

TIPS FOR TAKING GREAT PHOTOS

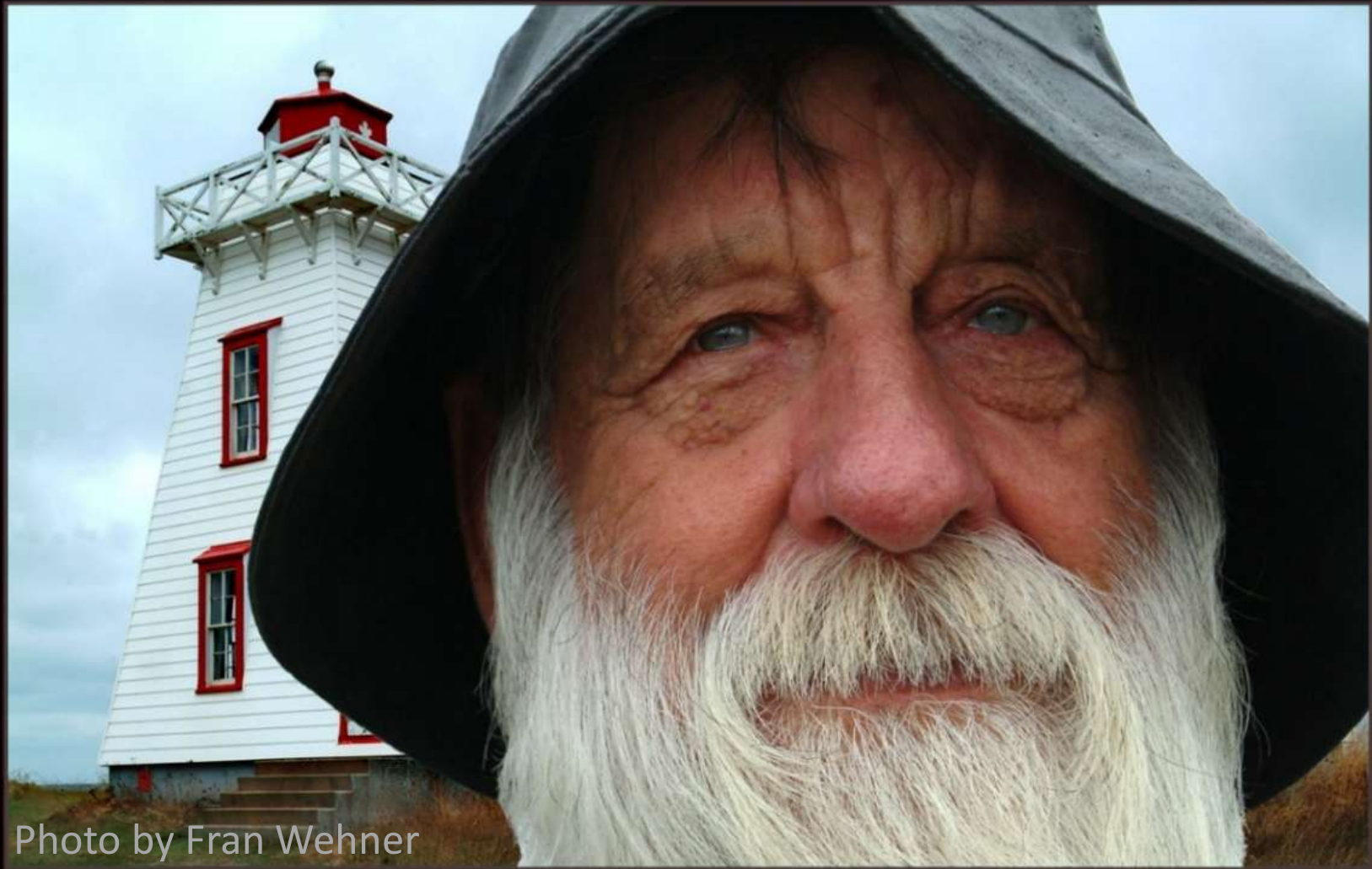
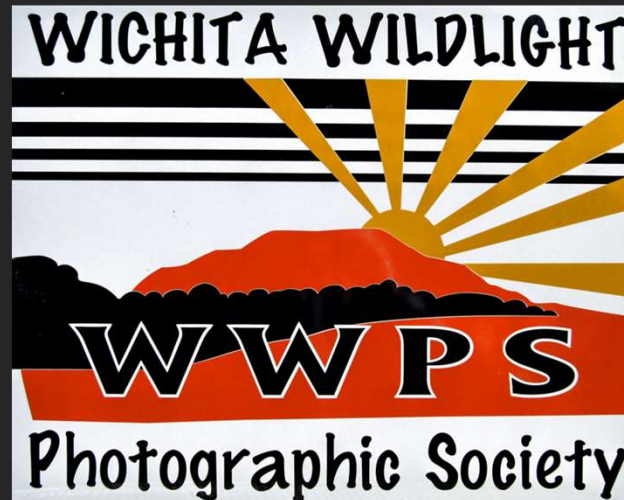


Photo by Fran Wehner

This program is a presentation of the
Photography club of Lawton, Oklahoma



www.WichitaWildlight.org

a member group of Lawton Arts for All, the organization
dedicated to fostering the arts in Southwest Oklahoma



www.LawtonArtsforAll.org

**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.”*

A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is a bright, glowing orb partially obscured by thin, horizontal clouds. The sky is a deep orange, and the water is dark with some whitecaps. A small sailboat is visible on the horizon to the left.

