

PHOTOGRAPHY SIG PHOTO OF THE MONTH THEMES

Themes and Photos Not Published to LLI Web Site

(Prior to March 2014 Photo Themes were not regularly designated each month and Photos of the Month were not published on the LLI website)

2011	July	Reflections
	August	Animals
	September	Leaves
2012	January	The Holiday Season
	September	Pick Your Own Theme
	October	Fall
2013	August	Shadows
	October	Fall
	December	Still Life
2014	January	The Holiday Season
	February	Winter
	June	Water
	August	<p>Negative Space</p> <p>This is a compositional technique rather than a specific subject. The task is to use the concept of "Negative Space" to frame your subject. Negative space is an aspect of composition used to focus attention on a given subject. Put simply, negative space is the area which surrounds the main subject in your photo (the main subject is known as the "positive space"). Negative space defines and emphasizes the main subject of a photo, drawing your eye to it. It provides "breathing room", giving your eyes somewhere to rest and preventing your image from appearing too cluttered with "stuff". All of this adds up to a more engaging composition.</p>

Themes and Photos Published to the LLI Web Site

2014	March	First Signs of Spring
	April	Spring
	October	<p>Leading Lines</p> <p>This is a compositional technique rather than a specific subject. Leading lines are lines within an image that leads the eye to another point in the image, or occasionally, out of the image. Anything with a definite line can be a leading line. Fences, bridges, even a shoreline can lead the eye.</p>
	November	<p>Fall</p> <p>Fall, but with a twist: you should use the compositional techniques of the last two months (Negative Space and Leading Lines) to express your Fall pictures.</p>
	December	Portraits
2015	January	<p>Red-Green & Low Light</p> <p>Each photo must have red <u>and</u> green as the predominant colors in the photo</p>
	March	Winter & Architecture
	April	<p>Creative Cropping</p> <p>Cropping is a technique to change the look and feel of an image by removing distractions and improving overall composition. This process can add impact to an otherwise uninteresting image. A very ordinary photo can be transformed with a judicious crop, and a good one can be made even better.</p> <p>You may select any image you have taken and, using your image editing software of choice, you must creatively crop it. Remember to bring in the "Before" and "After" photos so we can enjoy your artistry.</p>

	June	<p>Patterns Patterns are the result of a combination of elements or shapes repeated in a recurring and regular arrangement. Patterns also include <i>repetition</i>, which refers to one object or shape repeated, and <i>rhythm</i>, which is a combination of elements repeated but with variations.</p> <p>Life is filled with patterns. Your job for this theme is to photograph them. You can emphasize them by filling the frame with a pattern to present the appearance of large numbers. Or be daring and break the pattern with a contrasting object or removing one of the repeating objects.</p>
	July	<p>The Fourth of July Capture images that exemplify our favorite national holiday</p>
	August	<p>Silhouettes Silhouette photography is a wonderful way to convey drama, mystery, emotion and mood in a picture. A silhouette is defined as a view of an object or a scene consisting of the outline and a featureless interior, with the silhouetted object usually being black. In other words, a silhouette is the dark shape and outline of someone or something visible against a lighter background. Pictures like these often don't convey a clear story, and leave part of the image up to the imagination of the viewer.</p>
	September	<p>Minimalism Minimalism is a very subjective concept. It is a style or technique that is characterized by extreme sparseness and simplicity and involves using a minimal amount of compositional components such as shape, color, and line. It embodies the idea of 'less is more' with simple lines, geometric patterns, strong shadows, contrasting colors, lone subjects, etc.</p> <p>The goal of minimalist art, or photography, is to convey a concept – or an idea – provoke an emotional response, or provide a unique visual experience. Compositional elements are kept to a minimum, and the ones that are left should be essential for conveying the overall idea, or symbolism, of the photo.</p> <p>In general, this style of photography can be summed up as follows: It makes sure that all of the attention is focused upon the photo's subject without—and this is what's extremely important—any elements in the photo that would distract from the subject. Therefore, any elements in the photo have to be kept at a minimum, yet the few elements that are there ought to still be highly meaningful to the photo's overall idea. In short, it conveys a scene by utilizing as few elements as possible.</p>
	October	<p>Black & White Photos must be rendered in black and white.</p>
	November	<p>Autumn Leaves Autumn leaves do not have to be the subject of your photo, but must be visible in your final image</p>
	December	<p>Faces</p>
2016	January	<p>Looking Up The only requirement is that the camera must be pointed up at least 45 degrees from horizontal</p>
	February	<p>Looking Down The only requirement is that the camera must be pointed down at least 45 degrees from horizontal.</p>
	March	<p>Abstract Abstract photography, sometimes called non-objective, experimental, conceptual or concrete photography, is a means of depicting a visual image that does not have an immediate association with the object world and that has been created through the use of photographic equipment, processes or materials. Like abstract art, abstract photography</p>

