

# Camera Workshop

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February 7, 2012

West Linn Public Library

# What We'll Cover



- Camera comparisons
- Basic camera functions
- Special features
- Getting pictures off the camera
- Photography tips
- Photo editing

# Smartphone cameras are best for...



- Everyday snapshots
- Quick shots of your friends and family
- Easily/quickly sharing photos with others



# Point-and-shoot cameras are best for...



- A tight budget
- Vacation photos
- The portability of a smartphone, but with more control over settings



# SLR cameras are best for...



- High-quality photos
- Having the most control over settings
- Photos you want to print and frame
- Low light





# Camera Functions

# Autofocus



- Autofocus allows your camera to focus on a specific object so that it appears in-focus in your photo.



Autofocus



Incorrect Manual Focus

# Zooming



- The zoom feature tells your camera to zoom in on the subject. If given the choice, always choose optical zoom instead of digital zoom.



# White Balance



- The white balance setting tells your camera what lighting conditions you're in.



Sunny WB



Fluorescent WB

# ISO



- The ISO setting is adjusted according to how much or how little light you have. The less light you have, the higher the ISO should be.



Lots of available light: ISO 100



Very low light: ISO 800

# Camera presets



- Some cameras come with preset modes you can choose from, such as landscape, portrait, macro, sports, and night.



# Shutter Speed



- Shutter speed refers to the length of time your shutter is open.
- Sunny day: faster shutter speed
- Overcast day in the forest: slower shutter speed



Lots of available light: 1/250 sec.



Very low light: 1/8 sec



## Aperture (f-stop)

- The aperture setting dictates the amount of light getting through to the sensor.
- Aperture is like your eye's pupils: the more light there is, the smaller the pupil. The less light there is, the larger the pupil.



# Special Features

# Flash

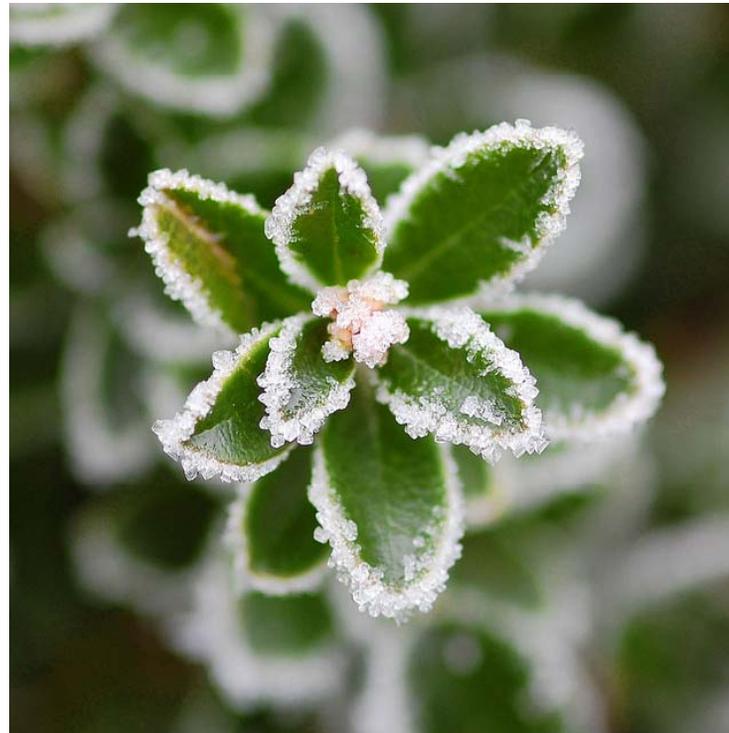


- Flash is great in dark conditions, but it washes out faces and should be used sparingly.
- There are accessories you can get to diffuse or bounce the light from a flash.

# Macro



- Macro allow you to get close-up detailed images. It is great for flowers and smaller subjects.



# B&W



- Most cameras allow you to switch to B&W mode, which gives you monochrome images. Some cameras also have a mode for the old-time sepia look.





# Getting Photos off the Camera

# USB Cord



- Hook your camera to your computer and transfer images. Not recommended.



