

LOUISIANA



Photographic Society

Focus

Focus on...

Field Trip

Southern Forest Heritage Museum

April 11

-p.38

APRIL EVENTS

April 9, 2015
Critique Session
6:30 pm
Room 102 Goodwood Library

April 11, 2015
Sawmill Fieldtrip
6:30 am
Drusilla McDonald's

April 16, 2015
Monthly Meeting
7:00 pm
Goodwood Library



Cover photo : Renee Pierce

Louisiana Photographic Society
meets on the third Thursday
of each month at the
Goodwood Library
7711 Goodwood Blvd
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Guests are always welcome!

Membership dues are \$25/year
Each additional family member \$5/year

PO Box 83834
Baton Rouge, LA 70884
www.laphotosociety.com



President's Message

OPPORTUNITIES!

That is what LPS is giving every member. I hope you will **seize** these opportunities.

There are so many ways to further your knowledge and up your level of photography. LPS offers monthly meetings, workshops, fieldtrips, exhibits and the mentor program. LPS has many dedicated volunteers that work very hard to bring to you programs to advance your photography. Please take advantage of these programs.

If you attend the upcoming field trips you could have some great images to put in the upcoming exhibit. Please check the website for the next exhibit.

I would very much encourage you to put a few images in the upcoming exhibits. As we mentioned in the March meeting, choose a few of your best images and get 11x14 or larger printed by a local lab. The labs that I used in Baton Rouge are, Alla's Fine Art, Costco, Sam's, or Wal-Mart, just to name a few. You can purchase a frame and pre-cut mat from Michael's, Hobby Lobby or Daryl and Sons Custom Framing. Buy a frame with a matt to 16x20 if you are printing 11x14. Put a hook and wire on the back to hang the image. You can buy hooks and wire separate and put it on yourself or pay the store about \$2.00 to do it.

Email Kathy Reeves the Exhibit coordinator if you have any questions.
exhibitcoordinator@laphotosociety.com.

We are all in this together. If you have any questions you can also ask any of the committee members or board members listed on the website.

Guidelines for Exhibits may be found [here](#).



Linda Medine

April Opportunities

LPS Field Trip

April 11, 2014 Southern Forest Heritage Museum, Longleaf, LA.,

The SFHM is the oldest complete sawmill facility in the South. The complex is unique in that it is a complete sawmill complex dating from the early 20th century, and that it has the most complete collection of steam-powered logging and milling equipment known to exist.

Kite Fest Louisiane

April 11-12

<http://www.westbatonrouge.net>

West Baton Rouge Soccer Complex

Baton Rouge Blues Festival

April 11

The free to the public, family-friendly festival will feature an impressive lineup of internationally-recognized performers and local blues legends

<http://www.batonrougebluesfestival.org>.

Sunday in the Park

April 12

200 North Boulevard

Come out and enjoy a free, family-friendly outdoor concert sponsored by The Arts Council. Pack a picnic lunch and an ice chest, or dine at one of the local restaurants.

Earth Day

April 19

200 North Boulevard

Baton Rouge Earth Day will feature fun, music, food and interactive education and exhibits. www.laearthday.org.



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Speaker Info

Charles Bush April 16

Charles Bush is a photographer specializing in photographing the natural world of Southern Louisiana.

He is also the Vice President of the New Orleans – Gulf South Chapter of the American Society of Media Photographers.

He has been published in Nature Photographer, Birding, and Birders World magazines as well as McGraw Hill and Prentice Hall textbooks. Some of his activities include conducting customized photo tours for individuals and groups, primarily in Southern Louisiana, and teaching workshops and classes on digital photography basics and workflow.



Charles also sells stock images and photographs the work of visual artists. His web address is www.charlesbushphoto.com



Adam St. Pierre addressed the Louisiana Photographic Society March 19 about the many free online resources available to photographers, which include Lynda.com, a video tutorial series; Gale Course, a series of six-week classes; Safari Tech Books featuring e-books; and Zinio, a warehouse of online magazines.

St. Pierre shows Louisiana Photographic Society member Patricia Duncan one of the many online photo resources offered by the library at the LPS meeting March 19.

Photo by Mark Claesgens

Field Trips

We are also asking that you register to attend the trips. (There is a link on the website.) **Registration is NOT mandatory but is PREFERRED.** It will help us better plan to have enough seasoned photographers on hand to help and allow us to notify you should there be a change to the event. Thank you for your cooperation.

