



## Creative Spring Photography Ideas

By Val Sleger

Ah, spring. The weather is warmer, the days are longer, and all around are blooming trees, flowers, and cacti. What better time to get out with your camera? Check out these ideas for creative photos you can make during this special time of year. Read the full article below to see what these nine ideas are all about. Want more ideas? There are additional links to articles and videos to jump-start your creativity.

1. Place a prop in flowering trees
2. Explore the tiny world of flowers
3. Use Spring metaphors in compositions
4. Take Spring photography with rain
5. Experiment with water splashes
6. Incorporate Spring-related themes, like growth, change, or renewal
7. Combine flowers with food photography
8. Create Spring crafts with letters
9. Photograph floral flat lays

However you choose to play around with Spring themes, metaphors, flowers, or props, be sure to share your work on our website, here in the newsletter, or at the next meeting.

[Nine Creative Spring Photography Ideas to Try](#) (expands on the above ideas)

[11 Spring Photography Ideas to Try this Season](#)

[10 Spring Photography Ideas to Get You Inspired](#)

[10 Creative Spring Photography Ideas](#) (video: 5:14)

[Creative Photography Tricks: 12 Photo Ideas for Spring](#) (video: 1:59)



## Weekly Challenge

We're changing up the challenge words this year. At each meeting of the Club, held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, four challenge prompts will be presented for the following month. Focus on one word or phrase each week to complete all four to share at the following month's meeting. Folks who can't attend the meetings will get the list in the newsletter. April challenge photos will be shown at the April meeting and included in the May newsletter.

### April

Earth Day  
Bokeh

### Cutlery

Song: Close to You

### Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at the Sierra Vista Police Station Training Room, 911 Coronado, Sierra Vista. Meetings begin at 4 PM. The meeting topic for April is a show and tell of all equipment available for use by Club member, given by Mark Hanna.

★ **Congratulations** to members **Sam Scherf** and **Ava Englund** for having photos chosen to be showcased in the Herald-Review. Great job! ★

### Share Your Knowledge

We all know something about photography, right? Why not volunteer to give a presentation at one of the monthly meetings? You could teach a new skill, lead a discussion about a YouTube video you found interesting or challenging, or share photos from your latest photo adventure. Talk to one of the officers if you are interested. We'd all love to see what you come up with!

### Officers

**President:** Mark Hanna  
**Vice-President & Program Coordinator:** Bob Luce  
**Secretary:** Joyce Genske  
**Treasurer:** Madeleine Charron

### What's in your camera bag?

A recent article in Outdoor Photography Guide gave a list of items the photographers should consider keeping in their camera bags. How many of these do YOU have on hand? (Not every item will be needed ... it depends on your camera, your destination, and your tolerance for weight.

- Variety of lenses
- Flash / flash extender
- Tripod
- Extra batteries
- Battery charger (so you always know where it is!)
- Camera manual (could download this to your phone instead)
- Shutter release cable (you might be able to program your phone, instead)
- Extra memory cards
- Lens cloth
- Small LED flashlight
- Plastic bag, rain sleeve, or other item to keep your camera dry in case of sudden rain (hello, monsoon season!)
- First aid supplies



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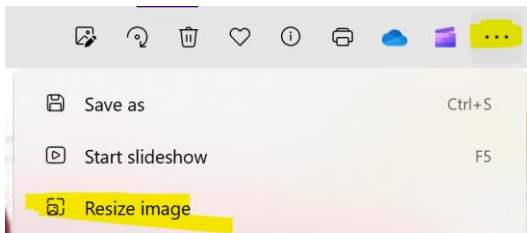
## Submitting Files for the Web Site?

Our President, Mark Hanna, manages the Club web site. To help him keep submitted photos organized and the file sizes small, he has asked that members follow certain file naming and file size conventions. Here's what you need to know.

Bring files to the monthly meeting, on a flash drive labeled with your name. Mark will keep the drive and return it at the following meeting, so you'll want to have two drives available.

Name your files as follows: **Meeting-Your First Name-01**, **Meeting-Your First Name-02**, etc. If you want to add additional characters following the number, such as a description of the image, please keep the total number of characters (including the name and number) to about 30.

Resize your images to be 700 px on the longest side. You can do this in Windows Photos. Open the photo in Photos. Click on the 3-dot menu, choose Resize image, and enter a dimension of 700 px on the long side. The short side will resize automatically.



You can also resize Images in either Photoshop Elements or Photoshop, or in a native Mac application. Hit up Google for specific instructions.