		<p>concentrates on shape, form, color, pattern and texture. The viewer is often unable to see the whole object. The subject of the photo is often only a small part of the idea of the image. Viewers may only know the essence of the image subject or understand it by what is implied. Often the image will not be a literal view of the subject itself. The subject tends to come second to seeing.</p> <p>Abstract photos can be created by using your camera to capture interesting combinations of colors, patterns and textures. These can be naturally occurring forms, or images created by using camera and/or subject movement.</p>
	April	Signs of Spring
	May	Water Water does not have to be the subject of your photo but must play a prominent role.
	June - July	Flowers Flowers should be the primary subject of your photo.
	August	Wildlife "Wild Life" means animals in all their various and sundry forms: birds, fish, insects, reptiles, mammals, etc. There is one catch: no pets! For this theme, "Wild Life" should be the primary subject of your photo.
	September	Signs "Signs" means street signs, posters, signs on buildings, graffiti, neon signs, etc. Signs, or a sign, do not have to be the subject of the picture but must be in the picture.
	October	Impressions of Green Spring Gardens Photos must be taken at Green Springs Gardens during October and November.
	November	Impressions of Green Spring Gardens II
	December	Hands "Hands" means people hands, animal "hands", or any combination thereof. It may include whatever your imagination tells you that a "hand" is. "Hands" do not have to be the subject of the picture but must be in the picture.
2017	Jan-Feb	Food "Food" means anything we eat and includes food preparation and eating or any combination thereof. It may include whatever your imagination tells you that "food" is. "Food" does not have to be the subject of the picture but must be in the picture.
	March	Architecture Broadly speaking, Architectural photography is the photography of buildings and similar structures and includes interiors as well as exteriors. It may also include particular and interesting architectural elements. "Architecture" or its elements do not have to be the subject of the picture but must be in the picture. Try to be artistic and creative.
	April	Motion The goal is to take a photograph that shows motion. For our purposes, motion can be depicted two ways. The first is by deliberate camera movement. This technique can result in pleasing abstract images. The second is the result of movement of the subject. A typical example is a photo of traffic at night with long streaks of red or white light of moving vehicles. While movement is often seen as a blur, a blurry picture is not motion for the purposes of this theme.
	May-June	Night/Low Light Photography The goal is to take a photograph at or after sundown (pre-dawn is okay as well) that is both in focus and well exposed.
	July	The American Flag For the purpose of this theme, "American Flag" means the actual flag (in whole or in part) as well as other depictions of the flag or its elements. The flag, or its depiction, does not have to be the subject of the picture but must be in the picture.

