

Howdy. Howdy, folks.

And welcome to Moose podcast number 386.

Creature of Discomfort.

How are you folks doing? Hope you have a really great week. Guy, can you believe it? We're going to hit March here in a couple of days. Holy moly. Taylor, time keeps marching on. Spring's going pretty well here at in Montana. It's amazing. The number of birds that are already doing displays and calling our affiliates were there the other morning, just calling back and forth. Nuthatches are doing their funny little wiggles and dances, and it's just, wow, it's. It's early. So I hope and trust that you're out there looking for opportunities and making sure that you take advantage of what seems to be an early spring. This week's episode will be is being recorded again on Adobe Beta Podcast. You will find the transcript on the blog post for the podcast and iTunes has their transcript there as well on iTunes. In in this week? Well, actually, in a couple of days, technically, starting on Thursday will be in the town of Butte, Montana, for the Montana Aviation Conference, where they're Thursday, Friday, Saturday. Got a booth, got prints, got photographs, got clearance, got take off there for sale. I mean, we are there. And most importantly, to answer your questions and help in any way we can. So it is a real specialty type of kind of conference. It has nothing to do with photography. But you got questions. You need help. Come on. I love to meet you. Shake your hand and answer those questions. Bedford's camera. You know, they're the sponsor of the Muse podcast. You probably know that because I make sure you know it and almost everything I do. They are simply the best. How good did you know they have a free class coming up on how to photograph the eclipse in April? That's pretty darn cool. Besides that great information education they've got. They've got the they've got the gear they've got the knowledge they got. They got some great people. Killer service. And the one thing they've got that nobody else has is that moose discount that 5% out if you check out. So. Some states, no sales tax over \$9, no shipping. But hey, no is not in their vocabulary. They are saying yes to help you in every way possible. So drop on by mention old moose and thank him for sponsoring the Moose podcast. Well, getting into this week's episode, Creature of Discomfort. I read a lot. That's just kind of what I do. And. The idea and goal is to expand whatever gray matter I have left that will actually suck stuff up, which is a challenge. But they say, you know, you keep reading, it keeps making it better. So that's what they say. I've been reading a number of books that are recommended to me right now. I'm reading one called Hidden Potential by Adam Grant. And I am I am taking some material right from. His book because it really got me thinking in point blank what photographers really need to do to help themselves. So a creature of comfort discomfort is something he talks about. It's actually a whole chapter. Well, it's about embracing the unbearable awkwardness of learning. Now, if you wanted a simple. Statement to talk about photographers embracing the unbearable awkwardness of learning. Really just rips right on the nail here. So what's it about? What were we talking about here? Well, there are so much out there in the photographic world that people feel like they have to not only know, but master. Not only master, but. Have perfect and this is probably the first chapter probably in the books. Probably the first one that that really probably got me to understand why people feel like they need to crop the crap out of their photographs rather than trusting what they see in a viewfinder. Why they think they need to remove elements, which I mean heavily already. You know what comes out while I've already wiped out another habitat, we have to do it in our photographs. So this chapter talks about it. I mean, it's it is in a lot wrapped up in that simple statement, embracing the unbearable awkwardness of learning. Now. I've talked about

failure in embracing failure a lot. It's something I do. And so I in the beginning, didn't do it so well. Now I do a little bit better. Hopefully tomorrow I'll do it even better. But we're talking about that to a certain extent. One of the things is that, you know, you've got to think about in all seriousness is and this is really, really hard to do. Is to realize that the photograph you take today, probably in ten years, won't be your best, probably won't be your favorite. And there are really good odds you won't even remember that photograph. And and that's part of this, you know. Being a creature of discomfort is understanding that the thing we cherish today and we defend and we some polished the jiggers out of in post and yeah it's it's a temporary thing okay. And that's a discomfoting thought. Thinking that what we're pouring ourselves into. Is going to go a little bit by the wayside. No, we will get those photographs that are the classics. We will get the one memory that will last forever. But I haven't met many foreign photographers who just take one picture. No, it's hundreds and thousands. Right. So. This whole process, right? How can we get past, you could say, the discomfort or. Or. The pain or the expense. Well. I don't know if we can. That could be the first thing that we have to think about is perhaps we have to, you know, understand that. And it starts with, well, I think something really important. So I've had this conversation with many photographers and. A price starts off when they ask me the kind of a generic question. So you're a wildlife photography photographer, but then you got an aviation. Did you feel like you need to you're bored for talk with wildlife? Did you feel like you you know, and the question is, why did I get into aviation? And it was no more. Then you could say I'm a creature of discomfort. I wanted to push that genre of photography wildlife further by investigating another genre and put myself again in, you know, outside the wheelhouse of comfort. And in that discomfort, you start finding solutions. If you read the website, you know that I am continually, constantly looking for any kind of gear, be it computer software, camera, body, lens, accessory. I am continually looking for that next piece of gear that will solve the problem I have now so I can spend more time the viewfinder concentrating on the subject and less on. Being a photographer and in that process, in order to. Have any kind of progress in that whole process. Because, you know, when you're a creature of discomfort that nobody likes pain. We don't looking out, looking for, you know, causing ourselves our own pain. But it happens. And that's part of, you know, who we are. But in that process of seeking progress. It's really important that you just start today. You don't start when you think you're ready. You start now because if you start when you think you're ready, I hate to tell you this, but you're not ready. You know, you might be somewhat prepared, but the odds are. You're going to go out right off the bat and go, Oh, yeah, I didn't see that coming. I wasn't ready for that. And that process that process is a scary one now. They have done. They have academia. I'm just going to put them under that umbrella. They have done all sorts of studies, research, looking at this whole thing of being human and how we're wired between our ears and trying to decide and figure out the best way in which we can learn. And in reading a lot of this stuff, you know, it's actually quite fascinating. But we all don't learn the same way, which I don't think any of us need a paper to tell us that. But. In that process. The current thinking. You know, how we think learning happens is that we acquire some knowledge. And we get comfortable that knowledge. And then we put that knowledge that we're comfortable with into practice and we think that's progress. And keep in mind, knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. But wisdom is knowing not to put a tomato in a fruit salad. So. How we think learning happens, you know, that get comfortable with something, practice something. And as we practice something, we progress. And let's talk. This is go to put in

