

February, 2021



2021 Assigned Subjects:

February: Shadow

March: Broken

April: Old Houses

May: Clouds

June: Historic Lebanon Valley Sites

September: Craggy

October: Fences

November: Scenic

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Lebanon Camera Club

News

- February Meeting: Tuesday, 2/2/21 6:30 pm on Zoom
 - Program: Valerie Hoffman will present "FINDING BEAUTY IN THE BROKEN"
- Online Digital Competition—Assigned Subject is Shadow

Photography Educational Series—Pet Photography

Photographing your pets is about capturing their personality, their funny and sweet moments and their habits. It requires a certain set of skills and patience to tackle.

Your pets are unpredictable and fast (unless you have a snail or a turtle). This provides you with all of the subject matter you need. To get the most from your pet photography, you need to know when your pet is active throughout the day. A lot depends on its personality and habits.



When they are calmer and more relaxed, this is a perfect time for portraits. A tired pet is a good pet. They will sit still for longer and won't feel the need to dash off at a moment's notice. Ask the owner to tire out their pet before the photo session. The action shots come when they have an abundance of energy. Schedule and plan around these times, depending on the shots you want.

1. Start with Your Pet's Personality—Before you start photographing your pet ask yourself 'what sets it apart from other animals?' Think about what type of personality it has and then attempt to capture some of that in your shots. For example if everyone knows your pet as sleepy, lazy or placid, set up your photo shoot around it's bed or where it goes after a meal to lie in the sun and you'll have every chance of capturing a shot that sums your pet right up. Alternatively if your pet is hyperactive, inquisitive and always on the move it might be better to do your shoot at a local park where it's racing around, jumping for balls or playing with other animals.



2. Think about Context—In choosing the location to photograph your pet you might want to consider a variety of other factors also. For starters choose a place where your pet will be comfortable and at ease. Also consider the familiarity of the location and the emotions that it will evoke in you as the pets owner. For example



“When people ask me what photography equipment I use...I tell them my eyes.”

– Anonymous



Pets cont'd.

you might have a place that you and your pet have had some special moments together that will mean a lot in the future as you look back over your shots. Lastly consider the background of your shots. Ultimately you don't want your backgrounds to be distracting from your photo – sometimes the best locations are the plainest ones – a large patch of green grass, a well lit room with white walls and plain carpet etc can be ideal.

3. Get in Close—Pets come in all shapes and sizes but in most cases they are smaller than a human and as a result they tend to end up getting a little lost in photos unless you make an effort to get up close to them. Of course getting close is not always easy, especially if you have a pet that likes to move around, but it's worth making the effort as the detail that can be gained and the personality that can be captured by an up close and personal photo shoot with a pet can really lift a photo to a new level. If you can't physically get close to your pet get your camera equipped with a zoom lens.



A telephoto lens is a great way to capture scenes without being in the immediate area. This is a great way to stay out of your pet's zone to capture those candid shots. It prevents your pet to be distracted by you, your camera or noises that your camera makes. This is also a great way to deal with shy or unruly dogs. It allows the pets to keep their distance. Telephoto lenses also produce a natural perspective free of distortion and a shallow depth of field.

4. Get On Their Level—Get down on your pets level where you can look upon them eye to eye. Images taken by a photographer standing up and looking down on their level not only leave you too far away from your subject but they also mean the shots end up having a very 'human perspective'. Getting down on your pets level means you enter their world and get a glimpse of what life looks like from their angle – you'll be impressed by the results as they are more personal and have a real element of intimacy.



5. Mix Up Your Framing—Pets, like human subjects' look different from different angles and framing them in a variety of ways can bring out different perspectives to your shots. In your photo shoot take some tightly cropped facial shots (even focusing right in on single features like eyes, noses, ears, whiskers etc) but also make sure you take three quarter body shots as well as full body shots. In this way you end up with a series of shots that give viewers of your photos a full perspective on who your pet is.

