

THE SHUTTERBUG
KANATA SENIOR CENTRE DIGITAL CAMERA CLUB
APRIL 2010



May 7th Programme

May Assignment – Night Shots

The photos for the Night Shots assignment will be shown. Members are encouraged to comment on and discuss these photos. You may enter a maximum of three photos that have been taken specifically for this assignment. Remember as always, no file photos please. Please submit your photos to cameraclub@kanataseniors.ca. Deadline is April 30th. Just in case any one would like clarification. Sunsets do not count as night shots. Please be careful when taking photos at night, and always go with a companion. More tips on night photography and information on useful websites later in the newsletter.

Shoot Out

The primary purpose of this meeting is a shoot out at or near the Kanata Senior Centre building. Hopefully the trilliums will be in bloom and the weather will cooperate. If the weather is not good the shoot out will be indoors. So rain or shine please bring your camera equipment.

From Ken Wilson - Coordination Committee Chairman

Our last meeting, held April 9th, posed a more difficult assignment for the members. Bring in one photo that you are proud of and we can discuss in groups and post to the Photo Gallery, and bring in one photo that you expected to be better but need help in identifying how to improve it. The coordinating committee were gratified to see the number of photos submitted and the lively discussion that occurred in each group. This was intended to be a learning experience and it is safe to say that we all shared constructive critiques and learned from each other.

We had over 40 people at the meeting attesting to the continued interest and enthusiasm of the members. The committee has attempted to put together a programme that is interesting to the members, meets the requirements of both beginners and intermediates, and continues to offer opportunities to expand skills. That leads to the following request – we ask you to come to the next two meetings (May and June) armed with your suggestions for programme improvements, topics of interest, ideas for club activities, etc., to permit the committee to plan for the next season. We would also ask those of you who are interested to consider joining the coordination committee. New people bring new ideas and fresh outlooks and we would welcome your participation.

Marg's Hints and Tips

From Marg Jackman

With the flower season approaching, here are some early tips.

Use a macro lens to get really close.

If you have ever wondered how the pros get those incredibly close up shots, it's with a macro lens. A macro lens lets you get a 1:1 view of your subject and reveal flowers in a way that only macros can. A macro lens has a very shallow depth of field – so much so that when photographing a single rose, the petals in the front can be out of focus, which is why a tripod must be used when possible.

Can't afford a Macro. How about a Close-Up?

Close-Up lenses (also called close-up diopters), are cheaper than buying a full blown macro lens, plus adding it to your zoom gives you zoom capabilities as well. This lets you turn your telephoto zoom lens into a macro lens for ¼ of the price, and 1/10 the weight and size. It looks like a thick lens (it's about 1" thick), and screws on to both Canon and Nikon lenses. It's called the Canon Close-up lens (even though it's from Canon, you can get a version that screws onto a Nikon lens). Depending on the size of your lens you are going to attach it to, they run from \$70-\$139.

Note: I have not checked but I suspect that other camera manufacturers could have a similar product.

Shooting flowers with a zoom lens.

You have another option. Zoom lenses work just great for shooting flowers for two reasons. (1) You can often zoom in tight enough to have the flowers nearly fill the frame, and (2) it's easy to put the background out of focus with a zoom lens, so the focus is just on the flower. Start by shooting in Aperture Priority (set your mode dial to A), then use the smallest aperture number your lens will

allow (in other words if you have a f5.6 lens, use f5.6). Then try to isolate one flower, or a small group of flowers that are close together, and focus on just that flower. When you do this, it puts the background out of focus, which keeps the background from distracting the eye and makes a stronger composition.

Tips For Night Photography

- (1) Use a tripod.
- (2) Batteries – The long exposures necessary for night photography will quickly drain your batteries. Use a fresh set of batteries and carry a spare set. If you are using rechargeable batteries make sure they are fully charged and carry a spare if you have one.
- (3) Use a remote or cable release if you have one, otherwise use the camera's self timer.
- (4) Bracket your exposures.
- (5) A small flashlight might come in handy.

Useful websites.

www.photoxels.com/tutorial-night-photography.html

This site has general information on night photography, it covers point and shoot cameras and dslrs.

www.calculator.org/exposure.aspx

The Available Light Photography Exposure Calculator is an online calculator that allows you to calculate exposures for various situations for both night photography and tricky daytime situations. This calculator is only suitable for single lens reflex cameras.

If there is a particular branch of night photography you would like to know more about, Google is your best friend. Just type in "how to photograph-----", you'll get more hits than you ever wanted, some of them useful, some not.