

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

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In our business, we take lots of photographs of scenery and people. If many of you are like me, then you've had no formal training in photography and have learned on the job by trial and error. Hopefully, you haven't developed as many shoddy shots as I have. So I decided to talk to a real pro and see if he could help me and any other novices in our ranks.

Steve Buyanski is a staff photographer with *The Beacon News*, part of Copley Chicago Newspapers. Steve also takes photos for a friend who is a landscape architect, and I felt this made him uniquely qualified to give us pointers.

Type of Film

Steve recommends always using the lowest "ISO" possible, preferring 100- or 200-speed film. Slower film has better color and is less grainy. Four hundred is nice if you are taking a combination of action and still shots, but for still shots only, go slower. He also strongly urges us to take photos with negative film, not slides. Negative film when turned in for development can be corrected. Slide film cannot be corrected, so the picture must be perfect. Plus, we can get slides off negatives, so there is almost no need to take photos with slide film.

Type of Light

For spectacular shots, the time of day and light are the most important concerns. Early morning and evening is when we get shadows for those especially awesome pictures. Backlit objects are very dramatic too, but keep in mind what we're taking these pic-

tures for. Photos with this kind of lighting aren't any good if we wanted to show detail of the subject when backlit. For detailed photos or for documentation, we should take the picture at whatever time of day the subject is best lit. Midday is very nondescript and should be avoided for those dramatic ones. Steve also tries to keep the sky mostly out of the photo believing the picture is of the course, not the sky.



Type of Equipment

Steve believes we should buy whatever camera we are comfortable with since all the big names make quality cameras. A good all-around lens for our profession would be a 100mm macrolens. This lens can be used as a regular camera or used to magnify the smallest things such as pictures of diseased leaf blades. (Ouch! Bad example.)

When to Flash

When taking pictures of people or objects during midday or in bright sunlight, a common problem is not using our flash. This (called fill flash) can get rid of

unwanted shadow caused by bright overhead light. We should adjust our flash to whatever exposure we are using when taking pictures in these conditions.

Reasons For . . .

There are so many reasons to take pictures on the course that I will probably miss some, but here are a few:

Documentation - Could be photos of damage, disease, problem areas during drought or flood, a beautiful planting, irrigation before being covered up, vandalism, etc. These photos can help us get new equipment, policies, help with a lawsuit, and save time and labor when kept readily accessible.

Media - Shows what our places look like when they're wearing their "Sunday Best." When asked for pictures of signature holes, plantings, wildlife habitats and such, we should have these already on file instead of trying to get the job done after the fact. I know, this has happened to me in the past, hopefully, not in the future.

Memories - Sometimes we need a pick-me-up during a long, hot summer when we are all our own worst critics. Remind ourselves we do a thankless job, and we do it well!

In summary, I say we grab our gear and find all those indifferent, disgusting, and beautiful things we see everyday. Snap some shots that will capture what we see or what we want others to see, and let your photos do the talking.

