



Take a Hike!
But don't forget your camera



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Nature Photography



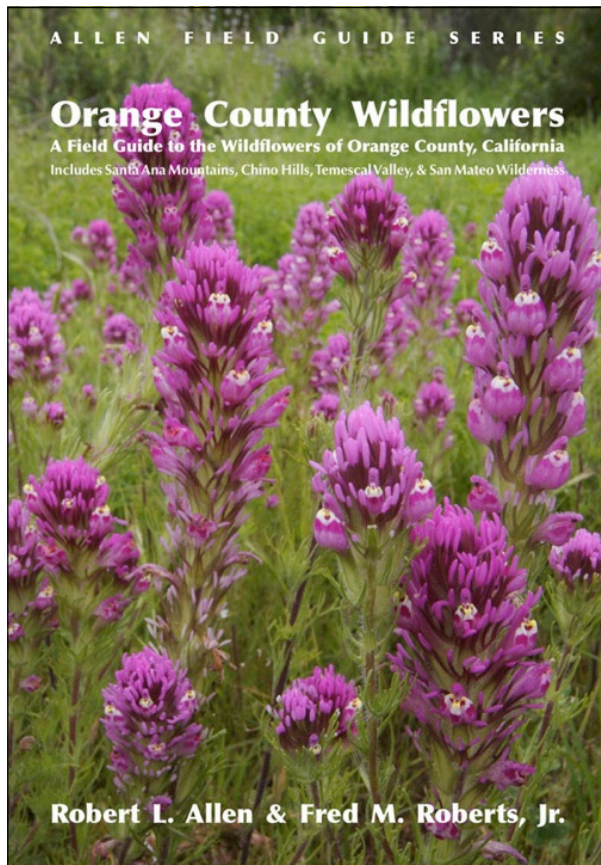
Bob Allen

bugbob@mac.com

www.boballenphotography.com

www.bugbobswildworld.com

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What is Nature Photography?



- Natural landscapes
- Natural objects
- Plants & Animals in the wild
 - May include captivity & studio
- Usually no people or human devices
 - May include people enjoying nature
 - Strict sense: "No hand of man"



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Types of Nature Photos



- Natural History
 - How/where does something live
- Super-Technical
 - Documentary
- Purely Artistic



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Topics



Basic Gear
Techniques
Finding Subjects
Contest



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Jack London, writer

Arnold Genthe, photographer



London: "You must have a wonderful camera... It must be the best camera in the world... You must show me your camera."



Genthe: "I have read your books, Jack, and I think they are important works of art. You must have a wonderful typewriter."



Camera Types

Single Lens Reflex, SLR

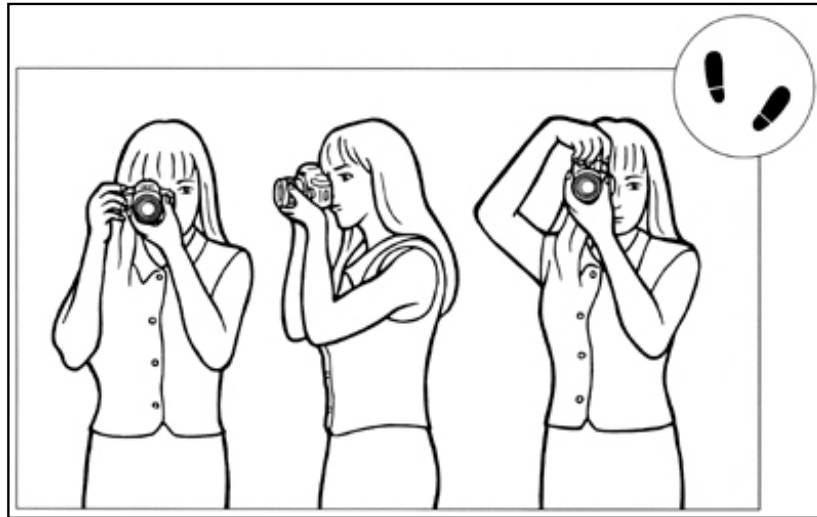


Compact, Point & Shoot



Holding a Camera

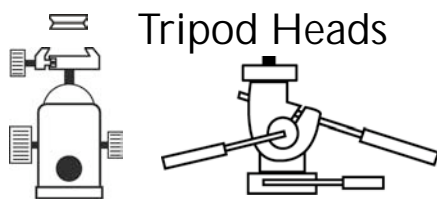
- Two hands, good support, stance
- Horizontal or Vertical?



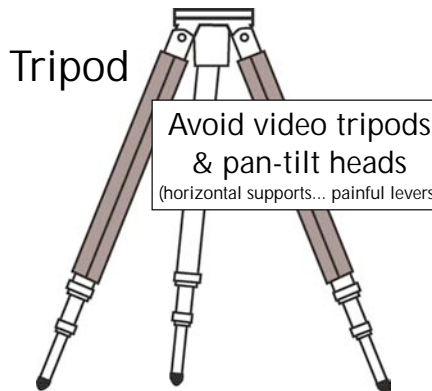
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Stability



Tripod Heads



Tripod

Avoid video tripods
& pan-tilt heads
(horizontal supports... painful levers)

