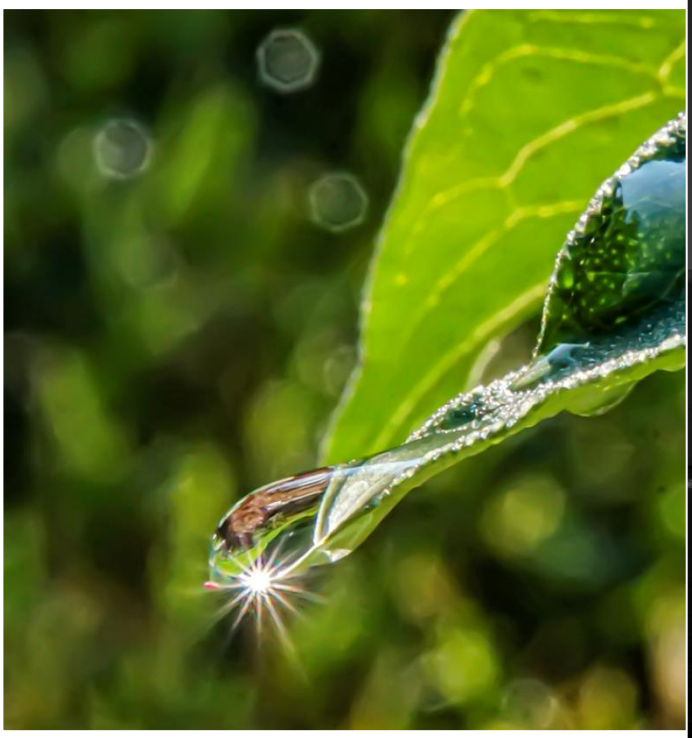
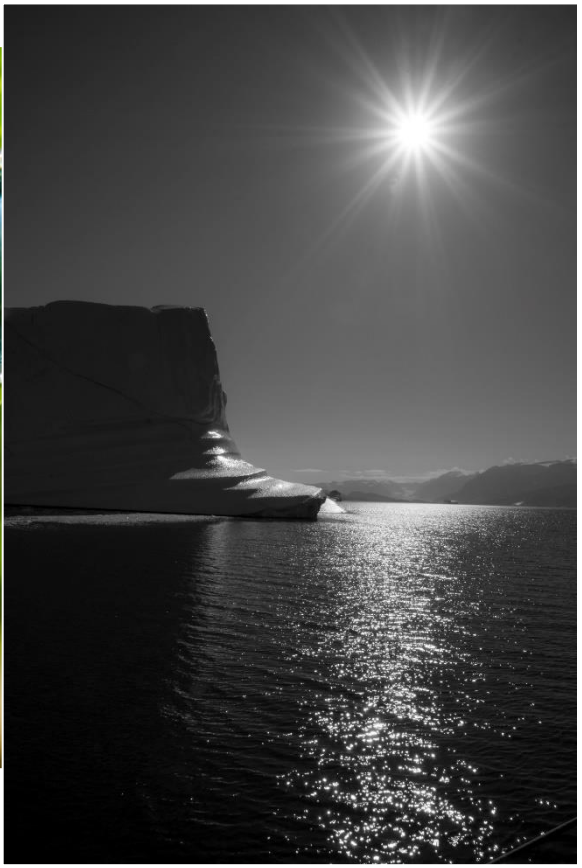
CAMERA CLUB
OF CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND

Starburst effect





This in-camera effect is done by leveraging a bright light source like the sun, moon or even artificial lights and stopping your lens down to its smallest aperture.

There are 5 main factors in your control:

- Brightness of your light source – (sun, moon, artificial light)
- Size of the light source - make it as small as you can with either use of a wide angle lens and/or hiding some of the sun/source behind something like the horizon, trees, buildings or other
- Quality of your lens and the number of blades in its apeture
- F-stop setting – close your aperture down to smallest amount (f22)
- Clarity of the air – works best without clouds, fog, mist, etc

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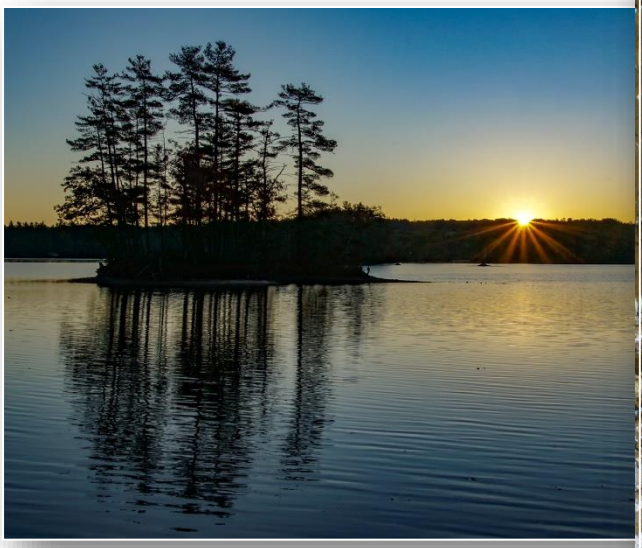

