

## Point-n-Shoot Photo Tip #8

by Dave Dawson

It's the dead of winter with over 4 months before the muskie season opens in Southern Wisconsin. It's going to be a long time before you can take a few pics of your fishing partner holding a muskie so rather than share another photo tip for *taking* better photos, this article shifts gears and discusses some **ideas for muskie photos that have already been taken.**

Digital photography has opened the door to lots of ideas that almost anyone is capable of doing. And in some cases amazing results can be produced with a very modest amount of time and effort.

Various photo editing can now be done using full-functioning [and often free] software. Simple internet searching will lead you to those photo editing tools.

While I'd prefer not to mention specific products, I will identify one that work for me. Google's Picasa software is free and does lots of things with ease. Photo cropping is a breeze and can turn a good shot into a great one with auto sizing for common print sizes (4x6 and 8x10) as well as poster-size cropping for prints as big as 24x36! Remove red eyes in photos with a couple clicks of the mouse.

For those that follow this column, you'll recognize that all 7 prior photo tip articles have stated that photo "do-overs" are not possible once a muskie is release. While that's primarily a true statement, in some cases it may be possible to salvage photos that didn't turn out that well. While some bad shots cannot be fixed under any circumstance, the magic of photo editing can now do some amazing things that anyone can do given some practice and patience.

Picasa's "Retouch" feature for fixing photos absolutely amazes me every time I use it. One example occurred a few years ago when MCW member, Wayne Wold submitted a pic of himself holding a beautiful 46.5" muskie. The photo was pretty hazy mostly because the sun was in the background and actually eliminated part of the tree line over Wayne's shoulder. Picasa's "Retouch" feature came to the rescue. In a matter of about a dozen mouse clicks, it allowed me to insert the trees that had been obstructed by the sun. And a few more clicks sharpened the haziness. While the resulting photo isn't ideal, it is much better than the original (see below).

Creating a muskie photo collage is something else to consider doing. This definitely takes patience, but the results can be pretty impressive especially when printed in large 20x30 or 24x36 poster-size. Once completing your photo collage,

submitting it online to local retailers with onsite photo labs is easy, very affordable, and can often be picked up in as little as an hour.

Here are 2 other creative ideas to consider for your digital photos:

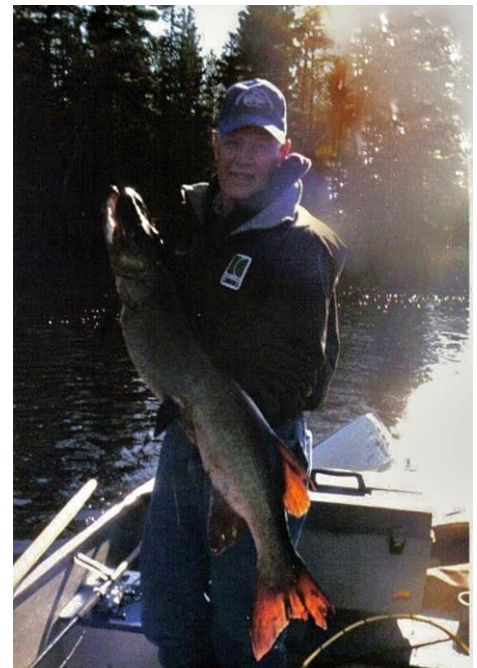
- Create a photo/music compilation and share it with others on YouTube. Check out our club's collection online at <https://www.youtube.com/user/muskellungecw>.
- Put together a trophy album of muskies over a certain length (maybe greater than 40") printed in a larger size (5x7 or 8x10). Be sure to include pics of yourself, your fishing partners, and ones that have special meaning to you.

If you have other muskie photo ideas, be sure to share them with me and your fellow Muskellunge Club of Wisconsin members. Take great muskie photos in 2015!

### Original Photo .....



### ..... "Retouched" Photo



*In the article above, the author describes how he "retouched" Wayne's original photo on the left to produce the cleaner photo on the right.*