Jefferson County Photography Club
Minutes
July 11, 2023

Attendance: John Kracke, Doug Allmond Alice Newton, Ellen Hardesty and guest Darcy Moore

Financial Report: $1,053.02

Mary Jo Bennett had 2 floral photographs purchased by Inova Loudoun Hospital for permanent display in their birthing wing.

A new multifaceted business in Charles Town called Corner Connection has a photography and videography studio that includes staging, backdrops, lighting, etc. Rent is $45 an hour or $145 daily. Website is: www.cornerconnection.com.

John Kracke and Mary Jo Bennett took photos the West Virginia Fest. John posted photos on our public web site and got some very positive feedback. John and Mike Keefe took photos at the Shepherdstown Street Fest. John also took photos of the Shepherds Town Fourth of July activities.

Senator Patricia Rucker asked to use an image that John Kracke had taken at the Shepherds Town July 4th Parade.

On August 19 at noon, the Club has been asked to take photos of the African American Cultural and Heritage Parade. On the 18th they are having a Gospel Festival at the Wright Denny auditorium. This might be a challenge for lighting. Alice Newton, Darcy Moore, John Kracke and Mary Jo have volunteered to take photos. **All members are invited to participate.**
Alice Newton brought up a question about how our images can be used. Perhaps a letter of intent on how our street photography images can be used.

The sunflowers at the McKee-Beshers Wildlife Center in Poolsville are blooming. Take your camera and enjoy what the Center has to offer.

Photo Opportunities:
August 19, September 19 and October 7 – Walkersville Southern Railroad Robberies 11am – 2pm
August 20 -26 – Jefferson County Fair
August 25- 26 – 100th Anniversary Martinsburg Air Show
June – August - Summer Lego exhibit – Museum of the Shenandoah. Wednesdays are free
Farmers Market – Charles Town every Saturday
Doug Allmond is still working on a photo shoot at Summit Point.

This month's challenge was PUDDLES
Mary Jo Bennett, Alice Newton, Doug Allmond, John Kracke and Ellen Hardesty had some very interesting puddle photos.

August Challenge: Macro

What is or constitute a Macro in Photography? The below was taken from this article:
https://photographylife.com/macro-photography-tutorial

Macro photography is close-up photography of small subjects, including things like bugs and flowers. You can take macro pictures in a studio or outdoor environment so long as you are magnifying your subject sufficiently.

Officially, you may hear that macro photography only happens when you take pictures of small subjects with a magnification of "life size" or greater. I will cover more about the meaning of *magnification* and *life-size* in a moment, but essentially it means that you must take pictures where your subject is the same size as your camera sensor or smaller, and it fills the frame. (So, if your camera sensor is one inch wide, you would be photographing something 1 inch or smaller.)

That is a very strict definition, and frequently you will hear photographers call an image "macro" even when it shows a slightly larger subject. The same is true of the photos in this article, many of which do not fit this technical definition, but they are close-up photographs nevertheless.


NIKON D7000 + 105mm f/2.8 @ 105mm, ISO 800, 1/250, f/22.0

Introducing Macro Photography for Beginners

How do you take macro photos? Here are the most important steps:

- Understand macro photography terminology.
- Pick the right camera and lens equipment.
- Get enough depth of field.
- Pick camera and flash settings for a well-lit photo.
- Focus on the most important part of your subject.
- Learn the common behaviors of various insects.
- Compose and take your picture.

Some of these are harder to do than you might think, such as getting enough depth of field and focusing on the most important part of your subject. However, the tips in the rest of this macro

photography tutorial will give you a good idea of where to begin, and you should be able to master everything with a bit of practice.

NIKON D7000 + 105mm f/2.8 @ 105mm, ISO 100, 13/10, f/5.6

What Is Magnification?

In macro photography, it is important to know how large or small your subject appears on your camera sensor. Comparing this number versus your subject's size in the real world gives you a value known as your *magnification*.

If that ratio is simply one-to-one, your subject is said to be at "life size" magnification. For example, if you're photographing something that is one centimeter in length, and it is projected exactly one centimeter onto your camera sensor, it is at life size (regardless of the size of your camera sensor).

Typical sensors in DSLRs and mirrorless cameras range from about about 17 millimeters to 36 millimeters across. So, a 1 cm subject is pretty big by comparison, taking up a significant portion of your photo. If you end up making a large print, that tiny object will appear huge – potentially billboard sized!

To make things easier to understand and compare, macro photographers use an actual ratio rather than always saying "life size" or "half life size." Specifically, life size is 1:1 magnification. Half life size is 1:2 magnification. Once you get to about one-tenth of life size, you arguably are not doing close-up or macro photography any more.

Good macro lenses let you shoot at 1:1 magnification, and some specialized options do even more than that. (Canon has a macro photography lens that goes all the way to 5:1, or 5x magnification, which is insane!) However, other lenses on the market called "macro" may only go to 1:2 magnification or even less. Personally, my recommendation is to get a lens that can go to at least 1:2 magnification, and ideally 1:1 magnification, if you want as much flexibility as possible.

NIKON D7000 + 105mm f/2.8 @ 105mm, ISO 450, 1/400, f/4.0

What Is Working Distance?

Working distance is easy: It's the distance between the front of your lens and your nearest subject. If your working distance is too small, you might end up scaring your subject or blocking the light simply because you are too close. Ideally, you will want a working distance of six inches (15 centimeters), with the best case scenario being twice that or more.

The working distance of a lens is smallest at 1:1 magnification, since you obviously must be as close as possible to your subject to capture such extreme photos. Also, lenses with a longer focal length have more working distance than lenses with a more moderate focal length. For example, the Nikon 200mm f/4 and the Canon 180mm f/3.5 are two examples of macro photography lenses with large working distances. By comparison, the Nikon 60mm f/2.8 macro lens has much less working distance.

It is always best to look for a lens with the largest possible working distance so that you are less likely to scare your subject or cast a shadow on it. However, macro lenses with a longer focal length like 180mm or 200mm are generally more expensive. If you want to balance price and working distance, consider a lens in the range of 100mm to 150mm. Personally, I use a 105mm macro lens.

NIKON D7000 + 105mm f/2.8 @ 105mm, ISO 1250, 1/160, f/16.0

NIKON D800E + 105mm f/2.8 @ 105mm, ISO 100, 1/250, f/8.0

NIKON D800E + 105mm f/2.8 @ 105mm, ISO 100, 1/4000, f/3.2

NIKON D7000 + 105mm f/2.8 @ 105mm, ISO 800, 1/250, f/14.0