	Aug-Sep	Backlighting For the purpose of this theme, your subject must be “backlit,” which means the light is coming from behind and illuminating the back of your subject
	October	Reflections “Reflections” are all around us and are everywhere. Look for them in water (lakes, streams, ponds and puddles), in windows, mirrors and other shiny surfaces. Reflections are also remarkable easy to capture. The chosen “Reflection” does not have to be the subject of the picture but must be in the picture. The goal is to be artistic and creative.
	November	Autumn “Autumn” offers a wide range of photographic opportunities, especially for those who love colors and moody days. With the quickly changing scenery, colorful landscapes and shorter days, it’s not hard to understand why it’s so many photographers favorite season. Autumn also includes Halloween and everything associated with it.
	December	Red and Green At this Holiday time of year, we are surrounded by the colors red and green. For this theme each photo must have red <u>and</u> green as the predominant colors in the photo.
2018	January	Holiday Lights At this Holiday time of year, we are surrounded by wonderful displays of colorful lights. For this theme, you must photograph holiday lights. However, the lights you photograph must be lit and your photos well exposed and in sharp focus.
	February	The Year in Review – 2017 Members were asked to choose their favorite photos taken during calendar year 2017.
	March	Animals Animals of any kind (except humans) are the subject of this theme. Animals do not have to be the subject of the photo but must be in the picture.
	April	Tree Silhouettes Trees or parts of trees must be shown in silhouette. The silhouette does not have to be the subject but must be in the picture.
	May-June	Low Vantage Point For the purpose of this theme, “Low Vantage Point” means pictures whose subjects are at eye level or higher. In other words, the camera is pointed straight at the subject or is looking up at the subject.
	July	Framing Framing is a compositional technique that uses foreground and other elements to “frame,” and thereby highlight the subject. Photos must demonstrate this technique.
	August-September	Bridges Bridges of any kind are the subject of this theme, e.g. foot bridges, swinging bridges, railroad bridges, traffic bridges, etc. Bridges do not have to be the subject of the photo, but a bridge must be in the picture.
	October	Something You See Every Day As the subject of your photo, you were asked to choose an object from your home or property that you see every single day; i.e., your coffee mug, car keys, lamp, outside light post, mailbox, etc. Once you chose your object, and took a snapshot of it, you were asked to move on from this “boring” photo by switching the angle you are shooting from. The idea is that when you get down (or up) to the level of your subject matter, rather than simply shooting them straight on or from a standing position, you can create interesting images from a perspective that most people don’t see regularly.
	November-December	Fall Color Seasonal colors will soon be all around us, even though this year might not be as colorful as previously. The purpose of this theme, is to capture those colors. You can focus on the large or the small; e.g. a single leaf, a tree, or a landscape. As always, Fall color does not have to be the subject of your picture but must be in it.

2019	January	The Year in Review – 2018 Members were asked to choose their 10 favorite photos taken during calendar year 2018.
	February	Cold Members were asked to take pictures that depicted cold temperatures. This wintery time of year should present plenty of opportunities to show what “cold” looks like.
	March	Circles Circles and circular shapes are all around us and are the subject of this theme. Obvious examples include coins, plates, clock faces, traffic circles, balls, bowls, glasses, the moon, etc., etc., etc. In short, anything with a circular or round shape qualifies for this theme. In fact, we are surrounded by circles. As usual, the circular object does not have to be the subject of the photo but must be in the photo.
	April	Spring Spring is a season associated with renewal and rebirth. Nature abounds with a variety of flowers and plants. The goal of this theme is to capture a photograph that evokes the feeling of Spring.
	May	Rectangles Rectangular shapes are all around us and are the subject of this theme. Obvious examples include windows and doors. In short, anything with a rectangular shape qualifies for this theme. We are literally surrounded by rectangles. As usual, the rectangular object does not have to be the subject of the photo but must be in the photo.
	June-July	Filling the Frame This is a photographic composition technique that follows the ‘get closer’ rule. It means framing your subject in such a way that it occupies a large amount of space in a photograph. The object is to fill the frame with your subject and little else, leaving little doubt about what the intended target was.
	August	Curves Curves are the subject of this theme. This is a shape that is all around us and includes virtually everything that is not in a straight line. This could be a sweep of trees, a bend in a river, a roadway curving away from or toward us, the shape of a leaf or flower petal, or abstract shapes. The curve or curved item need not be the subject of the photo but the photo must have a curve in it.
	September	Textures Textures are the subject of this theme. From brick walls to tiled roofs to wooden fences, textures are all around us. A dictionary definition for "texture" includes the visual and tactile quality of a surface; the distinctive physical composition or structure of something, especially with respect to the size, shape, and arrangement of its parts; the smoothness, roughness, softness, etc. of something. An item or object displaying texture must be the subject of the photo.
	October- November	Yellow The world abounds with the color yellow. It is all around us and can be found on such diverse things as signs, clothing, flowers, food, etc. The list is endless. For the purpose of this theme the yellow object does not have to be the subject of the photo but the color yellow must be somewhere in the photo.
	December	Red Red is another color that is all around us and is particularly predominant during the year-end holiday season. For the purpose of this theme the red object does not have to be the subject of the photo but the color red must be somewhere in the photo. Additionally, SIG members were encouraged to avoid using Holiday subjects as their red object.
2020	January	The Year in Review – 2019 Members were asked to choose their 10 favorite photos taken during calendar year 2019.
	February	Winter In this cold and chilly time of year there are ample opportunities to take pictures that

