

Basic Digital Photography for Fly Fishers

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Before buying a camera, decide what is most important to you



Digicams

- Small and inexpensive
- Zoom lenses
- Also offer very good video capability



What to look for in a digicam

- Optical image stabilization
- 6 megapixels or better
- At least 3X zoom (most have it)
- Optical zoom during video filming
- Image quality of waterproof cameras is not great—yet. But OK for snapshots
- Get a waterproof housing!

How to use a digicam

- Set program button to P (Program), A (Aperture preferred), or S (Shutter preferred) and leave it there. Don't use the automatic setting.
- Turn off digital zoom
- Turn off ISO shift
- Set sharpness and saturation to +1
- Turn on image stabilization

D-SLR

- They are fast
- Bigger sensor = higher image quality even for the same number of megapixels
- Ability to switch lenses
- Bigger and better flash



DSLR

- Much more control
- Higher ISOs, RAW files
- Manual focus
- Optical viewfinder
- They make you look cool



Tech stuff you should understand

- F-stop. The aperture that lets in light
- Shutter speed. How long the shutter stays open
- The relationship between the above 2 determine your depth-of-field, how much action you can freeze, and how steady you need to hold your camera

Tech terms: f-stop

- The bigger the number the smaller the opening and the greater the depth of field
- The smaller the number the less depth of field but the faster shutter speed you can get
- Most lenses are sharpest at f8 to f16

Use DOF to get the shot you want



Tech terms: depth-of-field

- For practical purposes, it's easier to manage depth of field through use of wide and telephoto lenses
- DOF is very shallow with macro shots, shallow with telephoto shots, and widest with wide angle lenses

Wide angle



Telephoto



Wide angle, with great depth of field, is what we want for most of our shots



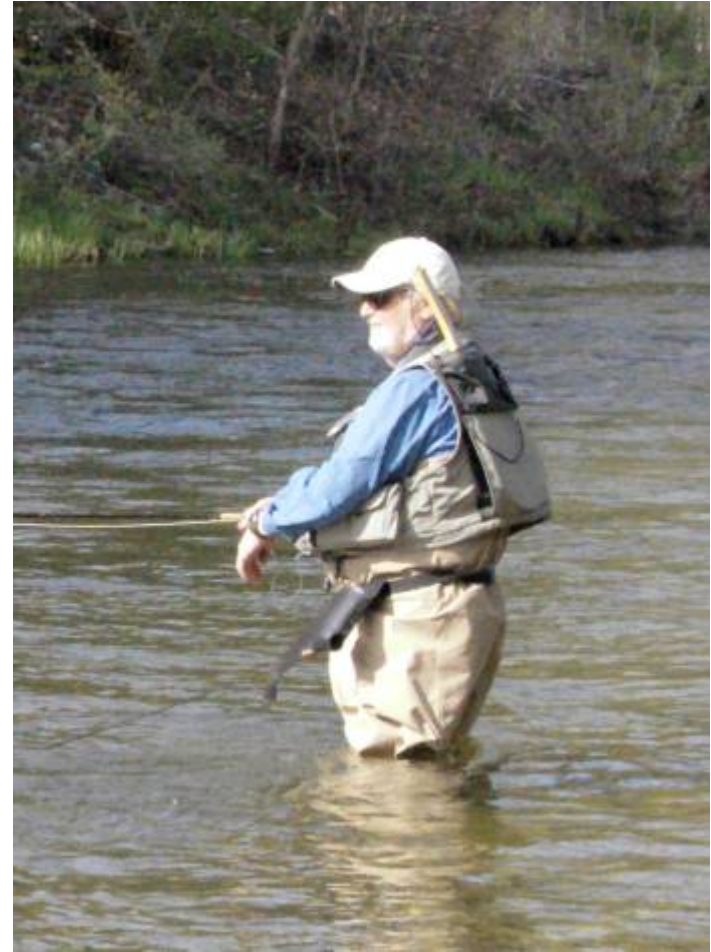
Tech terms: ISO

- The higher the ISO, the faster the shutter speed.
- With high ISO 800+ you can shoot in candle light or early morning
- Native ISO on most cameras is 100-200
- Higher ISOs give you more noise (grain), especially in digicams