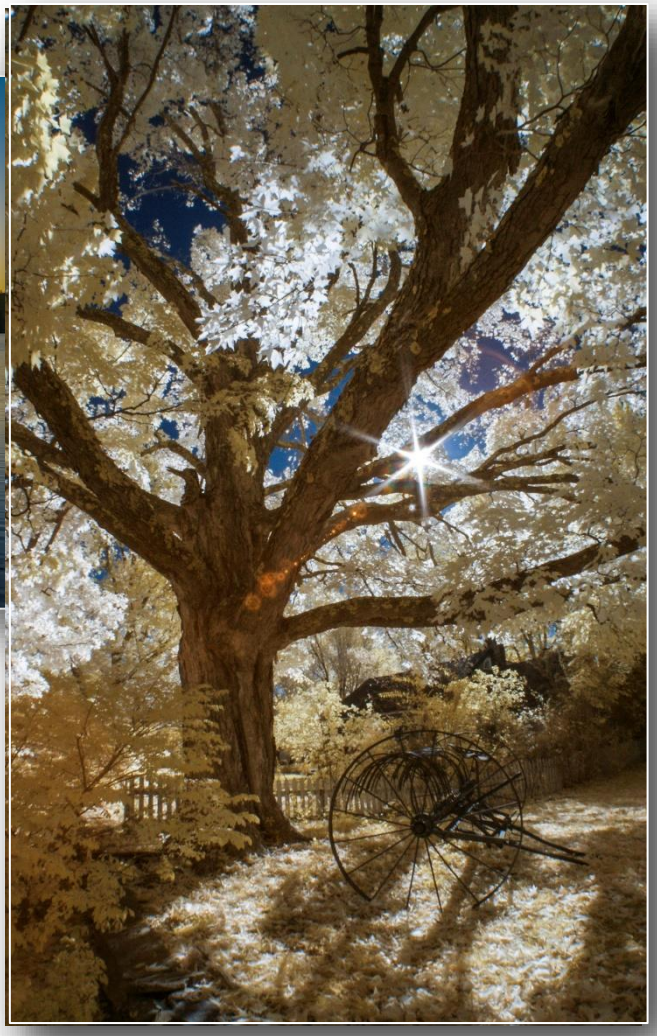

The intensity and visibility of the lens flare can be enhanced by minimizing the size of the light source. Move your camera to position the sun (or other light source) so it is partially hidden by something like the horizon or tree limbs so that the size is smaller. You will get more effect of the lens flare against a darker object vs. if it is just the sun in the sky.

Note that you can preview the effect by invoking your depth of field preview button before even taking the picture

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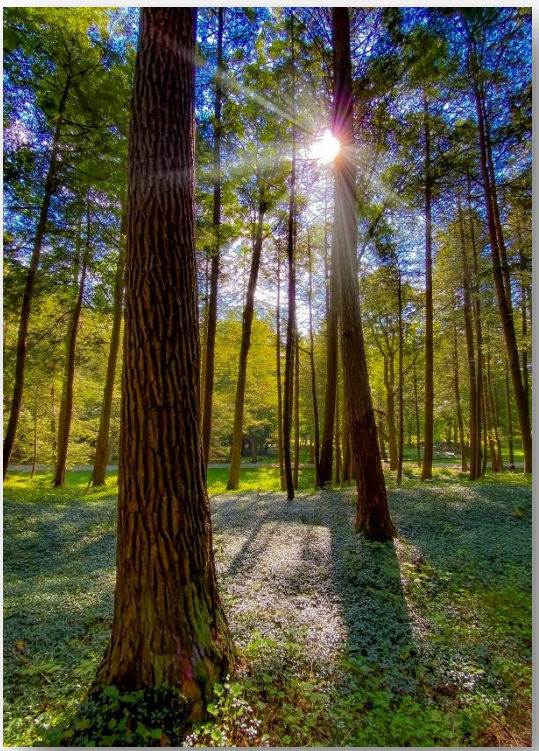
The number of blades in the aperture of you lens will result in the number of elements of flare….here we see 6 vs. 8 blades

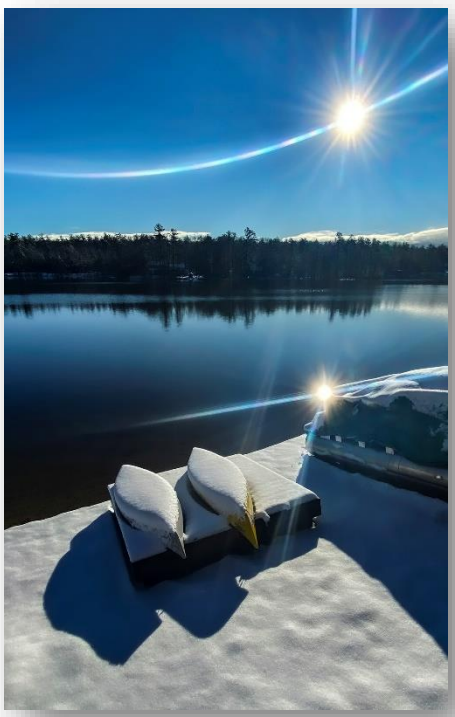
The quality and type of lens being used make a difference, as well. Wide angle lenses work better than telephoto because the size of the sun is much smaller and a pinpoint refracts more extensively than a larger telephoto view of the sun

Starburst effect

If you use any kind of filter, make sure it is really clean or remove it as the more you stop down with your aperture, the more ar tifacts and dust will become visible. Again, use your depth of field preview to check this before you shoot.



Iphone flare



Iphones have better lense and optics all the time but have less control in terms of aperture settings. You can still get good starburst by having a very clean lens and minimizing the size of the sun by hiding a portion of it. Sometimes Iphone lenses give a cinematic flare, resulting in a strong arc configuration like above.

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Another method is a physical cross screen filter. This has etching or small filaments that refract the light source as shown here. You can rotate it but there is limited control beyond that.

So enjoy exploring the variety of effects you can get with lens flare and some of the ideas in this assignment.

Here is a link to a fun videos that illustrate the effect as well:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FL6Qqx9AzMI