



2025 NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS with Sarah Marino

Crested Butte is a magical place during the summer and we will have the privilege of exploring the region together during the 2025 Wildflower Festival. During these two workshop sessions guided by Sarah Marino, we will seek inspiration and photographic opportunities across a diverse range of landscapes with a focus on mountain scenery, lush aspen forests, and, of course, the region's incredible summer wildflowers. The itinerary for each session is summarized below.

<p style="text-align: center;">SESSION #1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, July 13 to Tuesday, July 15, 2025</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SESSION #2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, July 16 to Friday, July 18, 2025</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Adventure Photography Workshop From Grand Landscapes to Smaller Scenes</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Quiet Landscapes Workshop Flowers, Plants, and Intimate Landscapes</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoom Orientation on Monday, June 16 at 6:00 pm MT: Required one-hour session to prepare you for the workshop. • Sunday, July 13: Meet at 2:00 pm for orientation, early dinner, and sunset. • Monday, July 14: Morning field session, group brunch, photo processing class, break, early group dinner, and evening field session. • Tuesday, July 15: Morning field session, group brunch, photo feedback session, break, early group dinner, and evening field session. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoom Orientation on Monday, June 16 at 6:00 pm MT: Required one-hour session to prepare you for the workshop. • Wednesday, July 16: Meet at 2:00 pm for orientation, early dinner, and sunset. • Thursday, July 17: Morning field session, group brunch, photo processing class, break, early group dinner, and evening field session. • Friday, July 18: Morning field session, group brunch, photo feedback session, break, early group dinner, and evening field session.
<p>Note: For the second session, we will be photographing around sunrise and sunset but will not be photographing the sunrise or sunset over a grand landscape. You will get the most out of this workshop if you are excited about focusing on smaller scenes during our time together.</p>	

[You can learn more and register here](#)



Sarah Marino will be teaching two nature photography workshops as part of the 2025 Crested Butte Wildflower Festival. Sarah is a full-time nature photographer, photography educator, and writer based in southwestern Colorado. In addition to photographing grand landscapes, Sarah is best known for her photographs of smaller subjects including intimate landscapes, abstract renditions of natural subjects, and creative portraits of plants and trees.

Sarah is the author or co-author of a diverse range of educational resources for nature photographers on subjects including composition, photographing nature's small scenes, and black and white photography. Sarah has extensive experience photographing around Crested Butte and in similar landscapes across Colorado. You can see more of Sarah's photography on her [website](#).



WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

PHOTOGRAPHY: Crested Butte is a magical place during the summer and we will have the privilege of exploring the region together during the 2025 Wildflower Festival. During these two workshop sessions guided by Sarah Marino, we will seek inspiration and photographic opportunities across a diverse range of landscapes with a focus on mountain scenery, lush aspen forests, and, of course, the region's incredible summer wildflowers.

EXPERIENCE LEVEL: Each participant will receive individualized instruction tailored to their learning goals. Although Sarah can help you with improving your technical skills, the more creative aspects of photography will be the focus of these workshops.

You will get the most from this experience if you are comfortable with the technical basics of nature photography including how to operate your camera, how to use your lenses, choosing a proper exposure, focusing, and basic post-processing skills.

FITNESS LEVEL: This workshop will include a mix of easy roadside locations and shorter hikes. You should be able to carry a full bag of camera gear for a total of 2 to 4 miles of walking each day, often over uneven terrain with some elevation gain.

Crested Butte's high elevation makes physical exertion much more challenging so please keep this in mind as you decide if this workshop is a good fit for you.

SMALL GROUP SIZE: Eight students per session to allow for personalized instruction.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$1,750 per session. Registrations for both sessions are welcomed and encouraged.

INCLUDED: Each 2.5 day workshop will include five field sessions, two classroom sessions, five group meals, and a pre-workshop orientation to prepare you for our time together.

ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS

During each workshop, we will spend time exploring Crested Butte's dynamic landscapes at the peak of wildflower season, engaging in the creative process, experimenting with new ideas and techniques, and creating photographs. Our itinerary will be flexible and location selections will be based on regional conditions during the time of our visit.

