

Evolving as a Photographer:

Small Adaptations for Becoming a Better Photographer

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Learning *noun*

- 1: the act or experience of one that learns
- 2: knowledge or skill acquired by instruction or study
- 3: modification of a behavioral tendency by experience (as exposure to conditioning)

Learning About Photography

Early Behavior

- Books
 - David duChemin
 - Bryan Peterson
 - Scott Kelby

Adapted Behavior

- Magazines
 - Digital Photographer (UK)
 - Digital Photo (UK)
- Online Videos
 - PPSOP
 - YouTube
- Blogs

Steadying the Camera

Early Behavior

- Hand-holding without changing any settings
- Cheap tripod

Adapted Behavior

- “Hand-holding mode” defined in the camera
 - ISO 200+
 - Shake Reduction enabled
- Good quality tripod

Carrying All My Gear

Early Behavior

- Single backpack-style camera bag with detachable lens and filter cases
 - Tamrac Adventure 75
 - Modular Accessory System cases



Adapted Behavior

- Multiple camera bags
 - Backpack-style bag
 - Tamrac Evolution 8
 - Messenger-style bag
 - Tamrac Velocity 6x
 - Modular Accessory System lens and filter cases



Things Always in my Bag

- Extra memory cards
- Microfiber cloth
- Flashlight
- Head lamp
- Multi-tool/pocket knife
- Compass
- Pen and paper

“Hotel” Bag

- Battery charger
- Cleaning tools
- Flashgun and accessories
- Extra AA and AAA batteries

File Management (Sorting the Tons of Photos I Take)

Early Behavior

- Manual filing system
 - Year > Month > Shoot
- Hand sorting in Adobe Bridge
- Keeping a hand-written list of images to edit
- Over-complicated file naming system intended to track adjustments to photos

Adapted Behavior

- Adobe Lightroom
- Automatic filing system, file naming convention
- Quick sorting and identification of images to process
 - Rating and flag tools
- Key wording

Fumbling with Camera Settings

Early Behavior

- Frantically changing settings while running toward the subject
- Often missing the shot



Adapted Behavior

- Pre-defined user modes
 - “Hand-held” mode
 - Manual exposure
 - ISO 200
 - Shake Reduction enabled
 - “Wildlife” mode
 - Aperture priority
 - ISO 200
 - Shake Reduction enabled
 - Continuous shooting enabled
 - “HDR” mode
 - Aperture priority
 - ISO 100
 - Exposure bracketing enabled
 - 5 images @ 1 stop each

When to Click the Shutter

Early Behavior

- Fire off frames as quickly as possible
- Focus only on the main subject, paying little attention to background and edges
- Didn't realize mistakes until I got home
 - Solar flares

Adapted Behavior

- Slow down, take time to examine the scene and compose the image
- Pay attention to everything in the frame, including the edges
- Use a lens hood and check viewfinder for solar flares
- Be okay with negative space









Find a Subject Matter that Interests You

Early Behavior

- Strictly adhered to “preferred” subjects
 - Landscape
 - Wildlife
- Would avoid photo opportunities because it wasn’t “my type of photography”
- Created rules for my own photography
 - No people