Monopod



Trekpod



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Stability



Ultrapod • <http://www.ultrapod.com/>

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Stability

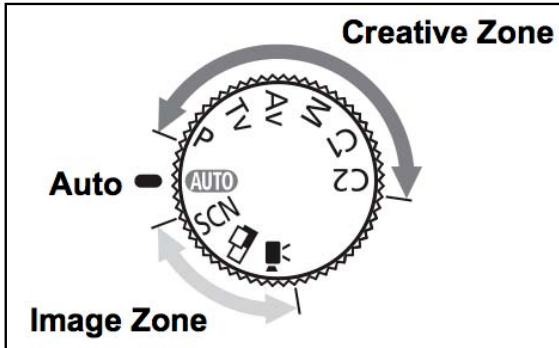
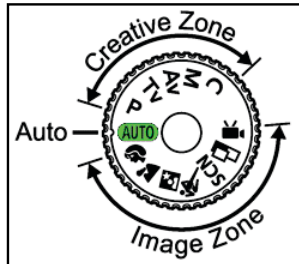


Gorillapod • <http://www.joby.com/>

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Shooting Modes

Auto is Awful
Program is Perfect!



Movie
Stitch Assist
SCN Special Scene
Action, Night, Landscape, Portrait
Fully Automatic
Program
Tv Shutter Priority
Av Aperture Priority
Manual
Custom

SCN: Special Scenes

Use these in situations when the subject is not medium-toned and/or in unusual situations

SCN: Special Scene

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| : Portrait | : Landscape |
| : Night Scene | : Sports |
| : Night Snapshot | : Kids&Pets |
| : Indoor | : Foliage |
| : Snow | : Beach |
| : Fireworks | : Aquarium |
| : Underwater | : ISO 3200 |
| : Color Accent | : Color Swap |

Topics



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Good Technique Makes All the Difference

- *Relax & enjoy your photography*
- Don't haphazardly *take pictures*,
 - DO consciously *make images*
- The best images tell a *story...*

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Good Technique Makes All the Difference

- Learn Rules of Thirds, & when to ignore them
 - (More on this topic soon)
- Mind the background...

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Good Technique Makes All the Difference

- Learn enough to make *good* images,
then learn more to make *great* images
- When you learn a new technique, *try it out*
- *Love your subject* more than your photograph...

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Good Technique Makes All the Difference

- Don't leave images trapped in computer/website
 - Make great *prints* & hang them on your walls
- Always *relax & enjoy* your photography



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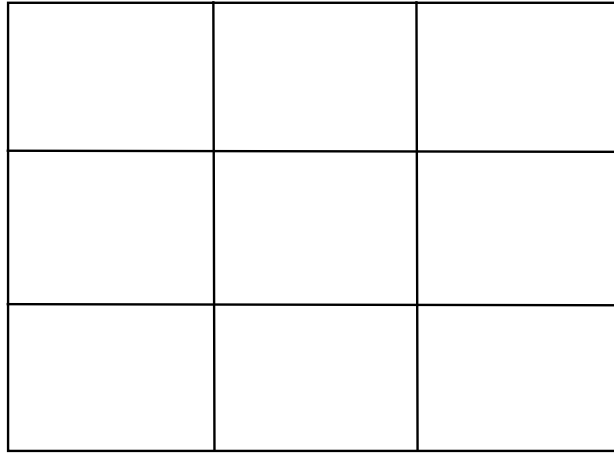
"Add some interest to the shot by putting the partridge in the foreground."

Composition

"Add some interest to the shot by putting the partridge in the foreground."

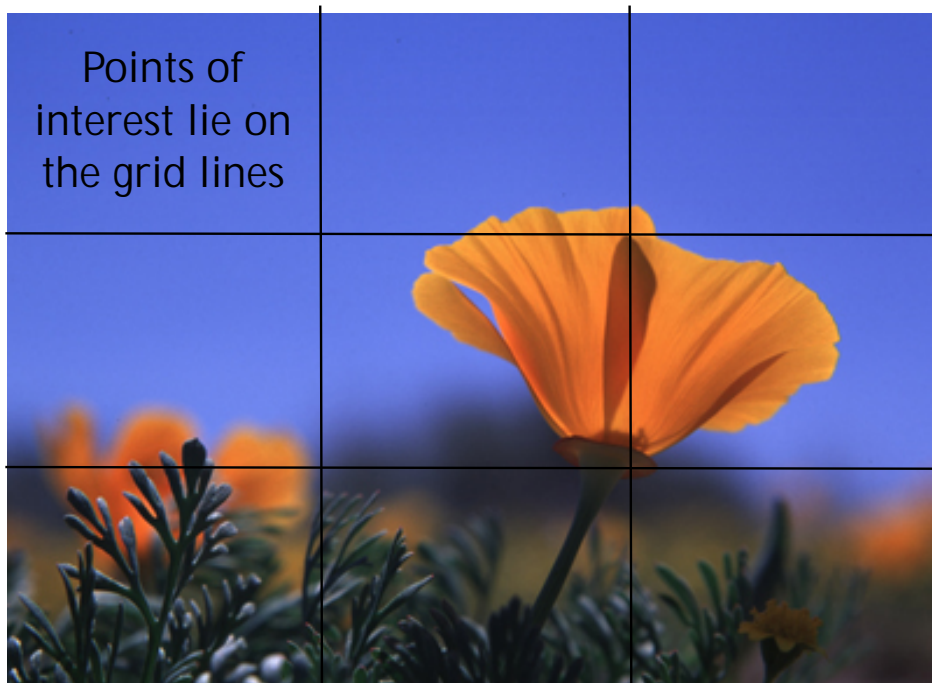
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Rules of Third



