

TRI-STATE IN FOCUS

Tri-State Photographic Society

Volume 16, Issue #4 April 2009

*Patch of Trout Lillies
(California Woods
Nature Preserve)
by Donna Loughry*



Hiking with a Camera

On Thursday mornings in April, I could usually be found hiking the trails of the Greater Cincinnati Area with the local Sierra Club. After a long dull winter, the color of the wildflowers is a wonderful, delightful sight. I am known for *always* having my camera with me. Sometimes I get some good photographs and sometimes I do not. Once in a while I get a fantastic photograph. Here are some of my tips for hiking with a camera.

Never be without one! Even with a point n' shoot and lots of practice, you can get some great shots. However, I've found that, even though I do not use the image stabilization on my big camera, I still get better photographs with it rather than with my small point n' shoot. Due to the lighter weight of the point n' shoot, it's very easy to move/shift and not know it.

While hiking, you can stop, brace yourself against a tree and take your picture(s). I find that the maximum zoom I use is about 200mm. While I have the capability of going to 300mm, that is usually too close. If even 300mm is not enough, I know I can crop later. You can also get down close to the ground to get a shot. You do not need a lot of zoom when you are inches from your subject. What you do need to be aware of is aperture/depth of field. I usually shoot in aperture priority as close to F4 – F5, my camera's sweet spot, as possible.

Before hiking, I check the weather for Clouds versus Sun. Even though the woods are usually shady, I set the white balance to "cloudy" then shoot in Raw. If you use the "Shade" setting, your photographs will have a slightly blue tint making the green leaves look bluish-green instead of forest green.

I have found great success in using an ISO setting of 200 for a sunny day and 400 for a Cloudy day. ISO 100 needs a shutter speed that is too slow, resulting in pictures extremely soft/out of focus.

My walking stick has legs that fold out into a tripod and a camera mount on top. While rarely used, it's there if I need it.

One more note about taking photographs of flowers. People often say flowers are easy to take because they stand still. *Huh?!* Have those people ever taken a picture of a flower in a simple breeze - let alone a 20+mph wind? Even in the middle of summer, there is almost always a breeze! Waiting for the wind to die down takes more patience than I've got!

By setting and thinking about all of these issues ahead of time, I can relax and enjoy the hike. Because of my photography, I am usually one of the last people off the trail. Don't worry you will not be left behind!

Thanks to Margie for suggesting this topic.

Donna

Possible Photographic Opportunities for May 2009

There are always lots of events going on in the Tri-State area. Many of these events can be opportunities for photography. I usually find out about these events after the fact on the news. This year I took a few afternoons and looked up these events on the internet. Most of these events are in Ohio because that's where I live. If you have events elsewhere, please let me know and I will list them. - Donna

Krohn Conservatory

Butterfly exhibit "Flowers with Wings"

Apr. 18 – June 21, 2009 .

www.cincyparks.com/krohn-conservatory/index.shtml

Cincinnati ZOO

ZOO Babies May 9-24, 2009.

www.cincinnati-zoo.org

Cincinnati Museum Center

Dinosaurs Unearthed Feb. 13-Sept 7 (\$)

I don't know if the Dinosaur exhibit will let you take photographs but you can take them elsewhere.

www.cincymuseum.org

Newport Aquarium

Frog Bog www.newportaquarium.com

Mainstrasse Village

Maifest – May

www.mainstrasse.org

Appalachian Festival May 8-10, 2009 –

see page 3 for more information on the Club Trip for this event. www.appalachianfestival.org

Sailboat Regattas - Cowan Lake near Wilmington.

April 4 thru October 31, 2009. Most weekends they have Regattas(Racing Sailboats). It is customary to begin the race between 10 and noon and end about 4 PM.

www.clsa.us/schedule_of_events.com.

From Tate Graham: There are three rowing events scheduled at **East Fork Lake**:

May 9-10 & 16-17 **Midwest Rowing Regattas** (note that <http://www.cjrc.net/> does not mention the 9-10th).

May Field Trip to Appalachian Festival

The Appalachian Festival at Coney Island will be held on Mother's Day weekend (May 8-10). This should be a great opportunity to shoot pictures of "Working People" for our June pictorial competition. "Traditional demonstrators" at the festival include: spinners & weavers, leather workers, basket makers, chair makers, wood turners, and dulcimer players. The festival will also have several "working" bands to entertain the public.

Our field trip will be held on Saturday, May 9, 10am to noon or after. Festival hours on Saturday are 10 am to 9 pm. Tickets cost \$8 for adults, **\$4 for seniors (55+)**, and **parking is \$5.**

Kentucky Tri-staters will plan to meet at the Extension Service Center at 9:30 to car pool to Old Coney. Ohio members may plan to meet us there, near the entrance where you buy your tickets. Or, if we can't find each other near the entrance, feel free to wander the grounds on your own. Most of the interesting demonstrations will be along the side nearest the Ohio River.

