



# Sierra Vista Camera Club

Since 1974

March 2025 Newsletter

[www.svcameraclub.com](http://www.svcameraclub.com)



## Let's Talk About Foregrounds

By Val Sleger (summarized from Photzy ebook by Tobie Schalkwyk)

Have you ever photographed a beautiful scene, sure you had a picture worthy of hanging in your home, only to pull it up on your computer and think, "Meh. Nothing special." Maybe it's because your photo is lacking a foreground. I know I am guilty of this. I work (too) hard to compose without a rock, or a random person, in my photo, without considering that having them there might enhance the image.

Here's a quote from the Photzy ebook that summarizes the problem:

*It is quite interesting that the 'average' photographer has no difficulty in understanding the importance of the background in an image. Is it clean or cluttered? Is it sharp or blurred? Does it include an interesting object? Does it add value? Should I make it more/ less prominent? We can keep going with the thoughts running through our minds as we take a peep through our viewfinders. The reality is that a foreground is as important as a background, and one should ask all of the same questions of a foreground. The only difference is that we could exclude a foreground and it may not matter at all. There are some genres of photography, however, where a foreground plays an important role, such as in landscape photography. **In general, a viewer's eyes enter an image at the foreground and then move to the back of the image. The foreground is the first thing we observe.** Even if that is not the case, our eyes may move back from the background to the foreground and look for something to settle on.*

When this article continues on the next page, we'll take a look at five reasons foregrounds play an important role in landscape photography, and then review some tips for finding foregrounds which will complement your image.

*Continued on next page*

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## Foregrounds *(continued from page 1)*

### The Role of Foregrounds

1. A strong foreground raises the appeal to a viewer. A good foreground can be the focal point of an image, and help to pull the eye into the image, or to the main subject. This sample leads the eye from the bottom-right corner up to the pier. Without this foreground, the photo would not be nearly as striking. *(All photos in this article are by Tobie Schalkwyk)*



2. A good foreground improves the composition. It can also help divide the image into foreground, middle ground, and background.



3. Foregrounds add depth and scale. Without the person in the foreground, this beautiful photo would look as if it had been taken by a drone, or from the window of a plane. The enormity of the canyon might not be as obvious.



*(Continued on next page)*

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## Foregrounds *(continued)*

4. Foregrounds can affect the mood of a photo, and help tell its story. In this image, the foreground helps to suggest the bird is frightened of its reflection.



5. Foregrounds can add contrast and context. We've all taken desert landscape photos and know how monochromatic they can be. That's not a bad thing, but the addition of some colorful flowers in the foreground of this picture adds a pop of color and contrast and draws the viewer's eye to the road heading off into the distant mountains.



Let's wrap up with a few tips for choosing foregrounds

- Keep foregrounds in mind each time you shoot
- Foregrounds don't need to be overdone – even the inclusion of a simple rock or tree can improve your photo
- Try different angles (get low...if your knees cooperate)
- Look for leading lines
- Look for natural frames (tree branches, roads, bushes)

Keep your eyes peeled for foregrounds to use in your landscape photos, and be sure to share your work with the club!

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## Do you need to ask permission to photograph someone?

This question was posed at the February meeting, and, coincidentally, an ebook popped into my Inbox on this very topic just a few days later. In very general terms, in most countries, you are free to photograph people without permission or any type of release if the photo will not be published or used commercially. Rules vary if you and the subject are in a public space vs. a private one, or in many government-controlled spaces. Wikipedia has a table summarizing consent requirements by country, and you can follow the link to learn more.

Link: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Commons:Country\\_specific\\_consent\\_requirements](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Commons:Country_specific_consent_requirements)

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## Weekly Challenge

At each meeting of the Club, held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, four challenge prompts will be presented for the following month. Focus on one word or phrase each week to complete all four to share at the following month's meeting. Folks who can't attend the meetings will get the list in the newsletter. March challenge photos will be shown at the March meeting and included in the April newsletter.

### March

Here

My Favorite Color

Panning

Song: Let's Stay Together

### Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at the Sierra Vista Police Station Training Room, 911 Coronado, Sierra Vista. Meetings begin at 4 PM. **March meeting: Club member sunrise/sunset photos, as compiled and displayed by Bob Luce.**



### Fitting Football into a Photograph

Photographer Pelle Cass explains how he uses the power of time lapse photography, combined with compositing and layers in Photoshop, to capture every play (average: 153 plays) of an NFL game in a single photograph. Enjoy this 9-minute video and be prepared to be amazed.