Sarah will be teaching two workshop sessions with a different focus for each:

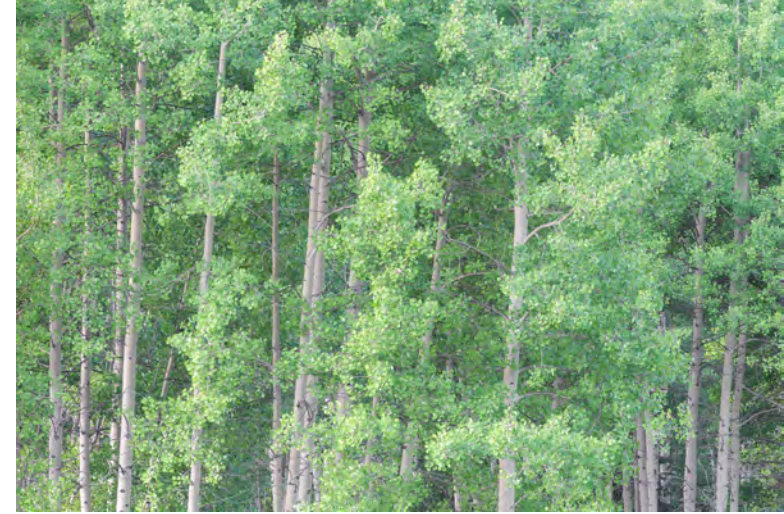
- For the **FIRST SESSION** (July 13 to 15), we will let conditions guide us and will be open to a full range of opportunities, from photographing grand landscapes to working with smaller scenes.
- For the **SECOND SESSION** (July 16 to 18), we will focus exclusively on photographing nature's smaller scenes. Specifically, we will seek out intimate landscapes, abstract renditions of natural subjects, portraits of plants and trees, and macro subjects including flowers.

For both workshops, we will explore Crested Butte's diverse landscapes and will visit a range of different ecosystems to find a variety of photographic subjects. You can expect to photograph mountain scenery, lush aspen forests, the region's legendary summer wildflowers, and riparian areas, all complemented by the dynamic weather that comes along with summer in Colorado's mountains.

Throughout the week, we will take advantage of the soft light at the edges of the day along with changing light throughout the morning and afternoon. This means that we will have longer field sessions compared to workshops that focus exclusively on sunrise and sunset. During our time in the field, Sarah will share lessons on learning how to see photographic opportunities, composition, working with a broad range of lighting conditions, and overcoming technical challenges.

The workshops will include extensive time in the field, guided lessons to extend your learning, time for personal exploration, and two classroom sessions. We will also share meals as a group to allow time for discussion about all topics related to nature photography, travel, and the places we are visiting.

Everyone in the group will be expected to practice Leave No Trace and Nature First Principles to help protect Crested Butte's wildflowers. During our first in-person session, Sarah will share more information about Nature First and how we will be respectful of this sensitive landscape.





WHAT YOU WILL LEARN IN THE FIELD

- Expanding your visual exploration skills and improving your ability to see opportunities
- Approaches to enhancing your creativity and learning through experimentation
- Create compelling compositions using shapes, lines, visual weight, balance, flow, and more
- How to utilize weather information to make location decisions
- How to photograph a wide variety of scenes under all different kinds of lighting conditions
- How to use a broad range of lenses to photograph subjects in nature
- Depth of field and instruction on focus stacking (both in the field and in processing)
- Making sound technical decisions in the field to help maximize file quality and flexibility

INSTRUCTION ON PHOTO PROCESSING

- Making dull RAW files pop in Adobe Lightroom using the tools in the Develop module
- Tips on when to bring a photo into Adobe Photoshop
- Using of local adjustments for a refined approach
- Using white balance and color adjustments for mood and visual harmony
- Start-to-finish examples using photos similar to those we will be creating during the workshop, including focus stacking with Helicon Focus

SARAH'S TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

"I enjoy teaching photography almost as much as I enjoy creating my own photos. I always strive to create a supportive, encouraging learning environment for participants, with a focus on personal attention and helpful coaching. Although technical assistance is always available, my teaching focuses more on personal expression, creativity, improving your ability to identify photo opportunities, and connecting with a landscape. Unlike many nature photographers offering workshops, I have an extensive background in offering professional and personal development coaching—a background that helps me provide instruction that is perfectly tailored to your specific needs. You can expect inspirational locations, top-notch instruction, personal attention, professionalism, and a well-organized itinerary when participating in one of these workshops.