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Rules of Third 1: Grid Lines



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Rules of Third 2: Thirds of Frame

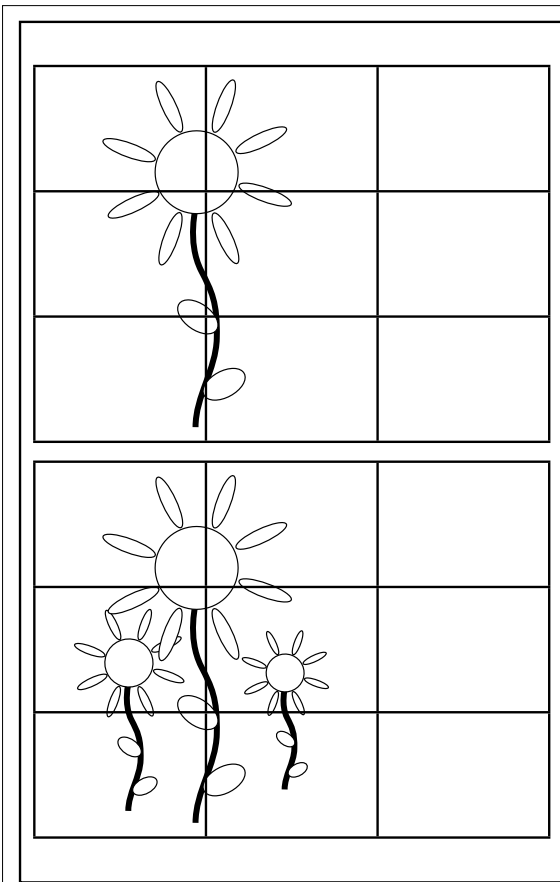


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Rules of Third 3: Three Items



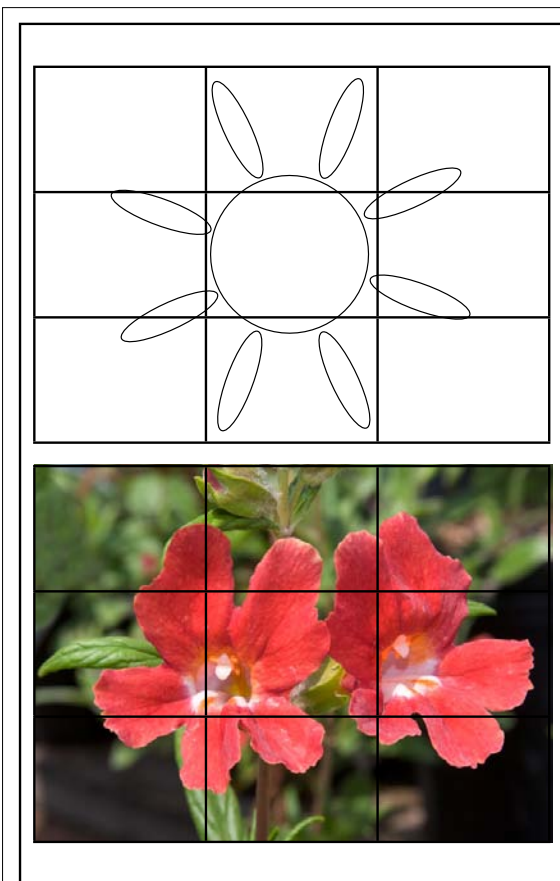
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Shrubs, Flowers

- Throw primary subject off-center
 - one plant
 - a cluster of them
 - or an entire shrub/tree
- Leave negative space (breathing room)
- May include a few more individuals, but not as large/dominant in the frame
- Incorporate the background habitat
- Level the horizon

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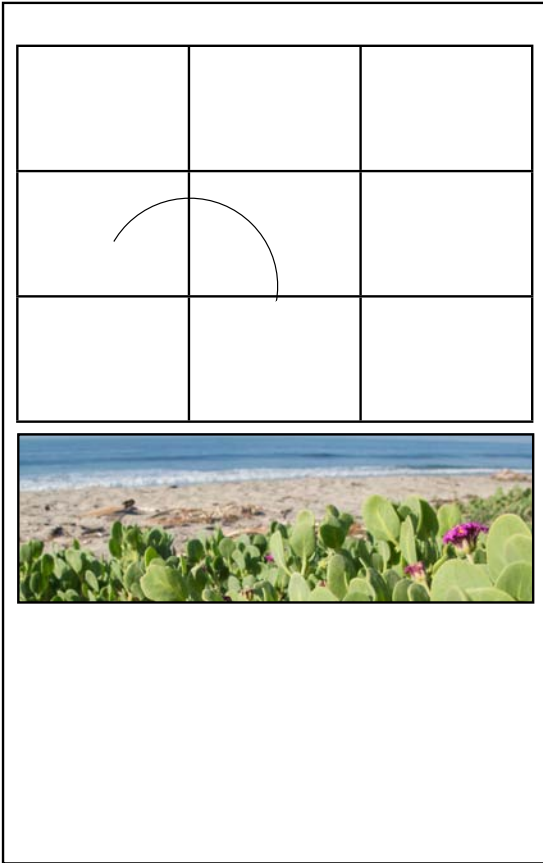


Close-ups

Subject dominates the frame

- Ok to place in-center
- Ok if a few other flowers are partially included
- Must be very sharply focused, OR focus only on a tiny piece
- Reproductive parts are extremely important!

