

April, 2021



2021 Assigned Subjects:

April: Old Houses

May: Clouds

June: Historic Lebanon Valley Sites

September: Craggy

October: Fences

November: Scenic

**Inside this issue:**

Current News	1
Educational Series	1
Photo Contests	4
Photo Opportunities	4
Photo Editing Feature	5
Product of the Month	5
Workshops and Tours	7

# Lebanon Camera Club

**News**

- April Meeting: Tuesday, 4/6/21 6:30 pm via Zoom
- Program: "High Dynamic Range Photography" by Keith Kotay
- Online Digital Competition—Assigned Subject is Old Houses

**Photography Educational Series—Flower Photography**



It's no surprise that images of flowers are extremely popular and are one of the most commonly printed and sold images. Flowers have a way of lifting the spirit. Because there are so many varieties, the type of photographs you can capture will vary and evoke different emotions. To make the most of your common daises or exotic orchids, read on.

**Zoom In for Details** - Zooming in as close as possible will give you the most dramatic effects and details. The only true way of getting close-up, high quality flower photos, is by using a specialized macro lens (50mm to 200mm). Macro lenses uncover details that would be impossible to detect with the unaided eye and give a new, interesting perspective on the subjects. Close-ups of petals and buds of the flower, or water droplets can jump out of the page.



You can use a telephoto lens and zoom in to the flower. In this case, make sure you take note of the minimum focussing distance of the lens. This is usually marked on the outside of the lens. For example, my 70-300mm telephoto lens has a minimum focusing distance of 1.5 meters (or 5 feet). It simply will not focus on anything closer.

There are a couple of solutions for getting around the minimum focusing distance problem. One is to use extension tubes which are hollow tubes that you place between the camera and the lens. Essentially the tubes move the lens farther away from the camera's sensor which allows the lens to focus on closer objects. The other solution is to use a close-up filter which works like a magnifying glass and attaches to the end of your lens.



*"The camera is an instrument that teaches people how to see without a camera."*

Dorothea Lange



## Flowers cont'd.

**Focus Selectively** - Once you have the lens, it's important to use selective focusing. Keeping everything in the image sharp means there's no focal point; therefore choose one spot of the subject and keep that sharp. Ideally, choose a low ISO for quality and use a tripod or a monopod so there is no camera shake – blur is very obvious in macro shots. Choose a shallow DOF (depth of field), normally  $f/2.8$ – $f/8$  to give everything else a slightly blurry, ethereal effect.

**Weather**—When photographing outdoors, you will meet with all kinds of weather conditions. On bright sunny days, you have to consider balancing the harsh sun; use fill-in flash to illuminate the subject and to keep the fore and backgrounds balanced. Use a gold reflector for warmth and silver or white toned reflectors to bounce light back on the image. Reflectors will also work well as a shield against the wind.

Not every day in spring is a sunny blue sky day. But that's okay because the white sky days are perfect for photographing flowers. The soft even light of an overcast day complements the delicacy of the flowers and there are no shadows and no harsh bright spots, which makes it easier to get a good exposure.

When it comes to photographing flowers, wind is your enemy. The easiest way to avoid it is to do your photography early in the morning when there is less chance of wind. If there is a bit of wind, you can use a piece of cardboard or your reflector to create a block.

Your other option is to bring a flower inside. I photographed the flower below by taking it inside and placing it in front of a white sheet.

**Try Different Angles** - If you want to create extra interest, think about how you are composing the photograph. Remember the rule of thirds and play with convention by framing your subject matter to one side of the frame. Tilt your camera to get an interesting viewpoint and slightly crooked horizon. You can also use the sun creatively; point the camera towards the sun and flare will appear, like light beams on the image.

**Background Ideas** - A great way of bringing the indoor studio look to the outdoors is by using colored cards (in some situations, you can simply bring the flowers inside to the studio). Colored cards are easy to find and you can buy them at a stationery store or art supply store. To use them, place the card behind the flower, and choose a complementary or contrasting color to bring out the petals. If indoors, use a spotlight pointing directly at the back and center of the image, so as to create a gentle halo effect and a two toned background.

As with every photograph, the background can make or break the image. Try to change your position so that there is nothing distracting behind your flower.



## Flowers cont'd.

**Details and Patterns** - Flowers are not just about the petals but about the leaves too. Using a creative eye, carefully pick out the fine details and repetitive patterns you can see. Use a macro lens to get the best magnification. You can use a ringlight flash to add contrast to the image, but make sure there is no blur or camera shake – a common problem with extremely close up images. Shoot on a low ISO, either 50 or 100 to get a fine grain and bright color reproduction.