April 11, 2014 Southern Forest Heritage Museum, Longleaf, LA.,

The SFHM is the oldest complete sawmill facility in the South. The complex is unique in that it is a complete sawmill complex dating from the early 20th century, and that it has the most complete collection of steam-powered logging and milling equipment known to exist.

Time: 9:00 am until 4:00 pm - Depart at 6:30 am

Admission: Adults: \$8.00; Seniors: \$7.00

Lunch: Bring lunch money; we will eat as a group at The Café in Glenmora, La (quality, country eating!)

Meet: We will meet at McDonald's on Drusilla at 6:30AM. We will leave McDonald's at 7AM for a two (2) hour drive. We will carpool! So...come with a full tank or be prepared to share gas costs if your ride.

Equipment to bring: sturdy footwear: there could be mud, un-even surfaces, rough terrain, wet conditions;

This is a mill that shut down in 1961. It is not a "walk in the park"; please consider how you dress and what you carry!

Once we get on site, there is light walking. Consider 16-35; 18-55; 28-140; 24-105; possibly 70-200 or 70-300, tripod.

What I carry: 16-35; 24-105; (maybe) 70-200; I do not use flash; if you have one, consider bringing it!

May 23, 2014 Avery Island and Jefferson Island

The Rip Van Winkle Gardens are a 25 acre semi-tropical paradise. The Gardens and the Joseph Jefferson home, built in 1870 sit atop a salt dome.

Admission: Adults: \$10; Seniors: \$8

Lunch: Bring lunch money; we will eat at Café Jefferson, on the grounds

(Part B after lunch) Jungle Gardens of Avery Island is 30 minutes from RVW Gardens. Tabasco Pepper Sauce originated on Avery Island (the operation has outgrown the island; its only bottled at Avery Island). There is an aviary for thousands of egrets and herons. There are 600 species of plants from around the world. There are massive live oak trees everywhere. Lots of Spanish moss and flowers to enhance any kind of photography you are interested in.

Admission: \$8 + \$1 per automobile

Meet: McDonald's on Drusilla at 7:00AM

- Equipment to bring:
- a. Tripod
 - b. Memory Cards
 - c. Charged batteries
 - d. Long lens (if you have one, for birds)
 - e. 16-105, or 18-55 or 28-135 or
 - f. 70-200, or 100-400, or 70-300

What I carry: 16-35 + 24-105 + 100-400

Let's try to carpool! Bring a full tank or \$\$ for gas

2015 Competition Schedule

APR	Projection	4/16	No Theme
MAY	Print	5/21	No Theme
JUN	Projection	6/18	Old Everything [Barns/Signs/Etc. (Things Only)]
JUL	Print	7/16	Elements of Water [Snow/Rain/Fog/Ice/Water]
AUG	Projection	8/20	No Theme
SEPT	Print	9/17	No Theme
OCT	Projection	10/15	ZOO/Captive Animals
NOV	Print	11/19	No Theme

To participate in exhibits and monthly competitions, you must be a member of LPS in good standing; your dues must be paid.

New Competition Categories

Level A

(advanced)

Color and Black and White

Level B

(Beginner)

Color and Black and white

Digitally projected entries must be sent to the Digital Projection Coordinator dpcontestcoordinator@laphotosociety.com no later than 8:00 P.M. on the **Monday** before the Thursday competition.

Sizing guidelines:

Height 1200 pixels Width 1920 pixels
Total size should be less than 2.3 megs.

Full instructions may be found [here](#).

Education

Critique Workshop

April 9, 2015, 6:30 P.M.

East Baton Rouge Parish Library, Room 102

Submit two prints at the door. Please, no prints smaller than 11X14 inches (prior to matting). Prints may be up 24 inches (including mat) on the longest side.

Some say the very best way to improve your photographic skills is through critique, that without it we are on a dead end street of learning. Come try our critique sessions. They are fun learning experiences. We promise to handle your "baby" with tender loving care, and our experienced photographers will give you insight to improve your photography. Even if you feel you can't enter, come and learn from other people's images. By the way, it is FREE and we have a system to keep the photographers as anonymous as possible. Of course you can always speak up to let us know a print is yours.

Please arrive a few minutes early. Pre-registration is appreciated.

LPS Member Gallery on Club Website

We currently have 2 image galleries, a members gallery and a field trip gallery.

