

LET'S GET BACK TO BASICS 1

How to recognize a possible picture:

Everywhere you cast your eyes there are photo opportunities.

There is beauty in everything... a rusty implement, a young face or a pair of old gnarled hands. What you need to know is how to take a satisfying image of what you see.

Light is the greatest tool in photography. The words *graph* and *photo* together mean drawing with light and extrapolate to "painting with light" = photography.

Good low level light as opposed to bright midday light will enhance your image and give shadows and detail.

Most people will use a camera. There are other ways of recording images but we won't go there at this time.

Some will use a "Point and Shoot", others top of the line "DSLRs". Either way an excellent image can be recorded if you understand the basics.

If you can alter settings on your particular camera, you need to know what they will do for you.

It is important that you understand **Depth of Field** if you want to use **Aperture** priority.

Depending on your camera and lens, you will be able to start at approximately f2.4 and go up to f22 or f32.

f2.4 gives a large aperture (the large black "hole " in the middle of the lens).

f 32 gives a small aperture (the very small black" hole" in the middle of the lens)

The **lower** the number the **less** of your image will be in focus.

The **higher** the number the **more** of your image will be in focus.

Therefore if you are capturing a landscape you will want maximum Depth of Field so you will have your lens shut down to at least say, f11 or f16 or a higher number therefore a smaller aperture.

This will give you everything in focus.

If you are photographing a flower and you do not want all the background in focus you might open up your lens to f5.6 or f4 or a smaller number. This will give you a shallow depth of field and **just** your subject in focus with the background blurred.

If you choose **Aperture Priority** you camera will choose the shutter speed.

If you want to use **Shutter Speed Priority** your camera will choose the aperture.

Shutter Speed Priority is useful if you are photographing fast moving people or objects eg car races, horse races or sporting activities. For very fast moving subjects you may want to set your speed at 1/500th or higher to freeze the action. This will reduce your depth of field quite dramatically.

If your camera has settings illustrated by pictures of flowers, mountains or faces, all the camera is doing is setting aperture and speed for you.

If you use **Manual Priority**, you will control everything.

More information can be found on www.herveybayphotography.org .Just click on Fran's Helpful Hints and choose your subject.

Please feel free to call me if you want information on any of the above.

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The Images on the next page illustrate different Depths of Field



**f4.5
Only
Foreground in
Focus**



**f8
Each end Out of Focus**



**< f16
All in Focus**

**>f18
All in Focus**

