



GFWC PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Tric Heepe, Chairman

theepe@aol.com



The 2025 GFWC Photography Contest is in the books—or rather, the photo album. It was amazing! I commend our club members on their creativity and talent! Our judges were impressed. The wife of one judge called to see where he was, and he responded that it was taking longer than he had anticipated because the quality of the photos far exceeded his expectations!

I received a lesson in photography as the judges studied your photos and made comments, praise, and suggestions. We had an extended conversation on when it is appropriate to adjust a photograph. Even though the camera does not always catch what we see, is it legitimate to make any adjustments? He stated that if the photo is not what your eye-brain sees, it is quite appropriate to adjust.

One judge was generous enough to provide the following:

Photo editing:

Modern cameras employ complex algorithms to try to capture an image as best they can under a very wide range of conditions. While they generally do a good job, they seldom capture an image the way that your eye-brain saw it. But help is on the way! Apple iPhones and iPads include easy to use photo editing software that can be used to make an image look more like the one that your eye-brain originally saw. The software is very user-friendly. You cannot do any damage. Editing is non-destructive and so you can easily return your original image if you don't like what you have done.

When you open an image in photos you will see an editing button at the bottom of the screen.

Click on this, and you will have three options:

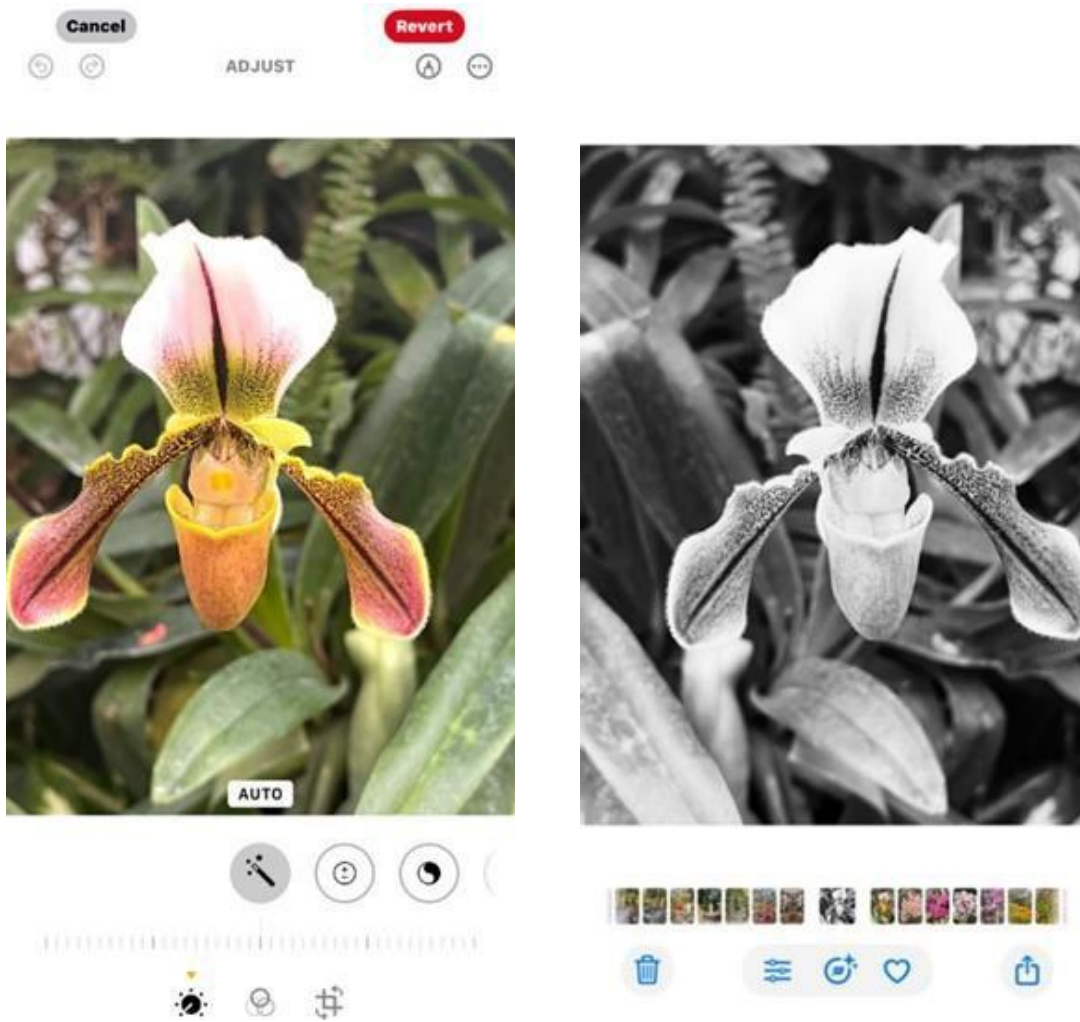


Adjust. The ones I use most frequently are Exposure; Highlight; Shadows; and Warmth. There are a number of others, and it's worth spending a few minutes to learn how they work and become totally familiar with them.

Crop. This allows you to crop and straighten the image and control perspectives. (There are certainly circumstances in which your creative skills will take to images that are not straight; but you never want to see a horizon with a slope!)

Filters. I tend to use either the Original or Noir (full black and white). But it's worth experimenting with all of them.





I hope you will play around with the available adjustments in order to achieve what your eye-brain saw. I plan that we will enjoy sharing our photos and improve our skills along the way. Take a step back from your photo and notice where your eye is drawn. Is it where you intended or does that little unimportant rock draw you away from your intended focal point? Would a small crop make all the difference? Try it and see.

We had submissions from thirty-nine of our fifty-states. My goal that by you sharing these newsletters with your members, we can spark a little more interest and have photos from all fifty states and the newly chartered District of Columbia!