Preparing Photos for Submission

- ◆ Crop/resize your photos to 640 pixels X 480 pixels
 - ◆ Resize your image to a maximum of either 640 pixels WIDE and/or 480 pixels HIGH. Width or height may be LESS, but not more than these maximums. Be aware that images with a vertical orientation must still not exceed 480 pixels high, and thus your horizontal will be much less than 640 pixels wide.
- ◆ Save them as JPEG format using medium or high compression.
- ◆ Shoot for 1MB to 2 MB file size.
- ◆ Title your photos as Your Name – Photo Title and save as JPEG. For example your saved file name should look like as shown below: ***John Cooper – Sunflower.jpg***. ***This is the information that will show up on the bottom of the image in the slideshow***

How to Submit Your Photos

- ◆ Email **up to** ten photos each month to vicepresident@laphotosociety.com
- ◆ Specify either **Members Gallery** or **Field Trip Gallery** in the subject line.

These are the same sizing guidelines for submitting digital images for the monthly club competition winners gallery and GSCCC and PSA galleries.

Ask Tim Grey:

Is there is a difference in quality of image appearing in Flickr exporting from LR and uploading to Flickr using these two different methods:

- 1) Set file size specifically to 2.3MB**
- 2) Set long dimension to 1920 pixels**

I uploaded the same image using the two methods and Flickr shows the uploaded file size as:

- 1) Exported from Lightroom as a 2.3 megapixel file, then uploaded to Flickr. The image in the Flickr site has the original file size as 1856 x 1239 and 1.0MB.**
- 2) Exported from Lightroom with longest dimension at 1920 pixels, then uploaded to Flickr. The Flickr site has the original file size as 1920 x 1281 and 1.06MB.**

Tim's Quick Answer:

There is no difference in terms of the image quality with either approach, assuming that you use settings that result in the same pixel dimensions with the same JPEG Quality setting.

More Detail:

The Image Sizing section of the Export dialog in Lightroom provides a variety of ways you can describe the pixel dimensions you're looking for. All of them essentially vary only in how you describe the final size of the image, not what the final size will be.

For simplicity, let's assume an example where we're exporting a square image, and that we want to create a file at a specific size. For our purposes we'll assume we are exporting the photo to be printed at 10-by-10 inches at 300 pixels per inch.

In this case you can specify, for example, that you want the exported image to be sized at 10-inches by 10-inches at 300 pixels per inch (using the Width & Height option). You could also specify that you want the image to be 3,000 pixels on the long side (using the Long Edge option). You could use the Dimensions option and specify 3,000 pixels for both width and height, with the resolution set to 300 pixels per inch. And you could use the Megapixels option and specify 9 megapixels at 300 pixels per inch.

All of the above options are simply a different way to instruct Lightroom that you want the image sized to 3,000 pixels by 3,000 pixels. The various options are mostly provided simply because different people think of output sizes in different ways. They also provide flexibility in terms of being able to specify all images will be sized to the same size on the long edge regardless of whether the image is a horizontal or a vertical, for example.

The only "catch" with specifying the output size in megapixels is that you aren't able to specify the pixel dimensions with as much precision, so to speak. This is illustrated by the example provided in today's question.

If you multiple the pixel dimensions together for the example created with a 2.3 megapixel setting (1856x1239) you find that there are 2,299,584 pixels, which equates to 2.3 megapixels. The image sized based on the Long Edge option has pixel dimensions of 1920x1281, which translates to 2,459,520 pixels, or almost 2.5 megapixels.

So, if you had used the same pixel dimensions for the Long Edge option (1856 pixels) you would have ended up with two images of the exact same pixel dimensions, at the exact same image quality, and with the exact same file size.

Again, the resizing is performed based on the actual pixel dimensions, and there are various ways to describe those dimensions when exporting a photo. But with equal settings, all of the various options will produce the same result in terms of image quality.

<http://timgrey.com/>

Thankfully it is spring! Spring in Louisiana is a wonderful time to explore with photography. We have some amazing weather with lavish landscapes where the greens are vivid and colors pop. The birds have started building their nest. Spring is a time to explore those familiar surroundings as well as new territories to get those images that have not been captured previously. The subjects that have previously been photographed should be photographed again and again until the image is perfected. A different light will bring a different feel such as surreal fog or the attempt at a different angle to get that creative edge.