ISO 200 vs. 1600



200 vs. 1600 crops



The megapixel hoax

- All you need is 6
- But 6 good ones
- Not all megapixels are created equal

What good megapixels give you



Tech terms: shutter speed

- The biggest reason for fuzzy shots used to be camera shake
- With image stabilization, the old rule of shutter speed=lens is not as important
- Fly lines are best shot at $1/250^{\text{th}}$.
- Birds and insects best at $1/500^{\text{th}}$.
- Freeze moving water at less than $\frac{1}{4}$ second
- Invest in a tripod

What kind of lens should I buy?

- Prime or zoom?
- Wide angle, normal, telephoto?
- Are expensive lenses worth it?

Macro



You can't _____ and take great pictures

- If you fish or ski or kayak and take photos, you'll get snapshots
- For the best photos, leave the rod at home, take snowshoes, or stay out of the boat
- Devote an entire day to photography and you'll be amazed at the result



Learn your client's camera at the boat ramp

- On/off button
- Zoom button
- Flash button (flash off, flash auto, force flash)

Put some action in your photos

- People laughing
- Loading a boat or helicopter
- Jumping out of a boat
- Running downriver to chase a fish
- You have to get ready for these shots and be set up to catch the moment



Get the shot now, don't depend on the software

- No amount of tweaking can compare to dramatic morning or evening light
- You can't make a soft image too much sharper
- Color casts and cropping are the easiest to fix

Midday vs. morning light



Plan your shots first, especially releasing fish photos



Take LOTS of shots

- They're free
- Memory cards are cheap as dirt
- Then edit heavily and quickly

What are all those buttons for and do I need them?

- Outdoor photographers like buttons rather than menus
- Zoom button
- Delete button
- ISO button
- Exposure compensation button
- Macro button
- Fill flash button and flash compensation

You can do things with a RAW image you can't do with a jpeg



Sharpness

- Under sharpen for screens
- Over sharpen for prints
- It won't cure a bad shot, will only make it jaggier

