

Nature Photo Techniques



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Chapter 1

NATURES CODE OF ETHICS

Ethics is treating people, animals, objects and nature in a proper manner. Our environment is an interdependent web of natural resources. These resources are soil, water, air, plants and animals. When we use any one of these resources there is a cause and effect relationship on one or more of the other resources. A balanced use of these resources and in some cases preservation, ensures these resources will be sustained for the future. An outdoor classroom is an excellent "environment" for teaching the respect and wise use of natural resources.

When you are roaming around the countryside or park, enjoying the outside, please keep the following in mind:

Respect the habitats of wildlife. You are a guest in their homes when you explore the outdoors. Observe wildlife from a distance when possible so as not to alter their normal behavior.

Observe, examine, but don't take or destroy. Return study specimens back the way you found them.

Do not destroy or disfigure plants and animals unnecessarily or against environmental laws.

Do not litter. Pack it in, pack it out. Keep the outdoors clean. If you find litter, put it into receptacles.

Hike only on designated trails to reduce potential destruction of surrounding areas.

Follow the laws that protect and conserve our natural resources for future generations.

Do take pictures as memories of the day

Always be mindful of the circumstances you are in and invite others to follow these practices when enjoying nature.

DO NOT

Do not harm wildlife – Countless challenges threaten animals' survival, so their welfare should always take precedence over people's desire to observe them.

Do not bait wildlife – When people feed wild animals, they can disrupt the creatures' foraging or predatory cycles. Food that is not part of their regular diets can also cause physiological harm and changes in their natural behaviours, making them more susceptible to injury, hunting or predation.

Do not disturb nesting birds – People should not approach nests or handle eggs or young birds, particularly during breeding seasons. Many adult birds will abandon nests or roll eggs out of the nest if they perceive nearby humans as potential predators.

Do not stress wildlife – Animals disturbed or distracted by human activity can become more susceptible to injury, predators and malnutrition. Additionally, wild animals tend to avoid contact with humans and may not return to a location from which they were scared away.

Do not trespass on private property – Rules and property laws should always be respected.

Try not to scare wildlife away – Wild animals are sensitive, avoid human disturbance and may not return to a location where they were scared. Also, scaring wildlife away is rather annoying for other nature lovers who may come after you.

Do not share telltale locations of sensitive and vulnerable species – Rare wildlife and plants need to be protected from people who may poach, harass or otherwise disregard their need for an undisturbed existence.

Do not handle wildlife unless you have a license – Touching wild animals can contaminate them with chemicals in sunscreen, bug spray and other consumer products, and can transmit harmful viruses to the wildlife as well as expose people to zoonoses (infectious diseases that are transmissible from animals to humans).

Do not litter – Garbage can harm animals that eat it. It also mars natural habitats and encourages other people to be similarly careless in natural spaces. Litter should be picked up and discarded appropriately.

Do not crowd wildlife – Crowding animals stresses them and can increase poaching and predation. This is of particular concern for owls and rare species.

Stay on sanctioned trails – Remaining on designated trails helps to avoid damaging sensitive plants and natural features.

Be prepared – Binoculars, appropriate footwear and clothing, sunscreen, snacks, water and field guides make outdoor experiences more enjoyable.

Respect wildlife – Look for signs of stress to avoid disturbing wildlife from engaging in the natural behaviours they need to regulate their health and well-being.

Remove litter from trails – This discourages others from littering, improves the experience of other visitors and removes pollution that could harm wildlife.

Be patient – By simply taking their time, people will see and hear more. Easy Tips to Improve Your

Chapter 2

Beginner Landscape Photography

1. Shoot RAW

With RAW files, you have more creative control, more colour data to work with, and of course, a better chance of recovering that blown-out, white sky that you accidentally overexposed.

2. Invest in a Tripod

The general rule of thumb for handheld shooting is not to go any lower than your lens focal length. So if you're handheld shooting at 50mm focal length, you shouldn't go any lower than 1/50 shutter speed. Going lower on your shutter often results in blurry images from your hand movement. This is where the tripod comes in.

3. Use a Polarizer

Like polarized sunglasses, a polarizer removes glare from water, the sky, and any other shiny or reflective objects that may distract the eye. It can even add a pop of colour to a scene.

An obvious scene to put your polarizer on would be when photographing a lake and you're trying to see the detail under the water. But don't forget to put it on for scenes like a wet rain forest, waterfalls, or any other landscapes that include water or a distracting glare.

4. Go Wide and Tight with Your Lens

The wide-angle lenses are the most popular pick for landscape photographers for a reason. The main point to shooting wide is it allows you to showcase the entire landscape with its large field of view. It also lets you get up close and personal with objects to exaggerate them in your composition, like a bunch of wildflowers, interesting rock formations, or a small tree.

