



Notes of the presentation by Philip Sun, June 1, 2010

- 1) Be aware of light and shadow
 - a) Look for a lighted subject with a dark background
 - b) Watch out for over/under exposure of the light/dark areas
 - c) For high contrast shots, use a meter and expose for the high-lights, and then correct the shadows in post-processing.
 - d) Or, take 2 shots (one for the highlights and one for the shadows) and combine in post-processing using layers and layer masks.
- 2) Look for colour contrasts as such images have more impact
 - a) Compose to present contrasting and complimentary colours
 - b) Later suggestion – get a colour wheel and take it with you
- 3) Shooting in the harsh light of noon/mid-day generally not recommended. But don't give up – look for lighted subjects against a dark shadowy background.
- 4) Evening is the best time for landscapes
 - a) The period 15-30 mins after the sun sets is also good as the sun still lights the sky.
 - b) Always include foreground features to add depth.
- 5) The optimum aperture for most lenses is f8 – but up to f11 also good.
 - a) But landscapes usually need more depth of field so use f22.
 - b) The longer the lens, the shallower the depth of field
 - c) Portraits are often shot at f5.6 to achieve a narrow depth of field
- 6) When shooting a dark subject with a strong backlight, often an exposure compensation of +2 stops is adequate.

Natural photo elements

- 1) Mist and fog. Works well with a dark background or backlighting.
- 2) Clouds. Be careful not to blow out highlights
- 3) Sand and snow. Look for patterns, expose for texture and to get a white colour
- 4) Stormy weather. Go out if it is safe. Check the weather forecast
- 5) Overcast. Often good shooting conditions. No harsh shadows and good colour rendition.
- 6) Rain. Produces saturated colour. Good time to shoot flowers. Expose for their light colour and the water droplets