**Here are some tips to help you
take better Photographs**

photo by John Powers

First, get down on your subject's level

photo by John Powers



Get lower for a different perspective

photo by Clem Wehner



Don't shoot down on animals

not this



this



Photos by Clem Wehner

Don't shoot down on people
Move yourself down to their level.

not this

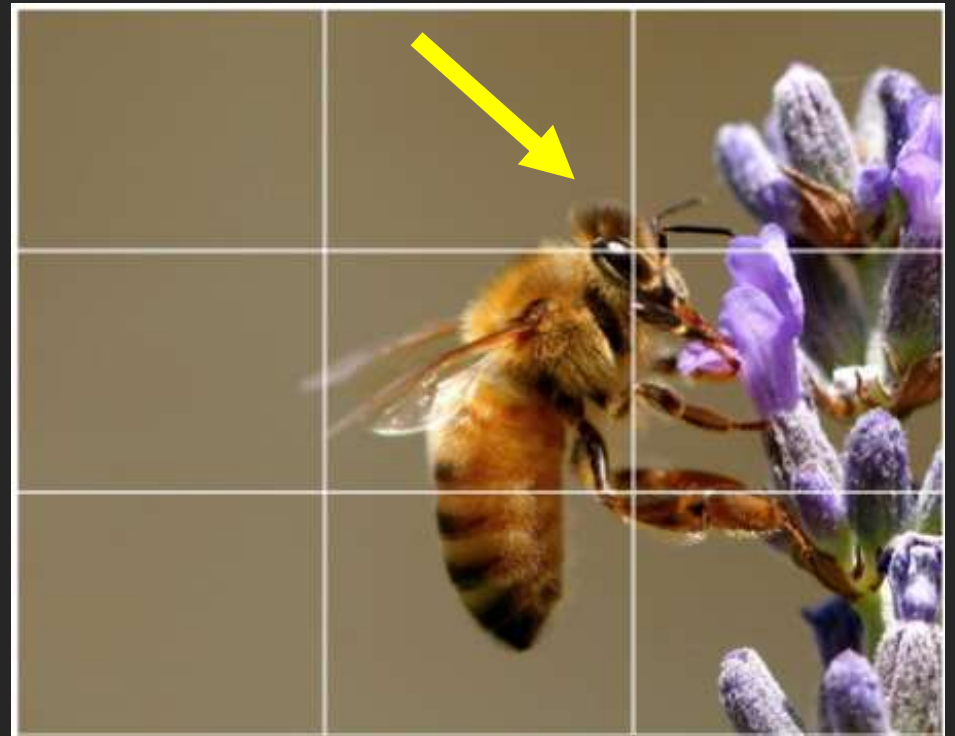
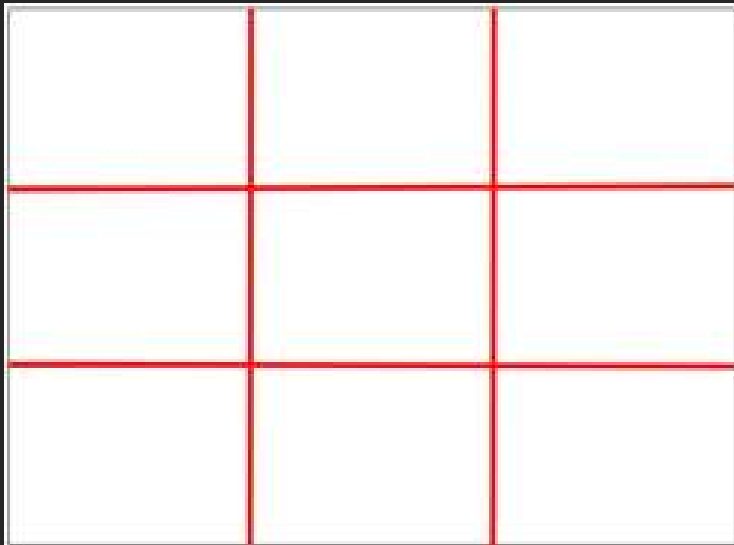


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Use “Thirds”

