

# Digital Focus

## Newsletter of the Calumet Region Photo Club

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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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday is our general monthly meeting, and the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Upcoming Meeting Topics/Presenters

**August 9, 2011 - “Photography Apps for Computer Tablets, Phones & Computers”** presented by Don Kopenec.

Gadget & Gizmos returns this month along with a short presentation on “Aperture and How it Affects your Photos”.

**September 13, 2011 - “High Dynamic Range (HDR)”** presented by Jerry Hugg past president of CAACA.

**October 11, 2011 - “How to Convert Color Images to Monochrome”** presented by John Roquet.

**November 8, 2011 - “Landscape Photography and How to Modify Those Images Using Photoshop”** presented by Alvin Alvis of Oak Lawn Camera Club

### New CRPC Website and Domain Name

CRPC has moved to a new internet provider and has a new domain name. The new web address for the club's site is: <http://www.calregionphoto.org>.

It will take a few months before the common search engines such as Google, Bing and Yahoo will be able to find our site again, so create a new favorite on your computer.

### CRPC Elections and Constitution

After two years as president of the Calumet Region Photo Club, Michael Kobe will be stepping down to make way for a new president and other officers to be elected at the August meeting by the members. Come and have your vote counted!

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:Donaldk992@aol.com). To check out what's available, please see our website.

### CRPC Competition

Get the images that you shot in spring and summer ready for CRPC's competition meetings which will be starting in September. Remember that you may submit prints or DPI's. Upcoming competition meeting dates are as follows:

**September 27, 2011,**  
**October 25, 2011**  
**November 22, 2011,**  
**December 27, 2011**

## Digital Bits and Bytes

### Capturing Summer Wildlife and Flora

Late summer is a great time to photograph frogs, dragonflies, spiders, butterflies and other wildlife. They are now fully grown, not as skittish, and more apt to stay in one spot long enough for us photographers to capture them.

When your subject is a frog or toad get as low and as close to them as possible to show them in their natural environment. Shoot either early in the morning when the light is soft or late in the afternoon when the shadows are long and the contrast is less harsh.

The green frog below was shot late in the afternoon using a 100mm lens set at F8, 1/125 sec. and ISO 200. Notice that I focused on the eyes and made sure the background was clean. I used flash for fill and set it to ¼ power to fill in the dark shadows underneath the throat.



Green Frog in Moving Water

Shooting dragonflies, damselflies or other flying insects takes a lot more patience since it is very difficult to get close to them. In these cases, you may need to use a longer telephoto lens such as a 70mm to 200mm.

Since most insects just don't sit still, consider using electronic flash to provide not only fill, but to stop them and keep your image as sharp as possible. In addition, consider using a monopod to support your camera and hold it still.



Bee on Coneflower

The image above of the bee was shot with a 100mm lens set at F9, 1/50 sec. at ISO 100. Fill flash was again used at ¼ power to keep the bee nice and sharp and to provide pop to the image.



Dragonfly Awaits

The dragonfly above was shot with a 200mm lens set to F8 at 1/250 sec and ISO 100. A tripod was used to support the weight of the lens. Flash was used to stop action and to fill in dark shadows.

With all of these examples, I lowered the camera to the same level as the subject matter, and applied the rule of thirds to keep the images interesting.

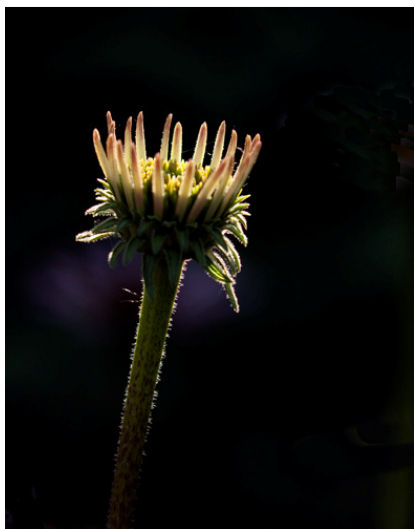
When shooting, remember to bracket your images by shooting ½ a stop under and 1/3 stop over what the light meter tells you.

