers

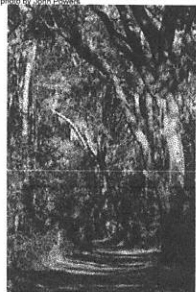


photo by Clem Wehner



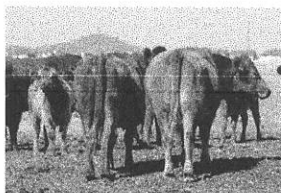
photo by John Powers



Zoom in to eliminate clutter and distractions

really distracting

photo by Clem Wehner



much better

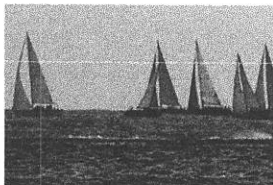
photo by Clem Wehner



Don't put the horizon in center

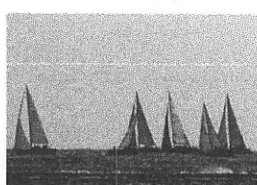
not this

photo by John Powers



this

photo by John Powers

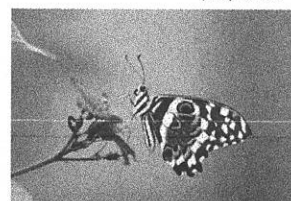


Zoom in to emphasize the subject.

photo by John Powers



photo by John Powers

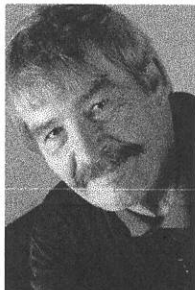


Try some unusual angles for added interest.

photo by Fran Wehner



photo by Fran Wehner



Avoid clutter that detracts from the subject.

Not this. (what's the subject?)

photo by Fran Wehner



Better

photo by Fran Wehner



Pre-focus when subject is moving
(press shutter down halfway to pre-focus)

Slow focus missed the jumper

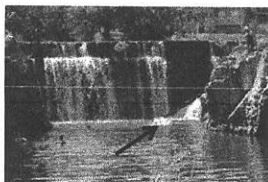


photo by Clem Wehner

pre-focus so action can be stopped

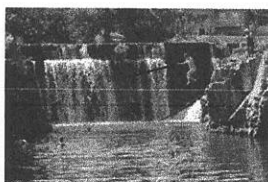


photo by Clem Wehner

Small things make good subjects, too!



photo by John Powers

Photo by Dawn Muncy



Use early and late sun for warm colors.

First and last two hours of the day are best.