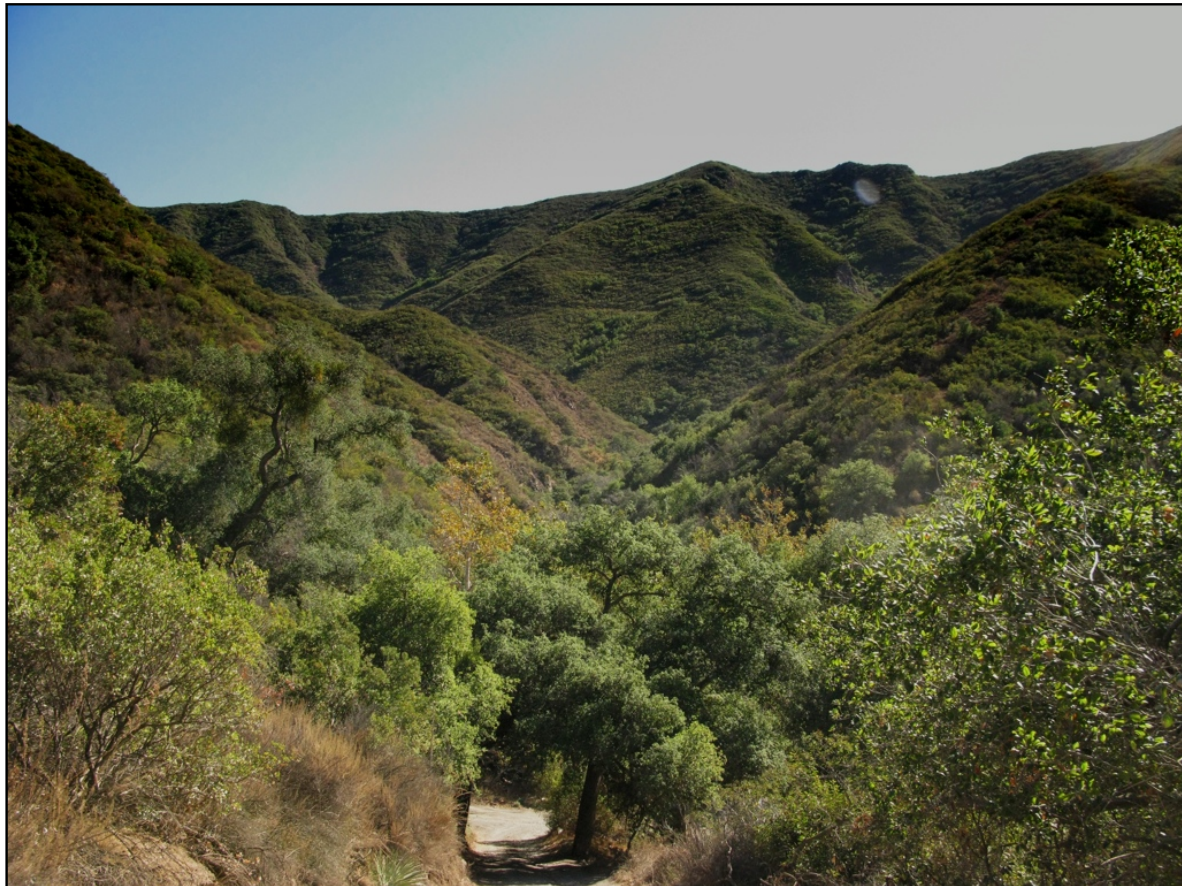
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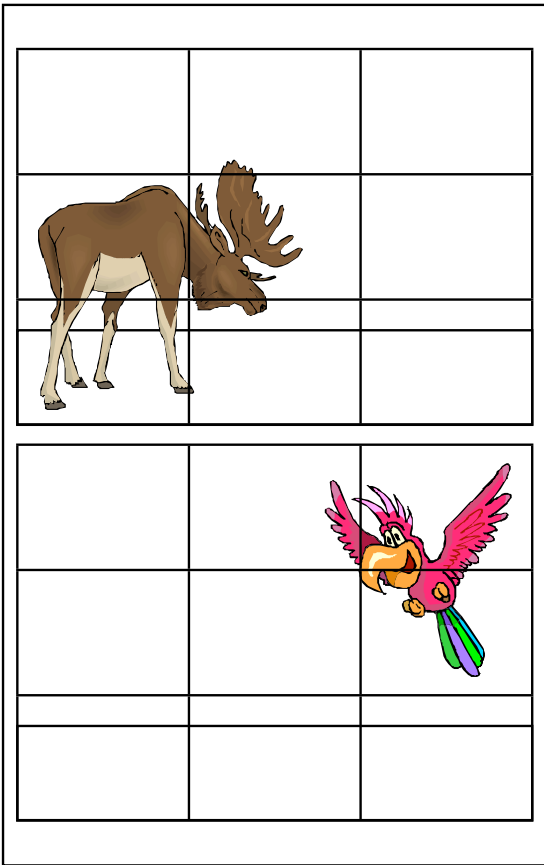
Scenics

- Throw primary subject off-center
- Leave negative space (breathing room): sky, water, beach
- May include a few more objects of interest, but not as large as the primary subject
- Avoid overly bright and/or unwanted objects
 - Attention goes to the brightest object
 - Squint test
- Level the horizon

