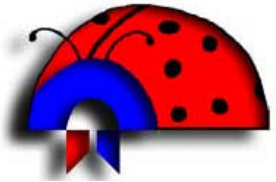


BUG Data



Barrie Users Group

September 2010

Visit Our Web Site At = www.BarrieUsersGroup.org

President's Message

By Paul Mather



We trust that our members are enjoying their new venue at the Koslov Centre. What a great room! We now have internet and plenty of room to grow. Our new location has also made us more visible, it is like having one of our "mall displays" twice a month. As a result of this, and some great speakers we have attracted a number of new members. We welcome them, and hope that they enjoy themselves.

We have a lot of members with different technical needs so we cannot be right on target every month with all members, but we try. If the topic doesn't fit your needs right now, we still encourage you to attend. Quite often we have extra time for questions and David's tips! Last month we had a speaker that had to cancel so members were treated to an informative session on the importance of keeping Windows updated, a demonstration of some excellent freeware programs and many, many tips and hints. Also, your attendance may be helpful to other members, who have questions. We are a sharing club and we count on all our members participation, even if informally during breaks. Have a chat with new members, help them out, or point out who may have answers to their questions.

It is by helping others that we increase our own knowledge.

Since this is the start of the school year we wanted to get back to the basics. Our two meetings in September are called Computing 102 and Digital Photography 102. We plan to go a bit beyond the basics and provide tips that will assist the more experienced members as well as our beginners. We have been receiving the message that our members would like a few more of our sessions on how to do basic things with their technology. We will see the response to these sessions and if well received we will build on them with other 102 subjects or progressions into 202 level sessions.

This is a great month to bring out a friend, co-worker or family member! Show people that we are not a bunch of nerds! Let them see for themselves that BUG is a useful tool for our community, providing a forum for learning and consumer awareness.

We have also been discussing putting on courses on specific subjects. We would like to hear from our members on potential topics. We would need to have advanced enrollment in these courses and there would need to be a fee, so please give me your ideas and what would be a reasonable cost.

We encourage all our members to provide us with feedback that will help us provide the program you are looking for. Please talk to Kathleen, David or myself about our program. We need to hear from you!

This month also brings about another important change in BUG. This is the first time that we are producing an electronic version of the BUG Data and posting it on our web site. Your executive discussed this change at length and we decided that it was worth a try. BUG Data as a printed version demanded that we always have 4 or more pages but now we can have as many pages as we like. As a result we should be able to use our articles as we receive them, rather than waiting until we have enough for printing. We encourage all members to jot down their tips, ideas, how they use technology, their issues, problems or solutions. Not everyone is comfortable with speaking so this is your opportunity to share your experiences with others. Don't worry

Cont Page #2



Membership Report

George Ray

Help your Club grow, bring some friends to the meetings.

For each friend who joins the Club, we will extend your membership by two months!

Annual membership fees are as follows:

Regular	\$50.00
Student	\$50.00
Family	\$00.00

We welcome once again, the old friends who have decided to CONTINUE their membership for another year, and the following NEW members. If there are omissions or something to be corrected, please let me know.

C=Continuing,
N=New, R=Regular
E=Extended, sponsored a friend,

<u>Name</u>	<u>Expiry Date</u>
(CR)	
(CR)	

Do Your Part to Help BUG Grow, Bring a Friend!!

If your membership has either expired or is about to expire. Please contact George Ray at 728-0821 as soon as possible to pay your membership dues.

BARRIE USERS GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: <i>Paul Mather</i>	728-9047
Vice-President: <i>Dave Jackson</i>	728-1565
Treasurer: <i>Melvina McCaw</i>	728-8719
Secretary: <i>Barb McCahery</i>	
Web Master: <i>Paul Mather</i>	728-9047
Membership: <i>George Ray</i>	728-0821
Publicity:	
Newsletter Editor: <i>Don Edwards</i>	726-8490

President's Message Cont.

about your writing skills, we can help there, just write it out and we can help you edit. We often hear, "I am just learning, how can I help others?" You would be surprised! By telling us your experience with technology, even as a beginner, you are teaching others. So if you have something to share for BUG Data, please bring it to a meeting or email Kathleen at cameras@kathleensplace.net

Mark your Calendars! It is time for a different type of sharing through our annual BUG BBQ on September 11! All members are encouraged to bring along their spouses, and many do!

Once again Brian has volunteered to have it at his place. We will start around 1:00 pm and will start the BBQs around 2:30. All you have to do is bring your own BBQ food (e.g. the meat) and also either enough dessert or salad for 4 people. We would also encourage you to bring your own plates, utensils and chair. We will be providing pop, coffee, rolls, napkins and CORN. What a corn season it has been and once again David will be bringing in the best corn in the area.

**NEXT BUG
MEETING
October 5, 2010**



President's Message Cont.

