

Posey Pix

An impromptu discussion for a stormy evening. Don't expect much. This was done after the weather forecast!

These are some suggestions Jerry has for taking pictures of flowers. However, the most of the principle themes apply whether you are taking pictures of flowers, animals, people or any other subjects that interest you.

1. Decide what you want to show. If your subject is to be the rose in your garden, try to make it the center of interest. Usually, get as close as your camera can focus. Sometimes an auxiliary lens even helps here.
2. Look for simple backgrounds--plain sky, solid vegetation, a large piece of poster board, etc.
3. If you can, set your camera to use the available light. Being close may produce a very washed out photo if the flash fires.
4. If your camera is adjustable, usually use a large lens opening (and faster shutter speed). It may be an advantage or a disadvantage, but remember that the larger the lens opening, the less the depth of field. This helps to isolate the subject (like in #1 above). Being close and reducing depth of field helps to isolate your subject, but obviously less of the potential picture will be well focused.

5. Support your subject if the wind is blowing. Photo shops and on-line equipment or printing services offer small clips with a rigid rod or cable that attach to the flower and to a second more solid object and support or stabilize your subject. Of course, you must be attentive that the clip and support do not show.
6. Get a fine mist spray bottle. Many flowers look much better if you slightly mist them for their portrait.
7. Look for the "surprise!" A bumble bee adds fantastically sometimes. (They also sting sometimes!)
8. **BREAK THESE RULES!** As in any other activity that allows your creativity to work, do not use any suggestion as a hard, fast rule. The most outstanding picture will almost always be the one that was taken breaking the rules.