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



Position the subject using Thirds

OK



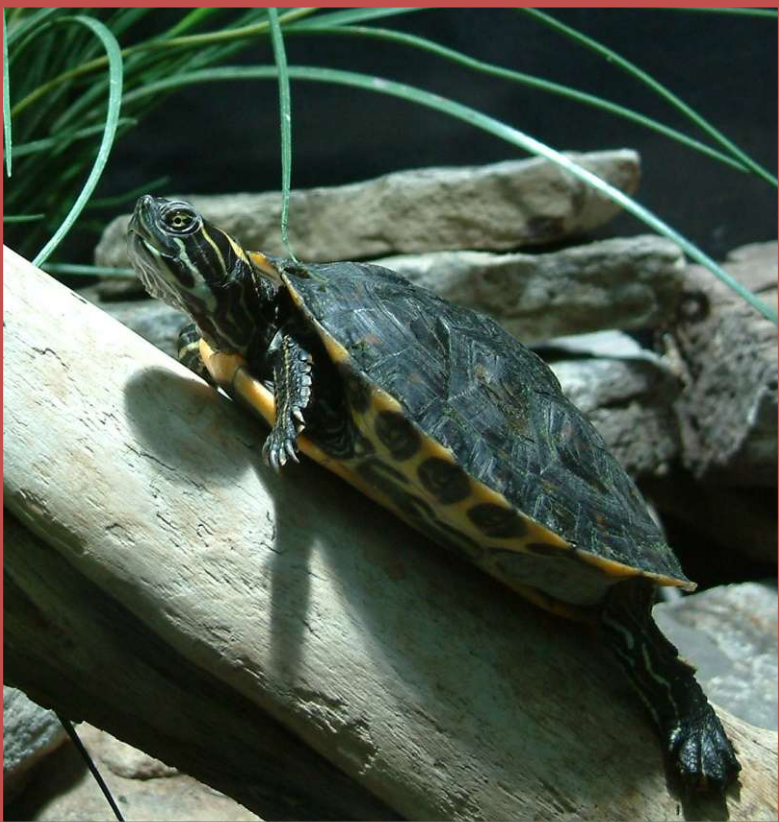
better



photos by John Powers

Using Thirds

OK



Better



Photos by Clem Wehner

Using Thirds

Both good

photo by Clem Wehner



photo by John Powers



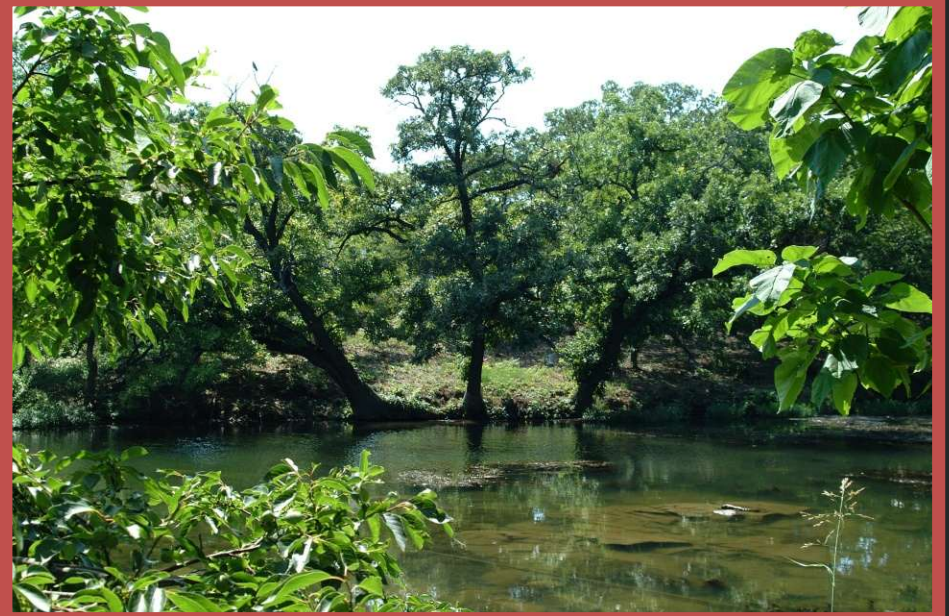
Not Thirds, but still good

sometimes, the scene just looks better centered

photo by John Powers



photo by Clem Wehner



Plan placement of subject

Leave room in front of moving subjects

not this

photo by Clem Wehner



this

photo by Clem Wehner



Plan placement of subject

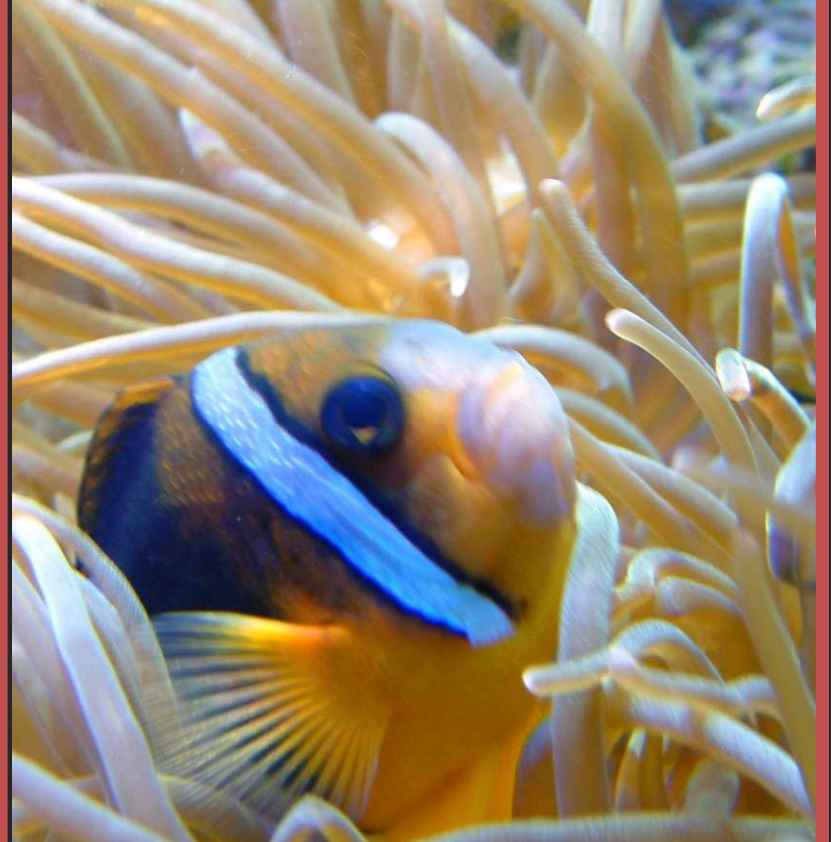
not this

photo by Clem Wehner



this

photo by Clem Wehner



Don't crowd the edge

not this

this



Give the subject room to move

not this



this



Leave space in front of moving subjects

not this



this



If it's supposed to move, leave room

not this



this



Photos by Clem Wehner

Watch for distractions

Avoid branches, objects thru image, etc.

