

Howdy. Howdy, folks, and welcome the Moose podcast, number 408.

Journey of Knowledge

Trust. You guys are doing well. Had a good week. It is. We are in the heat of the battle literally with this summer. We're halfway through July and looking out the office window. I see that depressing, yucky orange glow to the light. There's wildfires all around us. We're not in any harm's way, but I know some who are. Then you've got a whole band of crazy tornadoes and big severe storms. So I hope you guys are out there taking care and at the same time telling the story that's happening in your own backyard. And sharing it with all the rest of us so we understand just what is unfolding in our world. It's in this heat. I don't know about you folks, but I am busy, busy, busy till around noon trying to get things done outside. Before that, he just goes up an extra notch. Some people are wondering, does it get warm in Montana? Well, we've had 203 here. That is not really Abby normal, but the big long spell of heat like most are experiencing. That's abnormal. The one big benefit that Montana has that in the evening or Saturday by 5 a.m. in the morning, it's down to 55, 56 degrees. So it gets really kind of cool. There's I was seeing the things to buy where it was 129 or some crazy number for the high and then it cool off to 110. Yeah, that's not cooling off. So we have that benefit here of getting down in the fifties. But you take care as you go out there and shoot. Bring back those stories and make sure you share them. Well, this is my 70th episode to be recorded using Adobe podcast beta, which is now available for the public. You just have to know. You have to use Chrome. That's the one thing people said it could find it and make it work like on Firefox and it's for Chrome only. But yeah, this is my 70th. Beta. Recording transcript will be, of course, on the website. Blog post for the podcast. But you also can find that transcript everywhere else iTunes tunes of the rest of those folks. So hey, thanks for your support and keeping us going. I want to thank my good friends in Bedford camera Bedford dot com home of the moose discount it's only stores that has it all their stores in person online. Moose discount. After you check out you'll see some some serious coinage coming back to you and that's above and beyond any sales promotion going on. So you could really make on some events a real killing. Talking about events because I mean, going to Bedford's I think is an event, seeing their inventory talk and what they're really great folks at is an event. But you know, in November, my good friend Joe McNally is going to be at I believe it's in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with Bedford's talking about his incredible talent, telling stories about people through portraiture. So that's another great event that Bedford will be having in conjunction with Nikon. So make sure you check that out and when you do. Tell Bedford's thanks for sponsoring the Moose podcast. I be grateful. Journey of knowledge. I am fortunate that I have some conversations with folks during the week. Phone email. Text. And a lot of what comes to my mind comes on reflecting on those conversations, wondering, did I? Did I answer their questions? Did I motivate them? Did I depress them? Did I send them to a dead end or did I send them to another peak in which they're going to find a valley? You know, that journey of knowledge, that journeys knowledge. Pulling images for some presentations I've got a bunch this fall really looking forward to them. Like I'll be down in Tucson in September doing what I love to do, talk about critters. So I was pulling images for that and reflecting on my conversations. I think about this this this journey of knowledge we take as human beings, of course, as well as photographers. One of the questions that came up in conversation was about polarizer. Now going way back in time, just after we evolve from stone tablets to paper. We shot all this material called film where when you went to click, you're done. That was it. And that really, you know, really required one to be a really good technician, as

well as a storyteller to make that image come to life. And one of the main tools we use was the polarizer. The polarizing. I remember we were working with three stops of light with. That's all the dynamic range that film would capture on a really good day going downhill. You had to deal with the color in getting it right in the camera, then thinking about processing because you could change the color as it went up and down through the tanks. So the polarizer was a really incredibly important tool. You would rotate it to remove a sometimes removing the the blue color cast on green leaves or pine needles sometimes. I mean, it was a real common tool for getting a blue sky, even though it wasn't really accurate because it would change the sky different shades as you went across the horizon. It's really bad. Most misnomers being used for blue skies and. It was just a critical tool and another one that was important. Was an 81 a anyone is a filter that. Nobody knows about it anymore, but it was a quote unquote warming filter. You'd use it when you photograph people to make them look healthy. You know, that tan, that skin cancer we we suffer from now looking so healthy back then. Yeah. In otherwise great art ironies and of course, part of the journey of knowledge. But anyway, those were important filters, especially to my photography and one of my favorite lenses way back when was the 20 millimeters f 2.8. This small compact, ultra wide lens really sweet. I mean, I had the 15, but you couldn't filter the 1535, but you could the 22.8. And if you put the 81 AA on there by itself or the polarizer on there by itself, not a problem. Yes. Stacked the two. You have vignetting. Well. The journey of knowledge started way back then. So polarized are such an important tool. 81 It was such an important tool. Talked to my dear friends and we came up with and created the mousse polarizer. Yeah, there's a polarizer out there with my name on it. And I don't use it. I don't even have it in my camera bag. I have some in my record collection, a memorabilia of of days gone by. But as time has gone forward, the journey of knowledge has continued. What once was such an important tool. Don't use anymore. I mean, the the the ability to change our white balance on the fly, which couldn't do with the film that blew away the A1. They need the ease of taking the photo and just clicking an 80 way, 81 A on it to give someone a healthier tone in affecting just the person, not the whole scene blew away the need for an 81 a less stuff in the camera by less stuff on the lens in the Polarizer Hall, as we all know, the polarizer. There's times when you have to remove reflections. You can't do that in post, but otherwise getting that blue sky nice and a little bit darker blue, for example. Now as a 2/2 click on a mask, click on the sky does bring down the the sky exposure third of a stop at point Boyd just got rid of the need for a polarizer for blue sky I did a much better job. With a journey of knowledge. It is something that all photographers take. But I'm not sure. Many sit down and reflect on that journey to see how far you've come. Where you even started. And be honest with you. If I hadn't had those conversations this past week and wasn't going through thousands of images to build these programs, I might not have thought this at all. And I looked at one picture and I said, Oh yeah, I could use a polarizer here. And that's what that's why I'm here right now. But the journey of knowledge, it's such an important one. And this is a good time to bring up a quote that I learned last year from an author. And it's just it's so simplistic, but it's brilliant and it's right to the point. And it just goes like this. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is knowing not to put that tomato in a fruit salad. So as we go forward in photography. We might learn things. I'm a pick on megapixels at the moment. If you do go back whole five years, maybe a little bit further. Couldn't get people to stop talking about megapixels how important megapixel megapixel may be you everything was you know clickbait on megapixels articles marketing. Camera Canada's came