Mark keeps a separate section for photos from Club outings. To submit those, please use the same naming conventions as described above, substituting the word Outing for Meeting.

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## The Whys and Whens of Lens Hoods

Do you have a camera with interchangeable lenses? Do you shoot with a lens hood? Should you? Here are some tips and insights about these little plastic pieces of equipment.

1. Using a hood helps reduce lens flares, shields your lens from unwanted glare, and can help to increase contrast in your photos as a result.
2. The hood can provide physical protection for the front of your lens, much like a bumper.

Are there times when you don't want to use a hood?

1. You want lens flare for artistic purposes.
2. You want to be less conspicuous when shooting.
3. The hood can cast shadows if you are using a built-in, pop-up flash.



Which shape should you buy?

- Lens hoods are designed for the focal length of the lens, so you won't have a choice between a petal-style lens or a tube-style. The petal-styles are typically used on wide-angle lenses, so the hood doesn't get into a wide-angle shot.
- Inexpensive hoods from a store like Amazon are just as effective as the branded hoods from Canon or Nikon – at a fraction of the cost
- Buy a hood to fit the diameter of your lens. Find the diameter (expressed in millimeters) in the lens specifications, or on the face or barrel of the lens.

Summarized from: [Lens Hoods – Why, When, and How to Use Them](#) (video: 8:55)



## Member Photos

We love to see your photos – even if you aren't looking for challenge words.  
We showcase them in the newsletter, and you are encouraged to bring  
them to the meeting on a flash drive!

