

## **Creative Outdoor Photography Workshop by Michael DeYoung**

I'd like to welcome all of you to my second ASONP workshop on creative outdoor photography. I look forward to meeting everyone and to an exciting and intense workshop at the Motherlode Lodge and Hatcher Pass.

Though we will cover some photographic techniques this is not a "how to use your camera" workshop but rather a "how to see as a photographer" workshop. Lighting is the language of photography and our primary focus will be on creative lighting techniques, using both natural and artificial light and how it determines the look and feel of our images. We will learn how to see more creatively as photographers and view our world with a better understanding of creating more visual impact with lighting, design and composition, and perspective. Some of the things we will cover include, working with natural and artificial light sources, creative use of filters, selective lighting and focus techniques, elements of design, creating depth and a sense of place and the art of simplifying composition and emphasizing your subject. We will practice these techniques on landscape, close up, portrait, and action/motion subjects. The workshop format will consist of classroom lecture, field demonstration of techniques, participant assignments, and group image sharing and critique. This workshop will be geared toward using digital cameras. We will go over how to get the best image quality from your digital camera and time permitting, touch on digital workflow and post processing.

Like many of you, I also take workshops to improve my photographic skills and vision. In fact I attended 3 this year. I firmly believe in a big way what you get out of a workshop depends on what you put into it. I am here for you and to pass on as much knowledge as I can. One of the great things about the workshop environment is the ability to interact and share ideas with your fellow workshop participants and you will most likely learn things from each other. I know this differs from the normal shooting mode of most nature photographers which is usually alone. So please come with an open mind, a willingness to try new things, share ideas and work with others.

**I encourage participants to bring 5 images to share with the group.** They could be some of your favorite images, shots of subject matter or technique you want to improve on, or other's images that show the direction you want to go. Plan to come to the workshop well rested and de-stressed. If the weather is average, we will most likely get little sleep. If the weather is really nice, we'll need lots of help from Dr. Caffeine. But it will be fun and rewarding. I look forward to spending a great weekend of fun, learning and photography. See you there.

All the best,  
Michael DeYoung  
DeYoung Outdoor Photography

Below is an attachment of suggested gear for the workshop and what to know about camera operation prior to attending.

Great photography is often the art of simplification. That can start with camera operation. As a minimum, come to the workshop knowing how to do the following operations with your camera: shoot in RAW format, change white balance, set metering to evaluative, matrix or multi zone mode, use full manual and aperture priority exposure modes (I better not catch anyone in my workshop using full program mode!), how to do exposure compensation, and how to set your focus mode to Servo or focus tracking. That's it! For 90% of my work I use manual or aperture priority, manual focus or Servo focus. If your camera has the ability to do mirror lock up and a depth of field preview, learn how to operate those too.

Also, you should have a basic knowledge of how to download images to a laptop or portable drive/viewer. When you are beyond the basics, practice adjusting all of your exposure, focus and zoom controls accurately and fluidly without ever having to take your eye from the viewfinder. For example if you are focused at a subject 40 feet away and want to refocus to 15 feet, (without using AF and recomposing) you should instantly know which way to turn your focus ring (left or right, clockwise or counterclockwise, depending on how your brain works) to achieve closer focus. Same with exposure and focus selection point controls. Again, learning to do all of these things accurately and quickly without ever taking your eye from the viewfinder frees you to concentrate on creativity not to mention increasing your odds of nailing a fleeting moment.

Here is a recommended list of equipment: Digital SLR camera body, a wide angle zoom lens with least 24mm (35mm equivalent), a portrait length zoom lens that gives you a 100-200mm (35mm equivalent) range, at least one portable strobe and a way to fire it off camera, and a sturdy tripod. A graduated neutral density filter and polarizer would be a plus but not required. I also recommend that everyone have a small (at least 20" when expanded) reflector. These are inexpensive, lightweight and are a tool that will last many years if taken care of. My favorite is the Photoflex Multi Disc 5 in 1 which gives you 4 reflector colors, and a translucent (scrim) which is great for portrait and macro work. Don't forget extra batteries for camera and strobe as well as a few Compact Flash or Secure Digital Cards. Try to keep your gear light and in a comfortable bag or pack. This will let us remain light on our feet and mobile. I want all of us to focus on our technique and creativity and not burdened by heavy and cumbersome gear loads.