



Friday 6 May following the slide show

Next meeting bring your camera for a shoot out



“Memories” by Sue Carey

Everyone bring your camera we are going to take some pictures.

At our May meeting we are going to have a shoot out. We will take photos in and around the Seniors Centre up to a 100 meter distance. This will allow for a wide range of subjects: flower, tennis, nature, the building, inside activities, even the parking lot.

This event will take place right after a short regular meeting. We will first show our “Spring Forward” results and then Marg’s Tips and a few other items. Then everyone goes out to see what imaginative things they can find to photograph around the Seniors Centre.

Members are then asked to pick 3 of their best photos to be presented at our June meeting.

“Spring Forward” assignment due Tuesday 3 May

Now that the weather has finally improved there should be lots of opportunities to get outside and take some spring photographs.

While this topic is not limited to flowers, please keeping mind that the assignment for next month is “Tulips” to coincide with the tulip festival. You may thus wish to save that tulip photos for that one.

Spring activities, flowers, birds and almost everything green are prime possible subjects. If you have packed your camera away for the winter now is the time to get outside and experiment , explore and expose some photos.

Submissions are due by Tuesday 3 May so we can show them that Friday at our May meeting.

Submission requirements and information can be found on page 2.

Month	Assignment	Deadline	To be shown
April	Spring Forward	3 May	Friday 6 May
April	Seniors Centre Shoot-out	31 May	Friday 3 June
May	Tulips	31 May	Friday 3 June



“Pileated woodpecker Mud Lake” by Barrie Thomas

Barrie's bird photos now on web site

Last month members were treated to an extensive slide show of bird photographs by club member Barrie Thomas.

Over 130 photos featured a wide variety of eagles, hawks, swans, ducks, woodpeckers, owls, flamingos and many others which were taken around Ottawa as well as other locations throughout North America.

The photos are now available for view on the Camera Club website and now include the EXIF data (focal length, shutter speed etc.).

To see the photos go to the club web site and select the April meeting. Alternatively you can go there directly by clicking here:

<http://www.kanataseniors.ca/galleries/DCC17/index.html>

Paint.net is a free alternative for PhotoShop Elements program

Last month featured an alternative photo editing tool called paint.net. It can be downloaded for free at www.getpaint.net.

Simple, intuitive, and innovative user interface

Every feature and user interface element was designed to be immediately intuitive and quickly learnable without assistance. In order to handle multiple images easily, Paint.NET uses a tabbed document interface. The tabs display a live thumbnail of the image instead of a text description. This makes navigation very simple and fast. The interface is also enhanced for Aero Glass if you are using Windows 7.

Performance

Extensive work has gone into making Paint.NET the fastest image editor available. Whether you have a netbook with a power-conscious Atom CPU, or a Dual Intel Xeon workstation with 8 blazingly fast processing cores, you can expect Paint.NET to start up quickly and be responsive to every mouse click.

Layers

Usually only found on expensive or complicated professional software, layers form the basis for a rich image composition experience. You may think of them as a stack of transparency slides that, when viewed together at the same time, form one image.

Powerful Tools

Paint.NET includes simple tools for drawing shapes, including an easy-to-use curve tool for drawing splines or Bezier curves. The Gradient tool, new for 3.0, has been cited as an innovative improvement over similar tools provided by other software. The facilities for creating and working with selections are powerful, yet still simple enough to be picked up quickly. Other powerful tools include the Magic Wand for selecting regions of similar color, and the Clone Stamp for copying or erasing portions of an image. There is also a simple text editor, a tool for zooming, and a Recolor tool.

Free!

Paint.NET doesn't cost a dime.

Website links feature contains many nuggets

There is an almost hidden feature on our Web Page that many may be missing.

At the very bottom of the page is a line that says “Useful Web Links [click here for details](#)”.

This feature is a gold mine of tips, articles, stores, pod cast and more.

Do visit, and if you have any suggestions for additions, send them to cameraclub@kanataseniors.ca

Visit our web page at www.kanataseniors.ca then select **Activites** and then **Camera Club**

How to submit photos for the gallery and assignments

We want you to send in your pictures for the monthly assignments and also for inclusion in our gallery on the Club website. So how to do that and what are the “rules”

1. Shoot your pictures at the largest resolution possible.
2. Use an email program and “Attach” your image directly. Do not use your web based image sharing mechanism.
3. Send your images to cameraclub@kanataseniors.ca
4. If you want your pictures included on our Photo Gallery, you must include your name as part of the image name

Shot as: **IMG0912.jpg** (straight out of the camera)

Renamed as: **Flying Beavers by John Williamson.jpg**

Only photos identified with a title and the name of the photographer will be forwarded to the webmaster for inclusion in the Gallery.

5. Processing of your image in Photoshop is allowed and encouraged.

4 Scams that target photographers

These days, anyone can become the victim of a scam or fraud - including photographers. New scams are being invented all the time, especially online, where anonymity is the norm. But there are 4 scams that target the photography world.

The E-Bay Return Scam

In this scam a dishonest person with a broken piece of gear looks for an identical item on eBay offers to buy it. Then after he receives it he says it is broken and sends his own broken item back to the seller.

Make sure you have documented proof that the item you sent out is not the same one that was returned. Take photos of the serial numbers and include them in the post itself. This will not only prove the original number, but also deter any potential crooks from trying to pull the scam on you.

The fake Photo Assignment Scam

They will offer to pay you up front, via cashier's check. When the check arrives - it is larger than the amount you agreed upon. This is the old (and widely known) fake cashier's check scam

Before you accept an assignment, it's a good idea to ask for a 50%

payment up front, and leave yourself plenty of time for the payment to clear through all the banks (not just yours). If possible, don't accept any cashier's checks - and NEVER EVER agree to send the overpayment to someone else.