not these



this



Re-compose to eliminate distractions

Move yourself to hide problems

not this



this

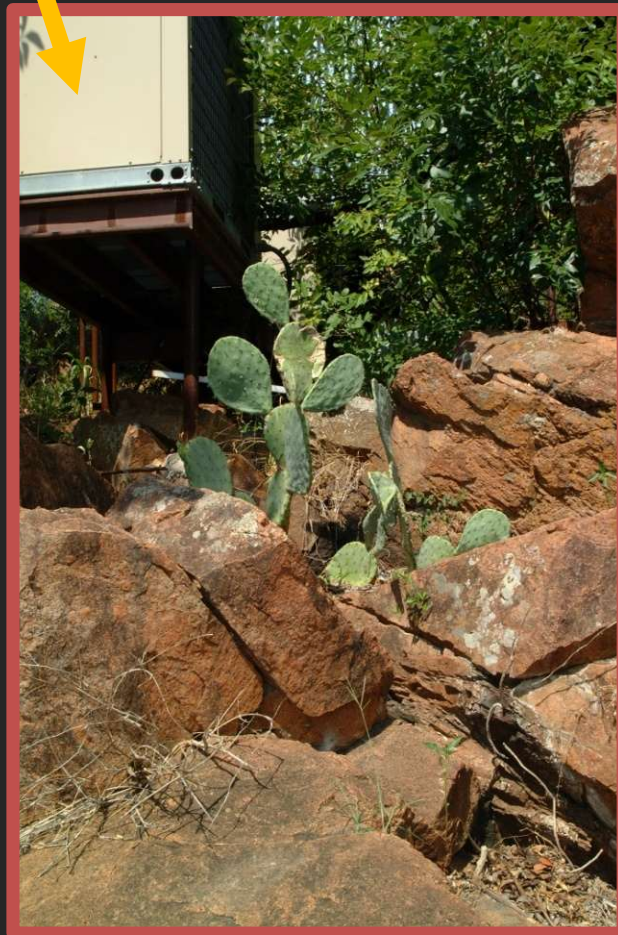


Recompose to eliminate distractions

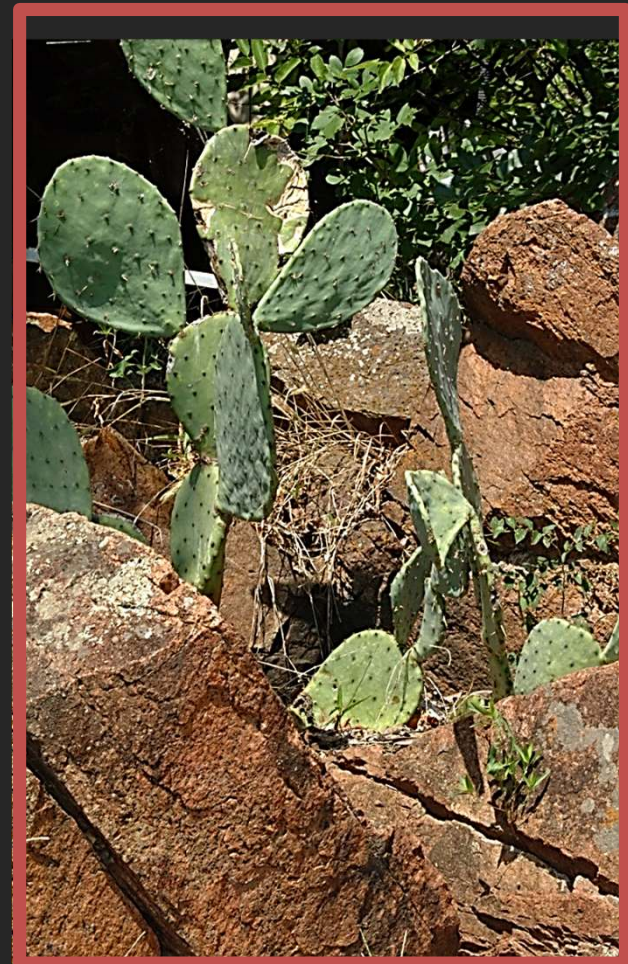
Try zooming in

DISTRACTING

not this



this



photos by Clem Wehner

ZOOM IN TO ELIMINATE CLUTTER

SNAPSHOT



PORTRAIT



Generally, the subject should fill about **60% of the scene**

Beware of bright objects

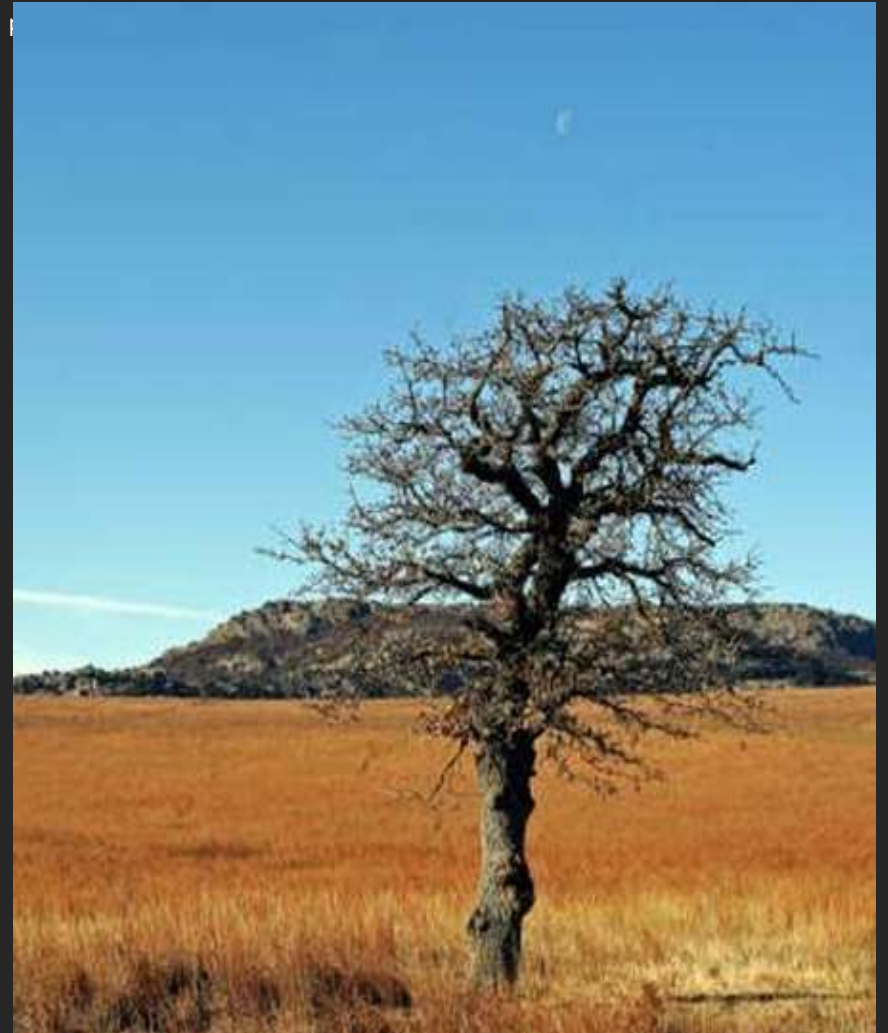
They draw attention away from the subject.



Photos by John Powers

Try vertical and horizontal composition

Pick the one you like best.