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**March challenge words:**

Button  
Inspiration

My Town  
Up with the Birds

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Submitted by Ava Englund



Button



Inspiration: A New Day Dawns

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**March challenge words:**

Button  
Inspiration

My Town  
Up with the Birds

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Submitted by Ava Englund



Inspiration: Sunset



Inspiration: Take Time to Smell the Roses

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**March challenge words:**

Button

My Town

Inspiration

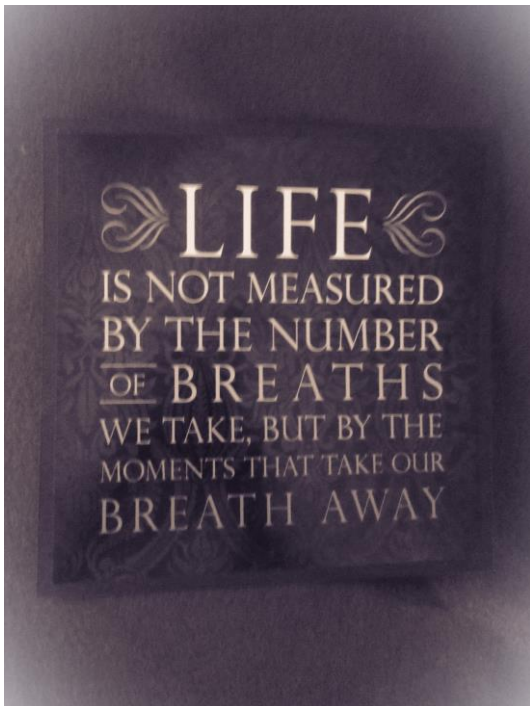
Up with the Birds

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Submitted by Ava Englund



Inspiration: New Life



Inspiration

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**March challenge words:**

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Inspiration

My Town  
Up with the Birds

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Submitted by Ava Englund



My Town



Up with the Birds



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**March challenge words:**

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Submitted by Ava Englund



Up with the Birds



Up with the Birds

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**March challenge words:**

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Inspiration

My Town  
Up with the Birds

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Submitted by Joyce Genske



Inspiration: Buddha



My Town: Madison, WI



Up with the Birds:  
Half-frozen Roadrunner

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**March challenge words:**

Button

My Town

Inspiration

Up with the Birds

---

Submitted by Sam Scherf



Inspiration



Button



My Town

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**March challenge words:**

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Submitted by Sam Scherf



Up with the Birds

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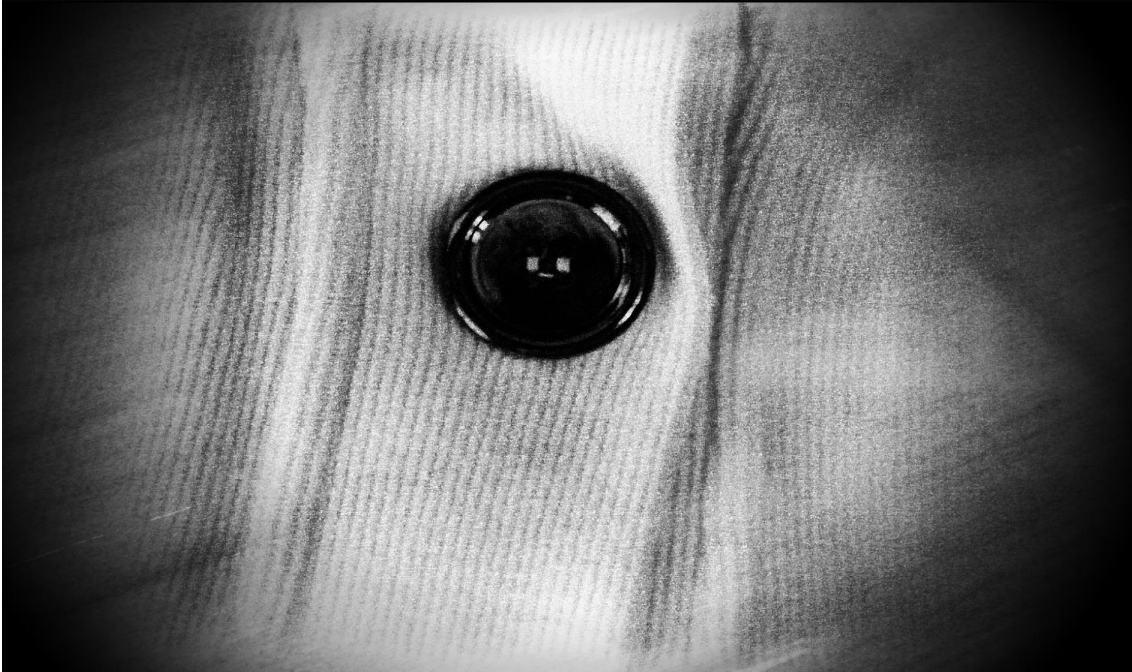
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Button  
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Submitted by Ande Savage



Button



My Home Town

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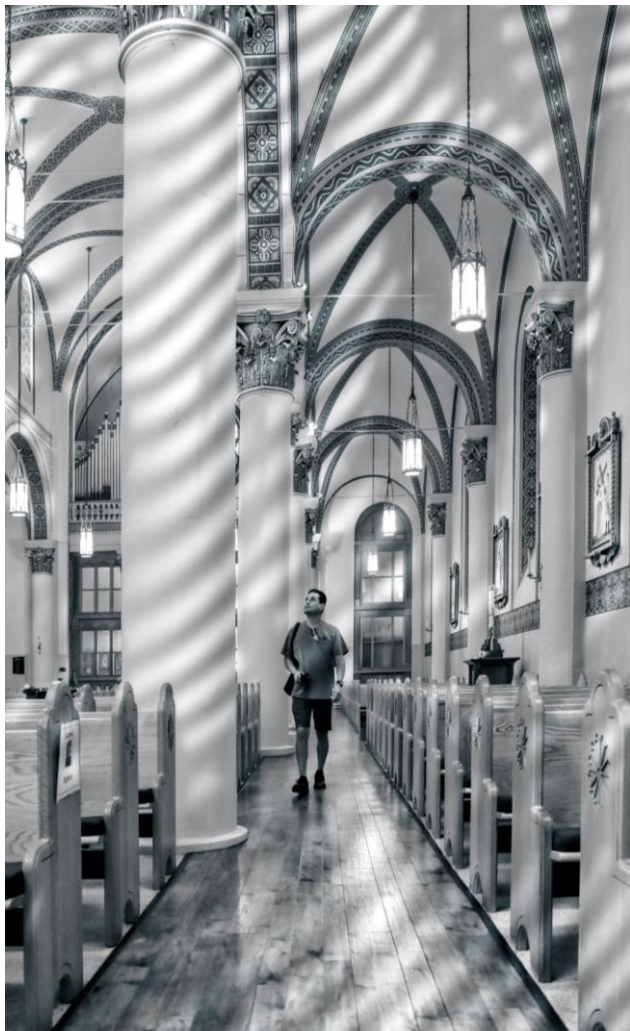
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Button  
Inspiration