photo by John Powers

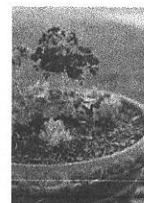


photo by John Powers



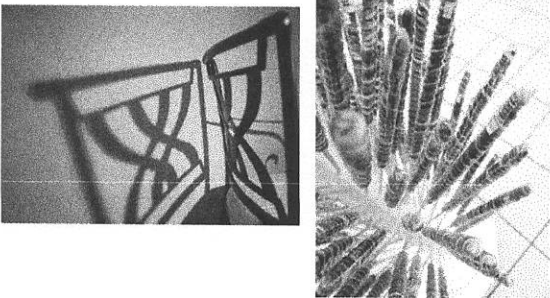
Parts of things can make good subjects

Photos by Dawn Muncy



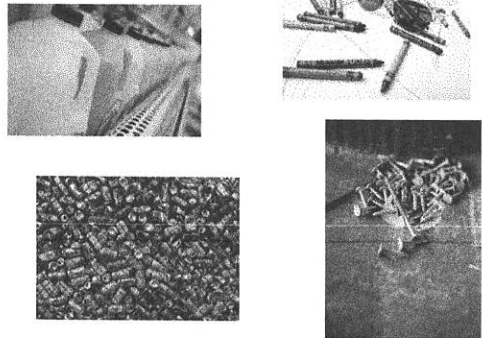
Open your eyes to the possibilities

Photos by Dawn Muncy



Simple things can make interesting photos

Photos by Dawn Muncy

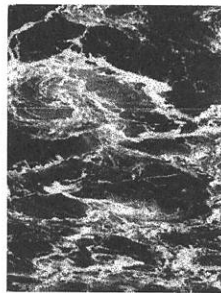


Look for beauty in simple things

photo by Fran Wehner

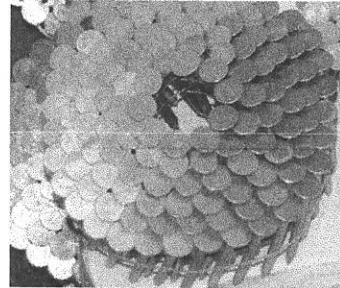


photo by Clem Wehner



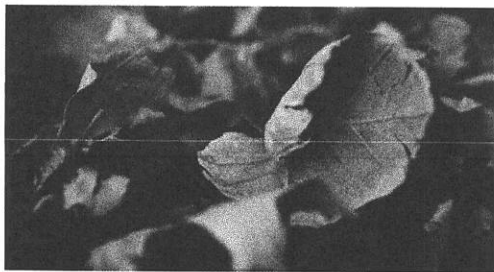
Try close-ups of unusual things

photo by Fran Wehner



Simple beauty might be right at your feet

Photo by Dawn Muncy



Try unusual close-ups

photo by Clem Wehner



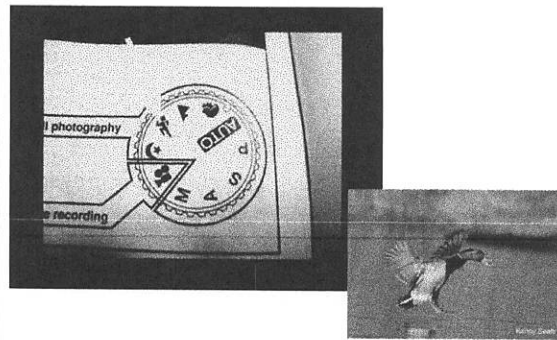
Put everything in focus for great landscapes

Use "landscape" setting of your camera



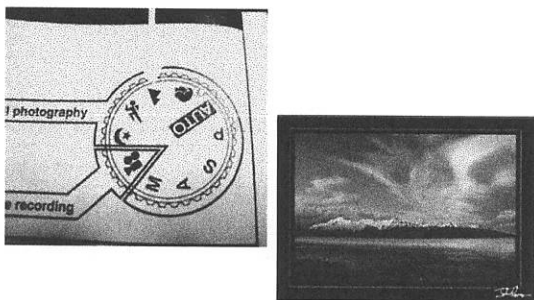
"Sports" setting

(freezes motion)



"Landscape" setting

(puts nearly everything in focus)



Try shooting at twilight

1. Use "night" setting of your camera

(or, slow shutter speed and wide aperture (low f/stop))

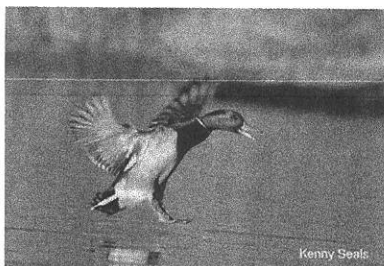
2. Use a tripod to steady the camera



Freeze the action

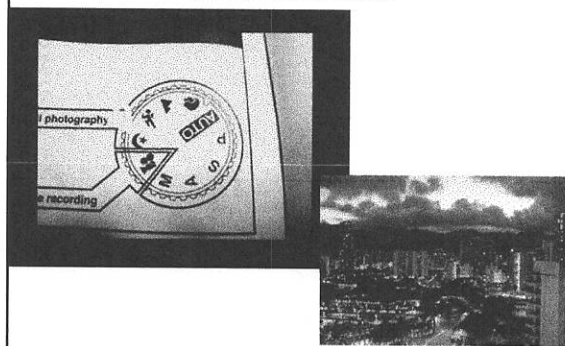
Use "sports" setting on your camera

(or, a high shutter speed)



"Night" setting

(takes photos in low light)



Try silhouettes at sunset

(Use "automatic exposure" mode of your camera)

photo by John Powers



photo by John Powers



Learn the range of your flash

(The typical range of a pop-up flash is only about 10 feet)

too far



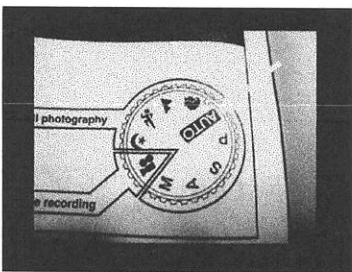
too far



Tip: Take a photo at night to learn the range of your flash

"AUTO (automatic exposure)" mode

(Camera determines best exposure)



In dull light, include something with a little color

photo by Fran Wehner



Use your flash, even outdoors in daytime

Digital cameras don't handle dark areas well

Even a little under-exposure results in black without detail



photo by Fran Wehner

Faces turn to solid black

Put a subject in your landscapes

photo by John Powers



Imagine this photo without the riders—It's not very interesting

Use natural window light

A north-facing window has the softest light

photo by Fran Wehner



Black and White can turn "ordinary" into ART!

photo by John Powers



photo by John Powers

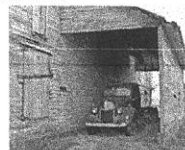


photo by Brenda Hatch

Try indoor photos without flash

Camera on tripod, no flash, long exposure (1/2 sec or longer).

photo by Fran Wehner



photo by Clem Wehner



Be patient

Good shots come to those who wait!

