

Tips to Improve Landscape Photography

"Gosh my job is so easy!
I just click a button all day!"

Said no photographer.
Ever.



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user card

Depth of Field

One of the most important aspects of a photo is the depth of field, or how much of the image is in focus.

Landscape photography generally requires more of the image to be in focus and sharp than other forms of photography

DOF is determined by aperture or f-stop.

The bigger the number (f-stop), the smaller the aperture with greater depth of field

Always remember, smaller apertures mean less light gets to the camera sensor

- Use a higher ISO or longer shutter speed to counter this and ensure enough light gets in your image
- A camera's meter doesn't always get this correct

Shallow Depth of Field



Greater Depth of Field

Smaller aperture = more in focus



White Balance

Determines the balance of colors on your camera.

- Correct white balance removes unrealistic and undesirable color shades from images
- Shady days vs sunny days
- A slight change in white balance can create subtle or dramatic effects
- Don't always trust your camera to get it right
- *Usually* can be corrected in post processing



WB Continued

What WB can do --->



Graduate from shooting in Auto mode

Experiment with new modes offering more creative control

→Aperture priority

→Shutter priority

→and eventually Manual mode!

Save the Sky!

Landscape photos often include a good amount of sky - save the detail and try not to overexpose it.

- The sky is typically far brighter than a subject on the ground
- The camera's meter will calculate exposure for your focal point on the ground and often blow out the sky
- Circular Polarizers or Neutral Density filters for DSLRs allow longer exposures by blocking some light from hitting the lens

Bad Skies vs. Good Skies



How to Compose Images

Composition or framing is one of the biggest keys to having an aesthetically pleasing image.

Your composition is essentially how you place visual items within the scope of your camera.

Don't be afraid to zoom - cropping your images can remove unnecessary items from your composition and add importance to what you the viewer to see

Foreground and Background

In some scenarios, using an object in the foreground can dramatically change the appearance of a landscape

For example, using a nearby tree or colorful stone as the focal point of a large, deeper landscape gives your photo depth and detail

Foreground and Background



The Rule of Thirds

Imagine if your image was divided into three separate parts

Rather than framing an object in the center of your composition, place it slightly off center on one of the thirds.

This draws in the viewer and forces them to view the entire image instead of just glancing at the center

Rule of Thirds



Rule of thirds



© Adam Smith Photography

Leading Lines

These are natural lines within an image that lead viewers to another point in the image with the purpose of giving viewers a more interesting and full photograph

→Fences

→Trails

→Pier leading into water

→Or even trees

Combine this with the rule of thirds to create a captivating image

Leading Lines



Leading Lines



RAW Images

Switch to shooting in RAW format.

→JPEGs have a downside

→RAW images give you the most flexibility and retains more data from your camera's sensor

→RAW + JPEG offers the best of both worlds

Post Processing (editing)

After making the switch to RAW, it's time to dabble with editing

Editing brings out the details that your camera may have missed and helps you create a final image that more closely represents what you saw with your own two eyes

You don't even need Photoshop!

→ Lightroom

◆ Creative cloud subscriptions

→ Capture One

→ GIMP (free!)

Post Processing Continued

Editing lets you correct things like:

→Exposure

→Color Saturation

→Contrast

→Fix blown highlights

→Bring out shadows

Think Differently and Just Keep Shooting

Be creative and try something new

Experimenting helps learn what does and does not work

Instead of shooting the sun going down, look the other way and shoot the landscape being painted by the soft light

Practice doesn't make us perfect, but it gets us closer

Let yourself make mistakes and discover new ideas!

Tips for IATA Photo Submittals



- From a promotional standpoint, the IATA needs to put its best foot forward, showcasing the Trail
- Garlic mustard is not a pretty spring flower



- Eroded Trail or boardwalks in disrepair won't be used
- We are trying to grow our audience - hikers, advocates, volunteers





Faces, not backs!