# Card Reader



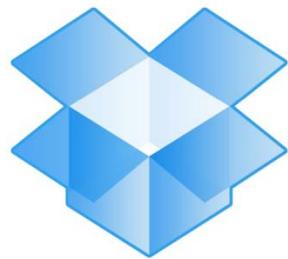
- Put the camera's memory card into the card reader, connect it to your computer, and transfer the images. Preferred method.





## Smartphone app

- You can use any number of apps to transfer photos from your phone to your computer or a photo sharing website like flickr.
- I use Dropbox, which is free.



# Dropbox



# Photography Tips

# Hold the camera steady



Unsteady



Steady

# Watch your light

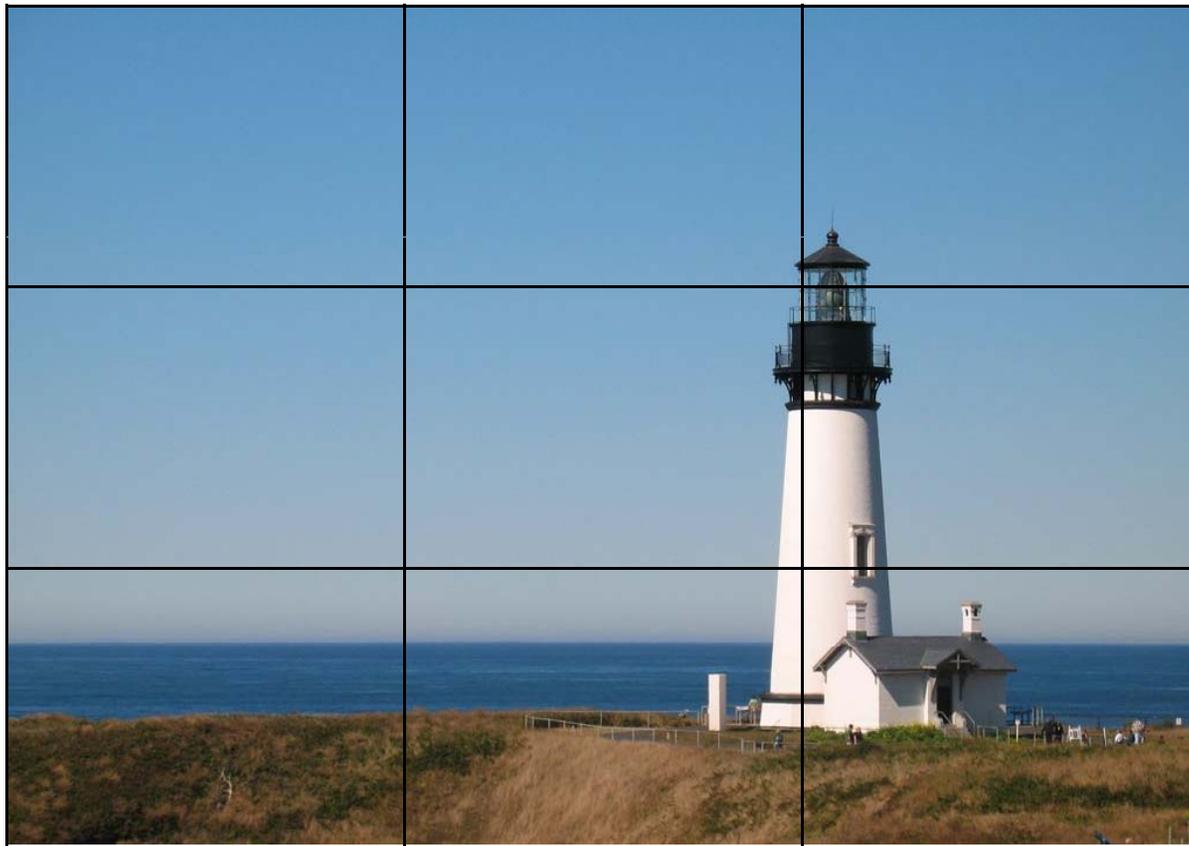


Sun behind the photographer

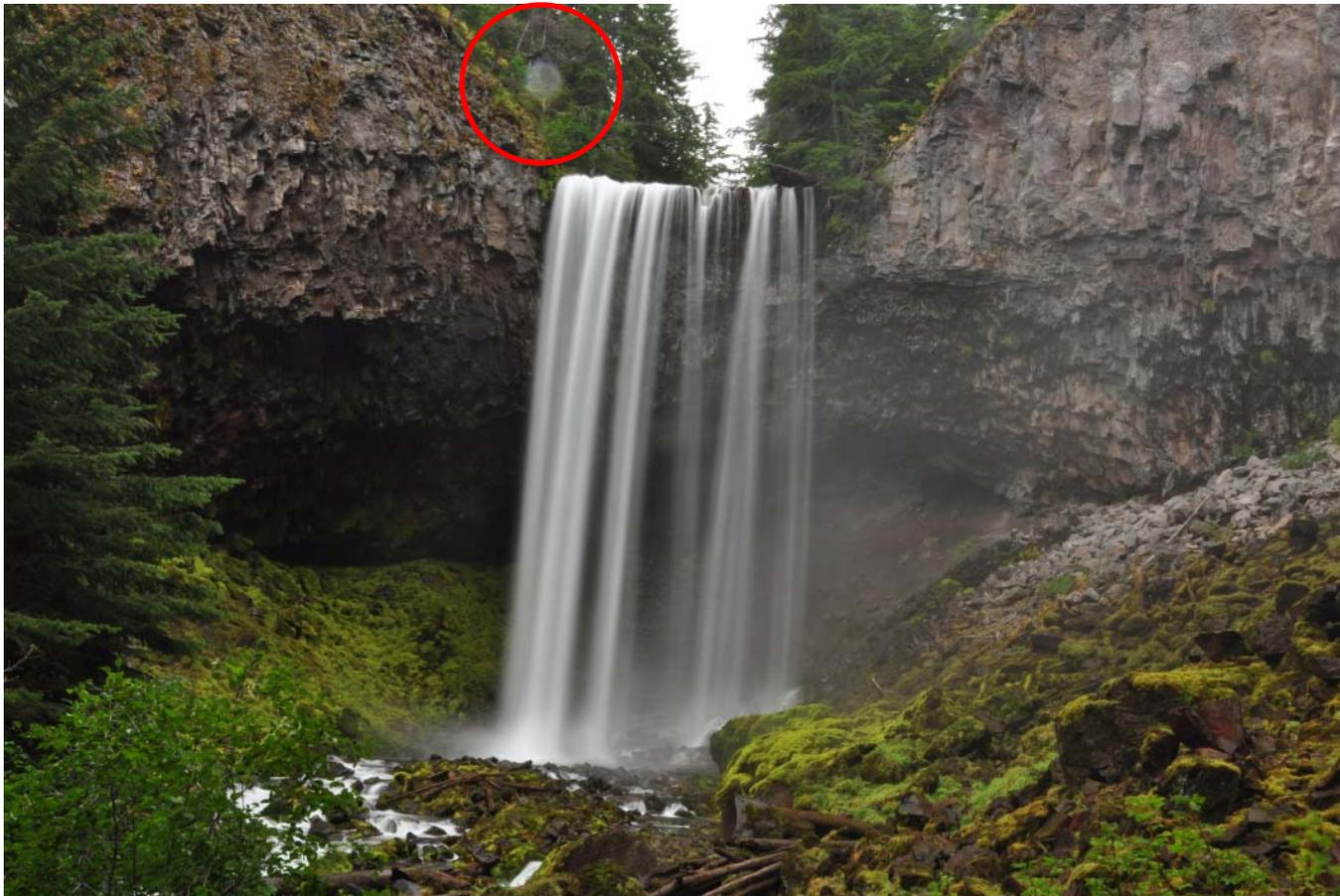


Sun behind the subject

# Rule of Thirds



# Keep your lens clean



# Don't be afraid to reposition yourself



# Watch for background clutter





# Image Editing

# On Your Computer



## FREE

- Picasa
- Paint.NET
- Photoscape
- Snipshot
- Photoshop.com
- Aviary

## NOT FREE

- Aperture (\$79)
- ACDSee (\$79-\$239)
- Photoshop Elements (\$99)
- Corel PaintShop Pro (\$99)
- Lightroom (\$299)
- Photoshop (\$699)

# On Your Smartphone



- Some apps are for taking pictures.
- Some apps are for editing pictures you've already taken.
- Some apps do both.

# Smartphone Apps



- Instagram
- Camera+
- HipstaMatic
- CameraBag
- CameraZoom FX
- PicSay
- Photoshop Express
- Picplz