

Enthusiasm! Do You Have It?

Enthusiasm is your most important tool. With enthusiasm you will try the techniques you learn in class. Information that is not used is soon forgotten. You must practice the things you want to learn in order to retain the knowledge. Think about the pictures you take and about how the techniques you learn apply to your pictures.

Take your camera with you when you leave the house . You can find interesting images in your own back yard, at the market, in the park, along the road...anywhere you look for them, but you have to be looking. Don't go straight home if the evening sky promises a great sunset- Go find a spot to shoot pictures of it. If you hear of an event where there will be photo ops, go to it and shoot some pictures.

Try out a technique that other photographers use, but try to add a personal wrinkle to it. Taking a class will not make you a better photographer; only taking pictures will do that. If you like to shoot scenics, force yourself to try portraits or macro images. Try some informal portraits or environmental portraits and work your way into formal portraits. Stretch out and try new things. Get a little outside your comfort zone. Have fun while you learn and improve.

Ask yourself

Would you

- Get up early in the morning to take a picture?
- Stay up late to take a picture?
- Go out in the rain or fog to take a picture?
- Go out in the cold to take a picture?

Do you

- Take your camera everywhere you go?
- Experiment with shutter and aperture changes?
- Try special effects?
- Use creative filters?
- Own specialized lenses?
- Shoot different angles or unusual points of view?
- Try interesting lighting effects?
- Work with shadow interplay?
- Photograph reflections?

If so, you are an enthusiastic photographer.