

Foothills Photography Group

Newsletter

Volume 11. Number 6



This cover photo was made by Laura Jenkins last year in Yellowstone Park.

This mama-bear is (apparently) a vegetarian.

See other Member Showcase winners on page 9.



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Hello Fellow Club Members.

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Can you believe spring is almost over and it's time to prepare for summer? The kids are happy, and the parents may or may not be happy. 😊 I hope everyone gets to plan a getaway and enjoy some time off this summer. Don't forget to pack the camera!

I'm looking forward to the June meeting. We have a great landscape/travel photographer, Tom Vadnais, on the schedule. We'll also have Berrie Smith visiting to clean cameras. Please plan to come early if you want your camera cleaned. He's usually very busy. He will work on the cameras during our June meeting and have them ready to go by the time the meeting is over. (See more details on page 7.)

Also, thanks to everyone who participated in May's Member Showcase. Congratulations to the top three: Laura Jenkins, Rodney Gunn, and Barbara Johns. My photo of the black bear was taken in Yellowstone last May. I was driving between Mammoth and Tower Junction and saw a couple of cars pulled off the road. Very close to the road, I saw this great black bear and her cub eating peacefully in the field. I was able to get some nice shots of them before the cub got spooked and ran off. I missed going to Yellowstone this year, but there are more exciting trips in the works for this summer. I'm excited to hear about everyone's plans for the summer!

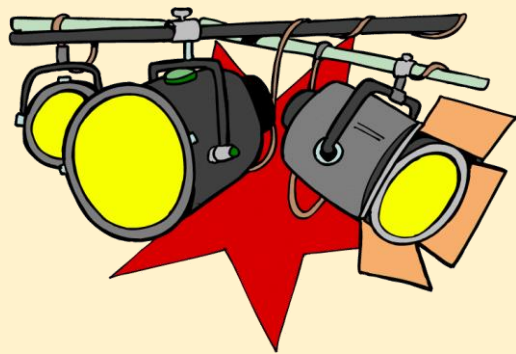
I hope to see everyone at the June meeting. The Member Showcase topic is "Where are you from....". I challenge you to be creative in your submission. Send your photos to me at lpjphotography15@gmail.com.

Laura

There's been a little shake-up in the Club's organization....

Until a few weeks ago we had a vice-president slot which had gone unfilled for over a year. At the same time Laura was doing double duty as co-chair of the Community Service Committee (with Libby Hartbarger who found it necessary to step down). Add in the fact that the Mentor Committee chairmanship was open and you have a problem in need of a solution.

The Board elected to pull these disparate needs into one under the title VP – Mentoring and Community Service. Melissa Elzey was asked to fill that position and she accepted.



So...it seems fitting that this month's spotlight will highlight Melissa Elzey.

Newsletter: Tell us a little bit about yourself.

Melissa Elzey: I live in Clayton with my husband Gary and mother Jan. We are caregivers for my mother who is 91 years old. I work part time as a dental assistant for the children's clinic in the Rabun County Health Department. I also volunteer as a dental assistant for the adult Community Dental that is partnered by the Rotary Club and Rabun County Health Department. I enjoy hiking, traveling, and making photographs in my spare time.

NL: When did your interest in photography begin?

ME: When I was in high school my parents bought me a kodak 110 for Christmas and I enjoyed taking photos so much that I got a job so I

could save money and I could purchase my first 35mm. I started taking photos for the annual staff and as my interest in photography increased greater and greater, I realized I wanted to study photography. I chose to attend North Georgia Technical Vocational School which is now called North Georgia Technical College.



NL: What camera do you use? Canon R6 and Canon 6D II.



ME: What is your favorite lens? 100-400 for wildlife and sometimes for flowers. For events 24-70 and 70 200. Landscape 24-105.

NL: What do you like to shoot (e.g., landscapes, portraits, pets, wildlife, babies, weddings, etc.)?

ME: Waterfalls, wildlife, landscapes, and events.

NL: Where is your favorite place you've been to take photographs?

ME: Jekyll Island

NL: What is your dream destination to photograph?

ME: Alaska

NL: Who or what inspires your interest in photography?



ME: I am in awe of the beauty of God's creation. I try to capture the beauty through the lens of my camera so that others may enjoy God's handwork. 6

NL: What is your favorite photo you've taken?

ME: I have a lot of favorites so I can't narrow them down to one.



NL: What is your favorite all-time photo by another photographer?

ME: There are so many great ones out there that it is hard to pick just one.

NL: What advice would you have for someone who wants to become a photographer?

ME: Get to know your camera really well. Take lots of photos. Don't be afraid to ask others for help.

The June meeting...