The fake (or Bad) Photo Contest

You enter and are told that you won 2nd or 3rd place and they want your bio for a book - for an additional fee of \$40. Then they want you to order a copy of the book for \$100.

The Internet is your friend here. Make sure you research the background of any organization holding a photo contest.

The Unethical Camera Store Scam

Everyone loves a bargain, especially photographers. Looking to cut costs, the photographer decides to use the Internet to shop around for the lowest possible price on a camera or lens or some type of photo product. Most prices are within a few dollars of each other - until suddenly a super crazy low price is quoted (either on a website, or from a store selling through eBay.)

Remember - you get what you pay for. Trying to go for the too-good-to-be-true very may result in paying-through-the-nose in the long run.

Marg's Hints and Tips

7 CAMERA PREDATORS AND HOW TO KEEP THEM AT BAY.

1. Sunscreen and Insect Repellents:

Sunscreen is generally oily, and Insect Repellents often contain chemicals that you wouldn't want to get in touch with the more delicate parts of your camera. Wash your hands after applying sunscreen and repellent. If you do get your camera greasy, clean it off as quickly as possible. It's tempting to carry just one bag, so make sure your liquids are in a sealed plastic bag.

2. Sand:

The thought of getting sand in your camera is frightening, so using cleaning brushes to get off the stray grains can be useful and cleaning cloths helpful.

3. Dust:

Wipe your camera down daily and be careful where you change your lenses.

4. Moisture/Water:

Other than dropping your camera in all kinds of liquid (ocean, river, baths), the more subtle attacker when it comes to moisture is condensation: particularly noticeable when you move from one temperature to another (e.g. Air conditioning to humid). Invest in silica gel packs, as they will absorb moisture in your camera bag. Sealed plastic bags can also work (e.g. When we use them following winter camera excursions).

5. Salt:

When shooting in salty places, please wipe your camera clean AT LEAST once a day. If you have a DSLR, use UV filters on your lenses to give extra protection, and avoid opening up your camera as much as possible.

6. Thieves:

Always be aware where your gear is and how accessible it is to others. Keep your camera on your body, if it is a risky environment. Keep bags zipped and well fastened.

7. Bumps and Drops:

Use a padded bag or casing. Be aware where you put your camera and be careful passing your camera from one person to another.



“Heavy Load” by A. King

Some tips for photographing spring flowers

By [Dave Johnson, PCWorld](#) Apr 4, 2011 3:45 PM

Despite lingering snow in some parts of the U.S., springtime is almost upon us. With the season comes flowers, and this week I have some tips you apply to capturing the beauty in your backyard garden, public park, or hiking trail. If the daffodils are starting to bloom in your neighbourhood, here are some tips for you.

Keeping Your Flower in Focus

There's no single right way to shoot flowers, but the most common approach is to use a macro lens or your camera's close-up mode. Macro photography allows you to fill the frame with the most interesting parts of the flower while "weeding out" the background.

Macro photography, especially when shooting flowers, has a unique set of challenges. First and foremost, the depth of field is quite narrow--depending upon how close you are to the subject, it can be less than an inch. That means you need to think about the composition of your shot. Do you want a lot of the flower to be in sharp focus, or only part of it? Is it okay for a lot of the frame to be blurry?

If you want to keep as much in focus as possible, you should consider all the ways that you can control depth

of field. As you probably know, your camera's aperture is the primary way you control depth of field. For close-up flower photography, I highly recommend switching your camera to Aperture Priority mode. The larger the f-number, the deeper your depth of field will be (but, unfortunately, the longer your exposure time). You'll need to balance the depth of field with the shutter speed so that you don't accidentally introduce camera shake or blur in your shot.

A less obvious way to control depth of field is the lens's focal length. If you are using a zoom lens, try setting it wider. Bottom line: the longer the focal length, the shorter the depth of field.

Keeping Your Flowers Sharp

Now that you know what you need to do to keep it all in focus, we should talk about how to freeze the action. No, the flowers aren't going anywhere--at least, not unless you're planning to photograph [triffids](#)--but they are one of the most infuriatingly unstable subjects you will ever try to photograph.

First, let's talk about making you stable. As usual, I recommend using a tripod (or at least a monopod). Especially if you are shooting at a high f-number to maximize your depth of field, you're going to be saddled with a relatively low shutter speed, which can easily cause camera shake. Put the camera on a tripod.

But flowers tend to move as well, and the tripod won't do much to prevent that. Even a gentle breeze can cause petals to flutter in the wind. You already know that you can minimize the effect of wind by shooting at a faster shutter speed--either by sacrificing depth of field or by increasing ISO. In addition, you can practice patience, and wait for the wind to settle down before pressing the shutter release. Many a day my family has camped out waiting for me to press the shutter four or five times over the course of an hour, waiting for the right moment between gusts.

A better option? Carry something to block the wind. It can be as simple as a large piece of paper or poster board, or one of those flexible reflectors you can buy at a camera shop. Either way, ask a helper to block the wind so you can take a few photos.

Keep the Colors Sharp

Finally, how do you get good exposure? I could write an entire book on this subject, but the most important rule is to avoid the midday hours. When the sun is directly overhead, you'll get a lot of high-contrast shots with areas that are dramatically over- and under-exposed, depending upon where shadows appear in your shot. And bright sunlight is not your friend when trying to preserve the delicate colors and many nuanced tones in flower petals.

Instead, you will actually get your best photos on overcast days, or when the sun is low in the sky--early or late in the day. Your best photos will often be when you shoot in the shade, so there's no direct sunlight on your flower.

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“Still Life 3” by Phyllis Steele