My favorite places for birds are the birds in my own backyard and rookeries. Birding opportunities are always changing. Each spring birding excursions are planned that include different species of birds, especially the beautiful Great White egret. One of nature's most awesome experiences is to witness the Great White egret showing her plumage to attract her male and then the mother egret feeding her chicks especially in such vast numbers at a rookery. Some rookeries house thousands. This is especially true through a long lens which makes everything appear close and magnified. When photographing birds an important setting is to remember to keep a fast shutter speed so that the action of the bird is stopped and the eye is perfectly focused. Try focusing on the neck area. Keep the shutter speed at least 1/800 second which means you will need to have your aperture anywhere from f4.5 to f8 to ideally create a blurred background. Remember you can increase your camera's light by increasing the ISO. But increasing the ISO, unless there is low light, should be your last decision since increasing the ISO creates more noise. Typically start with ISO at near 100 to 400. But if you must increase the ISO get the shot. Another thing to remember is when you are shooting birds, if it is white birds increase your exposure reading slightly; if black birds, decrease your exposure. On many cameras there is a setting that

enables overexposed highlights to blink which is an indication to decrease the exposure. The exposure level indicator allows for adjustment of the exposure easily.

Magnificent antebellum homes in all their glory and our natural landscapes mixed with a flower garden make for wonderful spring photographs. Louisiana has so much to offer. Chase the best light to get a different impact. This usually means getting up really early to get the different colors of light at sunrise or staying late before and after the sunset. Also shoot your image at a different angle – different from the non-photographer otherwise a snapshot is created.



Our next LPS meeting is being held April 16, at 7:00 PM, and is held every third Thursday of each month. Our scheduled guest speaker is, [Charles Bush](#) a photographer who specializes in capturing the natural world of Southern Louisiana. The meeting is held at the Goodwood Library, 1st Floor, in large conference room. For more information visit our website at: [Louisiana Photographic Society](#)

PSA Competition

CALL FOR ENTRIES - DUE April 5th

Each member may submit 3 images

PROJECTED IMAGE DIVISION

Interclub Digital Projected Competitions

Category - This is a general category open to all digital images (color, B&W, including alterations and manipulations).

Image Size - Horizontal Images - MAXIMUM 1024 pixels wide; **Vertical Images** - MAXIMUM 768 pixels tall (images exceeding these restrictions will not upload)

File Name - Enter the Title of the image as the File Name (or Version Name)

Submit Entries - Email entries by the due date as follows:

Email address: psaentry@laphotosociety.com

Subject line: PSA Competition

Body of email: Enter "Title of Image - Your Name" (make sure the Title listed here matches the File Name of the image file)

Attach image

MAXIMUM of 3 images may be submitted per person for each round

Contact - If you need assistance in preparing submissions or if you have any questions, please contact the PSA Rep at psaentry@laphotosociety.com.



Congratulations!

PSA COMPETITION
AWARD
Round 3 - March 2015

CONGRATULATIONS
Jamey Firnberg
Honorable Mention
"Stay Thirsty"

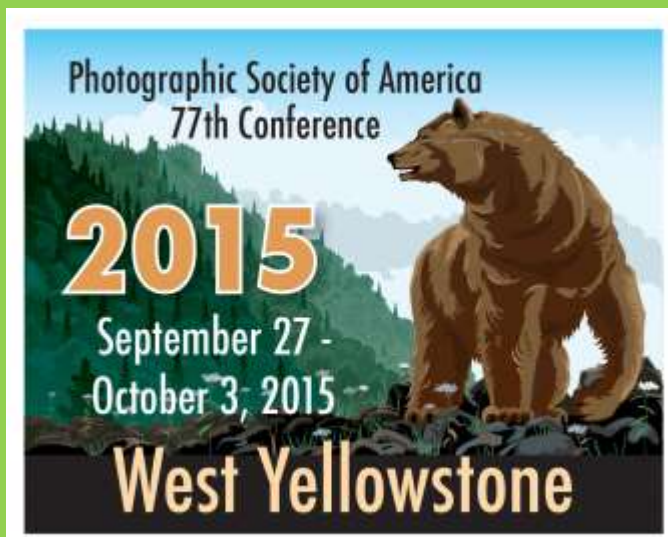
Linda Medine completed the Individualized Photography Course and **Elizabeth Mangham** completed the Still Life Photography Course. Their names will soon be listed on the [PSA website](#) and the PSA Journal and they will receive a course completion certificate.



In addition to the interclub competitions you, as an individual member of PSA, can enter contests. Some are digital and some are print. Categories include [Individual Creative](#), [Individual Portrait](#), [Photo Essay](#), [Nature](#), [Photojournalism](#), [Photo Travel](#), and [Pictorial Print](#). By visiting the links provided you will find all the guidelines and deadlines for submitting as well as galleries of previous winners. We as a club are limited to 6 images every other month but you as an individual member may submit on your own. I encourage you to consider [joining PSA](#).

