

DYRSLCC NEWSLETTER

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

A presentation by John Newton AAPS SSAPS

Why do we photograph nature? To enter competitions, share with friends, its beauty and its all around us. We don't need a camera to admire a sunset, so what is our love of nature? We are a part of it, it is a part of us, and it makes us feel good.

**NORMAL RULES OF COMPOSITION
ALWAYS APPLY TO NATURE
PHOTOGRAPHY TO MAKE BETTER
PHOTOS.**

What qualifies as a nature subject? There are lots of rules and there are a number of rules that have been written by a number of photography institutions.

Things not in nature: cultivated plants, zoo animals or animals in captivity, museum specimens, don't show fences, cages, chains, no man-made structures, or man/woman doing activities.

What equipment do you need?

Camera - any camera, but when you get in close a single reflex

Tripod - a sturdy one

Lenses - use them all, landscapes you'll need a wide angle, but when you want to do insects or flowers, use a macro or telephoto.

Close up gear - macro lens, if you don't have a macro lens, what can I do? Extension tubes, come in sets of three, which fit between the camera lens and the camera. Diopter lenses, glasses for your lens, similar to a filter, they are cheaper than a macro lens, come in sets of 3-4

Flash - you need good lighting to bring out the fine detail.. Normal flash gun, using the diffuser, a twin head flash, gives a more natural and balanced appearance, ring flash, fits around the lens, for small subjects.

Reflectors - to fill in shadows, or a piece of cardboard with crinkled foil stuck to it.

Eyes to find your subjects - you need to be observant, patient, look for the small things.

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

WHEN YOU ENTER A NATURE COMPETITION, CHECK THE DEFINITIONS FOR THAT COMPETITION, THEY CAN BE DIFFERENT AND WILL AFFECT THE TYPE OF PHOTO THAT YOU CAN SUBMIT.

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

The how to guide.

How do we light our subjects?

Landscape photography is better done using early morning and late afternoon light. It's even more important to get lighting right on smaller items. Use reflectors to bounce light into the shadowed areas, you can see the balance with your eyes as you set it up. The other way is to use the twin flash head.

Fixing backgrounds

Photos can be destroyed by ugly backgrounds, use your depth of field to create sharp images with a less distracting background by blurring through a change in aperture.

Your subject will stand out and look crisp without any distractions.

Questions

What is the formula for depth of field?

Mid-range aperture, for normal subjects to star. Take a photo, look at it in the preview screen and start to make adjustments. On macro subjects, insects, using f32 you'll get blurred backgrounds. It depends on the subject and the lens.

Determination to underexpose the background as well as blur it

Tripods?

Only to shoot stationary items, animals, insects and birds move around a lot. Use a LED torch to get your focus and get the light in animal eyes at night,

Different methods to get close ups? What method do you use?

Now I use macro, before that the other things, dip others, you don't lose exposure, but you do with extension tubes. Photo Plus, right now have an articles for Canon on macro vs. diopters. Extension tubes

Thank you to all the members who came on Wednesday night to see John's presentation. I'm sure you'll agree it's a big world out there; you just have to look a little harder to find the smaller creatures.

How do you get that sharpness in your photos?

Get it in focus, have in focus what you want in focus. Half of your processing is your printing and post processing. Shoot in RAW, sharpen in Photoshop.

When you do your prints are they on a printer or dark room?

Both, Epsom in colour. Get it done at a professional lab, Photo Enlargements at Port Macquarie - look on the website. Send jpegs, under 5MB.

How do you calibrate your monitor?

Purists hate this, set your printer up on the standard settings that they have set, adjust your screen to see what your think is ok. Print it, then adjust your screen to print again to get the settings right. Get brightness and contrast correct. If the printer matches the screen, you've nailed it.

When you print, print to what suits the eye.

If you had to choose diopter vs. extension?

Depends on what you are doing. Extension tubes are cleaner, Diopter doesn't lose exposure Diopter is more convenient - use mid-range to smaller apertures. Unnecessary to use them together. A Diopter is a filter and can be used on any lens

What lenses did you use on the lizards?

70mm-300mm, that way you can be back for them and not scare them by getting too close.

What is you most used macro lens now?

90mm Tamron was what is used to use, but you have to get in very close and it may frighten the animal or insect. I now use a 180mm Tamron exclusively as you can be a fair way back from the subject.

Photo stacking?

Not genuine nature by some standards or rules. It depends on the rules and guidelines. HDR can be used from one image, and can be ok. Zoo images can be used in nature competitions but not in wildlife.

Our next meeting on 17 July 2013, Show and Tell, Flora and Fava.



WHATS ON...

THE AUSTRALIAN MARITIME MUSEUM IS HOSTING AN EXHIBITION BY ANSEL ADAMS – PHOTOGRAPHY FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE SEA.

LIMITED SEASON, 4 JULY – 8 DECEMBER

WWW.ANMM.GOV.AU/ANSELADAMS

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRODUCED TO GIVE ITS MEMBERS A WALK AWAY DOCUMENT FROM INTERESTING AND EDUCATIONAL LECTURES. IT WILL HELP TO SOLIDIFY ALL OF THE IDEAS AND NEW TECHNIQUES THAT WE LEARN.

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