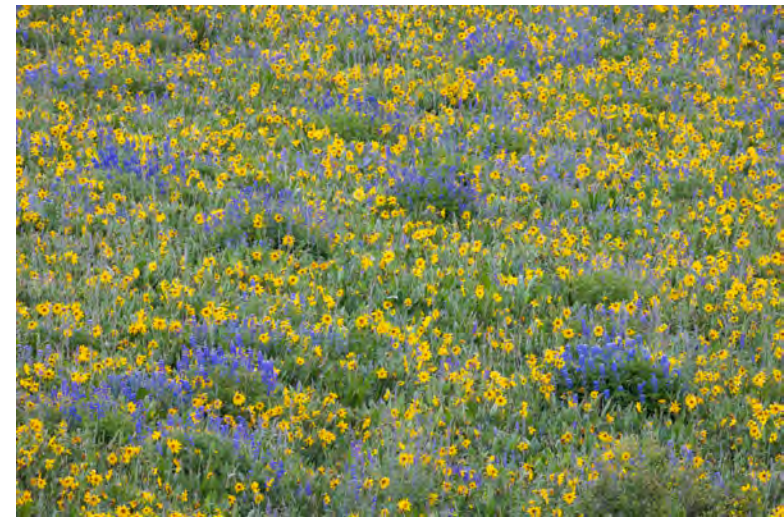
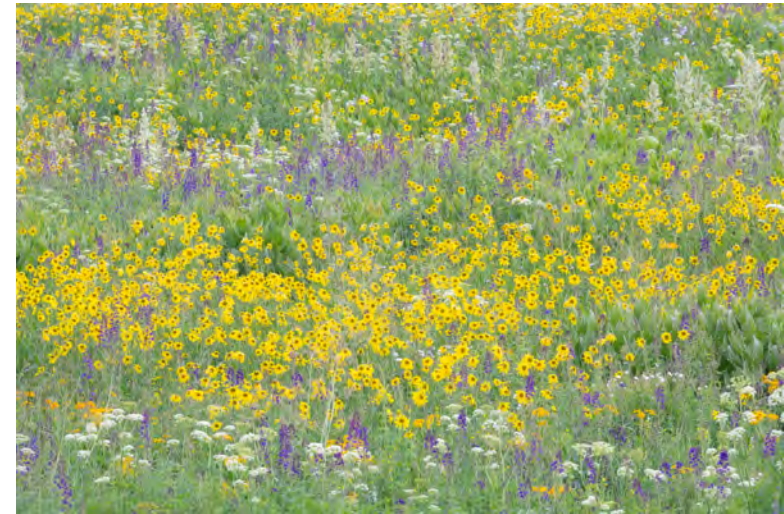
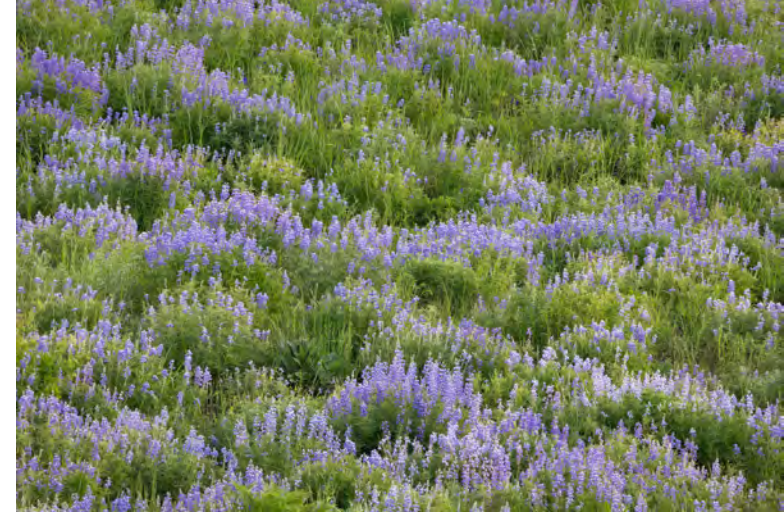
Our time in the field will include a lot of exploring, experimentation, guided learning, and time on your own. This workshop will be an intensive, rigorous learning experience. Our time together will help you take your photography to the next level – whatever that means for you. I only take photos of my own as part of the teaching process so that my focus can stay on helping each participant with individualized instruction or sharing broader lessons with our full group. My only goal while teaching is to help you build your skills and creative vision."

