

JUNE 2015 POST SCRIPT FOR DIGITAL SIG:
Vicki Wassenhove – Quad-Cities Computer Society

- Check out the current RiverCity Reader on the newsstands or this link to their photography contest winners online. <http://www.rcreader.com/art/2015-photo-contest-winners/>
- The Bishop Hill Arts Council is sponsoring a new photography competition and invites you to participate. Entries due in early October, 2015.
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Y0bez5P7vQZV5bLwA-55D89OvBoIyOsNSIyASPILCB4/edit>
- APCUG Photography Contest Entries open July 1st. Awards will be given at the conference in Las Vegas, September 25 - 27. <http://apcug2.org/apcug-2015-las-vegas-conference/>
- IA State Fair Photography Contest: Too late to enter this year! The 2015 Award Ceremony and opening is August 9th. Think about entering next year. www.iowastatefair.org/premiumbooks
- Some suggestions for sharper photographs from Vicki:
 - Hold the camera properly. Check stance and foot position.
 - Steady yourself or the camera on something as a brace...a tree, fence, wall, etc.
 - Squeeze, don't STAB the shutter.
 - Shutter speed. Test your hand-held shot sharpness. How slow can you go and get acceptable shots? Shoot between heartbeats!
 - Use single point focus. Aim for the eyes in people and animals!
 - Shoot at ISO 400 or lower for best quality, but if necessary, a little "noise" is better than a lack of sharpness.
 - Pan with the motion... cars, sports, etc.
 - Tripod with shutter release cord, remote control or delayed shutter. Remember wind factor!
 - Flash is OK if bounced or diffused to lessen the shadows.
 - Learn to post-process!
 - Even if your photos look good, it is still advisable to do additional sharpening during the post-processing.
 - Use Picasa sharpening or use "unsharp mask" and sharpening brush in other photo editors.
 - Sharpen at 100% and watch that you do not over do it or tell-tale artifacts begin to appear.
- Tack-sharp photo article:
<http://digital-photography-school.com/advanced-tips-for-tack-sharp-images/>
- Further study for you individually on how to sharpen your photos (If enough people were interested, we could cover these topics in a SIG):
 - ISO
 - Depth-of-field considerations
 - Back-button focus
 - AI Servo vs. AI Focus vs. One shot
- Simplistic ISO chart: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/237213105346235800/>
- ISO information: <http://www.digitaltrends.com/photography/what-is-iso-camera-settings-explained/>

- My usual technique for photo editing in Picasa:
 - Crop/Straighten (tab #1)
 - Sharpen (tab 3)
 - Highlights & Shadows (tab 2) (It's usually better than auto-contrast or I feel lucky buttons.)

I might also try some of the other tools, depending on needs for the individual photo or intended use...

- Saturation or Boost (tab 3 or 5)
 - Vignette (easy does it) or graduated tint (3 or 5)
 - Border (tab 5) + caption height for larger bottom margin.
 - Text (tab 1)
 - My final step is always to "Export" to a folder in the size I want to use or email. You can only indicate the longest dimension wanted. Quality set at 90-100%.
- Suggestions for July DIG SIG:
 - Reviews on Free Digital Photography Schools available on line JoAnn, Darlene, Jim, Sharon,
 - 101 Topics? Camera Basics? Settings?
 - Transferring your photos from the camera to the computer?
 - Backing up your photos? Cloud Storage? Web albums?
 - Picasa Editing?
 - Picasa Collages?
 - Resizing photos for Email, contests, Facebook?