

Mark's Photo Newsletter: Spring 2009

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Issue Two

Spring is finally making itself to home in the GTA! Blossoms are in the trees and spring bulbs are flowering in the gardens. In this issue you will find a few helpful ideas for capturing all the beauty of Spring with macro photography, and also the lineup of classes and workshops that offer guidance and direction for developing new techniques. I hope you will consider signing-up for a few sessions and I look forward to seeing you out and about in the parks and trails in Toronto.

Mark's Photo Workshops

The Spring/Summer schedule of classes and workshops is now up on the web site. I'm offering a series of Saturday morning field trips to various places of interest across Toronto. You can participate in any one of these, or sign up for a series of four and save over \$30 on the total.

In addition, four of the sessions can also include image review and editing sessions in the afternoon. These day-long workshops provide you with the chance to try new photographic techniques in the morning, and then have the images critiqued, as well as learn a few tricks with editing software to help make them look better.

Advanced editing techniques with Picture Window Pro and Nikon Capture NX2 are also now available. Nikon's advanced editor is not just for Nikon camera images – it's easy-to-use and very powerful "U-Point Technology" is available to any JPEG or TIFF images, created by any camera. If you really want to get fancy with your images (i.e., cloning, dodging and burning, altering backgrounds or other advanced techniques) then these classes will certainly fit the bill.

Overview sessions are also available, to help you decide which software is right for you. I will demonstrate various packages and techniques, and allow for discussion of your own favourite software (if you bring your own laptop...). More informal discussion than regimented classes, these Friday evening sessions will be a great time to get comfortable with what at times can be a bewildering amount of software choices.

These are just a few of the highlights – for a complete class schedule and to register, please visit: www.picturetheweb.com.

Trusz Gallery - Updates

Toni Wallachy – Le Rêve (CONTACT 2009)

I'm very excited to announce that the Trusz Gallery is participating in the 2009 CONTACT Photography Festival with Le Rêve from the talented Toronto photographer Toni Wallachy. Toni is a Vice President of the Beach Photo Club and has an impressive portfolio of work. (To view Toni's portfolio on line, visit: www.orangeroads.com). Her show, Le Rêve (The Dream) is now on display in the Gallery space at the school for the entire month of May. For more information about what's happening for CONTACT visit: <http://www.contactphoto.com/>.

Be sure to drop in and see the show, and hold May 30th in your calendar for the closing party.



Future Artists?

If you or someone you know has ever wondered about having a show of artwork, now is the time to start planning for the opening party. I am interested in hearing from people who want to learn more about developing and producing prints to be displayed in my gallery, with the possibility of being part of a group show or even putting on a solo exhibition.

For more information send me an email or call me at 416-452-1976.

Shooting Tips and Tricks

Up close and personal with Macro photography

With all the colourful blooms appearing in every garden these days, the temptation is to get out there and start snapping. Some of you have heard me say this before: “**Are you taking a picture of a pretty flower, or are you making a pretty picture out of any flower?**” It’s a serious question, and one you should consider when you are faced with bright colours and fresh blooms.

Getting close to your subjects can sometimes help with the creativity, and macro photography is all about getting close. By definition “Macro Photography” means: “Macro photography is close-up photography. The classical definition is that the image projected on the “film plane” (i.e., film or a digital sensor) is close to the same size as the subject.” (courtesy Wikipedia).



To get close, your point-and-shoot camera will have to have some form of close-focusing or macro setting, usually indicated by a small tulip icon on the back of the camera (or in a menu...). With SLR-style cameras, you will require a close-focusing lens, either a dedicated macro lens, or a medium telephoto zoom lens with a close focusing range.

Be sure to read the specifications (of either the camera or the lens) to understand just how close you can get. With many P&S cameras, the closest working distance is only available with the lens set to the widest focal length – that is, turn the zoom switch until you can see the widest amount of the scene.

You can also look for special close-focusing filters or accessory lenses, that can be fitted onto your existing lens to allow it to focus on subjects mere millimeters away. No matter the equipment, once you start getting up close and personal with the world, many new creative opportunities will soon start to reveal themselves.

For more information you may want to join in one of the field trips I have at a local park, or plan on attending one of the workshops I’m hosting at the Toronto Botanical Gardens over the coming months (see www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca for more information).

Editing Tips and Tricks

Picture Window Version 5 is now available

The latest version of my favourite image editing software is now available for download from www.dl-c.com. You can download a fully-functioning trial version (good for thirty days), or purchase either the Standard version (US\$49.95) or the Pro version (US\$89.95) direct from their web site. There are also upgrade prices available if you already have one of the earlier versions.

I’m offering a four-week class starting in May specifically looking at the many powerful features in Picture Window. You will learn how to:

- Replace a sky or other backgrounds with new images
- Clone and retouch old photos that are scratched or damaged
- Batch process a few or a few hundred images at once with a series of transformations
- Enhance and improve the look of your images
- Create album pages or multiple image layouts that can be re-used for various projects

Picture Window Tip:

When you can’t see the transformation window because it’s hidden behind your image window, use **Ctrl+T** to bring all the transformation windows to the top.

Other software news

Fastone Image Viewer has been updated again to version 3.8. Check it out at: www.faststone.org.