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Digital Photographers' Newsletter

August 2011 Edition



Information

Your newsletter will be focusing on the practical issues of photography for community photographers.

Previous Newsletters

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Summary this Month:

[This Month's Topic](#)

Photographing Flowers - tips on how to take flowers and also get creative

Workshops will recommence in near future -

Please **register your interest by end of September** after which decisions will be made on the subject for the workshops. Don't miss out on having your say to have your favourite subject.

FREE Basic Photography notes - snippets of my experiences over the past 3 decades for increasing your basic photography knowledge and skills to help improve your creative photography.

Join our **Digital Photographer's email network** and receive my Tips for Digital Photographers FREE as they are produced.

Last Month's Seminar:

Last month our Seminar was cancelled due to lack of numbers.

PLEASE advise the library if you are coming ... your registered names determines if the Seminar is run (minimum of 5) and if we can fit you all in the space available (about 15-20)

Last month we only had 2 registered. **Please make sure you register by 5pm on the Wednesday** as decisions to run need to be made Thursday morning. You can also register for the next month on the night as you leave the library.

At this month's Seminar we will discuss how you can **modify the creativity effects of your photographs using adjustment of f-stop** for photographing flowers. How can you get those great creative flower effects? It

FREE

(for limited time)

Photography Basic Notes

If you would like a FREE copy of my **Basic notes** please email request with Subject "Basic Notes"

[email](#) [Contact us!](#)

Seminars in the Library

Our popular monthly Seminars on BASIC digital photography are held on the **third Thursday** of every month at the **Everton Park Library from 6-7.45pm**.

These are **FREE** and are part of our studio community program with the BCC Everton Park Library.

The **next Seminar** for 2011 will be held on

Thursday 18 August

Bookings are essential

Please call the **Everton Park Library** on

07 3403 7400

[to reserve your place.](#)

is not as difficult as you may think. Some images below will give you inspiration and challenge.

We thank Doug Matheson for some of his wonderful scenics from a few seminars back when he presented images from his recent trip to New Zealand, Canada and USA. I have included a few here for your reflection of the night. Worthy to note Doug's unconventional presentation and use of non standard photo sizes - gives great impact to the image. Think out-of-the-box and you will be rewarded with impressive images like these. *(click on the image for the larger size image)*



Niagara Falls - Doug



New Zealand - Doug

Perhaps some of our other seminar participants and newsletter readers might like to take up the challenge of a few images for presentation or publication. Please bring them along or email them to me for this month's seminar.

This Month's topic:

Photographing Flowers

With spring approaching let's talk about photographing flowers. As spring approaches, plants and flowers abound, providing magnificent subjects for photographers both advanced and amateur.

Flower photography typically falls under the category of macro photography, which simply means the images shot by photographers are equal in size or larger than the actual object. Because these shots are taken extremely close up, the detail expressed in your digital photography efforts will be highly magnified and quite amazing.

Here are a few tips on photography of flowers: To take sharp, steady pictures use a tripod. Camera shake and an unsteady hand in general may cause blurry images or photos that are not centered properly. A tripod significantly improves the sharpness of your subject.

Please make sure you let the library know you are coming - the Seminar will be cancelled if we do not have at least 5 interested participants registered.

Please note that the **September seminar** will be held on

**Thursday
15th September**

The **first hour of the Seminar** may include a summary of the Basic Photography CD for newcomers and a presentation of the monthly 'Tips for Digital Photographers' and Newsletter topic of the month. *The session will be very flexible to the needs of those attending on the night*

The **second hour** will be a group discussion on topics determined by your requests on the night and by email from corresponding participants. The topics are generally wide-ranging.

We welcome email requests from you before the Seminar for more in depth queries to allow some research time prior to the seminar

Please bring your cameras and equipment and manuals if you wish to discuss individual issues about your photography equipment.

Photograph

Simulate backgrounds if necessary. Something as simple as a piece of colored paper or cloth or some natural material can present a clean 'simple' background that won't distract attention from your subject.

Focus on focus: Read your camera's user manual for best results and learn how to set your camera on "spot focus" mode. This allows you to see whatever the camera focuses. In most cases, your camera's auto focus mode should be fine for flower photography.



Avoid using the camera's direct flash: Shoot using direct daylight whenever possible. The on-camera flash often creates unnatural looking photographs, mainly due to its intense brightness at such close proximity to the subject, and sometimes the flash may also be in the wrong position to take a great photo.

You may also use a daylight balanced 'compact fluorescent' bulb (new energy saving bulbs) to add the proper lighting to your photos. The lighting these bulbs exude looks natural and generates minimal heat, conveniently providing the photographer with hours of comfortable shooting time without the risk of overheating. Be careful with electrical wires and water.

Take several photographs, no matter what you're shooting: Change positions, try new angles with the lens and adjust settings if you are comfortable with your digital camera. Photos of still plants and flowers will be fine with a low ISO. If your digital camera has one, try shooting in macro mode. It is often identified by a small flower logo on your device. Test how close you can actually get to the flower subject and still remain in focus (there will be a minimum distance for your camera). Do not go within the limit or your photograph will be out of focus.

Plan the perfect photographic opportunities: An early morning photo session in your garden or a late afternoon shoot in a beautiful meadow brimming with wildflowers creates the prime opportunity for taking great photos. Morning dewdrops add an enchanting element of newness to your flower photographs. A brilliant yellow, pink, orange, red and purple sunset inspires awe and wonder at nature's radiance.

Appraisal

Please bring some of your photographs with you on the night if you would like group appraisal on your work.

If you wish to remain anonymous, please email me your image (max 25x20cm at 150dpi) if you would like it included on the night)

You can also load your images onto a USB stick and bring it on the night.

Local Photographers' Email Network

Are you currently a member of our email network receiving these Newsletters each month and advice of library seminars and discussion groups? You will also receive a FREE copy of my Tips For Digital Photographers as they are produced. If you would like to be included please send me an email.

[email](#) **Contact us!**

Lifetime Sunday Workshops

Our workshops are offered to assist you to learn the basics of digital photography and by better understanding become more competent and creative. You will marvel at the improvement of your images and be encouraged by your newfound skills.



**Will be resumed soon
- If you are interested
please email me your
interest and what you
would like works
hoped**

Please **register your
interest by end of
September** after which
decisions will be made
on the subject for the
workshops. Don't miss
out on having your say
to have your favourite
subject.

email **Contact us!**

workshop page

You can also induce the droplets with a misting hand sprayer but please remember to give the flower a shake to remove the water. The droplets act as small lenses (magnifying glass) and will allow the sun's heat to burn the petals. Your friend will not thank you for spoiling the petals on their show orchids.

Don't forget your rules of composition: Use the rule of thirds as a starting point and remember your circular and triangular composition rules. Remember colour can play a major role in your flower composition. Remember your colour wheel and complementary colours of the red, yellow blue. (red and green, yellow and purple, blue and orange). Always use a small amount of one against the other - let one colour dominate. It's the see-saw effect yet again.

All flower photography does not have to be macro photography: Close-up photography will have a dramatic impact on the viewer, particularly abstract parts of flowers as in the images here, but you can also get wonderful images of mass flowers using a normal or telephoto lens.



Butchart Gardens, Victoria, British Columbia - Doug

Allow nature's natural processes to guide you in your quest for breath-taking photographs. Also, don't neglect the change of seasons! Spring, autumn leaves, pure white snow and glorious summer days will all contribute to a marvelous flower photo session.

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