		depict the winter season. This can range from pictures of people bundled up, snow, ice, hot breath, etc.
	March	Blue Blue is another color that is all around us. For the purpose of this theme the blue object does not have to be the subject of the photo but the color blue must be somewhere in the photo.
	April	Abstract Photo via Creative Blur For this theme photographers will need to create an abstract picture by using <u>creative blur techniques</u> . Blur can result from: subject movement, i.e., wind induced blur; deliberate camera movement; from a moving vehicle; by using selective focus or defocus; or a combination of the above.
	May	Flower portraits. For this theme you take a picture of a specific flower rather than a group of flowers. In effect, you are creating a portrait of the flower.
	June	In the Kitchen. The object is the creative photography of items found in your kitchen. This can be kitchen tools, appliances, food, or anything that you normally find in your kitchen. There are no other restrictions except that your images must be taken during the months of May, June and July 2020.
	July	Lockdown 2020 Photo Challenge. You are challenged to get creative and create some interesting or wall worthy photographs - without leaving home. Any subject is acceptable, but photos must be shot in or around your home, including your yard or garden. Your photo must be current which means it has to have been shot between March 10 and August 15, 2020.
	August	GARDEN. These can be photos in or of any garden. This includes plants, statuary, architectural features, etc. The intent is that the picture is taken for this specific theme. However, you may submit any photos taken during the Spring and Summer of 2020.
	September	CLOUDS. These can be photos whose main subject is clouds or it can be photos whose subject is not clouds, but clouds must be visible in the image. The intent is that the picture is taken for this specific theme. However, you may submit any photos taken during the Spring and Summer of 2020.
	October	MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL. The idea here is to incorporate a mirror in the photo to provide maybe a double look at something while trying to keep the actual camera out of the shot unless it is actually part of the composition. The intent is that the picture is taken for this specific theme. However, you may submit any photos taken no earlier than the Summer of 2020.
	November	ROCKS AND STICKS. This is for Fall which has leaves and often branches falling. Fall is a great time for walking through parks and/or nature...rocks and boulders can be quite attractive.
	December	THE HOLIDAY SEASON This is meant to be for the December 2020 Holiday Season. This can include decorations, lights, people, food, events or anything that is reflective of the Holiday Season. Photos for this theme must have been taken in December 2020.
2021	January	The Year in Review – 2020 Members were asked to choose their 10 favorite photos taken during calendar year 2020.

