

TAKING GREAT TRAVEL PHOTOS — See with an Artist's Eye —

Photography is a mix of art, expression and technology. Mastering it requires a learning curve which may become a joy, a frustration, or both. It may be a joy for the challenges it poses, and a frustration since our vision generally outpaces our ability to express it; our lack of mastery of the available tools often results in the inability to express our vision.

With the availability of great digital cameras and rather good cameras now built into most phones and other communication devices, most of us have the technology available to produce great pictures. However, taking those great pictures requires some minimum knowledge of what makes a picture great along with a basic understanding of photographic principles.

Taking Great Travel Photos is a workshop which provides an overview of the essential aspects of digital photography. The first part of the seminar focuses on reviewing what is necessary to achieve the artistic vision and expression to turn ordinary snapshots into great photos. It reviews the variables that affect the photographic process, how to control them and will offer suggestions on cameras and other lightweight equipment suitable for travel.

Part 2 of the workshop will take the participant on a journey of how to select unusual images and avoid common stereotypes via real examples covering landscapes, cityscapes, wildlife and florals with an emphasis on how to express a vision through tools such as composition, light, selective focus, depth-of-field, shutter speed, etc. The simple techniques presented will help you return from your travels with wonderful mementos worthy of sharing with fellow travelers, family and friends.

Presenters: The seminar is led by **Wolf & Linnea Koch**, an unlikely collaboration since Linnea is an artist who has worked in the visual arts field for over 40 years, while Wolf is a practicing engineer, former university professor and occasional photographer. Linnea accompanies him on many of his business trips throughout the country and Europe; together, they visit and photograph local landmarks, historical sites, notable gardens and, more recently, wildlife. They offer numerous presentations on historical as well as photographic subjects and teach photography courses at a local arts academy.

Linnea Koch, the daughter of an artist, has worked in many different media, from painting and sculpture to etching and weaving. While she had fun with a simple camera during childhood, photography really became interesting when she received her first SLR camera in high school. That camera kept her looking for unusual subject matter, creating a new way of seeing common place subjects. From the beaches on Lake Michigan to travels around the country, as well as explorations in Europe, she has searched for intriguing subjects to photograph. Her photos have been published in corporate publications, calendars and books, including covers of nautical chart books. Her work is hanging in Sterling City Hall and has been made into banners which have decorated the IL Rt. 40 bridge between Sterling and Rock Falls. She has owned and operated a graphic design studio for over four decades, is an Illinois Master Gardener with a special interest in native shade plants, and has given many talks on local landmarks, shade gardening and some of the wonderful gardens here and in Europe. She has made presentations covering a decade of midwestern barn tours and documented them in multimedia DVDs.

Wolf Koch was photographing with an old Agfa in his his early teens. He acquired one of the iconic range finder cameras, a Canon 7s, in the late 1960s, moved on to SLRs and twin-lens reflex cameras, established a darkroom and processed his own color slides. His engineering job brought him to the Midwest, where he also spent two decades teaching engineering and became a founder of SciTech Hands-on Museum in Aurora, IL, one of the first science centers in the Midwest to portray difficult concepts in easily understood demonstrations and displays. In 1995, Wolf founded Technology Resources International, Inc., a consulting firm specializing in petroleum products distribution technology. He continues to consult, lecture and publish on energy-related and management topics as well as covering occasional historical subjects.