



Summer offers us an almost unlimited range of opportunities to explore the outdoors. Indeed, with its longer days and warmer weather there hardly seems an acceptable excuse *not* to be outside at some point, whether to hike, kayak or just work in the garden.

But this summer has been different in one notable respect - the almost unbelievable amount of rainfall we've experienced, in a manner more befitting the tropics than New England. While the frequent thunder storms have put a damper on many a ball game and barbecue, the almost constant precip offers unique opportunities for nature photography. With a little help from Harold Arlen, herewith a few suggestions and tips to get the most out of your rainy day:

**Stormy Weather** Have you ever walked the woods after a heavy rain and noticed how the greens look greener and the browns browner? Wet surfaces diffuse less light than dry surfaces, meaning colors look deeper to the eye and to

your camera, as in this fern shot. Because the low light conditions of the woods generally requires a longer exposure time use of a tripod or a flat resting surface



for your camera is recommended. However, if you need to shoot hand-held here's a trick: set your camera's interval timer to two seconds then compose and take the shot. The two second delay removes camera shake, resulting from pressing the shutter release button, as a factor and gives you a moment to steady the camera before the shutter closes.

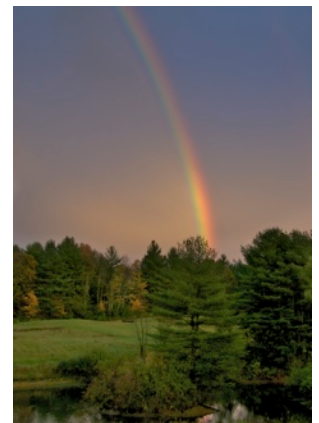
**Like Clouds Up In The Sky** Not a sunny day? Don't fret. Black and white images incorporating clouds, with their deeply contrasting grays, can add real drama to a photo, as in this shot Lucy took at Mount St. Joseph in



Quebec. Most point and shoot cameras have a B&W mode; so if you're out on a cloudy day, and your color shots

look a little drab, try experimenting with B&W - you might be pleasantly surprised at the results.

**Over The Rainbow** I never cease to marvel at the appearance of a rainbow. They really put a smile on my face, but they can be difficult to photograph due to the high contrast between the lighter sky and the darker foreground. If you expose for the sky, the foreground may end up dark; and the reverse is true if you expose for the foreground. One way to shoot rainbows is to expose for the sky and then bring out the shadows of the foreground after the fact using software. If you have an SLR, a better option is to use a graduated neutral density filter, which effectively darkens the sky while leaving the foreground at normal exposure. If all this seems too complicated don't worry - just point your camera at the rainbow and shoot. Maybe you will be lucky to have the lighting just right, as I was when this rainbow appeared over our backyard around dusk.



If you'd like tips on how to take better nature shots with your own camera, email your questions to me at [khartlage@mac.com](mailto:khartlage@mac.com). For prints of these and other photos, visit us at [www.conservationphotos.com](http://www.conservationphotos.com)