*(Photo screenshot of work by Pelle Cass)*

Video link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q\\_6ZnlAyH8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_6ZnlAyH8)

### Officers

**President:** Sheila Foraker

**Vice-President & Program**

**Coordinator:** Bob Luce

**Secretary:** Joyce Genske

**Treasurer:** Madeleine Charron

### Call for Artists

The Henry Hauser Museum is seeking artists and photographers to feature in its upcoming exhibit "This is What Cochise Feels Like: Life in the High Desert." Deadline to submit is **March 31, 2025**. For more information, contact the museum at **Museum@SierraVistaAZ.gov**

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**February challenge words:**

B is for \_\_\_\_\_

Self-portrait

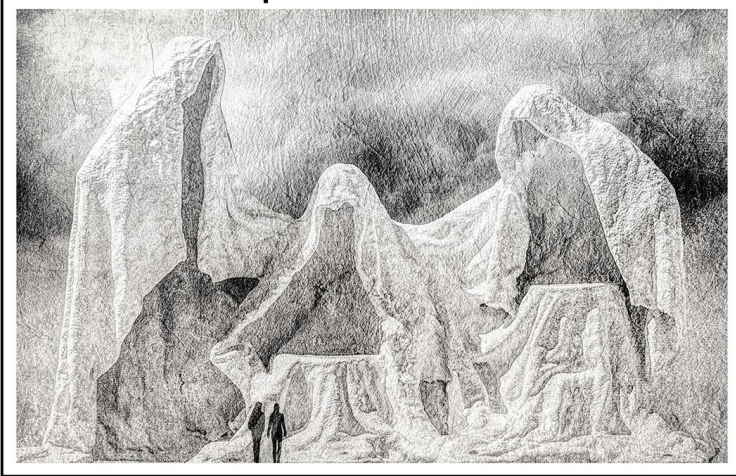
Pink

Movie: A Complete Unknown

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Submitted by Ande Savage

**A Complete Unknown**



**Pink**



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**February challenge words:**

B is for \_\_\_\_\_

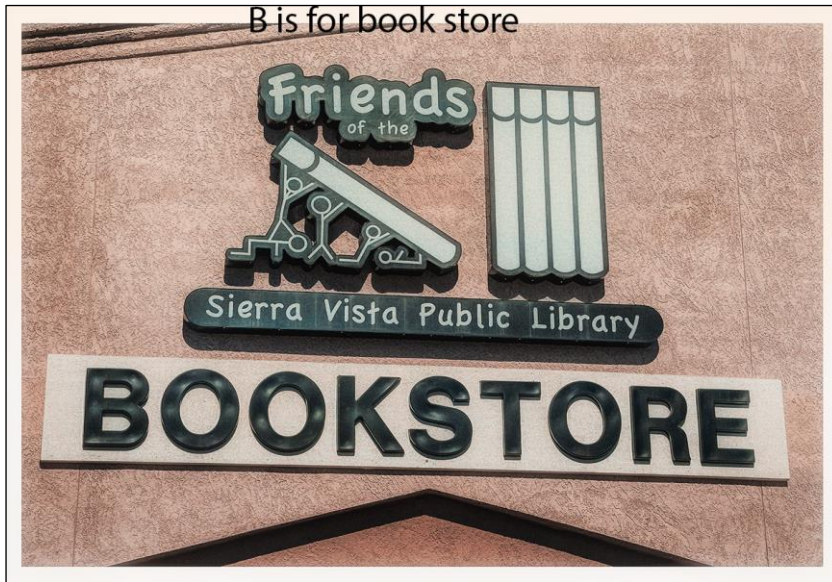
Self-portrait

Pink

Movie: A Complete Unknown

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Submitted by Ande Savage



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**February challenge words:**

