

Foothills Photography Group

Newsletter

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President.....Laura Jenkins
 VP.....OPEN
 Sec/Treasurer.....Barb Johns
 Programs.....Colby Moore
 Social.....Dave Hinson
 Co-chair.....Marsha Teisler
 Community Service..Laura Jenkins
 Co-chair....Libby Hartbarger
 Newsletter.....John Martin
 Mentor Program.....Kim Martin
 Webmaster.....Ashley Farmer

laurapage@windstream.net
MAYBE YOU?
 photobug46@gmail.com
 jcolbymoore@gmail.com
 davejanhinson@gmail.com
 davejanhinson@gmail.com
 laurapage@windstream.net
 libbyhartbarger@gmail.com
 johnmartin2842@gmail.com
 Kimmersphotography@gmail.com
 Ashley.farmer104@gmail.com

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Cover photo by John Martin. “Nana’s happy.” This photo was the winner in January’s Member Showcase competition. Theme: HAPPY. See others on page 8.



Hello, Fellow Club Members.

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I hope everyone is having a great week. Thanks to everyone who participated in January's Member Showcase. We had great participation, with 14 photos submitted. Congratulations to the winners: John Martin, Melissa Elzey, and Elain Brown.

We also had a great presentation from our own John Martin. If members would like to share their knowledge

and talent with the club, let me or Colby Moore know.

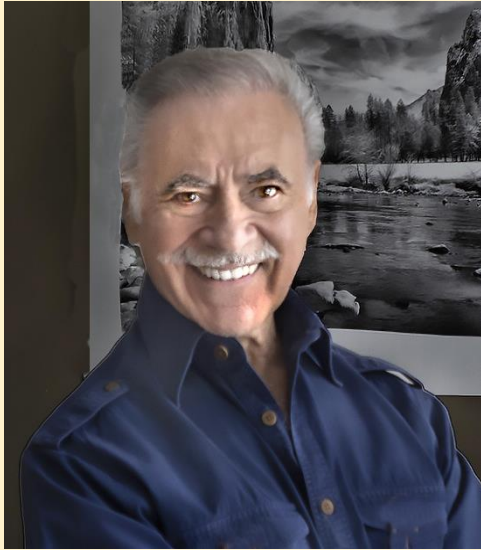
The poll I posted on Facebook in January that asked about your camera showed interesting results. Nikon (36%) lead the way; cell phones (32%) followed; and Canon came in third (28%). Check out the comments on the poll to see specific camera information. We might be able to connect with other members who use the same camera we do. Fellow members are a good resource for camera questions and tips.

As I said in my January message, I want to challenge everyone to get more involved. This month I would like you to think about what motivates you to pick up a camera. What is your inspiration? Think about it for a week. Then, I'm going to ask these questions on Facebook. I'm very interested in seeing your answers.

Below are a couple of articles on inspiration.

<https://www.adorama.com/alc/what-inspires-your-photography-13-photographers-share-their-inspirations/>

<https://www.wix.com/blog/photography/photography-inspiration-ideas>



John Mariana is the February presenter. And THAT is good news!!

(Editor's note: In my opinion, John Mariana is one of the best – if not THE best -- landscape photographer in this part of America.)

John's notes for the presentation:

A fine art print or photograph involves:

- the observation and understanding of light
- the skillful use of composition techniques
- the understanding of lines, forms, patterns
- visual relationships

In photography the importance of contrast, tonalities and saturation are key elements for creating an emotional response.

- Highlight textures
- Subtle shadow detail (not blocked up)
- Shadow areas show a separation of highlights
- Highlights and the shadows emphasize key elements.
- Very delicate balance of tones
- Highlight areas are in balance with tonal density of the nearest shadow areas.

Composition Questions

- How does your eye enter the image?
- How does your eye stay in the image?
- Where does your eye rest in the image?
- How does your eye repeat the image?
- How much is shadow without detail?
- How much is highlight without texture?

Composition - Basics

- Left to Right
- Shading – dodge & burn
- Clear, bright skies
- Rule of Thirds
- Formats

February 21st. Social time is 6:30, meeting starts at 7:00.

Meeting at North Georgia Technical College three miles west of Clarkesville on Hwy 197. Approaching the school, make first right, then left into the large parking lot. The Visual Tech Building is on the far side of the parking lot.

Building Travel Photos with People, Structures, and Vehicles

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This article was written by my friend, Janice Koskey. I published it in PSA's Photo Traveler while I was editor. She's given me permission to publish it here. Note the similarity to John Mariana's presentation re composition.

While exploring a new and different place it's good to have a focus. I find that keeping in mind three basic elements, *people, structures, and vehicles* helps direct my attention in the quest for that quintessential scene.

