



# RAS KIDS

## Richmond Audubon Society Nature Photography Lesson

### TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS OVERVIEW

**LIGHT** - In order for an image to be captured there must be a certain amount of light. The light must be strong enough to reflect off the object, then enter into your camera's lens and onto the digital sensor.

**LIGHT DIRECTION** - When ever possible **keep the sun to your back**. This is one of the easiest things to do right. Keep in mind where the light source is. This makes a difference on where you want to be to get better pictures.

**STABILITY** - A picture is a still image, you need to be as still as possible to capture a sharp image. **Keep your elbows squeezed to your side and breathe slowly.**

**EQUIPMENT** - Cameras come in all shapes and sizes. Digital cameras allow the benefit of low cost production. This enables you user to take more pictures and gives a better chance of getting one shot that is better than another. **Take lots of pictures.**

### NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

**LOCATION** - This is the first thing to consider. You better your chances on encountering nature when you are where the critters are. Local parks and neighborhood gardens are great places to try because the animals are use to people being around. And remember to keep the sun to your back.

**PATIENCE** - sometimes the best thing to do is to sit and wait for the subject to come to you. Plus, you can identify the animal or plant from the photograph later.

**SUBJECT** - look for birds, flowers, landscapes, insects, mammals and more all around in all directions, up down, left right. Find by listening quietly to your surroundings for frogs, birds and insects.

**ANIMAL BEHAVIOR** - Animals are frightened to sudden movement so move slowly and smoothly like a stalking tiger. To get good pictures of most animals you need to be fairly close. Be still and pay close attention to changes in the animal's behavior (Sudden head movement, looking at you, stopping its activity).

**SHOOT** - Sight your subject in the finder and shoot. Many things in nature move, so be ready and take lots of pictures when you have the opportunity.

*Follow the RAS Kids link at [www.RichmondAudubon.org](http://www.RichmondAudubon.org)*



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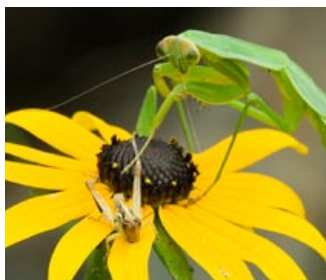
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Landscape

### LANDSCAPE

Landscapes are every where. Find a place or view that appeals to you. Think about what you like about that place and try to capture it in a photograph. Is it a tree, a mountain, a sunset, a creek or lake, a row of trees? These photos are usually taken from farther back and away from the view so more of the place fits in the frame.



Macro

### CLOSE-UP or MACRO

Get close! Look for textures, colors, patterns and details that catch your interest and your eye; like unusual tree bark or leaves, maybe even an extreme close-up of an animal that only shows part of the critter. Sometimes this is a small bug or a water drop on a leaf.



Still Subject

### STILL SUBJECT

The still subject is usually the easiest because the subject is still. This can be a tree, a flower or any photograph that has only one main subject.



Animal

### ANIMAL OR PORTRAIT

This is the toughest and will take persistence and patience. This can be any mammal, like a squirrel, a frog, a bird, or even a grasshopper or other insect. It should have the whole animal in the frame.