simple terms hand-holding. Basic hand-holding. You know, you need to do that. You get comfortable with holding a camera? And you practice a lot. And you do make progress. But it's not a straight line because really what's going to go on is you're going to especially if you're just starting out photography, you're going to hear. Perhaps myself say you need to learn and practice and master. Proper hand-holding is very basic technique. There you acquire the knowledge, so then you start practicing that. And right the bat you're going to find, Wolf, not quite comfortable with this. There's a there's a bit of discomfort here. It could be physical. You could have a wrist that hurts, a thumb hurts. You could have a left arm that's not as muscular as you wanted. So then you got to figure out that discomfort and work past that. So then you practice more. And then after more practice, you you find out you're making progress. And then you get comfortable with what you've gotten so far. But guess what? With that comfort to stay comfortable. You have to practice more. And then as you practice more, you realize, oh, I've actually gained more knowledge. Cool, cool. But then when you gain more knowledge, you also go, Oh, okay. So I've been practicing as if the subject is always going to go left or right or right to left. What happens if the subject goes diagonal? What happens? I'm at an air show and I've got an F 22 screaming at me. And then it does a pause and a straight climb right in front of me. I've got a pan not side to side, up to down. So then you get to uncomfortable in that discomfort and then you go, Oh, better. So. The whole point is. Especially in terms of photography, that you will today have X, Y and Z. To the point where you think if you're comfortable with it, maybe even mastered it and then comes tomorrow. And the challenge will be whatever comes up tomorrow, you can't ringing that challenge, you actually going ahead and saying, oh, okay, I've got this baseline now. I need to move it and grow and do that. And in that process, if you're doing that. You're going to be a creature of discomfort because you're going to have the knowledge and then you've got to go, Oh, I got to practice that. And then as you practice that, you get a lot more comfortable. Then you go, Oh, and then you have something else you have to practice. And it is not. A vicious circle. It's just not a straight line journey to get from A to B, and there is so much that we can put into this process. Still staying with the basic idea of basic hand holding and panning. Because once you get comfortable with that. You've got to throw in what perhaps taking that button and hitting the back button to focus. Maybe taking your index finger and changing the shutter speed and or aperture or taking the index finger and changing exposure compensation all the same time. You're doing that proper handling and the panning. And then, oh, you know, we can keep adding on to it, but that, that, that just brings it back into that simple thing that if you are really sincere with yourself and pushing your photography, so you are finding that progress. Aren't you almost always going to be a bit of a creature of discomfort? Take that photograph into post. We all know how much there is to learn in post, let alone to get comfortable with, let alone to apply to what we did at the camera to tell that story. So aren't we in a way, when we put. Images on a computer just feeding that whole creature discomfort. Should we get comfortable with that? Instead of being you know, that's all that is kind of twirling my mind. And I'm thinking about all my my years behind the camera and, you know. Getting comfortable. More than once has crossed my mind when I was out there shooting beer, trying to get warm in a cold temperature. Sitting in a chair in a hyde. Flying in a plane. A new photographic concept. You know, this the the new Z8 2.0 firmware has got that pixel shift. When I'll be honest with you. Until it showed up in the firmware, I had never even heard of it. Not even. No idea. And then I read what it does. I'm like, Well, that's kind of cool. How am I going to do that? What? How's that

going? And then I saw some stuff that Joey Terrill is doing and I'm like, okay, I am not comfortable with any of this. Dove into the books, dove into thinking, start playing. Back to being that creature discomfort. You folks have a marvelous week. I hope that we see some of you at the conference. Have a great beginning of March. And remember to make every click. Your story.