Objects or people placed closest to the wide-angle lens will appear abnormally larger relative to the more distant objects.

5. Shoot at Golden Hour

If you want dramatic photographs, beautiful contrasts of blue and orange in the sky, you need to shoot during golden hour. Golden hour is roughly one hour after sunrise and one hour before sunset.

Bonus Tips

Add a human to your landscape scene somewhere to add a sense of scale to the scene.

Use a wireless remote shutter button to avoid any camera shake during longer exposures.

Get an ND Kit to add even more creative possibilities to your shots.

Buy an extra memory card and stick it in your car or camera bag. Handy for when you forget to place yours back in the camera.

Get a camera bag. Your gear is expensive; regular backpacks don't protect it from a drop that could cost you thousands of dollars.

Remember to be patient with your learning process and enjoy your time capturing the beauty of the outdoors.

Be quiet – Wildlife quickly becomes aware of human presence. Minimizing noise improves everyone's chances of seeing animals in their habitats.

Support environmental organizations – People can reinforce the work of organizations helping to protect wild species and spaces.

Chapter 3

Adapting to natural light

Nature photographers have very little control over the subject and light. The only control you have is by modifying your behaviour and changing your camera settings

You need to move to a good location set the exposure and focus.

Exposure

Use your camera settings or invest in a good light meter to assist you with understanding to true light situation. It is always best to set the exposure settings manually the camera senses the light from a single point manually you can set for multiple points,

Shooting in sunlight

Sunlight is the best light for shooting wildlife which allows for a fast shutter speed and low ISO, This situation provides the best image for colour contrast and sharpness. The sun must be at your back and shadows pointing towards the subject.

Coping with cloudy conditions

The clouds provide for a natural light diffuser you will need a reflector to fill in the shadows, set your exposure level for the sky. In nature the best times of day are the golden hours one after sunrise and one hour before sun set.

Nature is the best artist it is also unpredictable therefore your need practice, patience, be aware of all the elements to be safe and have fun.

Chapter 4

Tips to capture water

Water patterns are constantly changing which will provide an endless opportunity to capture some fantastic images

10 tips to assist you in capturing the different water movements

Capture a wave

The designs around you

Highlight the peak

Reflect on the fall colours

Fog on the shoreline

Freeze a waterfall

Allow the stream to flow

Staccato effects

Rain and snow that looks like rain and snow

Forms on the Lake

Step 1 Capture a wave

Find a spot that overlooks the swirling waves of the rapids use a telephoto lens of 400mm will place you in the water without getting wet A fast shutter speed will freeze the action a slow shutter speed will show motion. On the shoreline capture the water as it crashes against the rocks or as it retreats back to the water

Step 2 The designs around you

Nature is full of natural designs Like swirls of sand, Formations of ice and snow, rocky edge that form designs, plus many more spectacular images only limited by your imagination All will produce a breath taking image

Step 3 Highlight the peak Some times you need to break the rules to get that unusual image Look out for reflections And patterns found off the beaten track

Step 4 Reflect on the Fall Colour

The combination of the brilliant fall colours and a small stream is unbeatable By using a long exposure the stream will provide for a spectacular shot(s) showing reflections and movement

Step 5 Fog on the shoreline

A long exposure will change the perspective of the scene As the waves crash against the rocks a fine mist will be formed To avoid a colour swift of the natural effect bracket the shot

Step 6 Freeze a waterfall The water cascading over the rocks is a very dramatic effect since the human eye cannot stop the action the same way a camera can You will produce a completely different point of view

Step 7 Allow the stream to flow

The human mind cannot stop the movement of the water The camera is an excellent tool for Use a small lens and a exposure of $\frac{1}{4}$ will give you the perfect flow effect. A polarizing filter will take the reflection off the rocks and darken the sky Provide for a better colour saturated image, A neutral density will darken the sky while highlighting the shoreline

Step 8 The Staccattoo effect

Set the camera for multiple shots

Mount the camera on a tripod so all the shots are exactly the same

Use a photo editing software impose all the images on top of each other producing an unusual image

Step 9 Rain and snow that looks like rain and snow

Typically sends photographers indoors to wai for better weather conditions

Protect your equipment use long exposures and use a slow shutter speed thus showing the rain and snow streaking through the sky

Step 10 Forms in the lak

Some times a rock or some other object will protrude above the water surface as the water swirls around the object the reflections and splashes produce a fantastic shot

Water provides the opportunity to capture a perfect shot.

Protect your equipment from water splashes

Take extra safety precautions

Chapter 5

The best light

The best light for any nature setting is a soft light from either a cloudy day or in a forest covered canopy where both shield from the harsh sunlight which will produce unwanted shadows.

Since nature is unpredictable and you don't have any control of the lighting you need to think outside the box and use the available light to your advantage like the light shining through the forest canopy producing a spotlight effect on your subject, Use reflectors to guide the light for a crisp image.

