



Photo *Basics*; ...The Wild Side

This is an introduction to a series of basic instructions in photography. Having friends and family spread across the globe, interested in chronicling their lives and travels through writing and photography; motivates me. I have spent the better parts of my fifty-something life passionate, O.K. ...obsessed, with photography as Art. Good photography, in spite of recent radical advancements, still takes planning and practice. It's important to realize that photo technology still falls far short of replicating our mind's-eye evolved abilities to capture, translate, *imagine* and render ...light.

It's true; you can take *great* pictures *so* easily. But, *you won't* if you buy into the idea that phenomenal advances in photo technology have done all your homework for you. The good news; it's really not difficult to shoot exceptional work if you follow a few guidelines, and there are more resources than ever available to help. While the goal of, "Photo *Basics*, The Wild Side," is not an attempt to cover all the possibilities, it will provide you with all the tools necessary to take *phenomenal* pictures.

A good photo first and foremost tells a story. The images you record today may tell your stories for generations and the last thing you want is having them told second-hand by an imposter; a poser who treats them like another day flippin' burgers; no passion. When you set your camera on automatic, and simply, 'point and shoot,' you are unconsciously letting the camera manufacturers bleed the passion and creativity out of your vision. Their motives are justifiable; the bulk of consumers just want to record a precious moment and aren't interested in the trouble it takes to understand their equipment. If they have to understand, they won't buy. So, the powers that be solved our "attitude" problem by incorporating sets of standards. The idea was

simple; take, say, a million photos shot by everyday consumers and scan them for saturation of colors, light values, centering of subject matter, etc. Then, take an *average* of each category; the results; sets of “standards” by which to calibrate their cameras. So, for example; if your scene is dark, moody and mysterious, your camera’s metering system will think, “This idiot under-exposed a, “normal ~ average” scene, so I (the metering system) need to *over-expose* it to bring it back to an acceptable standard, back to, “average.” Now, your *over-exposed* picture is lifeless having been bled of its enchanting moodiness, and when you view your image you think, “What made me take a picture of that?”



The photo on the left illustrates what an expensive automatic camera thinks you want to see. In the photo on the right, I have anticipated the camera’s limitations and compensated with one simple adjustment, rendering the scene true to my experience of it. These are just quick hand-held examples and not intended to be captivating images, but the point is obvious; your camera doesn’t see like you do.

Perhaps you treasure the soft glow of morning light across your child’s face, or the way your favorite flowers dance among the shadows in late afternoon light; or, maybe you just want that butterfly you’ve been bonding with to be *in focus* on that flower and not scrambled with the back ground. If so, then it’s time you take a walk on, *The Wild Side*. You’re a story teller; you have passion and a unique sense of creativity. Your automatic camera may have led you to believe otherwise, but it can’t think creatively, outside the box, *without your help!*

So, for the love of Nature and the Arteeest in us all, I’ll be pouring my hopes and heart out on, “*The Wild Side!*” *I will also be giving free hands-on seminars hosted by Grangettos and Buena Creek Gardens in the coming months. Check back for dates and times. ...and in the mean time, if you need a landscaper with vision, Call Me!*

Larry J Carpenter
DaVinci Water Gardens
760 419 0179

Tentative Date for Seminar will be in June. Contact Larry at davinciwatergardens@gmail.com for more information.