Sharpened for web and print



Cropping and the Rule of Thirds

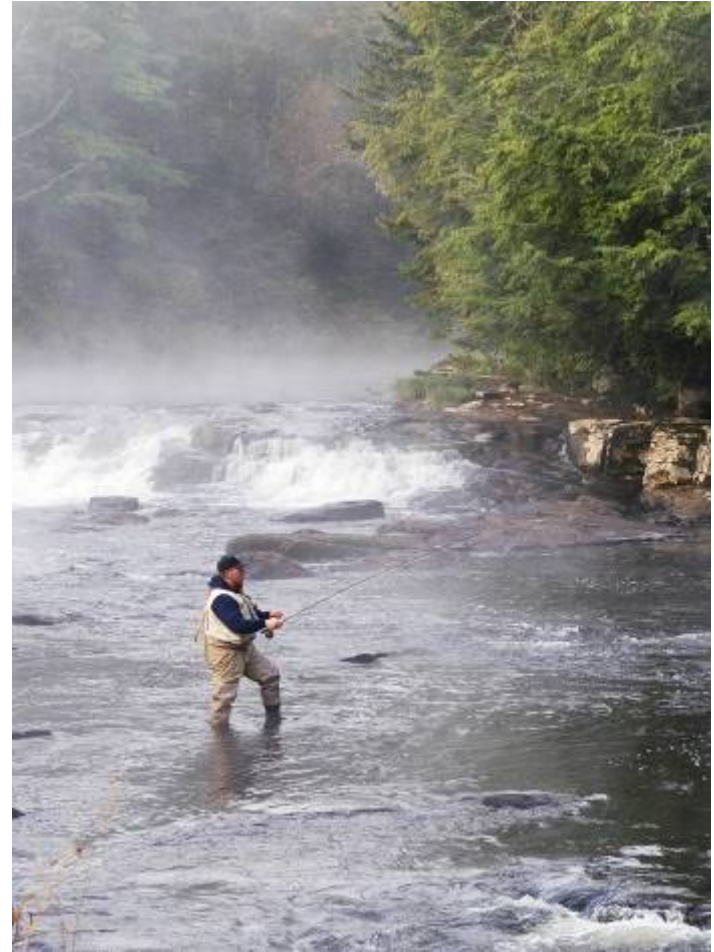


Image editing programs

- Picasa from Google (free)
- Adobe Elements (free with some cameras and scanners)
- Camera software (free, sorta)
- Photoshop Lightroom (\$300)
- Photoshop CS3 (\$500)

E-mailing photos to clients

- Size them down—not everyone has quick downloads
- Windows and Picasa do this automatically
- You can also post galleries on free photo sharing sites like Flickr or Picasa Web Gallery

Presenting Your Images

- Free web galleries (Picasa, Snapfish, Flickr, Photobucket)
- Slide shows directly on your TV or Power Point, Lightroom, Windows Media Player
- Don't be a father-in-law. Edit heavily

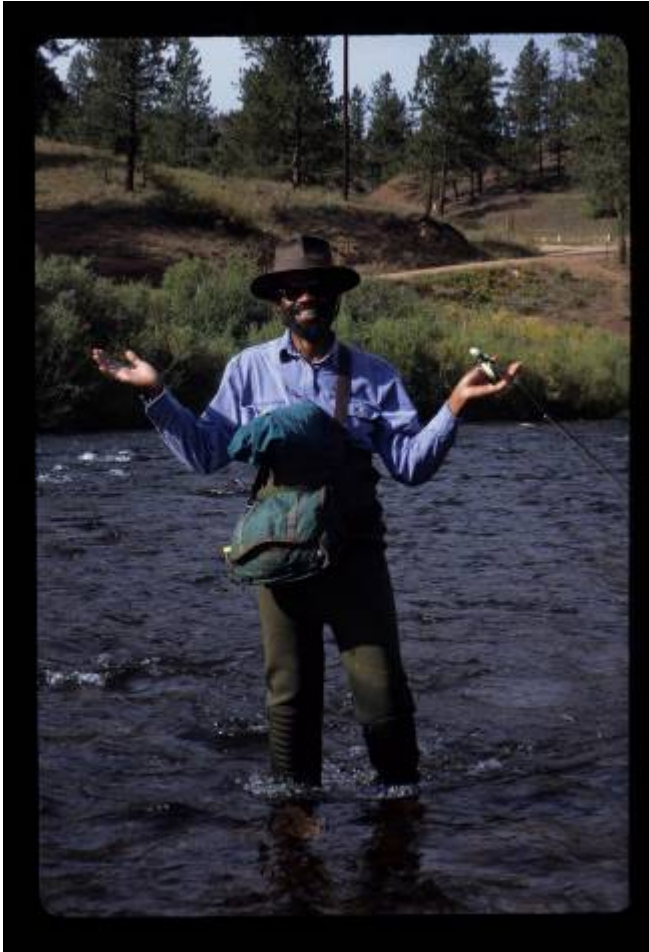
Tips for making a slide show

- Start with a bang—shocker slide or something humorous
- Make it logical—it's as hard to edit a good presentation as it is to edit a book chapter
- Always know what slide is up next
- Add drama
- For eye relief, use a mix of wide angle, normal, telephoto, macro, and ultra wide if you have the lenses.

Don't just show big fish



Use reaction shots



Use offbeat stuff



You can make a shot look old with
a single click of your mouse



And don't always end on a cliché!





Rest and to
the memory of
PHINEAS SHELDON
who died Nov. 2
1815 in the 67
year of his age

DIED
JUNE 10. 1811
FLEANOR. wife of
PHINEAS SHELDON
In the 65th year
of her
age









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