If your interest lies in plants, flowers, or interesting foliage, consider shooting these as early in the morning as possible when there is little or no wind and the light is extremely soft and pleasing. When using natural light the exposures may be longer, but a good tripod and wired or wireless remote will allow you to capture these plants at their best, and if you're lucky, with a bit of dew on them.



Purple Clematis

The image above of the purple clematis was shot early in the morning when the light was soft and before the wind started to blow. This was shot in open shade that allowed for much more even lighting. A 100mm macro lens was set at F5.6, 1/30 sec. and ISO 200.



Young Coneflower

To obtain a more dramatic image of a flower, use the early morning sun as a spotlight which allows the background to go completely black. For the image above, I used a tripod and a 100mm macro set to F5.0, 1/400 sec at ISO 320.

With foliage, try to make a bold statement by allowing the plant's veins, shape, or bi or tri-colors to stand out. For a more dramatic image, get close or use a clump of the plant.



Hosta in the Early Morning

In this image I was able to use the converging veins and the different colors in the leaves to my benefit. The sun was shining just beneath the leaf of this hosta creating a black background. The low shooting angle makes this image appear as a dramatic vortex drawing the viewer's eye into the sunlit portion.

I used a tripod with a 100mm macro lens set to F11, 1/13 sec. at ISO 320.

The following equipment was used in capturing the example images.

- **Canon 20D and 50D cameras**
- **Canon 100mm F2.8 macro lens**
- **Canon 70-200mm F2.8L**
- **Wired remote**
- **Medium weight Manfrotto tripod**
- **On camera flash or Canon 580EX external flash**
- **Kenko extension tubes in lengths 12mm, 20mm and 36mm**

**All of the images used for this Digital Bits and Bytes article were shot by Dave Dornberg.**



## Blogs, Forums and Tutorials

If you're looking for photographic knowledge, blogs, forums and tutorials are great ways to move toward that goal.

**Blogs** are a treasure trove of information that should be utilized whenever a new direction is sought. For instance, in this month's article titled "Capturing Summer Wildlife and Flora", I used a number of blogs from the Digital Photography School to get my ideas flowing. <http://www.digital-photography-school.com/>.

Here are some more blogs to read:

- **White Balance in Adobe's Lightroom** - <http://www.digital-photography-school.com/white-balance-on-a-jpeg-in-photoshop-elements-and-lightroom>
- **4 Rules of Composition for Landscape Photography** - <http://www.digital-photography-school.com/white-balance-on-a-jpeg-in-photoshop-elements-and-lightroom>

**Tutorials** are great step by step methods of learning a new way of doing something in photography.

- **Cambridge in Colour** does an excellent job with their photographic tutorials and have many to choose from: <http://www.cambridgeincolour.com/>
- **Hewlett Packard** offers free online classes - [www.hp.com/go/learningcenter](http://www.hp.com/go/learningcenter)
- **Lynda.com** has an excellent selection of tutorials, but you must pay for these classes. <http://www.lynda.com/Photography-training-tutorials/70-0.html?AWKeyWord=photography&gclid=COO58a-ru6oCFUvCKgod7INh6A>

**Forums** can be a good source of knowledge too, although they can be filled with questionable information at times. I have used the following forums and of course there are hundreds more:

- **Fred Miranda** - <http://www.fredmiranda.com/forum/>
- **Cambridge in Colour** - <http://www.cambridgeincolour.com/>
- **Popular Photography** - <http://forums.poppphoto.com/>
- BugGuide for photographing insects - <http://bugguide.net/forum>

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## Questions & Answers

"Why do lens hoods need to be used?" The answer is twofold:

1. The primary reason photographers use a lens hood on their lenses is to keep stray light from striking the front lens element thereby causing a flare to show up on the image.
2. The second reason to use a lens hood is to protect your expensive lens from being scratched or bumped.