Combining these elements with color, texture, and perhaps a surprise can become the recipe for a successful image. Even two of these ingredients in a provocative arrangement can depict a lasting impression of a culture.

Let yourself be drawn to one of these elements initially. For example, if your eyes become attracted to a person first, rest there a while and then widen your scope to give him context. A good lens choice for walkabout travel photography is a Tamron 16-300 zoom. I find that its high-quality glass brings clarity to my images, its small size makes it not too noticeable, and its vast range allows for the flexibility of moving from wide angle to telephoto in seconds.

Speaking of noticeability, I'd suggest you wear bland clothing colors while strolling for photos and call as little attention to yourself as possible. Going solo works best for me, but according to your circumstances it may not always be possible. Walk slowly and pause yet keep moving. You can come back around to a rich spot again. Subtlety is key, low key.



Sometimes an effective photo can be framed around a structure. While meandering through the small town of Bucerias, Mexico, I found myself on a back street with few passersby. Across the road there was a wall of bright orange in front of yellow concrete.

Attracted by its vivid yet simple nature, I focused on the growth of green

sprouting out of this facade. While I was contemplating and framing the scene which was about 30 feet away from me, along came the person whom I later dubbed “Marlboro Man” striding by in his flip flops and blue shirt, a lovely color complement to his surroundings. At times we photo strollers get lucky! Only after processing the image did I notice a surprising detail; he was holding a cigarette in his hand as he walked.

In the same town nearer the commercial district I was happy to see an old blue Volkswagen parked by a quaint restaurant. Gazing through the lens, I noticed how well the blue of the painted structure went with the color of the vehicle and snapped the shutter. In the next moment,



wouldn't you know, a spirited woman walked by in clothing that picked up the red awning and the patch on the car. I refocused and clicked again. In the noonday sun with my aperture at f/18 I was able to keep all elements in sharp focus. The woman's presence gave another dimension to the image and offered me a choice in post processing. Would I prefer the photo with or without her? Mixing and matching these elements can be fun.



On another trip I used the same formula on a different street in a remote village in Greece. This time I was first attracted to the people, two small boys walking with their bicycles. They were passing by a textured and subtly colored

building near a street corner on this typical lazy afternoon. As I hurried to adjust my settings before the boys were out of sight, a red truck pulled into the intersection, adding the third element to the scene. Two people, three vehicles, and varied background may seem like a lot in one shot, but in this one they spread out enough to give a glimpse of village life in a surprisingly uncluttered way.

Walking along the less busy streets of the place you are visiting, quietly imagining invisibility, and keeping your eyes peeled for people, structures, and vehicles can build a scene that will long remain in your mind's eye and be preserved in a photograph for a lifetime.



Update on the Nursing Home Project.....

SIXTY !! images have been received from Foothills club members to help decorate the hospital's six-million-dollar restoration of the Nursing Home. This has the look of a really worthwhile and meaningful effort by the club to give back to the community.

And...it is likely to happen. BUT, there is an issue which will delay the project.



Quoting Now Habersham,

“Habersham County Medical Center is joining Northeast Georgia Health System sooner than expected. The Habersham County Hospital Authority and county commission have agreed to a deal to hand over the facility to the Hospital Authority of Hall County and Gainesville by July first of this year.”

The practical implication of this situation is that new management (already in place) is making expenditures decisions. And, the result is a “hold” on projects such as this. So...we wait.

Thank you to all who have provided photos for this effort.

HAPPY.....HAPPY.....HAPPY.....HAPPY

January’s Member Showcase had 12 submissions which made President Laura...well...happy.



First place went to John Martin’s photo of “Nana” and her granddaughter.



Elaine Brown’s pups are happy playing ball – and earned her Second Place.



Friends? Relatives? Doesn’t matter; they’re happy. Melissa Elzey....third place.



Rain? Who cares....it’s LOVE !!
And “love” is the theme for February’s Member Showcase.
Send your entry to Laura at lpjphotography15@gmail.com



--- UPCOMING PROGRAMS ---

FEBRUARY 21ST John Mariana, details on page 4.

MARCH 21ST Wingate Downs – My life in Images. I think Wingate’s words best describe his journey in photography:



I have 25 years’ experience in: publishing, advertising, annual reports, brochures, books, newspapers and magazines.

I’ve been printed by Time, Life, and Sports Illustrated, and have done the cover and inside images for books such as "Glory, Glory" by Lewis Grizzard, and "Twenty Five Years of Coaching" by Vince Dooley.

My photo work has taken me all over the U.S., and into Canada, Italy, and Poland. My wedding work has taken me to 15 different states, and I’ve taught photojournalism at the Univ. of Georgia.

This is a return engagement – Wingate spoke to the club in August, 2016.

APRIL 18TH Our own Kim Martin – travel images. No details yet; watch this space!