	February	<p>“Clocks and Watches” Clocks and watches can be things of beauty, or they can simply be functional. Whatever form they take, please grab your cameras and capture their many ‘faces’. They can be color, or black and white. They can be large or small, indoors or outside. They can be a small part of a wider composition or you can focus in on their fine details – the decision is yours!</p>
	March	<p>“Chimneys” Your photos can be anything that includes a chimney. They can be color, black and white, moody or bright, landscape, architecture or industrial. They can be closeups of parts of a chimney.</p>
	April	<p>“Spring” Spring is a season associated with renewal and rebirth. Nature abounds with a variety of flowers and plants. The goal of this theme is to capture a photograph that evokes the feeling of Spring.</p>
	May	<p>“Favorite photograph from a visit to a park or nature preserve” Visit a park or nature preserve of your choice and submit your favorite photo from your visit. This could be plants, flowers, animals, insects, or any object that catches your fancy. Make sure to include a description of the location you visited.</p>
	June	<p>“Smart Phone Photography.” Photos submitted for this theme must be taken with your smartphone. They can be any subject but should still follow all the rules we try to adhere to in order to create good photos: well exposed and focused, with good composition. Many of us use our smartphone cameras most often as quick and simple point and click cameras. The results are usually very good. However, with just a few quick and simple adjustments to control exposure and the point of focus, we can make those photos much better.</p>
	July	<p>“SELF ASSIGNMENT”. The theme this month is whatever you choose for it to be. Assign yourself the goal to photograph a particular subject that interests you. It could be broad like reflections or flowers or it could be more specific such as numbers or cars. The goal is for you to choose your subject and consistently look for images that represent that subject. As always, try to create print worthy photographs that please your own aesthetic.</p>
	August	<p>The color “Vivid Green.” Although Green is a color that is all around us, for this theme we are looking for instances of “Vivid Green.” For the purposes of this theme the Vivid Green object does not have to be the subject of the photo, but the Vivid Green color must be somewhere in the photo.</p>
	September	<p>“Grasses.” Various types of Grass are all around us. These range from decorative and ornamental grasses to more mundane variations. For the purposes of this theme “Grass” does not have to be the subject of the photo, but grass must be somewhere in the photo. The challenge is to create a print worthy photo.</p>
	October- November	<p>Autumn “Autumn” offers a wide range of photographic opportunities, especially for those who love colors and moody days. With the quickly changing scenery, colorful landscapes and shorter days, it’s not hard to understand why it’s so many photographers favorite season. Autumn also includes Halloween and everything associated with it.</p>
	December	<p>Wheels They come in many shapes and sizes. Wheels on a car, bike, wheels on their own, detail shots of wheels, gears, water wheels, Ferris wheels, etc. In short, wheels of any kind anywhere. There are many ways to capture this subject. The challenge is to make your photograph unique. As usual with our themes, the wheel does not have to be the subject</p>

		of the photo, but a wheel or wheels must be somewhere in your photo.
2022	January	The Year in Review – 2021 Members were asked to choose their 10 favorite photos taken during calendar year 2021. The group then selected two photos from each member for posting on the website.
	February	Just Add Light This theme is all about experimenting with light. The challenge is to add light in addition to or in place of the ambient light falling on your subject. There is a myriad of potential light sources that can be used alone or in combination. Examples include flash, LED panels, flashlights, lamps, reflectors, etc. You pick the subject and try different methods using light to match your creative mood. Please be prepared to show your “before and after” photos.
	March	The Number 3 This is open to your own interpretation, “The Number 3” could be many things! Your image clearly needs to indicate or say “The number 3” in some way, shape or form. The Number 3, what could it be? 3 people in a park? 3 cats in a tree? 3 photographic rules in one frame?
	April	Stairs Stairways provide lots of opportunity for creativity. Think angles, light and shadow, architecture, movement, details etc. As always, stairs do not have to be subject of your photo but stairs must be visible somewhere in your photo.
	May	Flowers The month of May brings flowers in abundance everywhere. For this theme flowers must be the primary subject of your photo. It is your choice whether to showcase a group or groups of flowers or to narrow your focus to a single.