EACH WORKSHOP INCLUDES:

- **INSTRUCTION AND GUIDING:** An attentive, helpful, and experienced instructor who prioritizes student learning and provides ample individualized attention throughout our time together. Sarah's instruction will focus on connecting with the landscape, seeing opportunities, experimentation and trying new ideas, improving your composition skills, working with a diverse range of natural light, and making sound technical decisions in the field.
- **SMALL GROUP:** Small group size of eight attendees.
- **FIVE MEALS:** Because Crested Butte's restaurants are quite busy during the Wildflower Festival, five meals will be included in the workshop fee to allow more time for learning and exploring in the field. Three early dinners and two brunches are included in your registration fee. You can expect these meals to be simple yet high-quality, healthy, and filling. Water and snacks will also be available when we are in the field.
- **EXTENDED FIELD SESSIONS:** Since the subjects we will be photographing can work in many different types of light, each full day will include extended morning and afternoon photography sessions with a break in between.
- **TWO CLASSROOM SESSIONS,** including one on photo processing using Adobe Lightroom, along with a group photo feedback session. Each participant will be asked to share two to three photos in advance for the feedback session.
- **PRIVATE WHATSAPP GROUP** for the workshop group to facilitate communication before, during, and after our time together.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE NOT INCLUDED:

- **TRANSPORTATION:** Most of our photography locations will be accessed from paved roads or easy gravel roads around Crested Butte, Mount Crested Butte, and the surrounding National Forest areas. After the workshop begins, we will arrange carpools since some locations have limited parking.
- **LODGING:** The Crested Butte Wildflower Festival has a block of rooms available through the Elevation Hotel and Spa in Mount Crested Butte. You will receive information about how to book your room after registration. Other lodging options, including camping, are also available in both Crested Butte and Mount Crested Butte.



WHAT TO BRING:

- **CAMERA EQUIPMENT:** Please bring a DSLR or mirrorless camera body, sturdy tripod, and a full assortment of lenses. Focal lengths between 16mm (or 10mm on a crop sensor camera) to 400mm+ will all be useful for the subjects we will be photographing, as will a dedicated macro lens (100mm is a good option). In terms of filters, a polarizer and a neutral density filter may also be useful. You will get the most out of this workshop if you have a telephoto lens that is at least 200mm long (longer is preferable).
- **CAMERA BAG:** Please bring a camera bag that allows you to comfortably carry your gear on your back for long periods of time, with room for water, snacks, and layers of clothing. Reliable brands for outdoor photo packs include F-stop and Shimoda Designs. You may also want to bring along a knee cushion (lightweight options are available for less than \$20 through REI or Amazon) plus a collapsible reflector/shader for plant photography and smaller scenes. We will discuss these items during the orientation.
- **CLOTHING:** Summer weather in Colorado's mountains can vary from quite cool around sunrise and sunset to very warm during the middle of the day. Thus, we encourage you to bring a range of outdoor clothing including layers to help ensure that you will be comfortable during the workshop. Since bad weather can create interesting options for photography, we will plan to go out in all weather conditions except for thunderstorms so please be prepared for photographing in difficult weather. You should bring a waterproof jacket or poncho, a warm jacket, a hat, gloves if you get cold, clothing layers suited to outdoor activities, waterproof hiking shoes, and sun protection including sunscreen, sunglasses, and a wide-brimmed hat. An umbrella or other rain protection for your camera gear might be helpful if we encounter light rain.
- **LAPTOP:** While not required, a laptop computer with Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop installed can be helpful in following along during the processing session. We will also be using Helicon Focus during the processing session. If you do not own this software, you can download a trial version before the workshop.

You will receive a full list of recommended items during the required orientation session.

FOR QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION:

If you have questions about the workshop, you can contact Sarah Marino at sarah@smallscenes.com. If you have questions about registration or Crested Butte Wildflower Festival logistics, you can call 970-349-2571 or email info@cbwildflower.com.

[You can learn more and register here](#)

