

Digital Focus

Newsletter of the Calumet Region Photo Club

Editor: Dave Dornberg

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<http://www.calregphoto.org>

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Meeting Information

Calumet Region Photo Club meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. The 2nd Tuesday is our general monthly meeting, and the 4th Tuesday is competition night (September – March only). Meetings are from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Munster Social Center located in Community Park at 8751 Lions Club Drive.

Topic Presenter

The April 12, 2011 meeting topic is "What More Could You Do – Part 1". During this meeting 5-6 CRPC members will critique and provide constructive feedback on photos received in March & April.

The May 10, 2011 meeting topic is "What More Could You Do – Part 2 - Using Photoshop" This meeting will feature 4 of our members: Michael Kobe, Phill DeCausemaker, Rick Heinzman and Anita Hocker showing how 4 of the images from the April meeting can be enhanced using Photoshop.

Meeting Refreshments

Thank you to members Coleen Hund, Gina Ferrantella and Thomas Cak for providing refreshments at the March meeting.

For our April meeting, Loisann Westerlund and Anita Hocker will be providing the refreshments.

Field Trips

Saturday, April 16, 2011 at 9:00 AM – "Digital Focus" shoot at Oak Ridge Prairie Park in Griffith. The theme for this shoot will be verticals, horizontals, & diagonals featuring nature and/or man-made objects. Dave Dornberg will lead this shoot. For more information, please see the Events page on the website

Wednesday, April 20, 2011 – "Shooting Wildflowers" at Dunes National Park with Michael Kobe.

For more information please see the Events page on the website.

Supplies for Purchase

The club has purchased photo matte boards in the following sizes and prices:

11"x14" white matte board w/self adhesive \$.85
11"x14" black matte board w/out adhesive \$.85
16"x20" black matte board w/out adhesive \$1.25

The matte boards will be available for purchase at all club meetings for those who would like to mount their photos.

Please contact Jim (jrettker@comcast.net) prior to the meeting with the number of boards you would like to purchase.

CRPC Website Links

If you have pages on Pbase, Flickr, SmugMug or have created your own website, please send me the link information to those sites. There is a page linked to the Members Gallery page that allows other members to see your work.

Magazines/Books/CD's/DVD's

If you have old photo magazines, books and training DVD's that you would like to donate to our club's library, please bring them to the next meeting. The materials should be given to Don Kopenec. If you have questions, please contact Don at Donaldk992@aol.com. To check out what's available, please see our website.



Digital Bits & Bytes

Shooting Spring Images

It has been a long cold winter here in the Midwest and most of us are so stir crazy, we'll shoot practically anything that is green, growing or flying through the air.

The weather is finally starting to turn and the wild plants, wildflowers and a few insects are actually making appearances now. Now is the perfect time to get out into the great outdoors and start shooting again!

Here are a few tips to help make the most of your first forays back into the woods, grasslands, marshes and along rivers and lakes.

Pull out your checklist before you go and make sure you have everything you need.

1. Camera and camera bag
2. Telephoto, wide angle, macro lenses and lens hoods
3. Wired or Wireless remote
4. Tripod, monopod or bean bag for stability
5. Collapsible 5 in 1 reflector/diffuser
6. Extra batteries
7. Extra memory cards
8. Polarizer and/or split neutral density filters
9. Notebook and pen
10. Plastic for kneeling or lying on wet ground
11. 2 gallon zip lock to protect your camera from rain

Before you even start shooting, find a place that piques your interest. Then do the following:

1. Look around the area for subjects to capture
2. Get different perspectives – kneel or get down low to the ground, stand on a log or bench for a higher than eye level point of view
3. Look straight up a tree
4. Look straight down
5. Look for patterns, light and dark, verticals, horizontals and diagonals
6. Look for contrasts such as bright green ivy growing up the trunk of a tree.
7. Look for reflections in water

When you start shooting be sure to bracket your shots. By bracketing, I mean change your F-Stops by 1/3 to 1/2 stop on either side of what the light meter tells you to shoot the image. You may also bracket by changing the shutter speed.

Remember guidelines are meant to be broken sometimes! Guides on photography always say shoot before 11:00 AM or after 3:00 PM because the lighting between 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM is harsh and beyond the capabilities of the sensor. However, bright cloudy days are great for shooting because the clouds become giant diffusers which will allow you to be out shooting all day.

Don't put your camera away on light rainy days. Water droplets make for some very interesting shots especially if you're shooting macro images. Raindrops become lenses which magnify subjects directly behind the drop.

Shoot early around sunrise for some really dramatic lighting situations. Look for spider webs soaked with dew. Shoot the webs so that they are backlit by the sun to give the images punch!

Shoot an hour before sunset to just after sunset for dramatic silhouettes. When shooting early or late, the wind usually dies down which will enable you to capture beautiful reflections in lakes or ponds.



Photo by Dave Dornberg

Lush ferns overlooking a still pond