

## Recommendations for “What’s in my Bag” provided by Master Photographers

Mike Moats, Charles Needle, Gerri Jones & Sue Bishop

### CHARLES NEEDLE

#### What’s in my Camera Bag

Nature photographer John Shaw once said, “Not once did my lenses ever go out to shoot.” As photographers, it’s important to recognize that our cameras and lenses, in and of themselves, are inert and devoid of creativity. Instead, remember creativity resides within *you*, the image maker, and cannot be found in any tool or photographic technique.

With that being said, one of my favorite “tools” I always carry in my camera bag is the [ProMaster +5D Achromatic Close-up Lens](#). This high-quality, dual-element glass filter screws onto the end of any telephoto or macro lens and allows you to focus closer and magnify your subject without any light loss.

For me, this filter becomes a doorway into intimate exploration and allows me to see subjects up-close in ways I never thought possible. I enjoy pretending I’m a bug crawling on a flower or plant, exploring edges of petals and changing focus manually when using this filter on the end of my Nikon 200mm f/4.0 macro lens. This meditative exercise allows me to discover poetic ways of expressing myself. Certain elements in the frame are rendered in sharp focus, while others are deliberately “mushy” and out of focus.

While on Madeline Island this June, I’ll demonstrate the use of this filter in the field. Then, with my help, you’ll be well on your way to becoming the next “Georgia O’Keefe” of flower photography!

Buying Tip: If you do decide to purchase this filter, be sure to get the one that fits the larger of your two lens diameters. In my case, for example, my 70-200mm telephoto lens has a thread-size diameter of 77mm and my 200mm macro lens has a diameter of 62mm. I purchased the 77mm filter so I can use it on my telephoto lens, and then when I want to use it on my macro lens, I use a step-down ring (77 to 62mm).

### MIKE MOATS

#### What’s in my Camera Bag

I have a simple setup. Fuji X-T30 MKII body with a Tamron 18-300 lens.

My second camera body is a Nikon D7500 with a Tamron 18-400 lens.

I have a Tamron 90mm macro lens but never use it as the zoom lenses have close-up ability. I have a 12-inch diffuser for shading my subjects from sunlight and a plamp which is a clamping system that will hold the diffuser so I can be hands-free.

My tripod is a Vanguard VEO3+ 264AT and on top of the tripod is an Acratech Ultimate ballhead.

That's it, very simple.

## **SUE BISHOP**

### **What's in my Camera Bag**

Camera body

105mm macro lens

Reflector (I use this one:

<https://www.manfrotto.com/uk-en/collapsible-reflector-50cm-sunlite-soft-silver-ll-lr2028/> )

Diffuser (I use this:

<https://www.manfrotto.com/uk-en/collapsible-diffuser-76cm-2-stop-ll-lr3007/> )

Remote release if using a tripod

My reflector and diffuser are Lastolite, but I believe they've been taken over by Manfrotto.

## **GERRI JONES**

### **What's in my Camera Bag**

Depending on what or where I am shooting will determine what lenses I might choose to take in a medium-sized bag, which is what I normally carry for most short outings. For longer trips, I will pack a bigger bag or bring my travel roller. Sometimes I might pack my medium bag and bring an extra bag in my car to swap in some additional items (which most often are going to be other lenses) – “just in case.”

You will also find links at the bottom to some specific items I have listed.

- My Mid-Size Carry Bag is a “Kindly Camera Bag – The Camryn.” This is a newer company. I like this bag for a day trip or when I visit garden areas – the straps convert from over the shoulder to on your back.
- Must have lenses are at least one wide angle such as my Nikon 17-35 f/2.8 D lens. I also have a Nikon 24-120 zoom 1:4, which gives me a range of focal lengths, which I would carry instead of my wide angle.
- Macro Lenses: Irix 150mm f/2.8 Macro 1:1 lens (all manual lens) This lens gives me a wonderful focal length with reach and beautiful compression which is great for gardens

where you may not be allowed to step off paths to reach subjects. I also may carry my Tamron 90mm f/2.8 macro lens.

- Lensbabies: I carry a variety of lensbabies, depending on the location I will be shooting. For gardens and flowers, I am going to choose between all three Lensbaby Velvets. The Velvet 85 is my favorite lens specifically for flowers. The Velvet 28 is great for small scenes within garden areas and landscapes. The Velvet 56 can handle both scenarios, and all three have macro capability.
- Lensbaby Twist 60 and Sol 45 are also two of my favorite garden/flower lenses/optics. Two other favorite choices are Lensbaby Soft Focus II or Double Glass II optics.
- Vintage Lenses: I most often carry my Helios 44-2 and Meyer Optik 75mm or 58mm Primoplans along with Meyer Optik 100mm Trioplan. Please note: I will have many of my vintage lenses with me at our Madeline Island garden/macro retreat, but they require an adapter called an M42 (to whatever your camera brand mount is). If you bring or have one of these inexpensive adaptors, all of my vintage lenses will be available for you to try out.
- Tripod: I use an Alta Pro 2+ 263CT (carbon fiber) tripod. This tripod's vertical extension arm has the ability to be locked down in the horizontal position, which makes it excellent for macro subjects shot downward.
- Ballhead: Acratech Ultimate Ballhead