It is an opportunity for our members to chat to each other informally about all topics of interest, not just technology. It is amazing how much we find out about each other. It broadens our understanding and perspective. Oh yes, we will chat about technology if asked.

Please contact Brian if you need more details.

By sharing we let others know which areas we are interested in and what we need help with.

By sharing we grow.

By sharing the club becomes richer.

Come Share with us!

5. Maintain firewalls and security. So you do this! Fine, but know how to turn them off and on again. Also – keep them up to date!

6. Backup data. Obvious, but most important! – supersedes all the others. The more important the data, the more often the backup; and a diversity of backup sites doesn't hurt either.

7. Get good virus, spam and spyware protection. As in 5 above, very important to keep these up to date, especially anti-virus files, both the data and their respective system files (engines) need regular renewal. We often compare these programs at BUG meetings where members have varying experiences with these programs – good and otherwise.

7 Tips to care for your computer

by Mike Clarke

While we discuss the following at club meetings and former newsletters regularly, it never hurts to go through this important list again and again. It has been borrowed from an article in *IT Business News* where each point is greatly expanded upon. Much of the info targets corporate computer use but most applies to the home user as well.

I receive their newsletter regularly, and 90% of the time they get deleted. Occasionally not, however, when something useful turns up like the following:

1. Employ a cyclical replacement program, that is replace your computer every 3 to 5 years. This may simply mean upgrading hardware, especially in the case of desktops which are more easily managed.

2. Replace surge protectors regularly They do wear out. Recommended every 2 to 3 years

3. Update software licenses Some programs advise of updates, some update automatically – check them out

4. Invest in employee training. For us, this would mean self training or special courses AND join/stay with the Barrie Users Group ✍

Tips for Flower Photography

By Barb McCahery

David J. Hawke offered the following helpful tips on photographing flowers during his informative and entertaining presentation to BUG members on July 13, 2010. He has given his permission to reprint these tips in the BUG newsletter.

1. take pictures on cloudy days

2. get “nose-to-nose” (David explained that this tip advised getting right down to the level of the flower rather than bending over to get the best picture. One member suggested carrying an industrial-sized plastic garbage bag with you on your trek that can be spread out on the ground so you can get right down to the level of the flower.)

3. isolate for emphasis (An image that focuses on one flower or one leaf has much more impact. David does however take a photo of the entire habitat to contextualize the individual images.)

4. use a tripod to be able to get a sharper image

(This is absolutely critical if you intend to enlarge the picture.

Cont. Page #4



[Tips for Flower Photography cont.](#)

5. shoot from sunrise to early morning 8:30 a.m. for the best light conditions

6. under expose to capture white and yellow blossoms (This is difficult to do with a "point & shoot camera, however.)

7. use a reflector to gently lighten a scene (This could be the bottom of a pop can or a white sheet or handkerchief.)

8. be careful not to "over-garden" a scene (David says clearing away twigs or stones before taking the picture detracts from the "naturalness" of the photograph.)

9. be aware that you do not trample neighbouring vegetation

10. some species cause skin rash! (In addition to poison ivy, butter cups and some wild orchids can cause rashes if touched.)

11. avoid getting insect repellent on straps, plastic or lens (Insect repellent eats plastic and can do serious damage to your equipment. Use netting and clothing to keep the bugs away.)

12. study flower calendars to learn how good shots were taken

13. always have a copy of [Dave's Bloomin' Flower Guide](#) close at hand. (David has monitored the blooming period of hundreds of local wild flowers for over ten years and charted their blooming periods in this book so at any point in time you will know what is blooming when you go out to take your pictures. Many BUG members were able to acquire a copy of this book at a deep discount last night.)

There were several other pieces of advice not specifically covered in his "tips" that are well worth remembering so I will list them now.

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? Learn where the macro or close-up setting is on your digital camera and read the manual to learn how to use it. The symbol for this setting is usually a flower.

?

? Right after rain is a great time to photograph flowers

? Get away from having your subject in the middle of the photography. It is much more interesting when the

topic is off-centre.

?

? Use a variety of angles when taking your photos.

?

? When photographing a cluster of blooms always try to capture odd number of blooms.

?

? When taking photographs of animals or insects, it is absolutely critical that the eye(s) is clear and in focus. Humans only connect with pictures of animals and insects when the eye of the subject is clearly in focus.

?

? After you have taken your photographs, the best thing to do is edit, edit, edit them. David advises that you show and print only your best photos.

?

? When editing, make sure you are working on a copy of the image rather than the original image.

?

? The basic steps of photo editing includes cropping (to get rid of extra stuff and to better place the subject); checking the 'levels' to ensure good colour saturation; sharpening the image slightly (using the Unsharp tool).

David Hawke will be on the annual Thanksgiving weekend Images Studio Tour (October 9-11/10), so if you would like to see his books and some of his framed images be sure to mark this weekend on your calendar.

For more information about the tour see www.Images-Studio-Tour.com.

