



Meeting starts 9:15

April 2013

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Bill Pratt to present at 5 April meeting

The camera club is delighted to have Bill Pratt present at our 5 April meeting.

Bill will be presenting a collection of his photos from Antarctica and another presentation on photos from his travels across Canada.

Bill is an Almonte native and has been taking photos since 1995. He is enthusiastic about the greatness of Canada and wants to remind Canadians what a magnificent country we have.

"I have shot in Ireland, China, El Salvador, Iceland, the Svalbard Archipelago, the Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica, but Canada remains my passion."

To see a selection of his photos check out his web site



at www.billprattphoto.com.

Bill enjoys participating regularly in small, committed, photographic groups that focus on critiquing each other's work. He says, that while no one in these groups is an expert, we clearly learn what moves us, see enough variety to coax us out of our comfort zone, and are driven to keep shooting.

He also likes to ask the questions –
What am I trying to do?
Why am I trying to do it?

This applies to his overall photographic mission, the creation of the specific image at hand and the presentation of the images.

This is a presentation not to miss.



"The Pews at Sunset" by Dan Barnaby

Sign up for special or mini shoot-outs

While our regular shoot-outs have proved popular, some members have expressed an interest in going further afield or to some more specialized locations.

The club has tried to accommodate this by sign-up sheets at the back of the hall for the past few meetings. The intent was that if there were 3 or 4 or more interested in a particular occasion, they would form a team and one member of the group would make the arrangements.

So far we have had interest expressed in taking photos at the parliament buildings, Mud Lake,

the St. Lawrence Seaway, the Aviation Museum and other locations.

Hopefully teams will be able to put together a short slide show for a future meeting.

Sign-up sheets will continue to be made available at our meetings.

Send us your "use of light" photos for our slide show

The monthly photo assignments are there to encourage you to take photos. For our upcoming meeting in April the category is "Use of Light". Those who have been following *Marg's Hints* will be able to put those tips into practice. Be reminded that "open" photos are always also accepted.

They will be shown in a slide show at the beginning of the meeting and then we will go over selected photos again after the coffee break. Under the new rules you need to identify the one photo you want in the review. Note that the deadline for submissions is Sunday 31 March.

It's not too early to start thinking ahead. The next assignment is "Beginnings". With Spring on the way you can start taking photos for that now. Use your imagination and "Beginnings" can mean a lot of things.

Details on how to submit photos can be found on page 3. Don't be shy. We are always looking for submissions and you don't need a fancy camera.

Month	Assignment	Deadline	To be shown
Mar.	Use of Light/Open	31 Mar.	Fri. 5 Apr.
Apr.	Beginnings/Open	28 Apr.	Fri. 3 May
May	Open	2 June	Fri. 7 June

Taking photos from an airplane window

by Darren Rowse

Here's a quick set of tips for those of us lucky enough to be taking a trip in a plane and wanting to get the classic 'out of the window shot' that often is featured early in a travel photo album.

One common mistake that people make with taking this shots is to put their camera's lens right up against the glass of the plane window in the hope that it will help cut down on reflections and in the hope that it will steady their shot.

While it might help a little with reflections it generally does anything but steady the shot and will often usually increase camera shake' due to the vibrations of the plane.

A better strategy, if you're using a DSLR with a fitted lens, is to attach a lens hood to your lens and get in as close as you can to the window without actually touching it.

Alternatively, use your free hand to cup around the lens as much as you can to shield it from reflections.

Of course for high quality aerial shots you'll want to shoot out an open window from an appropriate altitude – but then most of us are not in that league so the window seat on an airliner is our best option.

Here are five more tips that come to mind on photographing out a plane's window:

1. Switch to Manual Focus

Quite often cameras get confused when shooting through glass (and on most planes its two or three scratched and marked sheets of glass). Switching to manual focussing mode and locking your focus on your main focal point can help a lot.

2. Shoot early in the Flight

Windows tend to ice up or get condensation on them once you've been flying for a longer period of time. Shoot early when your window is clearer and your shots will be better for it.

3. Be ready for the Plane Banking

It is difficult from an airliner to take shots of the ground (due to window size and the angles that are possible through them) but opportunities do present themselves for such shots on the few occasions that the plan banks before landing and after take off. The key is to be ready and to shoot fast as these moments don't last long.

4. Turn off your Flash

For starters it'll have no impact on your shot (its not strong enough to have an impact beyond a few meters) and secondly it'll just cause reflections against the window.

5. Look for points of Interest

Sometimes the scenes out of plane windows seem quite spectacular to the eye but when you look at your photos they can be a little empty and un-inspirational. Look for a point of interest to bring your shot to life. It might be the wing or engine of the plane, it could be a cloud formation, another plane, a coastline, a change in the landscape below or a setting sun etc. It could even be something inside.

(From: *Digital Photography School*).

<http://digital-photography-school.com/how-to-take-a-photograph-out-of-a-plane-window>



“Perplexed” by Steven Slater



“Star Bright” by Marg Jackman



“Stoney Swamp” by Adrienne Diorio



“Mirror Mirror” by Tracy Pike

Rules for sending in photos

As John Williamson again outlined at the last meeting we are getting so many photos that the end of meeting review is taking too long.

In the future all submitted photos will be in the opening slide show and also be included in the web page photo gallery. However, only one photo will be included for the end of meeting member review. To make that happen, you must indicate in the body of your email submission the photo you wish to have included in the end of meeting slide show/discussion.

SUBMITTING YOUR PHOTOS

1. Shoot your pictures at the largest resolution possible.
2. Use an email program and “Attach” your images directly.
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. Rename it. e.g. **Snowdrift by Joe Green.jpg**
5. In the body of your email indicate the photo you want in the final slideshow.