photos by John Powers

Try vertical and horizontal composition



photos by Clem Wehner

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

OK



much better



photos by John Powers

Compose to give a sense of scale

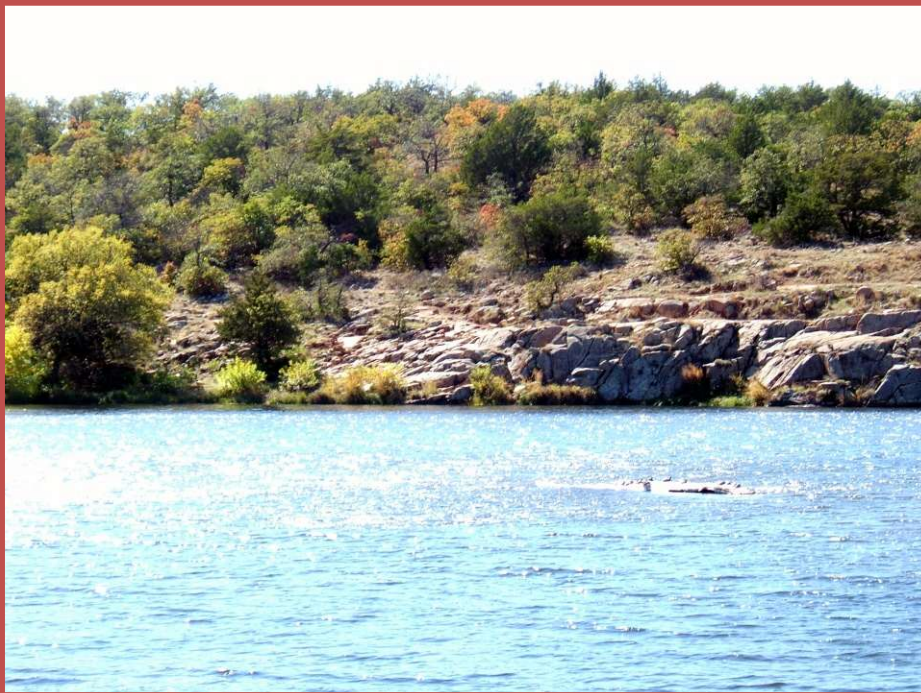


BETTER

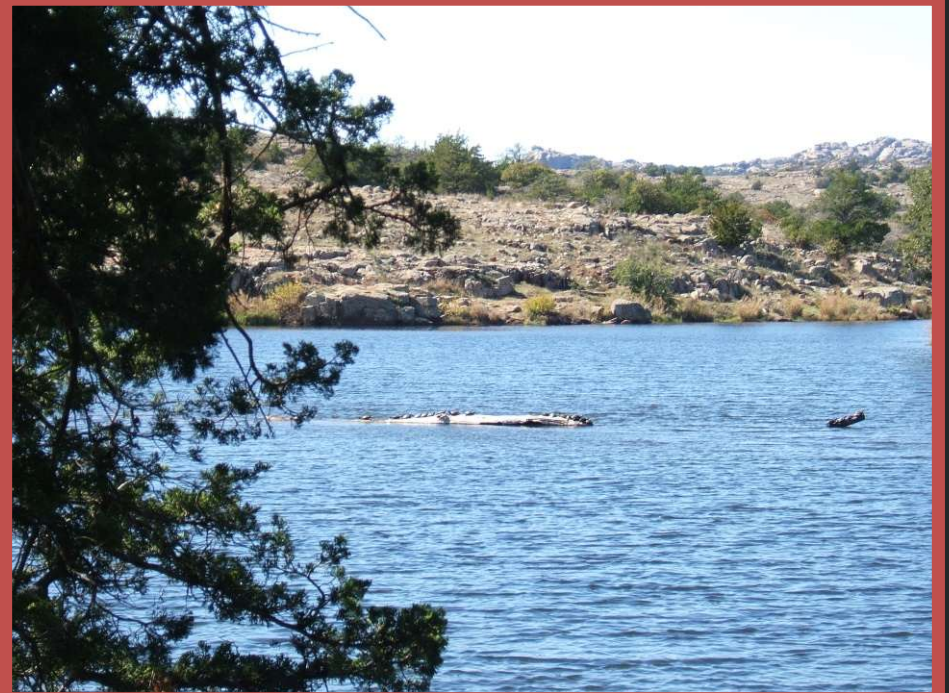


Use foreground objects to frame image

OK



Better



Use foreground objects to add interest

OK



much better



photos by John Powers

Use foreground objects to add interest



Photos by Clem Wehner

Use foreground objects to show depth

photo by Clem Wehner



Don't put the horizon in center

not this



this



photos by John Powers

Put the horizon off center

Upper third

Centered



this

Lower third



Put the horizon off center



Zoom in to eliminate clutter and distractions

really distracting



much better



Photos by Clem Wehner

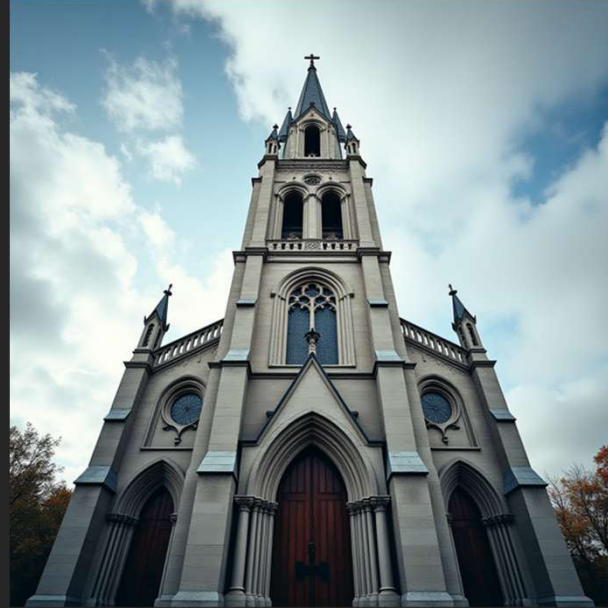
Zoom in to emphasize the subject.



photos by John Powers

Try some UNUSUAL ANGLES for added interest

photos by Fran Wehner



Use early and late sun for warm colors

First and last two hours of the day are best



photos by John Powers

Avoid clutter that detracts from the subject

Not this. (what's the subject?)



Better



Photos by Fran Wehner

Small things make good subjects, too!



