What To Bring

I consider the following items important. You can learn more about them at the workshop, but I made this checklist as a reminder to bring them if you already own them. **Items essential to this workshop are in bold**. You might also consider renting lenses, cameras or other gear from [Lens Pro To Go](https://www.lensprotogo.com) or other rental companies.

Contact Mark Bowie at [mbowiephoto@gmail.com](mailto:mbowiephoto@gmail.com) or 413-442-9125 with questions.

**Photo Equipment**

**Camera** – DSLR or mirrorless, full frame or cropped sensor. 2nd camera for back-up if you have one. Also, bring the **camera manual** — either the booklet or on your smartphone.

**Lenses** – There will likely be photo opportunities for your full range of lenses, from extreme wide angle to telephoto and macro. I use 14-24mm, 24-70mm, 80-200mm and 80-400 lenses, and a 105mm macro lens. When buying lenses, I recommend buying the best quality you can afford, with maximum apertures of f/2.8 or wider for landscape work (especially useful for night photography).

**Non-abrasive Lens Cleaning Cloth and Wipes.**

**Tripod** – Sunrise, sunset, twilight and nighttime light levels are too low to photograph properly without a *sturdy* tripod. I recommend buying a lightweight carbon fiber tripod with a ball head (I like Induro and Gitzo brands). Expect to pay $300-$400 for the set. Watch [Hunt’s Photo](http://www.huntsphotoandvideo.com) for sales. A quality set should last many years.

**Lots of Memory Card Storage** – I use fast 64 & 128GB cards, good for stills & video.

**Camera Battery Charger and Extra Batteries.**

**Sensor Cleaning Tools** — To remove dust and debris from the sensor. I use Eclipse solution and Sensor Swabs Ultra from [Photographic Solutions](http://photosol.com/products/).

**Polarizing Filter.**

Neutral Density Filters, Graduated Neutral Density Filters – I use [Tiffen](https://tiffen.com/tiffen-filters/) 3- and 6-stop IR-ND neutral density filters, and the [Singh-Ray](http://www.singh-ray.com) 8-stop Vari-ND filter. They have minimal color casting. I can also recommend a set of 3 [Haida](http://www.haidausa.com/products/neutral-density-filters.html) round screw-in ND filters (with 3-, 6-, and 10-stop filters) for about $120. I also use [Singh-Ray](http://www.singh-ray.com) 2-stop soft- and 3-stop hard-edge graduated filters.

**Shutter Release** ­­– You can use a wired cable release, a wireless remote, or the camera’s self-timer (except in BULB). Shutter releases are available for specific camera models, from simple units that only trip the shutter, to more advanced units with intervalometers that allow the photographer to program exposure time, count down the exposure, shoot multiple exposures and timed intervals. I use the [Vello Shutterboss](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/search?Ntt=Vello%20Shutterboss%20&N=0&InitialSearch=yes&sts=ma&Top+Nav-Search=) III ($99) wireless intervalometer for shooting time-lapses.

**Flashlight &/or Headlamp** – preferably with a red light, or cover with a red filter, to limit distracting others during night photography sessions. I use a Pelican Model 2720 LED headlamp, with powerful, zoomable lights and hands-free on/off ($39). Bring larger lights for light painting if you’d like. LED flashlights are particularly compact & powerful. I use the [Coast](https://coastportland.com/) HP7R. [Fenix](https://www.fenixlighting.com/) also makes quality LED flashlights.

**Eyepiece Cover/Small Towel/Gaffer’s Tape** – to cover the viewfinder and prevent stray light from impacting the sensor at night.

**Rain/Snow Cover** – For camera and lens protection. An inexpensive plastic shower cap works well in many instances. I also use [Op-Tech plastic rain sleeves](https://optechusa.com/rainsleeve.html) that have a drawstring at one end and that slide over camera & lenses. A set of 2 costs about $6.

**Battery-powered Alarm Clock/Watch** – In case cell phone service isn’t available. It’s better to bring your own alarm than miss a morning shoot!

Cell Phone.

**Computer Equipment**

**Laptop Computer** – I highly recommend bringing your own laptop computer for downloading, processing and viewing your images. If you borrow a laptop, make sure that you are familiar with its use.

**Processing Software** – Good choices include [Adobe](https://www.adobe.com) Lightroom, Photoshop, or Elements. I use [Adobe’s Creative Cloud Photography Plan](https://www.adobe.com/creativecloud/plans.html?promoid=6NCS7DGT&mv=other), which includes Lightroom & Photoshop CC, for about $10/month. Free 30-day trials of these programs are available.

I use Lightroom’s Denoise feature primarily for noise reduction and pre-sharpening. I can also recommend Topaz Lab’s DeNoise AI and Sharpener AI.

Back-up device – Such as an external hard drive.

**Flash Drive** – For sharing images.

**Power Strip (if you have one)** – for convenient access to power.

**Clothing & Outdoor Gear**

Historical average temperatures for the Berkshires in April vary from a high of 55 degrees to a low of 34. It’s advisable to bring several warm layers as temperatures can change significantly and quickly.

**Spring Coat, Gloves/Mittens, Hat**

Fleece Under Layer/Wool Sweater

**Rain Jacket & Pants**

**Hiking Boots. Several pairs of warm, moisture-wicking socks.**

Muck boots, waders, sandals – for wading into streams & exploring mucky shorelines

Hand/Foot warmers.

Dress for the indoor sessions will be casual.

Water bottle.

Energy bars or other snacks.