# Custom Photo Calendars
Practicing Themed Collections and Portfolios
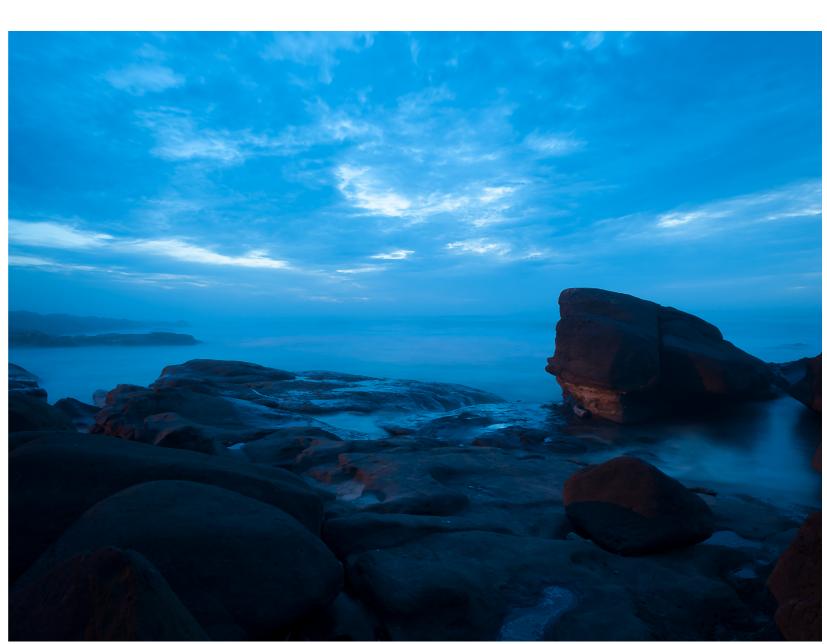
Ann Sluder
BCA Photo Group, 27 Nov. 2018

# Why calendars?

- Practice & experiment with new skills and tools with a discrete endpoint in mind

- Out of wall space, not ready/no time for exhibiting or selling

- Explore different types of photography and subjects in a somewhat systematic way

- Selecting themes makes you review existing photos from new perspective ("My 5 Best" x 2.5 + 1)

- Allows narrative collections

- A way to share photographs with family and friends

- If a photo "doesn't work", only have to look at it for a month

# Structuring Calendar Collections

- Pick a theme, find a photo taken in the month shown

- Photos in order of year taken

- Use a narrative flow

- Random order

- Be creative

# Web Sites for Calendar Layout and Production

- Focused on quality of printing and paper, not necessarily most easy to use layout tools
  - Professional photo printing services, rather than cloud photo-sharing sites
- adoramapix.com
  - Good paper and print quality
  - Layout tools are a bit clunky but improving and offer design flexibility
  - Pre-made date grids and layout templates available, but can also build your own
  - Only square and (large) portrait format—no landscape format
- nationsphotolab.com
  - Reviews recommend for print quality
  - Landscape format, but templates appear to be less flexible for customization (?)
- mpix.com
  - Reviews recommend for high quality paper
  - Landscape format, but less customizable (?)