photo by Clem Wehner



photo by Clem Wehner



Try black and white photos

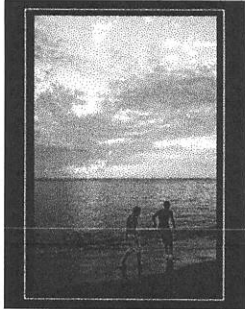
It has timeless beauty

photo by Lee Alexander



• And lastly, remember to look for photos that tell a story

A story adds interest



It's a much nicer image with the people

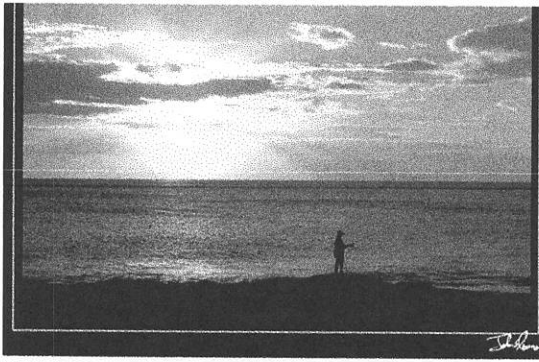
... makes it memorable

photo by Rebekah Boudoin

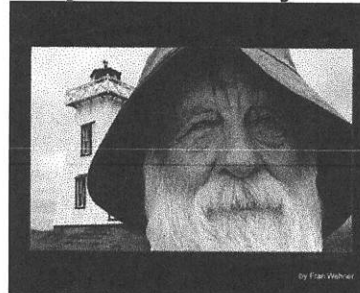


This will be a family heirloom image!

... makes it more than just a pretty picture



**Great photographs
always have a story to tell**




by Fran Wehner

"Photographers are the world's great storytellers."

... brings "life" to the image



Presented by the
Wichita Wildlight Photographic Society
 Lawton, Oklahoma



www.WichitaWildlight.org

Photographs courtesy of

<i>Fran Wehner</i>	<i>Clem Wehner</i>
<i>John Powers</i>	<i>Kenny Seals</i>
<i>Leo Alexander</i>	<i>Rebekah Boudoin</i>
<i>Dawn Nancy</i>	<i>Brenda Hatch</i>

Tips For Taking Great Photographs

by Clem Wehner

1. Get down on the subject's level. Don't shoot down on animals and people.
2. Use the "Rule of Thirds" to position the subject for a more aesthetically pleasing layout. But, remember the "rule" is really a guide.
3. Plan placement of subject to make sense in the scene. In the image leave room in front of objects that normally move.
4. Watch for distractions in the background. Take time to examine the scene in your viewfinder for things you don't want. Recompose if necessary.
5. Beware of bright objects that draw attention away from the subject. Remember, the brightest object in the image tends to become the subject.
6. Try vertical and horizontal orientation. Chose the one that looks best. It may depend on the subject. Vertical subjects (people, trees, tall objects, etc) generally need vertical camera orientation (portrait orientation). Horizontal subjects (landscapes, wide shots, etc. generally need horizontal camera orientation (landscape orientation).
7. Compose with objects in the foreground to give a sense of scale, to frame the image, to add interest, and to show depth.
8. Use leading lines to direct attention to the subject or center of interest of the image.
9. Don't split the image with a horizon line. Put the horizon in the lower or upper third.
10. Zoom in or get closer to eliminate distractions, and to emphasize the subject.
11. Try some unusual angles for added interest. Tilt the camera for variety. It doesn't have to be just vertical or horizontal.
12. Use early and late sun for warm color tones. The first and last two hours of the day are best.
13. Avoid clutter that detracts from the subject. Recompose as necessary. The best images are simple.
14. Don't forget small things as subjects. Some small things are great subjects. Some of the best landscapes are little ones-- flowers, rocks, interesting dirt formations, water running, creeks.
15. Try shooting close-ups of unusual things. Try unusual close-ups. Try close-ups with a short Depth of Field to blur out the background.

16. Try unusual views, angles, and backgrounds for interest. Images with contradictory parts or meanings are interesting.
17. Learn to use your camera's pre-programmed modes such as portrait, sports, landscape, night, auto, etc. These help you be creative and accommodate different lighting.
18. Digital photography requires careful exposure of dark areas of a scene. Even a little underexposure will cause dark areas of the scene to go black and you'll lose detail.
19. Learn the effective range of your flash. It's probably less than you think. Keep your subjects in range. Take a flash picture outside in the dark to learn your flash's range.
20. When the light is bad, photograph colorful objects in your scene to keep it from being dull. Take pictures even when weather is bad. Everything seems more beautiful after a rain.
21. Put a subject in your landscapes. The landscapes will be more interesting. Even a photo of the Grand Canyon is more interesting with something in the foreground
22. Use natural and window light for soft gentle lighting. Light from a north-facing window is best because it's very diffused. (The Sun is always to our south and can't shine directly into a north-facing window).
23. Shoot indoors without flash for beautiful ambient lighting. Camera must be on tripod. Use long exposure (1/2 second or longer) or auto exposure.
24. Shoot some black and white. It has timeless beauty. It can even turn "ordinary" into art! Even a mud puddle can be beautiful in B&W.
25. Be patient and take plenty of time to get the best shots. Plan carefully. Remember that with wildlife, you are on their schedule, not yours.
26. Great photos always have a "story" to tell. Look for images with something to say. They are always better than those without a subject.
27. Remember, photographers are the great storytellers of the world. You help preserve history and heritage for future generations. Without photos, they won't know who we were.

Now, go take some photos—lots of them!