The best time of day to do any nature photography is during the Golden hour one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset,

You don't need to travel far to capture the fantastic nature shots.

No matter where you live there are dedicated Green spaces and various nature parks in your own community Some time it may require you to get out of the city limits There may be some rock formations that lead to your imagination

Photography is meant to be fun so get out there and have fun and stay safe

Chapter 6

Keys for autumn reflections

Nature is the best Artist of all time

You want to capture all this beauty for all time. The colours of fall provide the opportunity for some fantastic shots

Light

When you come across a dazzling scene your first instinct is to capture it with your camera. This is easier said than done. The bright highlights of the scene will confuse your camera's readings. Find a neutral point and set the controls appropriately then take 3 shots one on normal mode one each 1 step down one step up.

Vantage Point

Depending on your position will determine the quality of your image. If you change the position of the camera by stepping a few feet to the right or left, get down lower to the ground walk around the subject this will give you a different perspective and you will get a fantastic shot.

Tripods

Reflections are always award winning shots but are often in an awkward spot to get the perfect shot mount the camera on a tripod, You can set the legs so that the camera is perfectly level

Warming Filters

A good warming filter is the 81 series of filters. These filters highlight the bright colours of fall.

Polarisers

The polarizing filter will saturate the colours and eliminate any extra bright spots

Shutter speeds

The fall colours provide a kaleidoscope of colours. Experiment with different shutter speeds until you find the perfect photo. Slower shutter speeds will produce a more effective view of the moving water

The drawback is the bright sky above will distort the image. This is where a neutral density filter will come in handy

Focal Point

You need a stationary object to allow your viewer's eyes to focus on the movement of the leaves around the rock, Pay attention to the different patterns of curves circles and sharp edges.

Abstracts

An abstraction is a symbol of reality They will encourage imagination and a element of mystery

The image will show distinct patterns colours and patterns

Simplicity is the best The less you include in the image the better the visual effect of the subject

Chapter 7

Visual Metaphors

Small reflections provide a symbolization of the season,

A simple leaf could imply a complete forest A collage of leaves could represent all the beauty of the nature with the blue sky

Be Childish

Some photographers establish strict rules and procedure result in the same photos

It is time to think outside the box and act like a child continue to experiment and don't forget to experiment and try new things,

In Conclusion

By allowing you mind to wander Try new things and experiment with differ filters angles and lighting situations you will get some fantastic photos

Chapter 8

Shooting in Cold Weather

figure out what it takes to shoot great photos in cold weather.

Tips on cold weather shooting.

Don't worry about damage to your camera gear in cold weather –all modern DSLRs are built to operate in a wide range of temperatures and it would have to be VERY cold before you had any serious issues.

The hardest part of winter shooting is getting motivated to brave the cold temperatures.

Dress properly – with quality outdoor clothing in layers – is the key!

Here are a few of the common challenges of shooting in cold weather and how to solve them.

Battery drain

Camera batteries lose their charge much more quickly in cold temperatures. Always carry spares and keep them tucked inside your jacket

Fogging up of gear

Bringing cold camera gear into a warm car or house will cause it to fog up – most noticeably on the front lens element. To avoid this,

- 1) Take the batteries out of the camera body and leave the gear in the vehicle so it stays cold.

- 2) Put the gear into the camera pack, zip it up and put the whole thing in a plastic bag – then bring it inside. I leave it that way for a few hours so the gear acclimatizes slowly there 'will be no sudden or direct contact with warm air to cause condensation (it will happen on the outside of the bag, which is fine).

Exposing snow

when shooting winter scenes that include a lot of bright white snow in the frame, camera bodies are often fooled into underexposing the image.

To adjust, take a meter reading with the frame full of snow and manually set the exposure 2 stops brighter or check the histogram and use the exposure compensation dial to brighten the exposure.

Chapter 9

Cold weather tips

If you spend a few hours out in the cold it is harder on you than on your camera equipment.

If you're an outdoor enthusiast you know the proper way to layer your clothing. But if you are not here is a small guide line

First put on a wickedly layer close to your body to draw the perspiration away

I The insulation layer to keep the body heat in

B a blocking layer to block out the wind and moisture

Your hands are the critical part as you need to ccess the camera controls Therefore "snowmobile mitts of gloves will not work. The best style are mitts with a finger cap aliening you to keep the body of your hand warm and exposing only the fingers as needed

Put spiked grips on the bottom of your boots for added traction and stability

Eye protection is also a must a good pair of ski goggles will work perfectly.

Your Gear

Protect your equipment from extreme colds but mostly from condensation.

