

FOCUS . . CLICK . . DEVELOP . .

Photography Newsletter



April 2009 / May 2009
Volume 4 No. 4
Editor: Teresa Pearson
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Editor's Comments

Spring is here and so are many excellent photographic opportunities! You have the chance to catch on film, the impending rain storms, billowing clouds, lightning, flowers blooming, garden planting, baby animals, and the list continues. I just love this time of year. My favorite things to photograph in the spring are flowers just after the rain when you can catch the raindrops on the petals and baby animals.

School is also coming to an end and you have the chance to catch final memories of your year at school whether it is friends having a good time, classmates participating in their favorite sport or memories of the end of the year fieldtrip.

I had the opportunity this past winter to photograph a local basketball team. Normally I take photos because I enjoy it, but this time I had to expand and think outside my comfort zone. I was responsible for finding a developing/printing company that would deliver good results and would be reliable. It took a lot of searching but I finally found a company on the east coast who delivered just what I wanted until I had a request from a parent to make a poster size print. This was a challenge because I had to find a company who could print it at a relative low cost. This too took quite a bit of time but I found someone and the customer was thrilled when they received their poster. I learned so much from this one experience and am eager to try again.

There are so many opportunities to expand your skills. I encourage you to go out and try something new or expand on what you already do; but above all.....have fun!

Until next time,

Teresa

Suggestions

- ⇒ Items representing the number 4 or 5
- ⇒ Items beginning with the letter A or M
- ⇒ Items that are green or pink
- ⇒ School fieldtrip experience
- ⇒ Signs of spring (this could also be made into a collage or story board)
- ⇒ Try taking an ordinary item and getting a close up of it to make an abstract photo (many times these type of photographs look better in sepia or black and white print)
- ⇒ Your pet
- ⇒ Don't forget that if you are making a calendar, you need a photo for the months of April and May
- ⇒ Photos of how you celebrated or what you feel represents April Fool's Day, Easter, May Day, or Memorial Day
- ⇒ You could also video tape your memories of family experiences throughout the year and piece your videos together and give this as a Christmas gift

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Shooting Tips

Spring is here and the beautiful flowers and grasses, hibernating animals, spring babies, and birds are coming into view. This is a great time to get out and experiment with different lighting situations, weather conditions, and your camera. Let's pick an easy subject to photograph for now, flowers.

- ♣ Use a tripod. If a tripod isn't available, look around and see if there is a rock or other solid object that you can use to steady the camera.
- ♣ To avoid camera shake, try setting the timer on your camera or use a remote.
- ♣ Try looking down on the flower or look up from underneath.
- ♣ Walk around the flower at different times of the day and see how the light reflects off the petals.
- ♣ If there is a noisy background, get in close or make the background blurry.
- ♣ If the background still interferes with what you want, try putting a solid color behind the flower such as a black t-shirt or a piece of colored paper that will help the color of the flower or the shape of the flower to pop.
- ♣ Do you like the veins in the petals? Try taking the photo at night and use a side light such as a flashlight and see what happens.
- ♣ If you want the flower by itself or you want to get other stems or flowers out of the area, try tying things out of the way using a pipe cleaner or twisty tie off a bread wrapper.

- ♣ Be patient and maybe an ant or other bug will crawl or land on the flower and this will give your photo another dimension.
- ♣ Maybe you can blur the flower now and use it as a background for the insect or animal.
- ♣ If it has recently rained or you want it to appear to have just rained, carry a spray bottle of water with you and gently spray the flower.
- ♣ Try using the natural light given by the sun and compare it to using the flash on your camera.
- ♣ If these tips don't help, use your imagination and see what you can do to make your photograph of what may seem to be an ordinary flower POP off the page and make others take notice. But remember...Don't Give Up. Keep on Trying and Have Fun!

Resources

Do not forget to check out your local library, book store, or county extension office for more information on how to take better photographs.

www.4-HPhotography.org has new photography books available for purchase. There are three different books and they cover several different topics from beginning to more advanced photography tips.

There are also several blogs on the internet which have helpful information. Many of the photography magazines also have websites and helpful information there as well.

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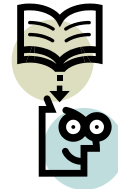
Events/Contests

I am still planning to have the photography contest in conjunction with the Columbus Day celebration in October. You can watch my website www.fullspectrumimaging.org for details that will be posted soon.

Sagebrush Video is planning their 3rd Sunflower Showcase Photography Fest for November. Details will soon be posted for it as well so watch their website www.sagebrushvideo.com for details.

I have been asked about contests that are free or have a very small entry fee. The following are a few that I have come across but as of yet have not entered. If any of you know of other contests, let me know and I'll pass along the information. Some contests offer cash prizes, chance of publication, or free merchandise, etc.

- ◆ www.picture.com this is free to enter
- ◆ www.winkflash.com this is free to enter
- ◆ www.nwf.org this is the Ranger Rick magazine contest. It is free to enter but you must be under 13 years old.
- ◆ www.porters.com this is a monthly contest with a different category each month and is free to enter
- ◆ www.photocompete.com this is a site dedicated to photography contests ranging from free to a cost for entry.



Test Your Knowledge

Let's see how much you know about how colors affect photos.

1. Because color is such a powerful composition tool, what can it do in a photo?
 - A. Be soothing
 - B. Be stimulating
 - C. Grab your attention
 - D. Camouflage what is really going on
 - E. All the above
 - F. None of the above
2. Which film provides greater vividness of color?
 - A. Fast film
 - B. Slow film
3. Which of the choices subdues colors?
 - A. Over exposure
 - B. Under exposure
4. Which makes colors appear more pastel in the shade?
 - A. Over exposure
 - B. Under exposure
5. Which is not a primary color?
 - A. Blue
 - B. Purple
 - C. Red
 - D. Yellow

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6. Which is not a secondary color?
 - A. Green
 - B. Orange
 - C. Violet
 - D. White

7. Which are the basic colors?
 - A. Primary colors
 - B. Secondary colors

8. When two primary colors are mixed, what is created?
 - A. Another primary color
 - B. A secondary color
 - C. A tertiary color

9. When a secondary color and a primary color next to it on the color wheel are mixed, what is created?
 - A. A secondary color
 - B. A primary color
 - C. A tertiary color

10. Which is not a neutral color?
 - A. Black
 - B. Brown
 - C. Gray
 - D. Tan
 - E. White



Just For Fun

Try your luck at finding the hidden words relating to color and photography.

D B U S E C O N D A R Y
A C H T H O C O L A R E
Y R A I T R E T E A W E
C Q C M O O T H M K S U
B R L U O I V I V I D D
D O I L S U R V U C T B
C I S A B P F K O X V U
P A S T E L A L T O O S
E C W E U H O B A S I T
Y B X N M R P M W G T O
P A S T R L A R T U E N

basic pastel subdue
camouflage primary tertiary
color secondary vivid
hue sooth
neutral stimulate

Answers to February/March Test Your Knowledge.

1. C, 2. D, 3. C, 4. B, 5. A, 6. D, 7. B, 8. A, 9. A, 10. A, 11. C, 12. A, 13. B

Answers to February/March Just For Fun.

1. C, 2. B, 3. A, 4. D