

## **"Photographing Daylilies - Tips for Amateurs" by Sherry Moffit**

### **Slide 1- Photographing Daylilies**

First, I do not claim to be an expert in photography, but I do love taking pictures. I was asked if I would share some tips in photographing daylilies. It would have been ideal if I could have planned this power point over the summer when daylilies were blooming to take the photos emphasizing the points I wanted to get across, but since this was created early spring, I pulled from photos I already had.

### **Slide 2- Facebook**

There is a Facebook group called "Discovering Daylilies" of which Karol Emmerich is the Administrator. She has given our club permission to use information posted. I will be using some of the information from the post "Photographing Daylilies – Tips for Amateurs by Theresa Maris of Bowling Green, Kentucky. Our views on photographing daylilies are very similar.

### **Slide 3-Camera verses iPhone**

A digital camera is generally better than an iPhone in terms of image quality, control, and performance however iPhones offer convenience, portability, and ease of use, making them excellent for casual photography and everyday moments. Most people have a phone that has a camera.

I use an iPhone just for the convenience. You can't work around flowers with a digital camera hanging on your neck. But, if I have time I like to use my digital camera just for the different settings, zoom, or macro I have available.

### **Slide 4-Frogs**

This is an example of my use of both the iPhone and digital camera. I always have my iPhone in my back pocket when I am outside. One day I was deadheading daylilies and a spent bloom still had a frog in it. I laid the bloom over on an open flower which just happened to have another frog in it. The frog climbed out onto the open bloom. In this case the iPhone was handy and I was able to take several pictures of the frog crawling onto the flower. I wondered what could I get with my digital camera so I went into the house to get it. But by the time I got back the frog had already tucked himself down into the bloom.

### **Slide 5- Lighting**

Although natural light is wonderful for flower photography, it's best to avoid taking photos in the middle of a bright sunny day. The result is harsh contrast and dark shadows as you can see in the photos.

### **Slide 6-Early Morning**

I love to take my photos early in the morning before the sun is very high in the sky. Evenings are also a great time but some daylilies might not look their best by then. Cloudy or hazy days are also ideal.

**Slide 7-Dark Lilies**

Dark flowers don't always take the best if they have been in the sun. To get my darkest colors I shoot early in the morning. (point to the different flowers and talk about what is on the screen)

**Slide 8-umbrella**

If you don't have a choice but to shoot on a bright sunny day trying holding an umbrella to block the harsh sun. Thank you, Jackie Westhoff, for allowing me to use this photo. This was in the garden of Shelly and Darrin Lett.

**Slide 9- "Setting Up" the picture**

Get into the habit of looking for ways of eliminating distracting background elements. Watch that your shadow doesn't fall across the flower you are photographing. If you are in your own garden take time to clean up around the plant; removing dead or yellowing foliage and deadheading spent blooms.

**Slide 10-Foliage over the bloom**

Is there foliage that is in front of the flower? Can the leaves be tucked behind the bloom?

**Slide 11-Background/tags**

Pay attention to the background of what you are photographing, are there some unattractive things that you might not want in your photograph? Is there another angle you can take the daylily from that will eliminate what might be distracting in the photograph? Another option for dealing with distracting background is to eliminate them all-together. Move closer to your subject until all or most of the background falls outside the frame. If at all possible pull or hide the label just don't forget to put it back!

**Slide 12-Framing**

Take your time and look through your lens, moving around to see which angle looks best and more pleasing to the eye.

**Slide 13-framing**

If you want to show an individual bloom, make sure to fill most of the frame. Sometimes it takes two or three shots to get a good one.

**Slide 14-framing**

This is an example of Outer Darkness taken from two different sides. (The second picture has the bud standing out in the photo)

**Slide 15-Focus**

I can't emphasize enough how important your focus is. Decide where you want your center of focus to be and then pay attention to whether the focus is good before you snap the photo. With an iPhone you can touch your screen where you want the focus to be and a small box will appear showing your point of focus.

**Slide 16-focus**

I would say these daylilies are in focus. I usually focus on the center of the daylily or the stamens.

**Slide 17-zoom on stamens**

After you have taken your photo you can zoom in on the picture to check the focus.

**Slide 18-creatures**

When photographing creatures in your daylily try to focus on the eyes.

**Slide 19-zoom on eyes**

When photographing frogs, my focus is on the eyes. Zoom in on the eyes in your photo to check the focus.

**Slide 20-areas of focus**

This slide shows the area of focus on each photo. (Point the areas out.). You need to decide where you want your focus to be.

**Slide 21-Cataloging your photos**

If you are going through a garden taking pictures with a digital camera, be sure to photograph the name of the daylily either before or after you take a picture of the bloom so you can have the name for future reference.

**Slide 22-iPhone**

iPhone users have the option of adding the name right to the photo or you can also take a picture of the label. (explain from pictures how to label the photo with and iPhone.)

**Slide 23- posting or showing your pictures**

When you are going to post or enter your pictures in a contest, don't alter the photo except for cropping. Altering the color would not be honest.

**Slide 24-Purple Cheetah**

Daylilies have good days and bad days. They may not open well, a rain causes them to be spotted, and some daylilies fade in the hot sun. (talk about slide)

**Slide 25- Catherine Smith**

Spiders and Unusual forms may look better late in the day when the petals have more twist. (talk about slide)

**Slide 26-Alice in Londonland**

Make photograph fun. I love taking photos of Alice in Londonland. She never disappoints me with her blooms.

**Slide 27-Betty Miller Contest**

If you want a good picture, choose blooms that look good and if they're really good, enter them in our Betty Miller Photo Contest!

These same tips should also be considered when judging the photos in our CVIDS photo contest. Consider lighting, background, and especially focus as you judge the photos!

I encourage everyone to get out in the garden with your cameras this summer and take pictures and enter the photo contest in November.

Thank You!