**Recommended Settings** - Shoot with a shallow DOF (depth of field), of around f/4 to create a blurred background and make the flower stand out. If you are outdoors and it is a bright day, consider underexposing slightly by -1 stop, to bring out the details of the flower, the leaves and stem.

**Recommended Equipment** - There are certain tools that will make shooting flowers easier; a macro lens with an aperture of f/2.8 is ideal for the task. A tripod or a monopod is a good accessory you can use in the home or when out on location and means you can avoid any blur, which is always more apparent in close up images. Also take a colored card with you! It's a great way to create an instant studio background no matter where you are.

**Backlighting**—Another type of light that is excellent for flower photography is backlight. Backlight happens when the sun is directly in front of you lighting your flower from behind. Because flower petals are translucent, backlight makes flowers appear to glow. Try to capture backlit flowers late in the day when the sun is close to the horizon which will cast nice warm light on the rest of your image too. You might even be able to catch some rays of light filtering through the trees.

**Dark Background**—Flower photos with a dark background are perfect for highlighting the bright colors. This type of shot is easy to achieve with a flash. If done well, the background doesn't even have to be black – just simply dark. The image below is a fine example of using this technique:

To achieve this effect, set the ISO to 100 or 200, set the f-stop to f22 or greater, and set the flash at full power (this works because you're shooting at a higher f/stop or smaller aperture).

Position the flash to one side, being careful not to expose the background to light. If you are using a dark background, don't place it too close to your subject (try 20 inches away or farther) and be sure that the flash doesn't illuminate it.



**Conclusion**—The wonderful thing about flowers is that they can be found nearly everywhere! There may be some daisies in your garden; you could buy a bouquet at the local store, or you could go to a park with lots of flowers. Always remember, don't remove anything that is not yours. Take your time, because flowers don't run away. This allows you to really consider the composition of your photo. Flowers provide ideal subjects for obtaining outstanding photos!

Source: <https://photographylife.com/the-art-of-photographing-flowers> and <https://www.exposureguide.com/flower-photography-tips/> and <https://digital-photography-school.com/10-tips-for-improving-your-flower-photos/>



*"I've never made any picture, good or bad, without paying for it in emotional turmoil."*

W. Eugene Smith



## Photo Contests

- 2021 Photography Contests <https://photocontest-guru.com>
- Great American Photo Contest Monthly Baby Photo  
[www.greatamericanphotocontest.com](http://www.greatamericanphotocontest.com)

Weekly Photo Challenge:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/weeklyphotographychallenges>

### Various Photo Contests (Many Different Topics)

- <https://www.photocontestinsider.com/>
- <http://www.voubs.com>
- [Www.viewbug.com/photo-contests](http://www.viewbug.com/photo-contests)
- <https://www.outdoorphotographer.com/photo-contests/>
- <http://www.photocrowd.com>
- [www.life-framer.com/](http://www.life-framer.com/)
- <https://www.fanartreview.com>

### Landscape and Nature Forum Photography Challenge—monthly

theme and critique: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/creativeraw/>

[creativeraw/?](https://www.facebook.com/groups/creativeraw/)

[utm\\_source=ActiveCampaign&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=March%20Photo%20Challenge%3A%20Color%20in%20Nature&utm\\_campaign=Facebook%20Group%20Contest](https://www.facebook.com/groups/creativeraw/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=March%20Photo%20Challenge%3A%20Color%20in%20Nature&utm_campaign=Facebook%20Group%20Contest)

## Photo Opportunities

- April 17

**Kite Flying Festival**

Markets at Shrewsbury

<https://www.marketsatshrewsbury.com/event/kite-festival/>

-

- April 23

**Cruise Night**

Markets at Shrewsbury

<https://www.marketsatshrewsbury.com/events/cruise-night/>



# April Photo Challenge



## April



Bokeh 1	Table 2	Favorite Time of Day 3	Cereal 4	Next to You 5	Comfort 6	Games 7
Golden 8	Your Neighbourhood 9	Outside  10	Hair 11	Small 12	Date Night 13	Peaches 14
Periwinkle  15	Refreshing 16	Spoon 17	Lines 18	Food 19	Sidewalk 20	Easter Eggs 21
Earth Day  22	A is for... 23	Nature 24	Favorite Flower 25	Potato 26	Kids 27	Handwriting  28
Graffiti 29	Kiss 30					



PSA provides education, information,  
inspiration and opportunity to all persons  
interested in photography

### Exciting New Opportunities for You

**New On-Line Education Courses Available** The On-Line Education team is excited to announce the introduction of two brand new courses; Advanced Photo Travel and Introduction to Photoshop, which are now being offered to all members. Also recently added were Creating Images for PSA Competitions and Exhibitions (replacing Creating Competitive Images) and Portrait Photography (replacing Portraits in Natural Light). There are currently 9 courses to choose from that cover a wide range of topics. All on-line courses are free to members, just log into your account and go to <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?education-online-courses> to sign up for a course today.