B is for \_\_\_\_\_

Self-portrait

Pink

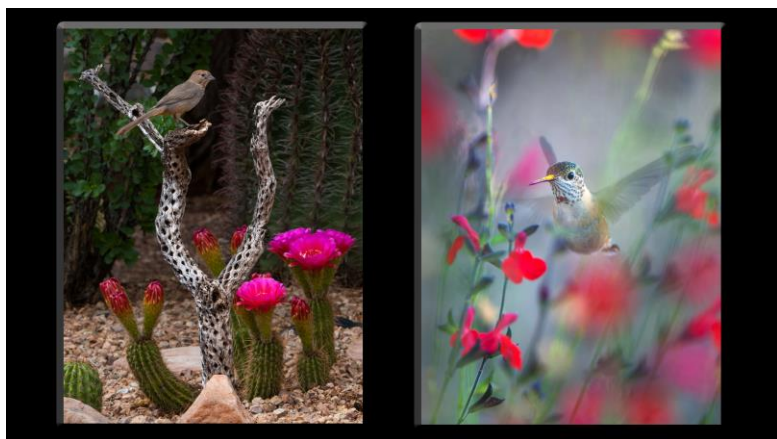
Movie: A Complete Unknown

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Submitted by Dale Truitt



Pink



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**February challenge words:**

B is for \_\_\_\_\_  
Pink

Self-portrait  
Movie: A Complete Unknown

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Submitted by Dale Truitt



Pink



B is for \_\_\_\_\_



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**February challenge words:**

B is for \_\_\_\_\_

Self-portrait

Pink

Movie: A Complete Unknown

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Submitted by Dale Truitt



B is for \_\_\_\_\_



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**February challenge words:**

B is for \_\_\_\_\_  
Pink

Self-portrait  
Movie: A Complete Unknown

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Submitted by Jon Sleger



A Complete Unknown



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**February challenge words:**

B is for \_\_\_\_\_

Self-portrait

Pink

Movie: A Complete Unknown

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Submitted by Jon Sleger



B is for \_\_\_\_\_



Pink



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**February challenge words:**

B is for \_\_\_\_\_

Self-portrait

Pink

Movie: A Complete Unknown

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Submitted by Joyce Genske



A Complete Unknown (future)



B is for \_\_\_\_\_



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**February challenge words:**

B is for \_\_\_\_\_

Self-portrait

Pink

Movie: A Complete Unknown

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Submitted by Joyce Genske



B is for \_\_\_\_\_

Pink



Pink

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**February challenge words:**

B is for \_\_\_\_\_

Self-portrait

Pink

Movie: A Complete Unknown

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Submitted by Kevin O'Brien



A Complete Unknown



B is for **beautiful** cat



B is for **big** spider

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**February challenge words:**

B is for \_\_\_\_\_

Self-portrait

Pink

Movie: A Complete Unknown

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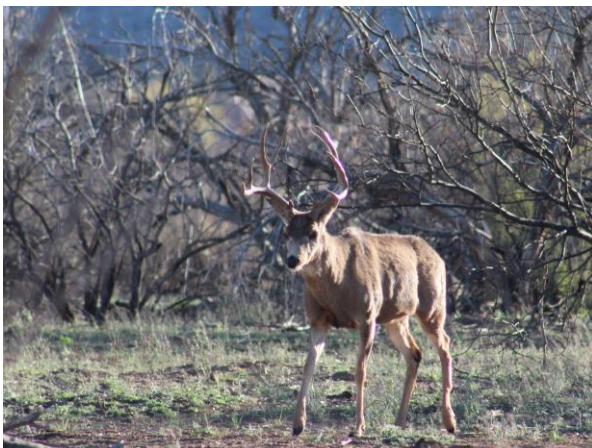
Submitted by Kevin O'Brien



Pink (Still Life with Heartburn)



Self-portrait



B is for the **Boss**

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**February challenge words:**

B is for \_\_\_\_\_

Self-portrait

Pink

Movie: A Complete Unknown

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Submitted by Sam Scherf



B is for bracelet



Pink



Self-portrait



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**February challenge words:**

B is for \_\_\_\_\_  
Pink

Self-portrait  
Movie: A Complete Unknown

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Submitted by Sam Scherf



Movie: A Complete Unknown



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**February challenge words:**

B is for \_\_\_\_\_

Self-portrait

Pink

Movie: A Complete Unknown

---

Submitted by Val Sleger



B is for \_\_\_\_\_



Self-portrait



Pink



Movie: A Complete Unknown

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Submitted by Tim Gallacher



Anna's HB Feeding Baby



Baby Cardinal



Western Bluebird

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Submitted by Tim Gallacher



Violet-green Swallow



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Submitted by Sheila Foraker



Female Red-winged Blackbird



Female Red-winged Blackbird in flight



Green-tailed Towhee

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Submitted by Sheila Foraker



Guitar



Male Pyrrhuloxia