Here is a partial list of the member benefits you receive for only \$45.00 a year:

- *PSA Journal* full-color monthly magazine (mailed & online) and annual *Who's Who in Photography* publication
- Opportunity to submit articles for potential publication in the *PSA Journal*
 - Access to My PSA free web site services (e.g., Image Evaluation, Mentors, Consultants, resource links, up-to-date product and book reviews)
- Free online Individualized Photography Course, Advanced Photography Course, and Image Analysis Course
- **Free Study Groups:** online for digital images and via mail for prints
- Free services (e.g., Species Identification Service, Photo Travel Planning Service, Digital Product Information)
- Listing in and access to online Membership List following login
- Publication of photos on the PSA web site (e.g., a photo in the New Member Gallery on joining, in the Show Your Stuff Gallery on renewing for year two, and in ROPA Galleries following receipt of a PSA Distinction)
- Creation of a **personal photo gallery** on the PSA web site for posting up to twenty (20) images and a biography
- Use of PSA logo on personal web site and business card
- **Competitions** for specific topics/themes (e.g., Creative, Portrait) or format (e.g., 3D, digital essays, story boards, B&W prints)
- Reduced fee for PSA Adventures (e.g., Humanitarian trip to Cuba, cruises)
- **Discounts** on photography-related products and services



Digital membership - (Adult or Youth)	Includes online and mobile access to PSA Journal (NO printed PSA Journal by mail)
Digital Membership - Adult	\$45
Standard Membership - (Adult or Youth)	Includes printed copy of PSA Journal by mail AND complimentary access to online and mobile PSA Journal
Adult Membership	\$60

Come enjoy the
RITE OF SPRING

AN EXHIBITION
FEATURING ARTISTS:

BETTY EFFERSON
DEBBIE DENSTORFF
PAT WATTAM

APRIL 9
5:30 - 8:00PM

APRIL 26
3:00 - 6:00PM



@ **COATES GUEST HOUSE**

4518 HYACINTH AVE. (AT LEE DR.)
BATON ROUGE, LA



OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY, APRIL 9TH 5:30-8:00PM

SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH 3:00-6:00PM

Featured artists:

◆ **BETTY EFFERSON** (225) 266-7064

◆ **DEBBIE DENSTORFF** (225) 235-5002

◆ **PAT WATTAM** (225) 978-6688

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT

@ **COATES GUEST HOUSE**

4518 HYACINTH AVE. (AT LEE DR.) | BATON ROUGE, LA

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION OF GSCCC COMPETITION PRINTS

Pictorial Color, Black & White, and Nature Prints:

- ☑ maximum print size 16x20
- ☑ can be mounted or un-mounted, mounting board should be no larger than 20x24
- ☑ no minimum print size

You are welcome to submit the maximum size, but it is not necessary or recommended, as most LPS members submit prints sizes in the range of 11x14 or 8x10.

Photojournalism Prints: new rules effective June 2014 for Photojournalism

- ☑ **print sizes are 8x10 or 8x12**
- ☑ mounted or un-mounted.

The print sizes were changed in order to encourage more participation in this category.

All prints submitted for GSCCC competition must be marked on the back with the following: title of print, maker's name, LPS, and the category. Review the rules at www.gulfstatesccc.org to ensure that your print meets the eligibility requirements for the category of entry. Prints may be either commercially or self-printed. Clear sleeve for protection is optional, but recommended.

Results from March GSCCC entries

Photojournalism— digital

Touched by Bridget Mayo, 10 points

Shrimping in Robinson Canal by Cathy Smart, 11 points

Four Generations by John Crifasi, 10 points

Boys, by Rick LeCompte, 11 points

Photojournalism –print

Pray for LSU by Gene Bachman, 9 points

War Time by Linda Medine, 11 points

Through His Eyes by Renee Pierce, 11 points, 2nd HM

Louisiana Favorite by Chandan Sharma, 9 points

Images may be viewed in the [Gallery](#) on our website.