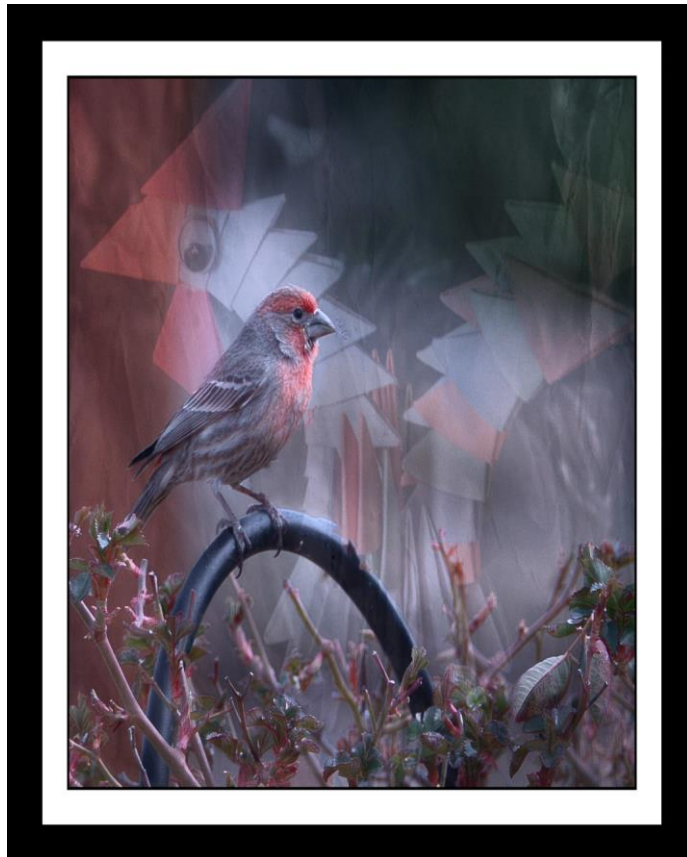
My Town  
Up with the Birds

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Submitted by Ande Savage



Inspiration



Up with the Birds

My Home Town

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## Member Photos (non challenge words)

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Submitted by Sheila Foraker



Bewick's Wren



Female Northern Cardinal

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## Member Photos (non challenge words)

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Submitted by Sheila Foraker



Hawk and Peak composite



Pyrrhuloxia



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## Member Photos (non challenge words)

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Submitted by Sheila Foraker



Brown Creeper



Female Northern Cardinal

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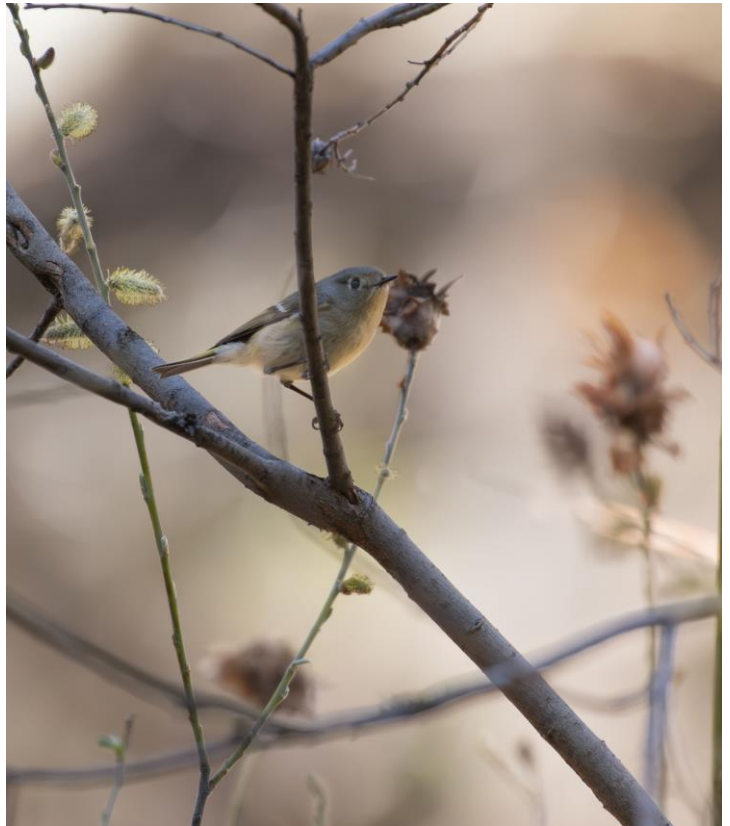
## Member Photos (non challenge words)

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Submitted by Sheila Foraker



Red-Tailed Hawk



Ruby-Crowned Kinglet

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## Member Photos (non challenge words)

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Submitted by Val Sleger  
Scenes from the Cochise College Rodeo



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## Member Photos (non challenge words)

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Submitted by Val Sleger

Scenes from the Cochise College Rodeo