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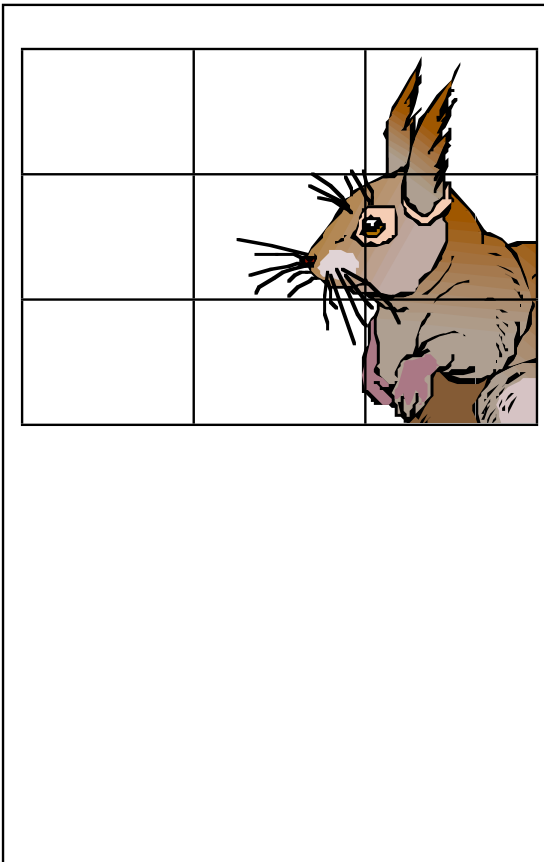
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Animals in habitat

- Throw primary subject off-center
- Don't cut off wings, tails, beak, antlers, etc.
- Leave negative space (breathing room)
- Align motion and/or their face into the center
- Level the horizon

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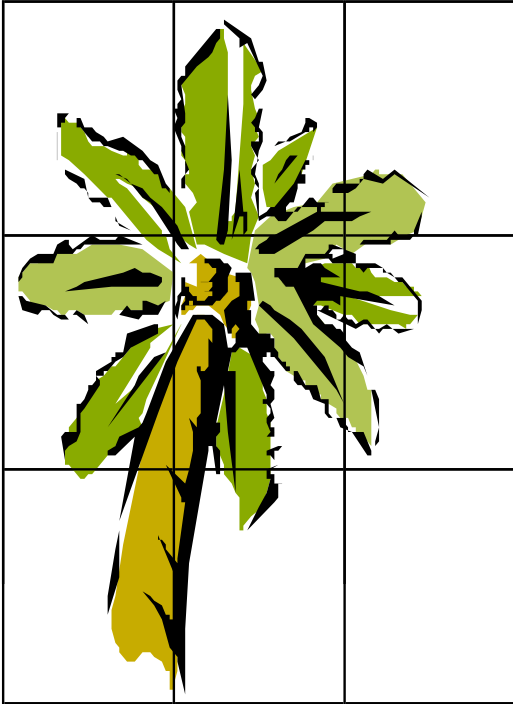
Animal Close-ups

Subject does not totally dominate

- Throw primary subject off-center
- Cleanly exclude body parts
 - Totally include/exclude entire feet/paws/ears
 - Don't cut off mid-digit
 - Leave negative space (breathing room)
- Align motion and/or face into the center
- Focus on the eye
- Level the horizon

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Verticals



- All the same techniques & rules apply
- 75% of all published photos are verticals
- Shoot some horizontal, some vertical

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White Tones



- Film
 - Underexpose white
- Digital
 - Overexpose white
- Film & digital techniques are different

California Snowdrop Bush
Styrax redivivus
Lucas Canyon Trail

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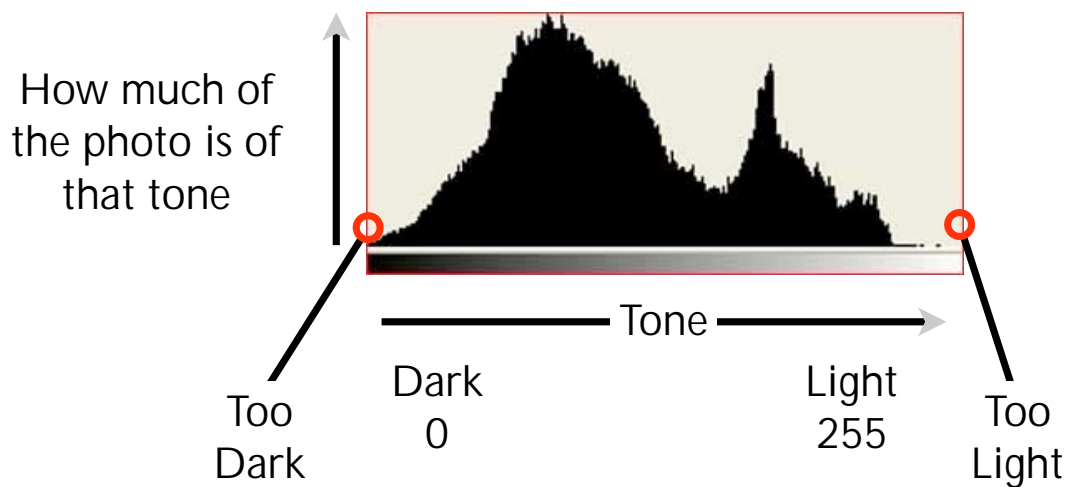
Managing Light