“Antique Bottles” by Pam Byrtus

Marg’s Hints and Tips

TIPS FOR GREAT PHOTOS IN BAD LIGHT

How often have you planned a photography trip, only to have the light futz out? All you have is grey smudgy skies and uninspiring light. How can you create memorable images in less than memorable light? Here are a few techniques:

Shoot tight.

The easiest way to get better photos from flat light is to shoot tight. Simply eliminate that overcast sky and concentrate on details in the landscape. Or try mounting a telephoto lens onto your camera and extracting details from distant scenes.

Add colour.

Grey light often means drab colours. One of the best ways to punch up lack-lustre colours is with a polarizer.

Polarizers remove reflective glare from shiny surfaces like leaves, wet rocks and the surface of water to give images more vibrancy. Don't let a little drizzle ruin your outing. You can get great shots, and using your polarizer will further increase colour saturation.



Add light.

A touch of fill flash or maybe some alternative light sources like flashlights, headlights or street lamps can often add that little zing to take your drab photo to the next level. Shooting at dusk, when your supplemental light source is slightly brighter than the ambient light results in interesting photos.

Many people assume that a grey sky will not yield spectacular colour, but even though the sky was totally cloudy, and the rain is spitting, a sunrise can be more than rewarding.

Remember to protect your camera. You can use something as simple as a plastic bag held with rubber bands or a shower cap from your hotel, which takes up little space in your bag, A poncho is good as it can also serve as ground cover on wet and sandy soil.

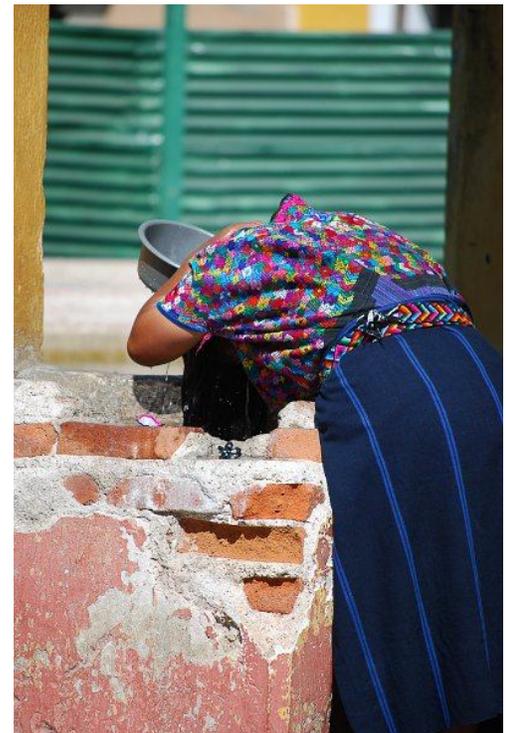
Visit our web page at
www.kanataseniors.ca
 then select **Activites**
 and then **Camera Club**



“The Kiss”
by Sue Carey



“Snowmobile trails on lake”
by Ken Wilson



“Mayan woman washing her hair in Antigua” by Elizabeth Lamarche

Tips on capturing stunning spring flower shots

Spring flowers are starting to make an appearance with lines of Daffodils lining roads and crocuses showing their heads in gardens. There are plenty of ways you can photograph flowers and there's no reason why you can't just go out and shoot a variety of shots. However, if you're pushed for time, it's worth having an image in-mind before you head out of the door.

Get close

You'll need a macro lens if you're using a DSLR or a camera which has a macro mode on it for close-ups but if you want to capture a whole flower bed you'll want to work with a wider-angle.

Support

When working at such close focusing distances you'll want to use a tripod as it'll help keep your shots shake-free and they also help slow you down and make you think about composition. A tripod where the legs can splay out is ideal as you'll be able to shoot from low angles, getting right into the patches of flowers you have in your garden. To reduce shake further, consider using a remote release or use your camera's self-timer if you don't have one.

Swaying flowers

Flowers tend to sway around even in the gentlest wind so try and make a barrier so it stays calm. A sheet of card is useful for this and convenient if you're shooting in the garden.

Stay dry

If you're planning on kneeling on the ground you may want to take a waterproof sheet out with you to keep your legs dry. A large bin bag will work fine or if you're a gardener, you could use knee pads if you have them.

Add light

Reflectors can bounce light under parts of the flower that are shaded but a piece of foil out of the kitchen draw can work just as well if you don't have one to-hand. If you can, try experimenting with different coloured reflectors as they'll create different tones/warmth.

Do check that your flash is turned off as it will just create harsh shadows and make sure you've selected the lowest ISO possible to stop noise spoiling your shot.

Reduce glare

A polarising filter can be fitted to a lens to lower glare and enhance the natural colours of the flowers you're shooting.

Make it sharp

Once you've chosen your subject take a test shot to make sure it's as sharp as possible. Check the image on your LCD screen, zooming in to double-check the petals are in focus.

One or more flowers?

If you have more than one flower in frame, focus on just one and use the others as a secondary point of interest. If you're working in macro mode it'll tend to use a large aperture which will mean your subject stays sharp while the background is thrown out of focus, however if you're working in manual mode, you'll need use a larger aperture to blur the background. For shots where you want more than one flower sharp, use a smaller aperture.

Frame it

With the help of longer lenses you can home in on just one flower, using the flowers in the bed around them as a colourful, blurry frame.

Think of it like a portrait

For a shot that's more pleasing to the eye offset the stamen slightly and try, as you do with a portrait, positioning yourself so the flower sits slightly to the side.

(Adapted from ePHOTOZINE

<http://www.ephotozine.com/article/spring-flower-photography-tips-18708>)