Photos by Dawn Muncy



Parts of things can make good subjects

Photos by Dawn Muncy



Open your eyes to the possibilities

Photos by Dawn Muncy



Look for beauty in simple things

photo by Clem Wehner



photo by Fran Wehner



Simple beauty might be right at your feet



Photo by Dawn Muncy

Simple things can make interesting photos

Photos by Dawn Muncy



Try close-ups of unusual things

photo by Fran Wehner



Try unusual close-ups

photo by Clem Wehner



Zoom in to get special effects





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

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**

**In dull light,
include something with a little color**



Put a subject in your landscapes

Imagine this photo without the riders—

It's not very interesting

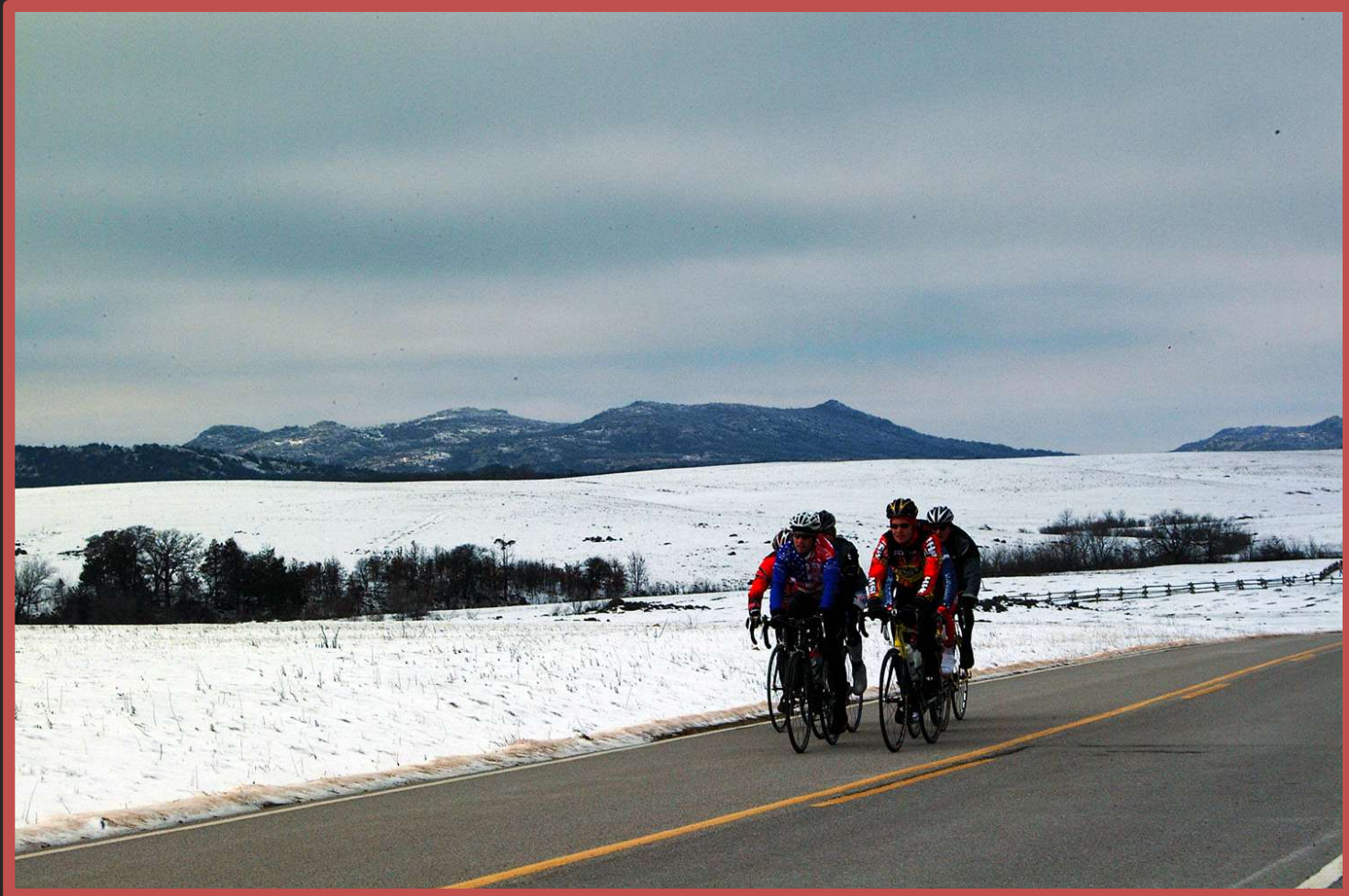


photo by John Powers

Use natural window light

A north-facing window has the softest light



Photo by Fran Wehner

Try indoor photos without flash

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

photo by Fran Wehner

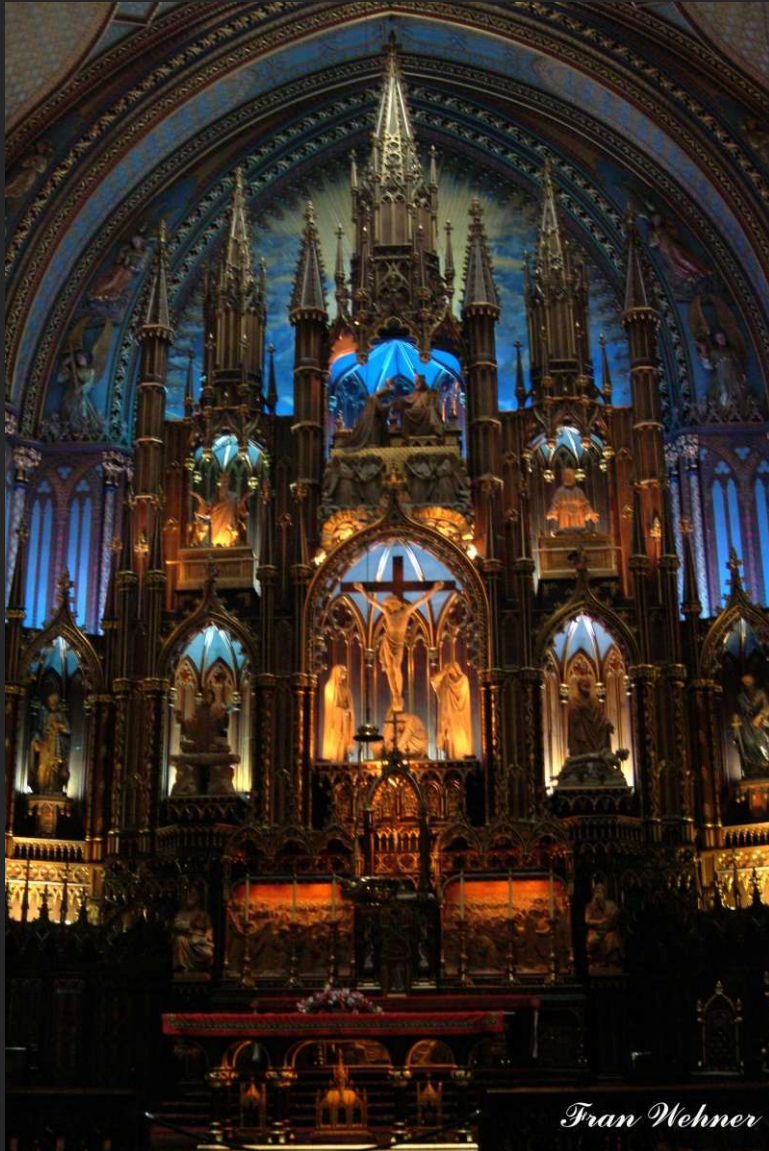


photo by Clem Wehner



The light is softer and warmer **WITHOUT** flash!

Try black and white photos

It has timeless beauty



Lee Alexander

Black and White can turn “ordinary” into ART!