LiteDisc • <http://www.photoflex.com/>

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Histogram

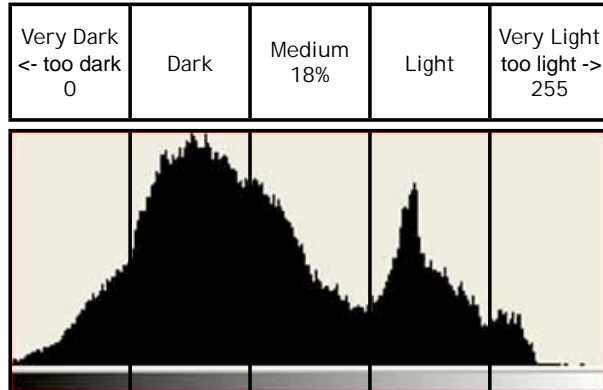


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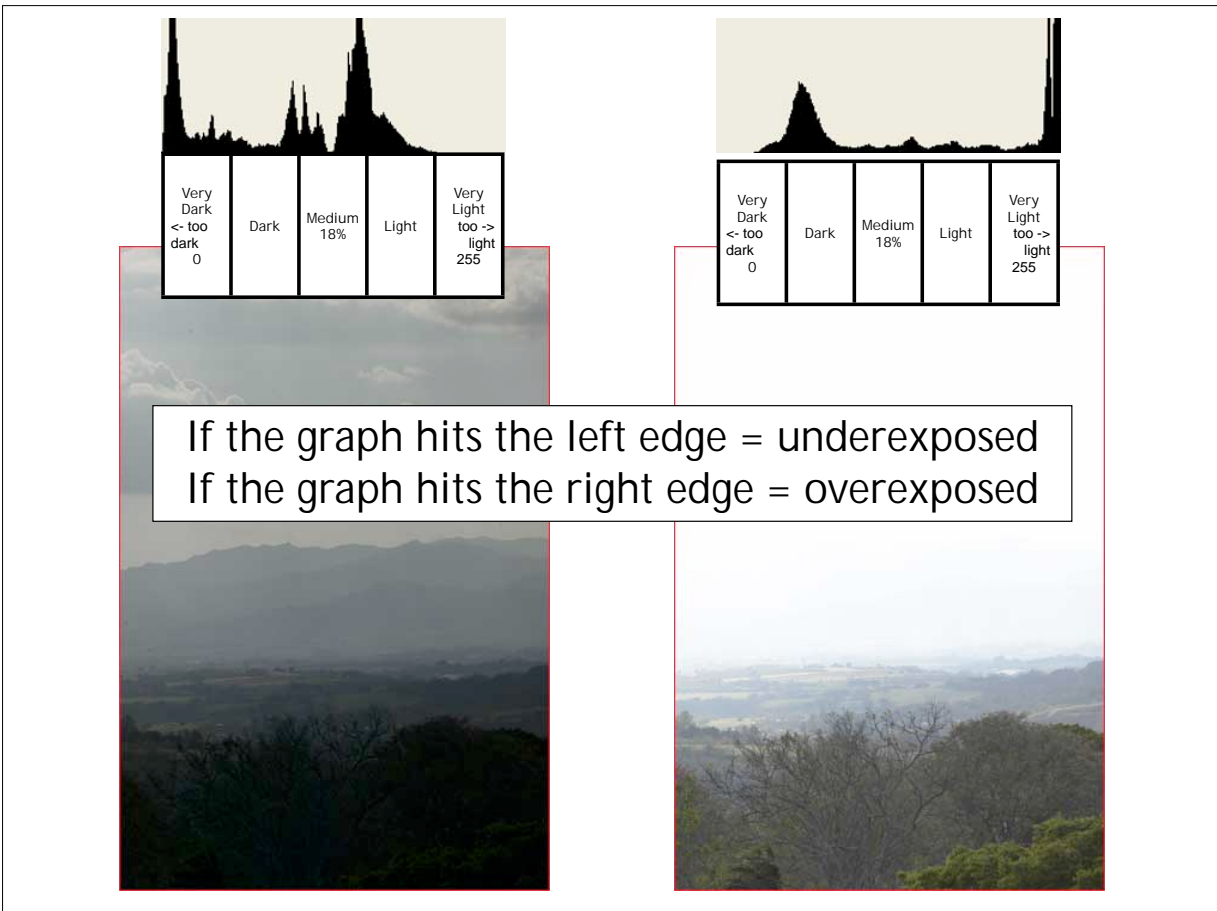
Histogram



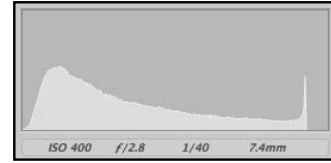
Light values: stops
 Human eye: 12 stops
 Cameras: 5 stops



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Holy Jim Falls

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Review



Santa Rosa Plateau Brodiaea
Brodiaea santarosae
Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve

- Use histogram
- Check exposure
- If needed:
 - Change settings & reshoot
 - Diffuse white tones
 - Neutral Density Filter
- *Know your Camera!*