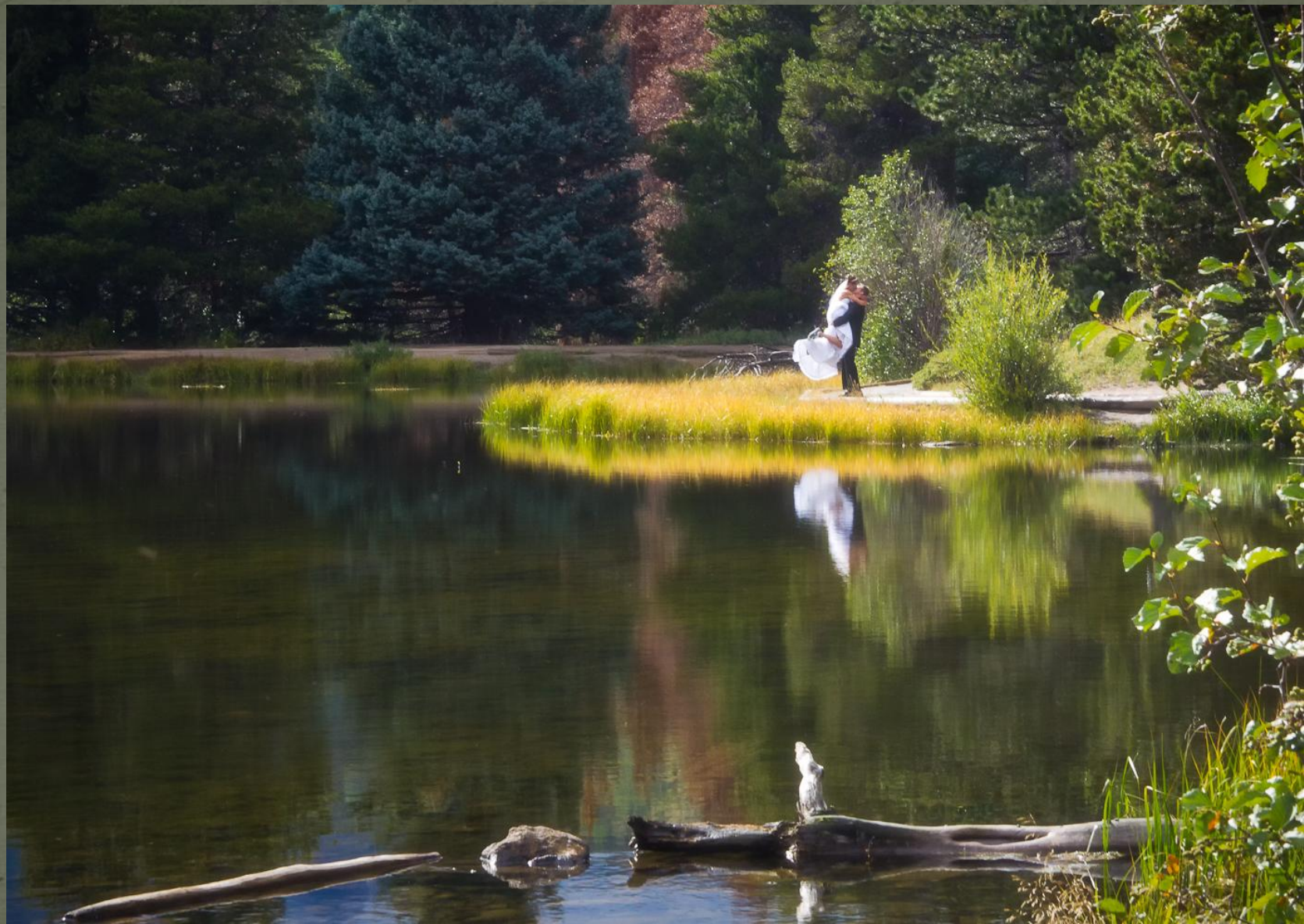
Adapted Behavior

- Open to new and different subject matter
- Never pass up a good photo opportunity
- In the right situation, break my own rules











Be Aware of Your Surroundings

Early Behavior

- Focus on the “obvious” subject or composition
- Not always being on the look out for a good image

Adapted Behavior

- Seek alternative views/compositions
- Always watching for a good image
- Notice what the crowd is not noticing













Image Processing

Early Behavior

- Minor adjustments to contrast and color
- Literal interpretation of the scene

Adapted Behavior

- Process to create a mood, not necessarily to recreate the scene
- Sometimes dramatic difference between zeroed raw file and finished product

"All photographs are accurate. None of them is the truth."

- Richard Avedon















<http://www.flickr.com/krhphotography>

or search: KRHphotos