

SHOOTING THE LIGHT

A personal journey on becoming a student of the light

*"When you have seen one ant,
one bird, one tree, you have not seen
them all." E.O. Wilson*

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AGENDA

- Beginnings
- Photographer's Light Clock
- Light and Subjects
- Reading Landscape Light
- Getting Close
- When Subjects Won't Sit Still
- Takeaways

LIGHT CHARACTERISTICS

- Narrow=Hard; Broad=Soft
- Far=Hard; Close=Soft
- Diffuse or Reflected=Soft
- Shadows add volume or dimension
- The light fall-off rule creates separation
- Front light diminishes texture
- Atmosphere characteristics affect light quality
- Direction affects dimensionality

THE PROBLEM WITH SUNRISE/SUNSET

- High Dynamic Range
- Flat Sky Syndrome
- That Darn Sun! - Brightest object in sky @ -26.74 magnitude - 400,000 times brighter than full moon
- That Darn Moon! - Second brightest object in sky @ -12.74 magnitude (full moon)

CLOUDY/FOGGY - DIFFUSED LIGHT

- In Nature, Here are the Targets
 - Waterfalls
 - Fall Foliage
 - Macro (flowers, insects, etc.)
 - Moody Stuff

TAKE AWAYS

- Use the Photographer's Light Clock as a Guide.
- When arriving at a site, visualize the light *FIRST*.
- Light creates drama but it has to be the *RIGHT* light.
- Select subject; then ask yourself, is this the right light?
- Move around: the light might look different.
- Think outside the box. Better yet, throw out the box.
- Isolation may give you something more interesting. Get out the telephoto and macro lenses!

THANK YOU!

*It's About Living
in the World, Not
on It*

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