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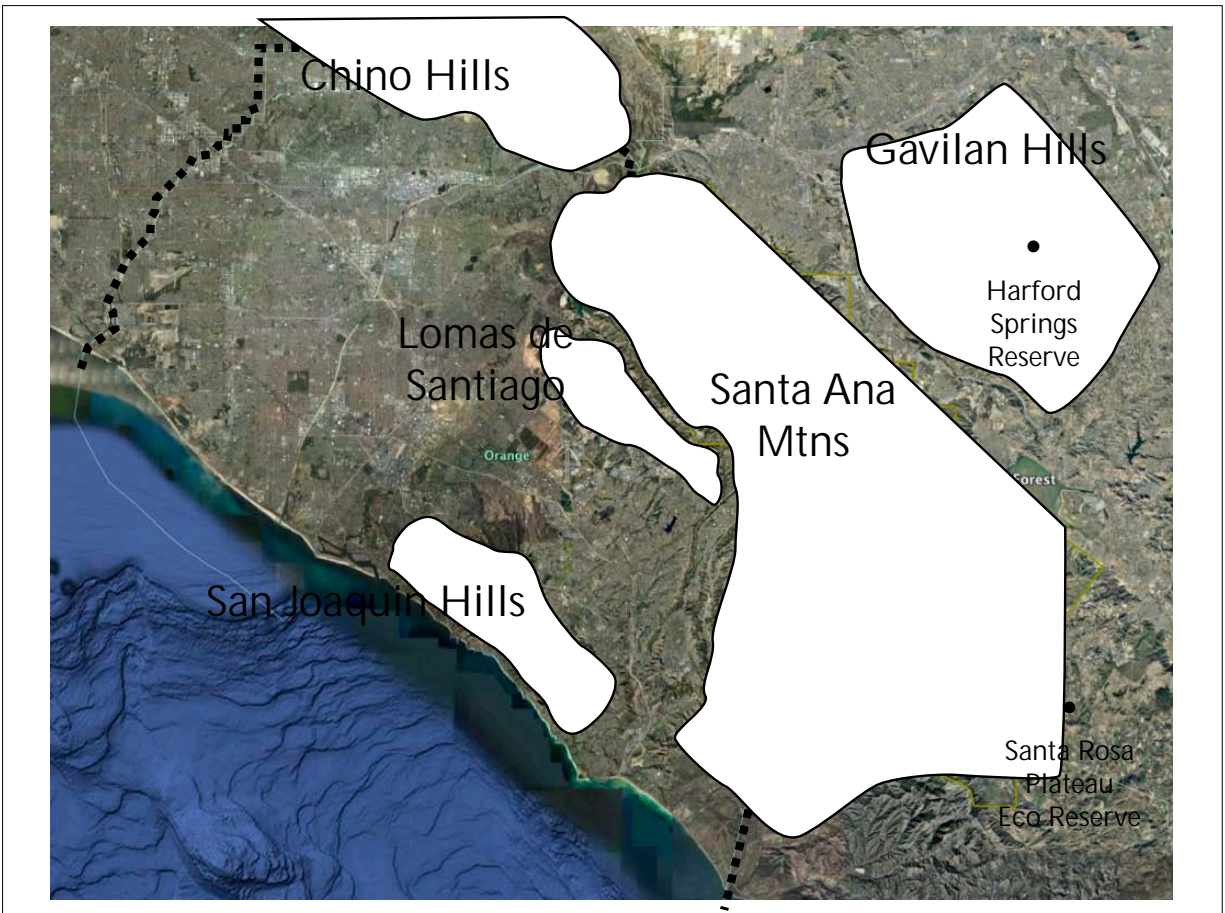
Topics