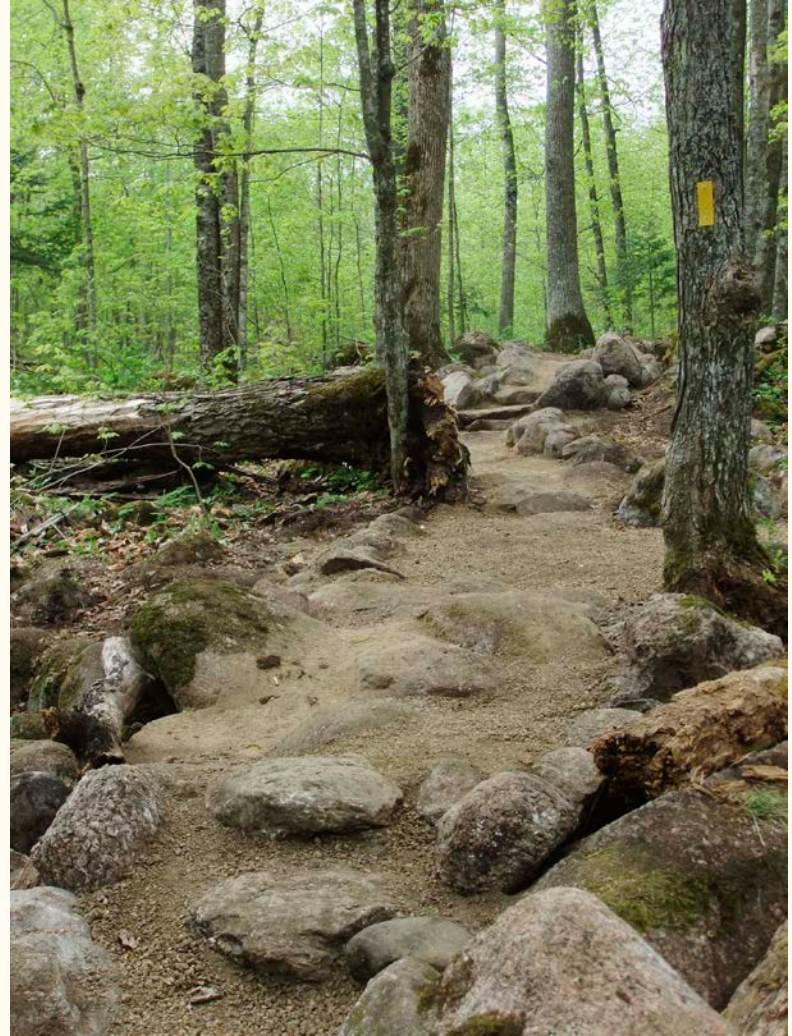


Mammoth Tales Covers

Portrait orientation

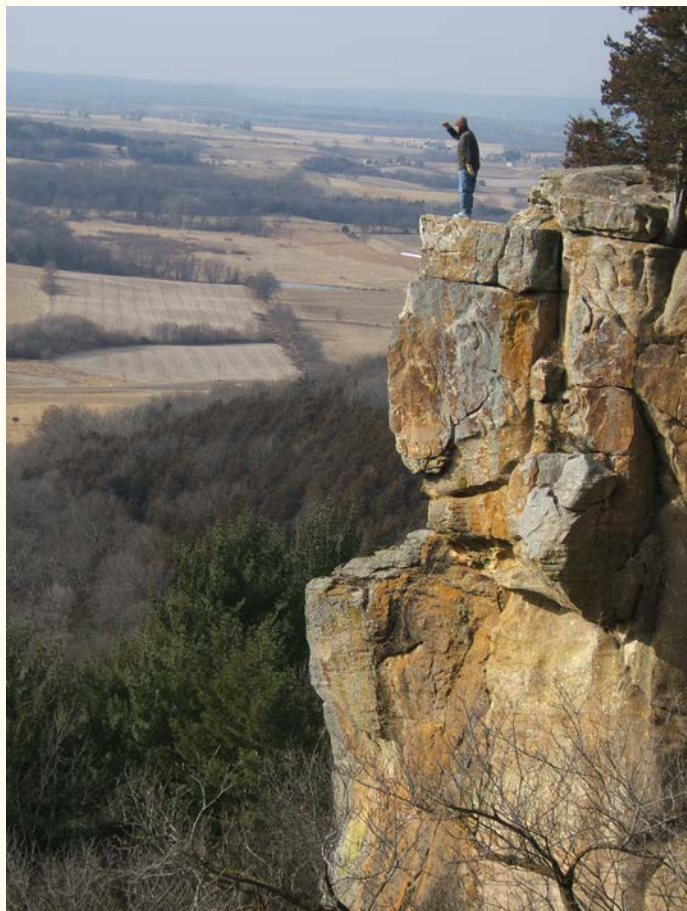
Leave room at the top for the banner

Blaze!



Try a New Perspective







Before & After



Questions???