## Workshops and Tours

### Apogee Photo Magazine

For more information log on to  
[http://www.apogeephoto.com/  
photography\\_workshops.shtml](http://www.apogeephoto.com/photography_workshops.shtml)

### Wildlife and Nature Travel

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

### Art Wolfe Photography Workshops

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

### Don Smith Photography

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

### Brenda Tharp

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

### M&M Photo Tours

<http://www.mmphototours.com/>

### Arizona Highway Photo Workshops

<http://www.friendsofhighways.com/>

### John Shaw 2-Day Nature & Digital Photography Seminar

<http://www.photosafaris.com/>

### Jack Graham Photography

<http://jackgrahamphoto.com/>

### Rocky Mountain Reflections

[www.rockymtnrefl.com/photographyworkshops.html](http://www.rockymtnrefl.com/photographyworkshops.html)

### Slonina Photography—Explore Wild America

<http://www.sphotography.com>

### Darwin Wiggett Tours & Workshops

<http://oopoomoo.com/workshopsandtours/>

### Outdoor Photo Workshops

<http://www.outdoorphotoworkshops.com>

### Photo Workshop Adventures

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

### Michael Francis Photo Shoots

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

### Osprey Photo Workshops & Tours

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

### Tom Dwyer Tours & Workshops

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

### Horizon Photography Workshops

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

Below is a link of online pdf files from past workshops and monthly meeting presentations:

[http://www.lebanoncameraclub.org/  
newsletters](http://www.lebanoncameraclub.org/newsletters)

[https://www.lebanoncameraclub.org/  
links](https://www.lebanoncameraclub.org/links)

## 2020 Officers

President: Paul Hess  
rvdoc@comcast.net

Vice President: Ed Gundrum,  
ejgun@evenlink.com

Secretary: Tammy Wolfe,  
lebanoncamera@gmail.com

Treasurer: Joni Bonus O'Ship  
mjoship@comcast.net

Program: Keith Kotay  
keith@kotay.net

Newsletter: Connie Fullenlove  
connief922@gmail.com

Competition: Melodie Bechtel,  
melodiebee@gmail.com

Community Affairs: Bill Sypher,  
sypher1@comcast.net

## Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month!

If you would like to do a program on anything digital related or know someone who would, please let us know.

Or

If you have something of interest for our members, please email them to the Newsletter Editor, Connie at [lebanoncamera@gmail.com](mailto:lebanoncamera@gmail.com).

**MONTHLY MEETING**  
Be Connected. Be Heard. Be Informed.

Everyone is invited to attend our regular monthly meetings.

Unless otherwise noted we meet the first Tuesday at 6:30PM in St. Stephen's Christian Fellowship Church, 1100 Hunter Chase Lane, Lebanon PA.

Directions: From Rt 72 N of Lebanon where N 12th St becomes Jonestown Road at the McDonalds, follow Jonestown Road north past the Turkey Hill. Jonestown

Road will become Sandhill Road. Keep on Sandhill road until it branches to the left into Grace Avenue. Church is on the left 3/10 of a mile from the split *before* you pass Youth for Christ and Fisher Bus..

The club is a member of the Photographic Society of American (PSA).

Cancellation or last minute changes of events will normally be sent to members via email and broadcast on radio station WLBR, AM 1270.

Only members may enter competitions. Dues are \$25 per year and include the newsletter and monthly meeting minutes.

Digital Competition entries are due at least one day prior to the scheduled competition.

Competition Committee will keep winning Print entries for the end of year competition unless the member requests return of entries before then. In that case, the member would be responsible for re-submitting them for the end of year competition.

Products and services of interest to photographers are presented as a service without review or endorsement.

Trademarks are the property of the respective companies. Graphics copyright © 2001-2004 Microsoft Corporation, the club, or as marked.

Dates and times of events may change. Please check local listings.