

Autumn's Color

A presentation by V Padesky to Peoria Camera Club on Oct 20, 2020 – the year of Covid-19

My first evolutionary leap in photography when I saw Rod Planck at one of our early seminars with one speaker. I based this on his fall color tips on the Nikon website.

Explore

Look for the signs of Fall around us-walk, hike, bike, drive. Explore the woodlands, watch for the golden hour, intense Fall sunsets, the blue of twilight. ABSTRACTS: keep our president's special theme in mind. We can't all travel to the UP or new England, but we can look around where we are.

Quality of Light

Bright midday sun, works for scenic with big blue skies. Use a Polarizer. Grand View Drive is great for full sun or interesting clouds.

The golden light early and late in the day can be magnificent.

Bright Grey skies, include minimal to no sky. Both can have great colors.

Dull grey skies have dull, flat colors, harder to get nice images. Go for details.

Exposure

Matrix or evaluative metering. Often, great depth of field for landscapes f8 – 16 or 22. On grey days, consider increasing the ISO for more light rather than losing DoF by opening up the Fstop.

WHITE BALANCE. If the colors don't seem right, try setting the WB to Daylight. This can also work for sunsets. Someone else will have to say if this works for sunrises.

Vantage point

High vantage point to get above the color can be good. **Point of View** – high, low, up, down.

Look down at your feet. Lots of compositions of fall leaves there. Odd numbers tend to be more pleasing.

Lenses

Try wide. A caution: polarizers have uneven effects with a wide angle, so pay attention to when that happens.

Try long to compress, even 200mm and 300mm.

Macro for the details

Fog, Mist and raindrops – All things water

Last year we had the overlap of fall color and snow.

Soften and mute colors, and add mood, atmosphere, mystery. I want to add dew drops and rain drops.

After a rain if it starts to brighten (not full sun!) the saturation can be beautiful. Look for Reflections, contrast, long exposure texture.

Color contrasts Look for color harmonies and contrasts

Compose I look for backlit leaves, color contrasts (yellows/blues, reds/greens). Reflections, leading lines, choose lens that gets the angle of view you want.

Subtleties (not in program)

Mushrooms, milkweed seeds

Tools

Apps like PhotoPills, The Photographer's Ephemeris, or PlanIt to see the paths of the sun and moon, sunrise, sunset times and many planning and photo tools.

Polarizing Filter - turn it and watch the effect of reducing glare and making colors vivid.

Tripod - Best to use a tripod if you have it. Then you aren't limited to handheld shutter speeds.

Enjoy the moment. Getting the shot is secondary.

Resources I used and Links

Primary source for program: <https://www.nikonusa.com/en/learn-and-explore/a/tips-and-techniques/10-tips-for-shooting-autumn-foliage.html>

Secondary Source - Canon's Fall Foliage tips: [Click here](#)

<https://www.digitaltrends.com/photography/leaf-peeping-how-to-take-fall-pictures/>

Good Resource for Fall in Illinois on Enjoy Illinois website: [click here](#)

Fall color maps: <https://www.foliagenetwork.com/>

OUTING

Saturday, Oct 24, 2020 9 am

Donovan Park 5805 Knoxville Ave, Peoria – (between Glen and Northmoor Rd.) park on Left nearest the ponds. Fall color or whatever we find. Be prepared to walk on uneven grass. The clubhouse has restrooms with outside access. The clubhouse has Cyd's Restaurant and marketplace (deli).

Rain date is Tuesday Oct 27 at 9 am

Questions: email vickip@peoriacameraclub.com