Facing Another Storm
Elizabeth Mangham
1st Place



The Wall
Ila Reinstein
2nd Place



Hoping For Angels
Kathy Reeves
3rd Place



Airing It Out of the Bowl
Renee Pierce
1st Honorable Mention



New Orleans' Finest
David Howell
2nd Honorable Mention



Lines of Beauty
David Howell
1st Place



Homeless
Linda Medine
2nd Place



Soulful Sunday Blues
Renee Pierce
3rd Place



My Wedding Day
Linda Medine



Give Money For Food, We Will Share
Kitty Kunhert
1st Place



Knightly Horn Solo
Patrick Bullock
2nd Place



Memorial Day Concert
Chris Campbell
3rd Place



Storyteller
Julie Miller
1st Honorable Mention



Foggy New Orleans
Chris Campbell
1st Place



Dog says "potty stop, please"

Kitty Kunhert

2nd Place



Sweets For Your Sweetie
Patrick Bullock
3rd Place

Exhibit at the Bluebonnet Swamp Theme Nature of Louisiana

You can start taking images NOW at the Bluebonnet Swamp ! I went Thursday evening and I was there for about one and half hours before they closed. I got a few images that I would like to share with you. Because it was an over cast day, there were not any animals out. But, after talking to few Swamp regulars, they said morning and evening you will see birds feeding, snakes sunning, rabbits, deer, turtles and squirrels. There will be lots of wildflowers coming up soon.

Exhibit will hang : April 28, 2015.

Bluebonnet Swamp Location: 10503 N. Oak Hills Pkwy
off Bluebonnet.

Closed on Monday

Open: Tuesday - Saturday 9:00 - 5:00

Sunday - noon to 5:00

Admission Ages 2 and younger: free Ages 3-17: \$2 Ages
18-64: \$3 Ages 65 and older: \$2.50 Full-time college stu-
dents with university ID: \$2.50

<http://www.brec.org/index.cfm/park/detail/19>





2015 Exhibit Schedule

You must be a current, dues paid member in order to exhibit

Questions? Exhibit Coordinator

Kathy Reeves exhibitcoordinator@laphotosociety.com

Greenwell Springs Library

11300 Greenwell Springs Rd

Baton Rouge, LA

Hang date: Wednesday, April 1st, 2015 at 11:00 AM

Take down: Sunday, April 26th, 2015 at 2:30 PM

Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge Exhibit

427 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801

Exhibit Dates: April 11-30, 2015

Reception TBA

Bluebonnet Swamp

May, 2015

Theme - Nature of Louisiana

10503 N. Oak Hills Parkway

Baton Rouge, LA 70810

Located one block off of Bluebonnet Blvd. between Perkins and Highland Road. Turn toward the Whitney Bank and follow N. Oak Hills Pkwy into parking lot.

Limit 2 images, matted and framed, no larger than 16x20.

Drop off date: Thursday, April 28th, 2015

Pick up date: Monday, June 1st, 2015

Instructions for preparing your images and labels may be found on the [website](#).

10 Tips For Getting Perfect Focus In Your iPhone Photos

Posted by: Rob Dunsford
iPhone Photography School

Lack of correct focus in an image is probably the number one reason why a potentially good iPhone photo can fail. Other problems such as exposure and color can often be fixed in post-processing, but when something is too out of focus there's nothing you can do – you can't make a blurry photo sharp. There are several reasons why a photo may have focus problems, and in this tutorial you'll discover how to deal with each of these situations to ensure that you always get your iPhone photos in sharp focus.



Why Is Focus So Important?

A photo that is completely out of focus, where all parts of the image are blurred, obviously won't look good (unless done deliberately for creative effect). If the entire image is blurred you won't be able to make out any detail in the scene. Making sure that at least part of your photo is in sharp focus is very important.

Focus helps to draw attention to the most important part of the scene, which is normally the main subject. If your main subject is out of focus, attention will be diverted to the other parts of the scene that are in focus, which isn't usually what you want.



Sharp focus provides fine detail in the subject which might help to convey the message or story your photo is trying to get across to the viewer. Perhaps the water droplets on a flower, catch-lights in an eye, the detail of wood grain or leaves.

Getting focus correct should be one of your top priorities when taking photos with your iPhone. Before long it'll become second nature and you'll be able to concentrate on other aspects of your photography.

Understanding Depth Of Field

Depending on various factors such as the proximity of the subject to the camera, and the distance between the subject and the background, you may either get all of your scene in focus, or just a small portion of it in focus while the rest of the image is blurred, or somewhere in between.



This amount of focus from front to back of the scene is called depth of field. When a large amount of the image is in focus, from foreground to background, we refer to this as a large depth of field.

When only a small portion of your scene is focus, with anything closer or further away out of focus, we refer to this as a shallow depth of field.

This amount of focus from front to back of the scene is called depth of field. When a large amount of the image is in focus, from foreground to background, we refer to this as a large depth of field.

When only a small portion of your scene is focus, with anything closer or further away out of focus, we refer to this as a shallow depth of field. Don't assume that out of focus areas in your scene aren't important. They actually help reinforce the subject that is in focus. But you must always make sure that the right part of the scene is in focus.

