

LENSWORK

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Past Peak by Scott Walton

Photographer's Introduction

Autumn is certainly one of the most photogenic seasons. As landscape photographers, we anticipate its arrival all year long. With cooler temperatures, reduced crowds and of course, colorful foliage, it is definitely the favorite season of many photographers.

I also have found fall to be one of the most enjoyable and productive times to head out with my camera. I prefer the look of the forest, and individual trees in particular, when their color is past peak.

Since the structure of the trees are revealed more fully after some leaves have fallen, heading out to explore the forest a bit later in the autumn season has become my standard practice. I also prefer the more subdued hues later in the season, rather than the often exaggerated colors favored by many leaf peepers. Being able to see the trunks and branches helps tell a more compelling story due to their twisted shapes and beautiful gestures.

In my view, a past peak image can include some vibrant color too, but usually where many other leaves have turned or fallen, revealing or allowing that color to show through. Then the fallen leaves themselves, being past their prime, are just as important to the image.

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