Condensation happens when you go from the cold to a warm. The best way to protect your equipment is to place in inside a plastic sandwich bag and seal the bag prior to entering the warm area the condensation will then form on the outside of the .bag and not your equipment

The camera batteries are the worst culprit when it comes to the cold .The discharge more quickly in the cold – Carry an extra set and keep them warm by storing them in your coat pocket t close to your body.

A remote shutter release is a very handy tool it will allow you to keep your hands in your pocket while shooting.

A neutral density filter will allow for better control of the shutter speeds

If using a tripod isolate the metal parts with foam insulation (available at your local plumber shop)

In conclusion

Winter condition change rapidly always travel with a companion and be careful of the unknown.

Dress warm (in layers) , protect your equipment , and have some fun

Chapter 10

Winter Photography

During the winter month photographers have a tendency to stay indoors and wait for the warmer weather.

But contrary to popular believe the winter months can provide for some fantastic shots

It is not easy to capture the snow in aa blizzard but if you use the manual settings of your camera and adjust the aperture, the shutter speed, and the ISO you will get some fantastic shots, Another tool in your arsenal is the Histogram, and the white balance

The white balance can be set in two ways

use an 18% Grey card and setting the white balance accordingly

if a grey card is not available take a reading on the snow then take a reading from a dark object

Observe the histogram display the snow will be far right the tree will be far left take the average reading so the histogram in in the center

This method should produce the perfect shot

Some of the newer cameras have a snow exposure setting but it is not totally accurate as there are environmental factors that come into play A cloud free day with bright sun you need under expose by 1 to 2 f-stops

A cloudy day you will need to over expose by 1 to 2 f-stops

In conclusion

Now that you know how to set up your camera to capture the perfect winter scene get out there and get those award winning shots It will take patience practice and experimentation have fun and stay safe

Chapter 11

The Challenges of Photographing Snow

A fresh blanket of snow covering trees, fences, fields, hills, and buildings presents a beautiful array image opportunities and invites the photographer to capture its beauty while the snow is fresh and clean.

Winter sports are another favorite theme of winter photography. With the proper exposure it will preserve the beautiful and varied tones of the snow's strong reflections and extreme contrasts in both the serene winter scene and the exciting snowmobile race.

Avoid Using Automatic Setting

If an abundance of snow is present in the scene, problems are created when the camera is left to do its own exposure calculations the camera will attempt to deliver as much detail as possible. In the process of gathering the image detail, the automatic setting tends to burn out the highlights leaving your images unexposed and lusterless. Your beautiful snow will become a dull and uninviting gray.

Use the Histogram Readout

White balance is extremely important for quality results with winter photography. Line up the image you plan to take and look at the histogram setting. The dark pixels in your image are displayed on the left side of your histogram readout, while the lighter pixels are displayed on the right. When shooting snow images without any other major elements, you want the majority of pixels to appear on the right side of the histogram to avoid an unpleasant and dull gray appearance. When there are other elements in your image, observe your histogram carefully to avoid either over or under exposing your image.

Shutter Speed

The bright conditions allows you to use a fast shutter speed, proving an excellent opportunity to capture winter action shots. Skiing and other winter sports full of movement and action.

Take advantage of the sunny conditions to take lots of snow sport images,

If a snow shower happens it will add a new dimension to your winter images.

A shutter speed of 1/200 of a second makes it easier to get really good snowflake action.

The flakes will appear solid and you can freeze the action with very little blur. A shutter speed of 1/600 of a second will cause the snow to be more linear and streaked with a modest blur. If it's a windy day, each of these examples will change slightly as the wind will dictate how the snow falls.

Focusing on your subject in the background, and the snow falling in the foreground, is a great way to shoot action shots that result in blurred snow all around your subject

Chapter 12

Point Of View

How you handle your point of view can make the difference between a “snapshot” image and an image that everyone raves about.

Shoot a snowball fight and have someone toss a snowball at you just as you hit the shutter. Be sure to get your camera out of the way quickly.

Try shooting up at some subjects and shoot down on others.

Action shots can be angled for an imaginative look

Chapter 13

Bio

My name is David Wright.

I have many years experience writing procedures on how to test high tech electronic equipment. Re wrote technical manuals so that the average person could understand them.

Set up numerous training programs to train Junior techs.

My documenting skills are excellent paying attention to details satisfying the toughest ISO auditors.

I have enhanced my writing skills by successfully completing a course in Writing for Children's literature.

Completed course from AWAI in Copy writing service ,B2B copy writing, Seo management , Email marketing and web design

This has helped me write how to articles and Information Books that you will find on my website Discount E Books <http://www.discount-ebook-s.com/>

I have had a Camera in my Hand since 1965 Gone pro In 1999

Took the course from ICS in Photography

I am now at a point in life I would like to share my knowledge with the world and the best way I know how is by Print either electronically or Hard copy paper.

David Wright

Electronic service technician

Professional Photographer

Experience writer

Chapter 14

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