So, let's take a look at ten tips to help ensure you always get your iPhone photos perfectly focused.

1. Always Tap To Focus



As clever as the iPhone camera is, it can't always recognize the most important part of the scene. The camera's autofocus is pretty good at picking out faces, but without a face to focus on it will always focus on the center of the scene.



The yellow box in the screenshot above tells you which area of the scene the camera is focusing on. The autofocus has set focus in the middle of the frame which means that the stalks of the two flowers at the back will be nicely in focus.

But in this case, it's unlikely that you'd want to focus on that part of the scene. You're more likely to want the large flower on the left to be in sharp focus.



If you're serious about your iPhone photography you'll want to take control of what the iPhone focuses on. Luckily this is very easy to do.

In your camera app, simply tap on the screen where you want the focus to be and the iPhone will do the rest. In the screenshot above, you can see that I tapped on the large flower on the left hand side. Remember, the yellow box shows you where the camera is focusing.



Here's the resulting photo. Can you see how the large flower on the left is in sharp focus, while the other two flowers that are further back appear slightly out of focus? That's because I forced the camera to focus on the large flower by tapping on that part of the screen.

Below are two more examples showing you how important it is to tap on the correct part of the scene when setting focus.

In the photo on the right, you can see the results of tapping on the flower in the foreground to keep it in focus. The depth of field is quite shallow in this image and the background has gone nicely out of focus.





This example shows what happens when I tapped to focus on the background of the scene. The flower in the foreground is now out of focus.

Remember, whenever you take a photo with your iPhone, think about which part of the scene you want in sharp focus. Then tap on that area of the screen to set focus on that part of the image. Anything closer or further away from that object may appear out of focus.

2. Adjust Exposure After Focusing

Apart from focus, getting the photo correctly exposed is extremely important. Exposure refers to how bright or dark the photo is. Although this article isn't about exposure, on the iPhone the exposure of your photo is linked to the focus point, which is why we're going to cover this here.

Your iPhone will automatically set the exposure based on where you tap to focus. If you tap to focus on a bright area of the scene, the camera will ensure that area of the scene is correctly exposed. Likewise, if you tap to focus on a dark area of the scene, exposure will be set for that part of the image.

Sometimes this works fine, but other times you might want to focus on one part of the scene, but expose for another. With iOS 8, Apple have made it easy to adjust the exposure after setting focus.

After tapping on the screen to set your focus point, simply slide your finger up or down the screen to adjust the exposure to suit. As you slide your finger, you'll see the yellow sun icon moving up or down the exposure slider next to the focus box.

As you adjust the exposure try to ensure that no part of the scene goes completely white or completely black, otherwise the camera might not capture any detail at all in these regions.



3. Tap & Hold To Lock Focus

Even when you tap to set focus, if anything changes in the scene the camera may automatically adjust focus and exposure. For example, if you've set focus on your subject, then someone walks through your scene, the camera might re-adjust the focus and exposure onto that person.

To ensure this doesn't happen, you can lock the focus on your subject, effectively disabling the autofocus feature. So even if the rest of the scene changes, your subject will still be in focus.



To ensure focus remains locked, tap and hold for a couple of seconds on the subject you want in focus. When focus is locked you'll see AE/AF LOCK in a yellow box at the top of the screen. AE means Auto Exposure and AF is Auto Focus.

Even though exposure is locked when you tap and hold, you can still swipe up or down on the screen to adjust the exposure without changing the focus point. Once you've locked focus, it will remain on that area of the scene no matter what happens.

For example, in the flower scene above, you could rearrange the two flowers in the background without losing focus on the main flower on the left, as long as you don't change the position of this main subject.

In [street photography](#) you can position yourself in a good spot where you know people will walk into the frame, then lock focus and exposure in advance so that you're ready to shoot as soon as someone walks into the scene.

For the rest of the tips and other free information about iPhone photography, including a free downloadable book suggesting the 7 best iPhone photography apps, read the remaining article at [iPhone Photography School](#).

Southern Heritage Museum and Sawmill

Longleaf, LA

Photos by Renee Pierce

I wanted to focus on field trips this issue to encourage you to consider participation . I realize we are all busy and cannot do everything we would like to but when you are on the fence about attending, to coin a popular phrase...Just do it! Step out of the shooting rut, explore something new and Just do it!