Most photos can probably be shot best with a medium range zoom lens (e.g., 28-80mm); perhaps try a fill flash, if necessary. Tripods might be a problem because of the crowds, so it might be better to hand-hold or use a monopod. **HAPPY SHOOTING!!!**

Jerry Carpenter

Something I ran across this list in this month's Spring 2009 issue of Practical Photography from the UK. Their website is www.photoanswers.co.uk - however, it is not very useful for back issues of the magazine. If you are interested in borrowing the article to read the details, let me know.

50 Most Useful Photo Tips Over the last 50 years

- 1 Experiment with lenses
- 2 Try Filters
- 3 Break the rules
- 4 Try Focus Lock
- 5 Check out aperture and shutter-priority
- 6 Think Composition
- 7 Use Flash in Daylight
- 8 Try Manual
- 9 Carry a spare memory card
- 10 Be Prepared
- 11 Use Custom Settings
- 12 Convert to B & W
- 13 Find the best Viewpoint
- 14 Befriend Aperture
- 15 Get Printing
- 16 Clone it out
- 17 Use a Grey Card
- 18 Bounce Flash
- 19 Select low ISO
- 20 Protect your lens (*and keep it clean!*)
- 21 Be inspired
- 22 Get up early
- 23 Shoot a Theme
- 24 Follow (our) DSLR Skills Course (*improve your skills*)
- 25 Check your Batteries
- 26 Buy a Tripod
- 27 Use Exposure Compensation
- 28 Add Scale
- 29 Use Cheap Reflectors
- 30 Use the histogram
- 31 Wait for the perfect moment
- 32 Play with levels
- 33 Clean Sensors
- 34 Get the best light
- 35 Hold on Tight
- 36 Count to Three
- 37 Use Adjustment Layers
- 38 Keep your lenses Clean
- 39 Use Natural Light
- 40 Shoot at night
- 41 Shoot in RAW
- 42 Backup your images
- 43 Research your subject
- 44 Check your ISO Setting
- 45 Take on a Challenge
- 46 Use Self-timer mode
- 47 Re-visit a location
- 48 When AF (*auto-focus*) fails, switch to manual
- 49 Pan for Action
- 50 Use plain and natural backgrounds

Each of these tips may be applied to your specific camera – digital or non-digital. Even though my camera is not a “true” SLR but an SLR-like, I can still apply all of these tips to my photography. For example, clean sensors; while my main lens does not

come off, I still have other sensors that also need to be kept clean such as autofocus and light sensors. The autofocus sensor does not work with dust on it. I blew a family photograph because it was out of focus due to a dirty sensor.

Donna

April Pictorial - TimePieces (informal)

Slides - Tyro

No Entries

Slides - Accomplished

- | | | |
|---|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Deering, John | Time On My Hand |
| 2 | Everman, Wilda | The Works |
| 3 | Jones, Vicki | 5 Minutes To Midnight |
| 4 | Kraus, Mark | Big Joe Works |

Prints - Tyro

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Flowers, Trudy | Keepsake |
| 2 | Tieman, Carole | Time On My Hands |
| 3 | Murray, Bruce | The Clock In the Park 12:02 PM |
| 4 | Loughry, Donna | Lots Of Time! |
| 5 | Bollinger, Cora | What Time Is It? |

Prints - Accomplished

- | | | |
|---|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Beers, Nancy | The Dance Of Time |
| 2 | Carpenter, Jerry | Swinging Through Time |
| 3 | Jones, Richard | If I Could Save Time In a Bottle |
| 4 | Ihrig, Bob | Pieces Of Time |

April Nature - Birds in Flight (Informal)

Slides - Tyro

No Entries

Slides - Accomplished

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Offutt, Mary Jo | Flight Sunrise |
| 2 | Leiby, Dave | Red Beaked Tropic Bird |
| 3 | Everman, Wilda | Taking Off |
| 3 | Shadix, Carl | Soaring Gull |

Prints - Tyro

- | | | |
|---|--------------|-------------|
| 1 | Sallee, Joy | Flying High |
| 2 | Geiger, Ken | Hummingbird |
| 3 | Kubler, John | Out Of Sync |

Prints - Accomplished

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Snyder Jeff | Landing Eagle |
| 2 | Kraus Mark | Hummm |
| 3 | Carpenter Jerry | I'm Almost Home |
| 4 | Jones Margaret | Delivering Nesting Materials |
| 5 | Jones Richard | Hummingbird In Flight |

TRISTATE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY COMPETITION CATEGORIES - 2009