6. Lighting—Light makes any photograph what it is and when it comes to pets it's especially important. In general I wouldn't recommend using a

Cont'd

Pets cont'd.

flash as they tend to distract pets and in some cases will even frighten them. The other issue with flashes is that they can create spooky red-eye problems with some animals. Natural light is a much better option than using a flash and so where possible outside photo shoots tend to work best (or at least in a well lit window inside). The only exception I would give for using a flash is when your pet has very dark (or black) fur as it tends to absorb light and a flash can add detail. With dark furry pets you might want to slightly over expose your images for this same reason. Alternatively with white pets you run the risk of over exposing shots so try to find a location out of direct sunlight and definitely avoid a flash.

7. Include People—One of the best things you can do to add context to a shot is to include the special people in the life of your pet in the image. Shots with the owner or other family members interacting with your pet can make the images incredibly special for years to come. You might like to try posed shots but sometimes it's the candid shots of owner and pet at play (or snoozing together in front of a fire) that really capture the character of the pet and evoke emotion.



8. Freeze the Action—Many pets present a challenge to photographers because they are active and always on the move. The key with any subject that's on the move is to freeze their action by using a fast shutter speed. Most digital cameras these days will allow you to shoot in full manual mode if you feel confident to get the mix between shutter and aperture right – alternatively you can work in shutter priority mode where you set the shutter speed and the camera automatically does the rest by picking a good aperture to work with your shutter speed. The last alternative is to use 'sports' mode which will mean the camera will select the fastest shutter speed possible for your situation. Once you've got your shutter speed nice and fast make sure your camera is always at the ready so you can anticipate the actions of your pet. If they are a fast mover you might also want to consider shooting in continuous mode (burst mode) to take a quick series of shots in a row.



9. Be Playful—Pets can be playful little critters and rather than attempting to contain this to get them posed for that special shot it's often very effective to go with their playfulness and make it a central feature of your image. Include their toys, stimulate them to look longingly into your camera by holding a special treat above your head or take a picture with them sitting on top of you mid wrestle etc. Make your photo shoot a fun experience for both you and your pet and your shots are likely to reflect it.

10. Catch them Unaware—Posed shots can be fun and effective but one thing to do is to photograph them candidly paparazzi style. Try to take photographs so the pet is barely aware of your presence so the shots are very natural without distracting the animal from his business.

Source: <https://digital-photography-school.com/how-to-photograph-pets/> and <https://expertphotography.com/the-complete-guide-to-pet-photography-87-tips/>



"A portrait is not made in the camera, but on either side of it."

– Edward Steichen



Photo Contests

- 2021 Photography Contests <https://photocontest-guru.com>
- Great American Photo Contest Monthly Baby Photo
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/
- <https://www.fanartreview.com>

Landscape and Nature Forum Photography Challenge—monthly theme and critique: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/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)

[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)

PID Deadlines

PID Individual Portrait Competition deadline dates are Feb. 11 and April 3. <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?divisions-pid-individual-portrait-competition>

PID Individual Creative Competition deadline dates Feb 1, April 1. <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?pid-individual-creative-competition>

PID Individual Creative Competition deadline dates February 1, April 1. <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?pid-individual-creative-competition>

PID Interclub Competition deadline for Round 2 is February 15, 2021. <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?pid-interclub-competition>

Photo Opportunities

No events scheduled

Photo Contests



SHARING OUR COMMON VIEWS

Hello:

It has been nearly a year since the COVID-19 pandemic touched down here in the commonwealth, and life looks so different for all of us. How we work, how we play, go to school, shop, and socialize has changed dramatically. And yet, we are persevering.

That is why I am proud to introduce *One Lens: Sharing Our Common Views*, a virtual photo exhibition to give each and every Pennsylvanian the opportunity to share their COVID-19 stories through photography. *One Lens* is our chance to show what it is like to experience this extraordinary moment in history. Because art has the power to heal us, and by telling our stories, we can honor our efforts during this time, recognize our achievements, and help sustain each other as we continue the fight.

So, show us your heroes, the helpers in this time. Show us where you see joy, compassion, kindness, and hope. Show us how you are managing your own way through this time where fear and illness overwhelm. Show us the moments you have admired the work of others, gathered your own strength, or where you've seen your community join in common cause.

All of these aspects are singular and special to each of us, but they also are part of a fuller enterprise: the portrait of Pennsylvania during the COVID-19 pandemic. So many times, the history of a people, an event, or a period, is written by observers who stand apart from what they see, research, or analyze, but *One Lens* is a photographic document captured by us, at the very moment of impact.