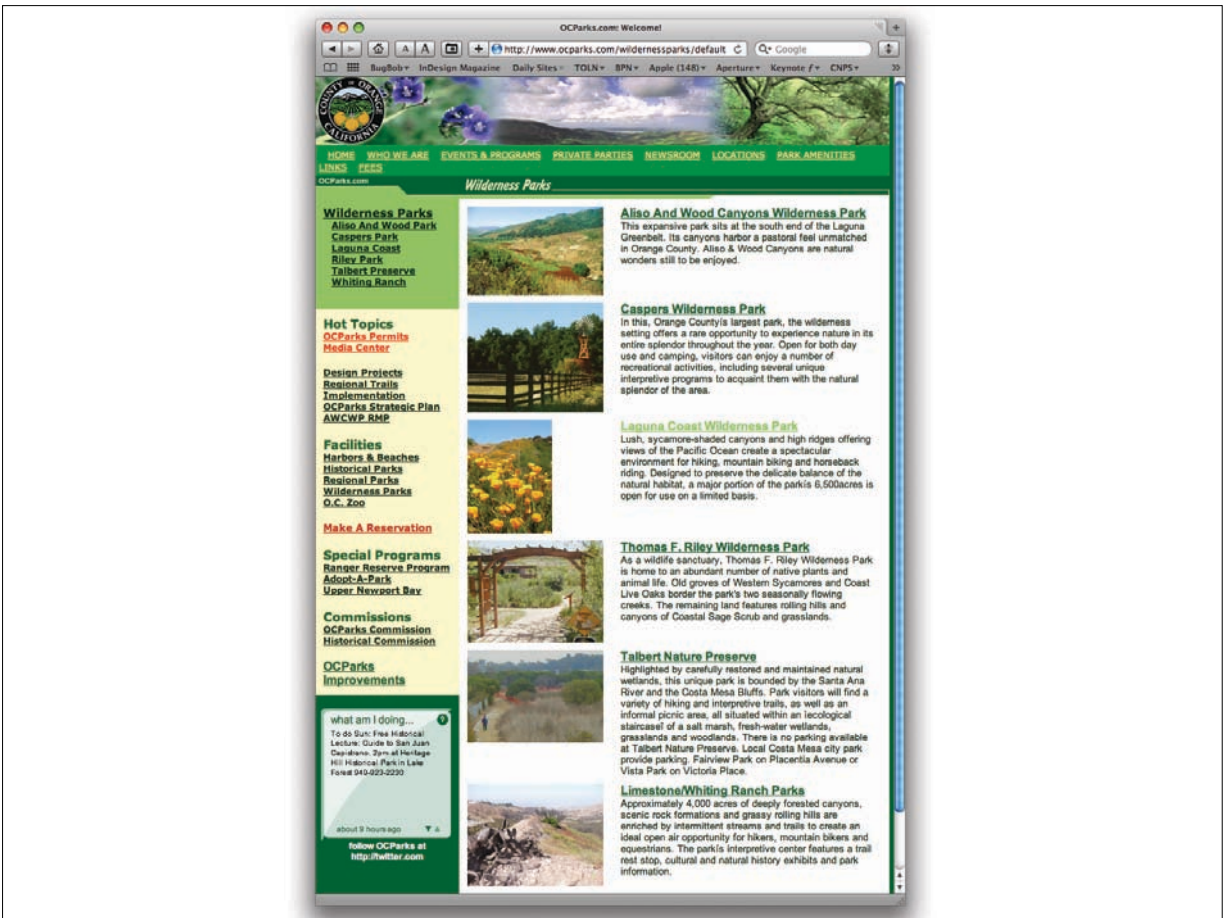
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OC Hot Spots

- OC Wilderness Parks
- Bolsa Chica Eco Reserve
- Upper Newport Bay
- Crystal Cove State Park
- San Clemente State Beach
- Major Trails & Canyons
 - Trabuco, Holy Jim, Modjeska, Santiago, Silverado, Fremont, Weir
 - Silverado Canyon
 - Main Divide Road
 - North Main Divide Road "Loop"

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Nearby Hot Spots

- San Onofre State Beach
- South Main Divide Road
- Lake Street, north of Elsinore
- Gavilan Hills
- Harford Springs Reserve
- Santa Rosa Plateau Eco Reserve

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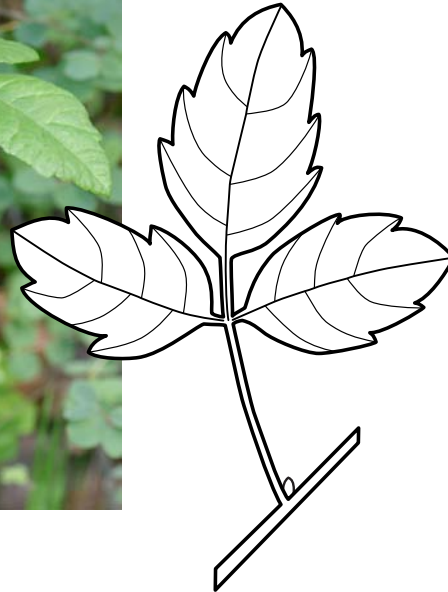
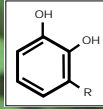
A Word About Safety...



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Urushiol

Leaflets three,
let it be



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Topics



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Contest

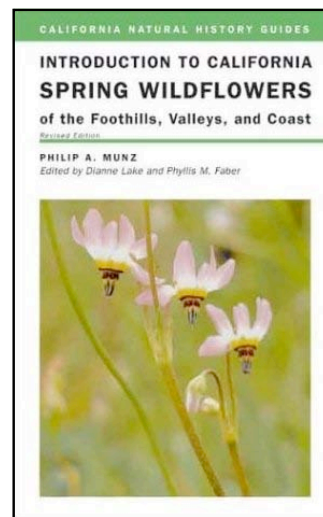
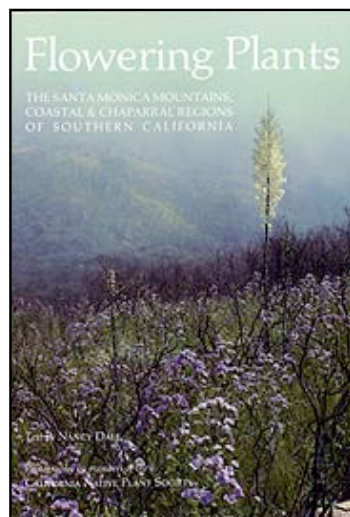
● Southern California Wildflowers

● Categories

- Nature – Open: flower(s) + mostly natural. Native flowers encouraged. Garden species of flowers and man-made items are allowed. Non-native weeds are not allowed (foreign mustards & thistles, etc).
- Flower & man: flower + person or something man-made. Beautiful, artistic, and/or whimsical images are encouraged.
- Nature – Strict: No “hand of man”. The image contains a native flower(s) photographed in the wild. Absolutely no hint of humans or anything man-made. No non-natives.

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Identification



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*“Consider something
as if you have never seen it before,
as if you will never see it again”*

-Rachel Carson

Paraphrased by Nancy Rotenburg