#### Must have Accessories:

- 12mm and 25mm Extension Tubes (Kenko brand for your camera mount)– I use these on most of my Lensbaby Optics, such as Twist 60, Sol 45 or Double Glass II , as well as all my Vintage lenses.
- Close-up filters – I use a set of three Lensbaby (+1, +2, +4) 46mm screw on close-up filters.
- Polarizers: 67mm and 77mm Hoya Moose's Warm Polarizer. Lensbaby 46mm Polarizer.
- Neutral Density Filters: Hoya Pro1 NDx8 (3 stop ND filter). Lensbaby 3-stop 46mm ND screw on filter.
- Reflectors/Diffusers: 12 and 24 inch size pop up sets including white, silver and gold. I can also carry a folded piece of black velvet cloth in my larger reflector pouch, which I can clip to my reflector for a small black background behind flowers.
- Lensbaby Omni Reflective Filters: I may just pack a few of my favorites to play with out in the field

#### Extras to Consider:

- A small soft paintbrush and tweezers for pollen or debris removal.
- Giotto or Promaster bulb blower – to gently squeeze some air for removal of pollen or debris on subjects.
- Sun Hat with drawstring loop.
- Knee Pads – the Velcro gardening type with gel are nice.

- Collapsible Stool – lightweight and can be adjusted.
- Optech Rain Sleeve – fits over your lens and camera with a drawstring on lens end – the inexpensive lightweight sturdy plastic bag you can carry in your pocket or bag for unexpected rain.

Links for some items below:

Any questions about specific items, you can email me: [philgerri@att.net](mailto:philgerri@att.net)

Lensbaby Filters:

[46mm Filter Kit | Lensbaby Filters for Creative Lenses and DSLR Optics](#)

[46mm Macro Photography Filter Kit | Camera Lens | Lensbaby](#)

[Omni Effects - Lensbaby](#)

Other Items and Accessories:

[The Camryn - Our Mid-Size Camera Bag – kindlycamerabags](#)

[Hunt's Photo & Video Photography Retailer \(huntsphotoandvideo.com\)](#)

[Amazon.com : Vanguard Alta Pro 2+ 263CT Carbon Fiber Tripod with Multi-Angle Center Column for Sony, Nikon, Canon DSLR Cameras, Gray : Electronics](#)

[Hunt's Photo & Video Photography Retailer \(huntsphotoandvideo.com\)](#)

[Hunt's Photo & Video Photography Retailer \(huntsphotoandvideo.com\)](#)

[adidas Victory Bucket Hat \(Black, One Size, Unisex, Sun Hat\) at Amazon Women's Clothing store](#)

[Hunt's Photo & Video Photography Retailer \(huntsphotoandvideo.com\)](#)

[Amazon.com: 1 Pair Gardening Knee Pad Garden Knee Protectors Anti Slip Protective Cushion Soft Ultra Comfort Garden Kneepad, Neoprene Cap For Gardener Cleaning Work Scrubbing Floor Pruning : Patio, Lawn & Garden](#)

### **Materials List**

Camera – DSLR or Mirrorless (good idea to have your camera's manual)

Macro Lens(es) or any specialty lenses like, Lensbaby, Close-up Filters

Zoom Lens, anything within the range of 18 – 300

Polarizer filters

Neutral Density Filters

Tripod and Head

Flash, if you shoot with one, bring it, but flash is not required.

If you have a 12", 20", or a 22" diffuser, bring it, and if you don't have one, please purchase a very important accessory.

Reflector - optional (the small gold/silver 12" model)

A great accessory to hold your diffuser or reflector, or to attach to a flower stem on windy days is a, plamp, and plamp stake.

If you need to purchase a diffuser, reflector, or plamp system, contact Mike at [mymoats@yahoo.com](mailto:mymoats@yahoo.com) for discount links.

If you have one, bring a laptop with an image processing program installed.

**Accessory Checklist:**

Extra Camera Batteries and memory cards

Chargers

Cable release

Optional Accessories

Knee Pads, or kneeling pad

Hand held LED light.

**\* If you need to purchase any items listed above, please contact Mike Moats at [macrogeekmike@yahoo.com](mailto:macrogeekmike@yahoo.com) for assistance with discount pricing.**

**\*\* NOTE FOR LENSBABY USERS:**

**A set of macro filters or macro converters for Lensbaby optics using the Optic Swap System is usually needed to shoot floral subjects in most cases.**

**Double Glass II (DGII) optic plus Composer Pro II:**

<https://lensbaby.com/products/composer-pro-ii-double-glass-ii>

**Double Glass II (DGII) only:**

<https://lensbaby.com/products/double-glass-optic-ii>

**Macro filter kit:**

<https://lensbaby.com/products/46mm-macro-filter-kit>