**Nancy's notes, May 15,2016**

Do not shoot flowers head on. Boring. Try for a slight angle.

Shoot in late afternoon to have enriched colors.

Do not use a flash. Flash adds additional red.

I compose better with the LCD screen rather than the viewfinder.

If the LCD screen shows color distortion. Try a different angle or another time of day.

Shoot at highest resolution.

Impossible to rescue a blown out white flower shot at mid day.

Using IrfanView (freeware)

Move the photo around screen to check proposed crop. Use a piece of paper to cover proposed

crop area at the top.

If Irfanview's View > Display Option > Fit window to image (1:1 recommended) is used,

as you zoom out a good crop may appear. Move photo around between zooms for seeing a possible crop.

Crop photo, save adding a shorthand note to filename, ie. crop1, crop2 or severe crop.

This saves the original and when details are viewed alphabetically in Windows Explorer your attempts

are in order one after another.

Wait 24 hours to view your crops and make choices. Or start over.

The same applies to gamma changes (lighten/darken).

Color will look different when viewed at night with artificial light vs. daylight.

Some flowers have oil based pigment as well as water based. Bearded iris do. It is almost

mandatory to adjust color of some iris with photo editing. Daylilies may be another confounding one.

Roses are easier but very deep colors may elude the camera. Try another time of day. Try another

day when the flower is older. Dahlias are my favorite for accurate color capturing.

Your LCD screen is a friend.

Successful photos have a focal point. If a group shot lacks it, try creating it with selective sharpening.

If no depth of field, oversharpen a boxed (outlined) focal item, unbox (left click outside the box) it

and blur entire picture.

This may also be used to rescue a blah bloom. The focal point does not have to be in the center.

When sharpening a selected area, leave the orig. with outline box as is when saving. After saving

open the adjusted photo and if further adjusting is needed within the outline box you are good to do it.

Or you can undo the last move.

IrfanView

Shift + S = sharpen

Ctrl + R = reduce overall size (or enlarge)

Ctrl + E = blurring

Use Save (not Save as) to keep photos in same folder