We will be accepting submissions between February 8, 2021 and March 8, 2021, and the final product will be shared virtually on March 19, 2021. For more information about the exhibition and submission guidelines, please visit www.pa.gov/one-lens. We want to reach as many Pennsylvanians as possible and encourage you to share this exhibit with your friends, family, and colleagues.

This is an opportunity for us to tell our own story of this time, directly and most sincerely. This is what we celebrate. This is what we acknowledge. This is what we honor. That is: What it is to be from Pennsylvania, and what it is to endure.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Frances Wolf'.

FRANCES WOLF
First Lady of Pennsylvania

PSA News

The Photo Traveler 2020 Winter Edition is available for your reading pleasure at <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?divisions-photo-travel-division-newsletter>. If you would like your stories published contact Associate Editor John Martin at ptd-newsletter-editor-asst1@psa-photo.org

Volunteer Opportunities. <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?present-volunteer-opportunities>

Monthly Photo Challenge

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	Food 1Feb	Books  2
Superbowl Sunday 3	Macro 4	Year of the Boar 5	New 6	Gray  7	Food 8	Frosty 9
Surprise 10	Fresh 11	Adventure 12	Portrait 13	Couples  14	Bike 15	Hobby 16
Refresh 17	F is for... 18	Diamond 19	Poetry 20	Lucky 21	A Beautiful Sight 22	Movement 23
3:00 PM  24	Garden 25	Spring 26	Culture 27	Hard 28	1Mar	2

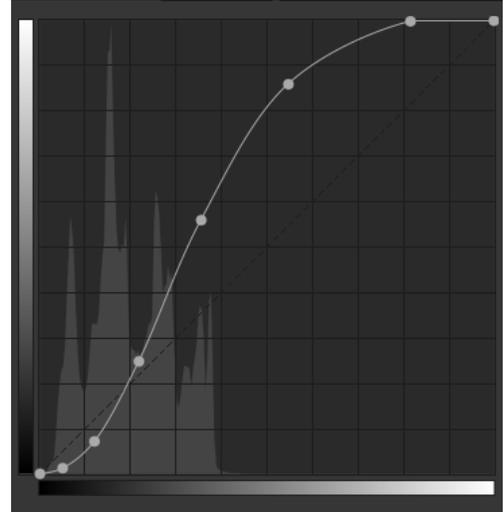
Photo Editing Feature of the Month-Tone Curve

The **Tone Curve** (simply referred to as "**curves**" by most photographers) is a powerful tool that can affect the overall brightness and contrast of an image. By adjusting the **Tone Curve**, you can make your images brighter or darker, and affect the contrast levels.

Why use the tone curve tool vs sliders? Not counting the color curve channels, you might well wonder why use the RGB tone curve in Lightroom to adjust light and dark areas of a photo when you can do the same thing with the whites, blacks highlights and shadows sliders in the Basic panel.

Well, that's because the tone curve works differently from these sliders. They both work, but have different results. With the shadows and highlights sliders, the adjustment is more targeted to that part of the image. So, if you adjust highlights, there's minimal impact on the shadows and vice versa.

That said, when using curves you have more control over contrast, because you can anchor the midtones so that they're not affected, then adjust highlights, lights, darks and shadows. Even taking the lights and darks to extreme you'll maintain detail in the mid-tones. So, with curves you can get a much punchier image with greater detail over the entire dynamic range than you would using the sliders in the Basics panel.



Video Tutorial on Tone Curve in Lightroom: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alkt5V6fw_c

Video Tutorial on Tone Curve in Photoshop: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZX7H6DuMPU>

Random Idea of the Month-Instant Cameras

The best instant cameras of 2021 (article): <https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/buying-guides/the-best-instant-cameras>

The best instant cameras of 2021 (video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ubc7Pg6ptB8>

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

Art Wolfe Photography Workshops

www.artwolfeworkshops.com

Don Smith Photography

www.donsmithphotography.com

Brenda Tharp

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

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

Michael Francis Photo Shoots

www.michaelfrancisphoto.com

Osprey Photo Workshops & Tours

www.ospreyphoto.com

Tom Dwyer Tours & Workshops

www.tomdwyerphoto.com

Horizon Photography Workshops

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.

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.

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