Be patient

Good shots come to those who wait!



photos by Clem Wehner



And last, try to
tell a story

A story adds interest

It's a much nicer image with the people



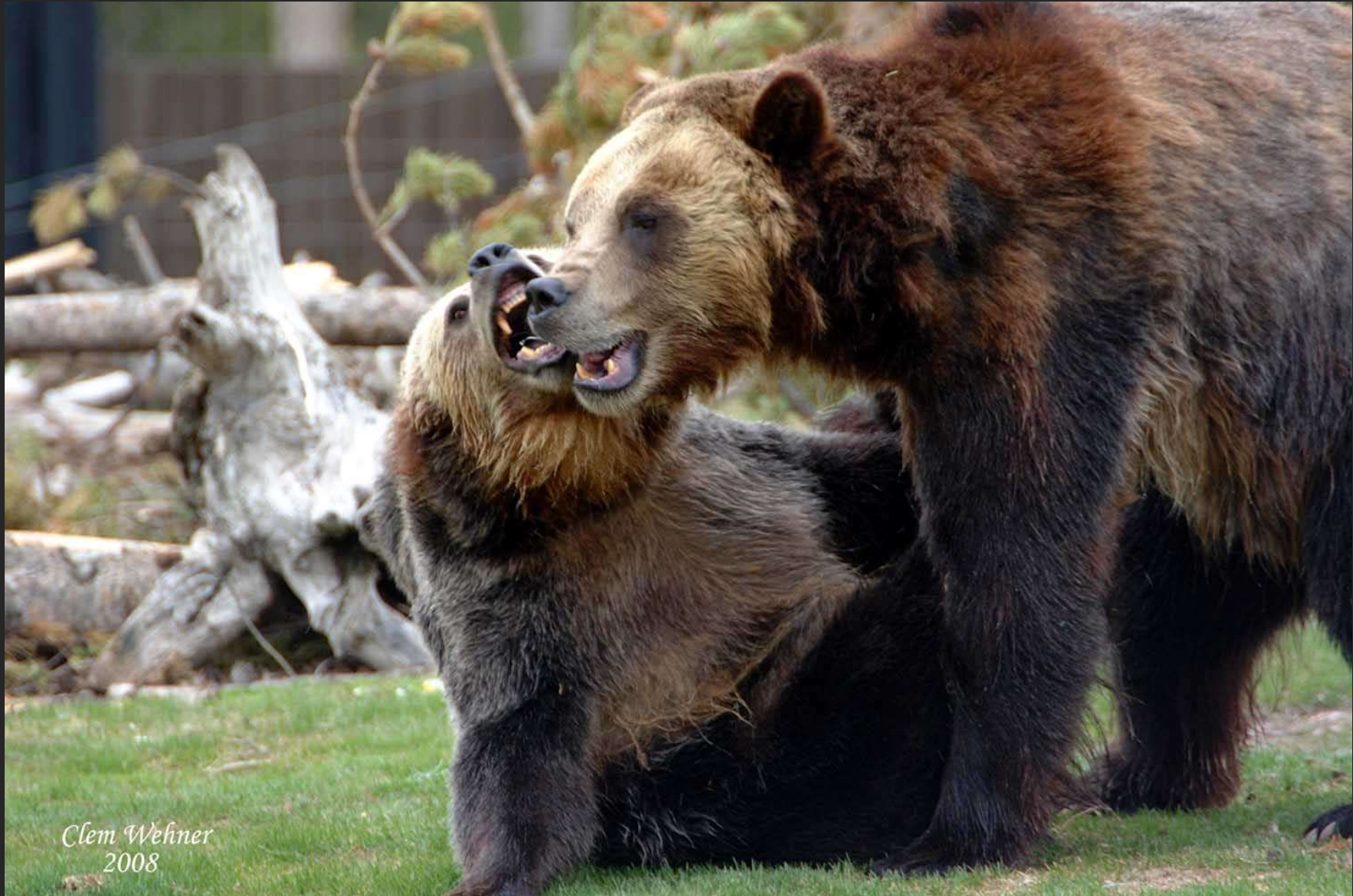
photo by John Powers

... makes it more than just a pretty picture



John Lewis

... brings “life” to the image



Clem Wehner
2008

photo by Clem Wehner

... makes it memorable

photo by Rebekah Boudoin



This will be a family heirloom image!

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



by Fran Wehner

“Photographers are the world’s great storytellers.”

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

A FREE photography class for the public each month!
See website for details

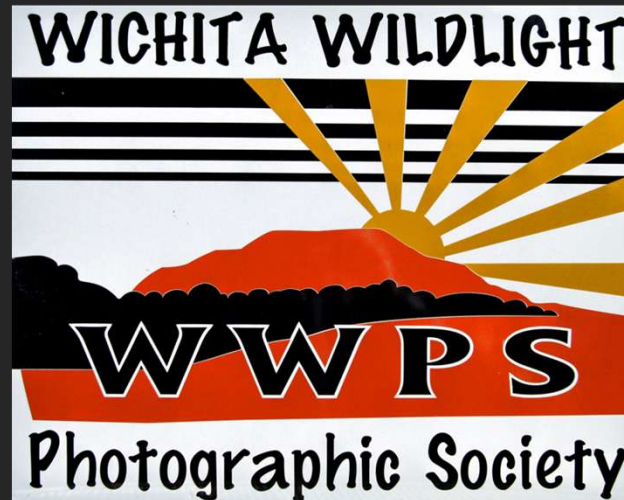
The Wichita Wildlight Photographic Society

website: **www.WichitaWildlight.org**

email: **WichitaWildlight@gmail.com**

Facebook: **www.facebook.com/WWPS.org**

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The End

Now, go take lots of photos!