out with their camera this week. Megapixel. Yeah. Not not really part of the discussion. Yeah, it's. It's there in the specs, but you don't see people going berserk about it. Let's talk about noise. I mean, noise just a few years ago. Boy, that was like every time I mentioned Underexposed. What about noise? Don't worry about noise. What about you? About. You know, hearing noise about noise anymore. Now as you have dinner ways and Adobe Camera and Lightroom that works so really well. Yeah. Noise has become a non-issue. And that's probably one of the big takeaways from the journey. A knowledge that we should use to take a deep breath. And realized that some of the things that we're the least I know I do get stressed about in the short term if we just take a deep breath. Reflect on the journey of knowledge. We see that those things aren't really worth stressing about that. With a little bit of passage of time. That journey down the road of knowledge. We'll find out that it wasn't worth the stress or the knowledge. And when you remove that from the photographic process and this is really hard to do when you're young or you're starting out or both. It's really hard to just to take some simple advice, which is just take a deep breath. Cause that journey of knowledge, all things among it all. But a vast majority of those things will be answered. And they'll be answered for you. Which, of course, specially in photography, right. Is the most important thing is finding the answers for you. Because when you find your answers. Then you start. Honing in on the way you want to tell a story, that one word style that people liked to put out there. It's kind of like they used to talk about, you know, well, that's not important. You need to think about how you go forward. Almost every day when you have that camera in your hand. And that's a big part of that journey of knowledge. But that journey. Only makes sense when you connect the dots, and that often requires going back in time. So then you can come forward to the present. And you can kind of. These for myself. Things start gelling when you go back and they come forward. What's one way of doing this? Well, one of the best ways that happens for me, I've already talked about it a couple of times. This episode is looking at my images. So I don't go to. My nephew, my nephew folders for us to say in a subject for simple simplicity here. So every day, all those nets in there, not all of those get finished. Some of them are variations to the one that I like in case a editor says, I like this, but do you have and then go back and I can I can look at the next and then bring that one to their attention because that's what they're looking for. But I like to finish those that I like. So those that I like for subject day are taken from net form and save as a SD and because it's the smallest file takes up, the least amount of hard drive space has most flexibility. So I have a folder of finished images for Subject Day and I look at those and they're going to go sequentially. So the very first image I finish, the the oldest image in my file will be the first in the the newest image to add to the file that I finished should be the last. So I can just go through bridge and look at my past and I can look at for myself my evolution for subject a over time. I'm looking at. One of the things I was looking at were Sandor Ling's standings, real common bird. I mean, it's still, even today, pretty numerous. So my file for standings for the digital world started in 2000 and I was just shooting. I'm 45 days ago, so that's 24 years. Of standalone images that I'm looking through. And boy, talking about taking a journey of knowledge, looking at what I did way back then, because when I first started out, I was it beach panning in 2000, I wasn't down flat. They didn't come to like 2004, 2005 did. I lay in the sand and embarrass myself, but I got some shots I really love. So I, you know, that journey and knowledge, you start looking at these things and then, yeah, you at least for myself. How I evolved as a visual storyteller is laid out before me. And I could say, Ooh, no, no. Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. Oh, yeah. That's the journey of

knowledge that we have already taken and still are taking in this thing called photography. It's a very important journey that. Thank God, has no known end. It's one that continues. As long as we continue putting our right foot in front of the left foot from the right foot with a camera in hand. It's a it's a beautiful thing. You folks have a marvelous week. Stay safe, stay cool. Keep shooting. And remember to make every click. Your story.