"You don't make a photograph just with a camera. You bring to the act of photography all the pictures you have seen, the books you have read, the music you have heard, the people you have loved."
— Ansel Adams

Aspens
Northern New Mexico, 1958
Photographers?  Yes.

A photographer is “someone who takes photographs.”
A photographer is “one who practices photography.”
Get geared up.
Really, you must have a camera.
“Know thyself.”

- What’s YOUR style?
- How do YOU interact with your environment?
  - Anytime. Anywhere.
  - Hiker, bush-whacker, mountain climber,…
  - Planner, tracker, sit-and-wait-er
  - Point-and-shoot
  - Entry-level DSLR or bridge camera
  - Professional, full-frame camera
Back in the day!!

My first photo

My (my parents’) first camera
These Days!!

Wild Ohio eNEWSLETTER
EDUCATOR EDITION

My Current Camera
Where Do I Fit In?

- Event Photography
  - sporting events, parades, festivals, and parties, etc.

- Fashion Photography
  - the fastest paced aspect of the photography industry.

- Forensic Photography
  - This is probably the most gruesome and morbid careers

- Glamour Photography
  - professionally apply makeup and style a person's hair, then photograph them as if they were a movie star.

- Pet Photography
  - on good terms with the nearby groomers and pet stores.

- Photojournalism & Life Photography
  - This is probably among the more glamorous

Here are some examples of life photography
- Portraits
- Pregnancy
- Sports/Action
- Wedding
- Architecture and City
- Celestial
- Nature and Travel Photography
- Ghost hunting - haunted houses and graveyards are more common
- Landscapes and Panoramas
- Satellite and Aerial Photography
- Underwater
- Food Photography
- Microscopic
- Product Photography
Why do we take different kinds of photos?
When presented with an image, do you look for longer periods of time at fewer places, or move more frequently over the image.

Detail-oriented linger patiently over a scene while stimuli-driven scan it like photographic Terminators.
Get ready to shoot.
Planning to get out with your camera
Define my purpose for the shoot.

- Diagnostic shots for ID purposes?
- Documentation shots for self?
- Aesthetically pleasing shots?
Know where I’m going.
Know my subject.

- In search of a particular plant?
  - Research its growing habits, state status, bloom period
  - Learn to recognize it with only basal leaves or seed heads

- Chasing a bird?
  - Know its habitat, migration dates, any unique behavior
  - Follow list serves to know when/where birds are seen
  - Learn to identify nests and bird song

- Other species of interest?
Dress appropriately.

- Choose quiet, rustle-free clothing.
  - Avoid noisy closures like Velcro
- Camouflage is great, but not necessary.
  - Look to blend into the background
- You can never have too many pockets.
- Always have an extra layer to put on.
Learn about light!

“Photography is essentially a partnership with light that works with, and exploits, its every property.”

--Tom Ang
I Hate Sunny Days
Controlling the light

- Cloudy days are best to capture detail.
- Tissue paper or diffusers will help on sunny days.
- Use a reflector to fill shadows.
Use motion blurring shutter speeds such as 1/30 of a second or slower 5 full seconds.
USE ACTION STOPPING FILM AND A FAST SHUTTER

- Use motion blurring shutter speeds such as 1/30 of a second or slower.

OR NOT!
TAKE LOTS OF PICTURES

- Never trust your first impression of a scene. Try to shoot at different angles and heights.
What I like in a wildlife photograph...

Energy

Facial Expression

Emotion
GET CLOSE

- If you have a macro lens for your SLR it should be 1 to 1 reproduction ratio.

- Tele Converters
  - Makes image larger without getting close

- Extension Tubes
  - Hollow tubes that fit between your camera body and lens so you can get close
GET CLOSE

- Select the macro mode on your digital camera and don’t zoom in.
Spend more time on composition.

- Identify the focal point
  - Use limited depth of field
- Simplify the scene
- Pay attention to background
- Avoid the middle
  - Rule of thirds
- Use diagonals
- Work with s-curves & lines
- Allow space for subject to move into
Be creative with your point of view.

- Experiment with another perspective.
- For small animals’ portraits…Get down!
Slow-moving animals work best!
Play with black & white.
Add life to landscapes.

- A wide-angle lens will add perspective & diagonals.
- Create depth by adding something in the foreground.
- Focus on near object and use high f/stop.
- Horizon level!
What I like in a good environmental photograph...

Isolation

Simple

Composition
Ethics

- “First, do no harm.”
- Are you the naturalist or the photographer FIRST?
- What is your purpose?
  - Education?
  - Documentation?
  - Profit/ personal gain?
  - Because I can?

Anyone can take a picture.
The challenge is to leave it behind.
Attracting Wildlife

- Bird or mammal calls
- Food
- Water
- Shelter
- Space
- Host plants for caterpillars
- Shallow pools for frogs (liners)
Closing thoughts...

Which of my photographs is my favorite?
The one I am going to take tomorrow.

Imogen Cunningham

Your first 10,000 photographs are your worst.

Henri Cartier-Bresson