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Seven years ago, Tom Vadnais presented to Foothills



Photography Group about the equipment needed to make successful nature photographs.

So...what's Tom been up to lately?

“Since 2004, I have been co-teaching photography and Photoshop in workshops at the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont (www.gsmit.org) with Bill Lea each Spring and Willard Clay every Fall. Since Will's retirement after the 2014 workshop, I have been asked to lead the Fall workshops at Tremont. For several years, I taught Spring workshops

with Lori Kincaid in the Max Patch area of the Appalachians. I've also co-led NANPA Regional Events in the Everglades (in 2012) and the Smokies (in 2015).”

We don't yet have the details of Tom's June 20th presentation to the Club, but you won't want to miss the opportunity to hear one of the best nature photographers in the Southeast.

ALSO AT THE JUNE MEETING...

Berrie Smith – expert in camera cleaning and repair – will clean/calibrate your camera/lens. This is a rare chance to have your camera gear serviced by one of the best. Berrie has visited our club twice in the past and has many satisfied customers in the club. For DSLRs, \$40 camera clean, \$25 calibration, \$10 lens cleaning. For Mirrorless, \$40 camera clean, \$25 lens clean. Come early; Berrie will do his work during the meeting.

IMPORTANT: IF YOU PLAN TO BRING YOUR CAMERA/LENS, EMAIL LAURA AT:

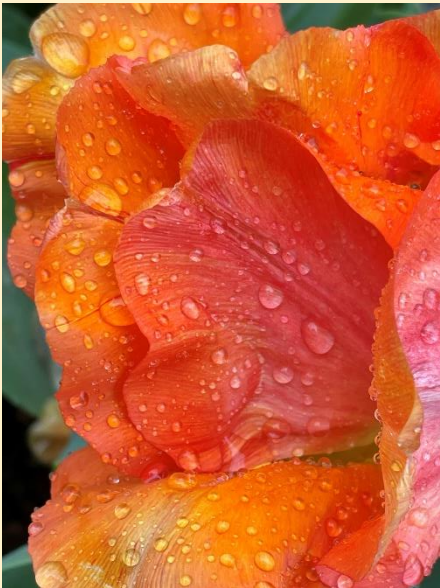
lpjphotography15@gmail.com

Member Showcase...

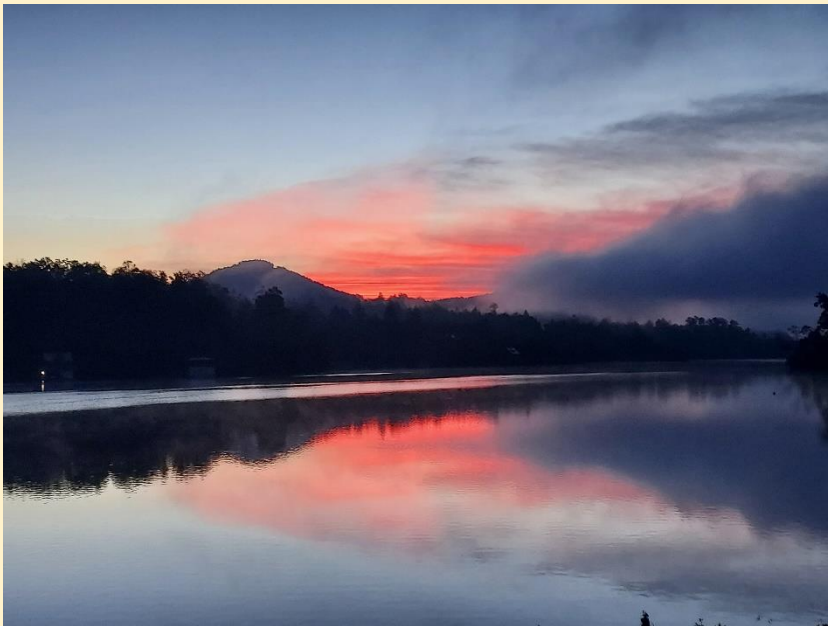
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for May was “M is for...”

Laura Jenkins pulled in first place with her “Mamma Bear” shown here and on the newsletter cover.



Barb Johns’ “Macro” of an orange tulip earned third place.



Rodney Gunn got up early to capture this “Mountain Morning” and earn second place.

IMPORTANT STUFF...

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The August meeting will be on the fourth Tuesday – not the normal third Tuesday. Mark your calendar!



Kim Martin is collecting opinion sheets on potential field trip places. Early returns are interesting and contain some great ideas.



The June meeting's Member Showcase theme is "Where I'm from". Send your photo (and a statement explaining it) to Laura at lpjphotography15@gmail.com