<u>Pictorial (1st Friday)</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Nature (3rd Friday)</u>
Voting on Competition Issues	January	Insect Close-Ups Slides/Informal Prints
Horses Slides/Informal Prints	February	Open Slides/Informal Prints
Open <i>Formal</i> Prints/Slides	March	Animals Longer Than 8 Feet In Length, Width, Height, Or Wingspan Slides/Informal Prints
Timepieces Slides/Informal Prints	April	Birds In Flight Slides/Informal Prints
Open Slides/Informal Prints	May	Open <i>Formal</i> Prints/Slides
Working People Slides/Informal Prints	June	Open Slides/Informal Prints
Open <i>Formal</i> Prints/Slides	July	Ducks Slides/Informal Prints
Boats Or Ships Slides/Informal Prints	August	Mostly White Or Mostly Black Slides/Informal Prints
Open Slides/Informal Prints	September	Open <i>Formal</i> Prints/Slides
Wheels Slides/Informal Prints	October	Open Slides/Informal Prints
Open <i>Formal</i> Prints/Slides	November	Sea Life, Flora Or Fauna Slides/Informal Prints
Two Photos Of Same Subject (Before/After, Seasonal, Etc.) Slides/Informal Prints	December	Open Slides/Informal Prints

Reminder:
Limit 1 print for Competitions.

*Additional print(s) will be for
Display and Discussion.*

TRISTATE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY COMPETITION CATEGORIES - 2010

<u>Pictorial (1st Friday)</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Nature (3rd Friday)</u>
Open Slides/Informal Prints	January	Wild Animal Babies Slides/Informal Prints
Books Slides/Informal Prints	February	Open Slides/Informal Prints
Open <i>Formal</i> Prints/Slides	March	Sand Slides/Informal Prints
Rural Images Slides/Informal Prints	April	Peaks Slides/Informal Prints
Open Slides/Informal Prints	May	Open <i>Formal</i> Prints/Slides
Nightscapes Slides/Informal Prints	June	Open Slides/Informal Prints
Open <i>Formal</i> Prints/Slides	July	Animals With Antlers Or Horns Slides/Informal Prints
Musical Instruments Slides/Informal Prints	August	Poisonous Or Venomous Slides/Informal Prints
Open Slides/Informal Prints	September	Open <i>Formal</i> Prints/Slides
Hobbies Slides/Informal Prints	October	Open Slides/Informal Prints
Open <i>Formal</i> Prints/Slides	November	Raptors Slides/Informal Prints
Architectural Detail Slides/Informal Prints	December	Open Slides/Informal Prints

What's that Button For?

This Month: The M/CW/S selector

Remember when cameras were simple and Center Weighted TTL exposure metering (CW) was the latest and greatest? It was a tremendous step forward and one of the first technologies to take advantage of the SLR cameras.

Now much much later, most SLRs have Matrix metering next to CW. When Matrix came out it was seen as the ultimate, bullet proof approach to perfect exposure. In fact, as you have experienced, the “perfect” is more like “most of the time”. In real life with a digital sensor with a dynamic range of 6 or 7 and an image you are trying to capture with a range of 9-10, something’s gotta give.

Some will claim that Canon tends to over-expose with .3 f-stop and Nikon to go the other way and under-expose with .5 f-stop when using the Matrix metering. I am guessing that most of you are using

Matrix, while some are more comfortable with CW. Maybe even a few are using Spot metering which is not easy at all and will not be discussed here.

I am giving you links to two sites with pretty extensive dialogs on Pro and Cons of metering systems. Read them if you like but do experiment with the settings on your next shoot. You may be surprised by the difference.

Links:

<http://photo.net/nikon-camera-forum/00Mf8M>

<http://www.photographyboard.net/center-weighted-vs.-matrix-light-metering-2970110.html>

Mogens

Refreshments

May: Trudy Flowers, Bob Ebersole
June: John Jackson, John Kubler,
Ann Deering
July: Jeff Snyder, Paul Ice, Ken Geiger
August: Dale Voelker, Don Wiedeman
September: John Devine, Dave Leiby,
Cyndi Curfiss, Tate Grahm
October: Margie Stigler, Melissa & Harold
Taylor
November: Donald Haskell, Jerry Carpenter
December: Everybody

Programs

May: Flash Photography
June: Macro Photography/Lens Calibration
by Jerry Fritsch
July:
August:
September:
October:

E-mail Address Change Reminder.

If you change your e-mail address there are lots of people to notify, and it is easy to forget someone who needs to know your new address.

Remember to let Bob Ihrig (rdihrig@fuse.net) know of any address change so he can update this on the List-Serve. Please put "Tri-State" in the subject box.

2009 Tri-State Officers & Chairpersons

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