Ken never takes the club to a place he has not checked out at least once and usually has something extra or added to the trip. This was the case when he asked me to join him and Pat and Scott Beard for a look at the sawmill. Pat retired from the forestry industry and was aware of the property and its history and suggested it may be a good field trip. I agreed to tag along and boy, was I glad I did. I am posting just a small sample of what I shot that day.

Pat and I worked on high dynamic range shots and we both learned something new. There are always seasoned "shooters" on the trips. Be bold and ask them to take a look at what you are shooting and offer suggestions on improvements. They will be happy to help you out . I am excited about the chance to go back. Perhaps some of the images will tempt you to join us.







Relics: 2015 Photo Project



In our ongoing effort to catalog every cultural nook and cranny in the region, we turn our gaze (and lens) to the forgotten, faded things. That crumbling bridge spanning out to nowhere. That echoing building with its occupants long gone. The theme is "Relics," and we're opening the door to your photo submissions.

Each month in 2015, we will profile a different photograph on the back page of *Country Roads*, accompanied by an interview with the adventurous photographer. Are you up to snuff?

Here's how to enter:

Send your submissions to photos@countryroadsmag.com with the subject line "Relics: 2015 Photo Project." Include a short description of the photo (including a title for the photo, location, and history if you can provide it).

All photographs should be at least **300dpi** and larger than **4.5 inches**. Photographers may submit up to four photos at once. We will be accepting submissions all year.



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Louisiana Photographic Society is a member of the Gulf States Camera Club Council.

The GSCCC Newsletter is available at:

<http://www.gulfstatesccc.org/html/newsletters.html>



<http://www.gulfstatesccc.org/>

Find us on Facebook



Membership Drive

While we are always eager to welcome new members our Membership drive continues. Please remember to pay your dues and to invite your friends and colleagues to our meeting and encourage them to join us this year. To continue to be eligible for competitions and receive the newsletter, you must be current on your dues. The membership form is at the end of the newsletter.

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<http://www.psa-photo.org/>

The LPS website has a quick checklist for preparation of images for digital projection competitions. The new checklist can be found on the Monthly Competition page of the website, or by using this [link](#).

LPS Members are encouraged to submit photographs and articles for inclusion in FOCUS, the Louisiana Photographic Society Newsletter. Items received up to 3 days before the end of the month will be **included in the following month's newsletter**.

Send your submissions to:

newslettereditor@laphotosociety.com

Please be sure to read the sizing

guidelines before submitting.



MEMBER OF PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA
AND GULF STATES CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL

Membership Form

Mail completed form and dues to:

Louisiana Photographic Society
P.O. Box 83834 ,Baton Rouge, LA 70884-3834

www.laphotosociety.com

WELCOME TO LOUISIANA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

LPS communicates to members through website, e-mail, and monthly meetings. All members are encouraged to visit the LPS website at www.laphotosociety.com for the latest on club news and events. The monthly newsletter "FOCUS" is available on the website on the first day of each month. Please provide an e-mail address below to receive club updates. If you do not receive e-mail communications after 30 days, notify LPS at treasurer@laphotosociety.com.

Select one: ☐ **Membership Renewal** ☐ **New Member** – If you are a New Member, how did you learn about LPS:

☐ Current Member ☐ LPS Website ☐ Newspaper/Magazine ☐ Social Network ☐ Other _____

Select one: ☐ **Individual Membership \$25.00/year** ☐ **Student Membership \$5.00/year–Must be a current student**

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

E-mail Address _____

☐ **Additional Family Member \$5.00/year–ONLY available with the Individual Membership, not Student Membership**

Name _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

E-mail Address _____

SPECIFY FOCUS OF PHOTOGRAPHY:

SPECIFY AREA OF LEARNING INTEREST:

SPECIFY AREA OF INTEREST IN CLUB PARTICIPATION:

- ☐ **Competition** (set up, tally votes, present ribbons)
- ☐ **Education** (plan/teach, set up workshops and seminars)
- ☐ **Equipment** (store, transport, set up for LPS functions)
- ☐ **Exhibits** (explore locations, set up/take down exhibits)
- ☐ **Field Trips** (plan and arrange to photograph at various sites)
- ☐ **Gulf States Camera Club Council** (GSCCC liaison, collect and submit entries for GSCCC competition)
- ☐ **Library** (display and maintain materials, check-in/out)

- ☐ **Programs** (plan speakers, make arrangements for speakers at monthly meetings)
- ☐ **Projection** (set up and operate equipment for digital projection competition)
- ☐ **Publicity** (publicize programs, meetings, events)
- ☐ **Refreshments** (plan and set up refreshments)

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!