



Bill Lester

I am a Florida Cracker with family roots in the state dating back to just after the unpleasantness with the North. I was born in Tampa, and raised on my grandparents' dairy farm south of Brandon until junior high school when the dairy was sold and my parents moved to Brandon. My education was defined by being on the leading edge of Baby Boom Generation. I was in the first class to attend two new schools and in one of the first classes at USF.

I met my current roommate in high school and we married during my senior year at USF. After graduating with a degree in Geology, I took a temporary job teaching, while the world situation and my future sorted themselves out. With the exception of grad school and a research project in the Keys, I stayed in the "temporary" career until retirement, teaching mostly secondary science and math. I also did a little college adjunct work and worked as a part time flight instructor for a few years.

I always had some sort of camera, but my photography was limited to family snapshots and technical documentation in college and for the classroom. Somewhere along the line I found an SLR at a garage sale. (The woman said that her husband had another, just like it, so she was sure he didn't need two. I wonder how that worked out when he got home.) The potential of the SLR stoked some interest and I bought more "toys" and dabbled in the dark room a little. I also did a little air photography. Having a "fancy" camera, and more confidence than expertise, I became "the guy with the camera" for family and work related events.

My photography remained comfortably mediocre, occasionally getting an acceptable photo, until Nancy got badly bitten by the digital photo bug. It became my job to instruct her, on such matters as to why a high f-stop number meant small opening, and what those other knobs and dials did. She quickly passed my knowledge level, consuming a shelf of books by the digital masters, and spending hours immersed in Kelby Training videos. I continue to struggle to keep up.

I am amazed at how much I thought I knew before I learned how little I actually know.