

Foothills Photography Group

Newsletter

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Cover photo by John Martin. It's a teaser for the Feature Article: *MY TRAVEL CAMERA IS A CELL PHONE*. See the article beginning on page 4.

Hello Fellow Club Members,



I hope everyone is having a great week. Thanks to everyone who participated in February's Member Showcase. Congratulations to the top three: John Martin, Kathleen Townsend, and Amanda Moon.

We had a great presentation from John Mariana. We should all think about the advice he gave while out shooting and during post processing.

Thanks to everyone who commented on the Facebook post about your inspiration. It was great to read about the many different things that inspire you to pick up a camera. When I think about my inspiration I'm reminded of this quote: "What I like about photographs is that they capture a moment that's gone forever, impossible to reproduce."- Karl Lagerfeld

March is a great time to get out of the house and look for signs of spring!! If you've never been to Gibbs Gardens, it's a great time to check it out. The 20+ million daffodils are starting to bloom along with many other flowers. We're planning a field trip there. Stay tuned!

<https://gibbsgardens.com/>

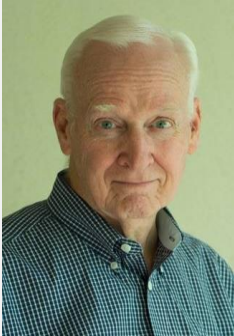
Don't forget to share your photos on the Facebook page. We all like to see what you're doing.

I hope to see everyone at the March meeting. The Member Showcase topic is Georgia Landscapes. Send yours to lpjphotography15@gmail.com

Laura Jenkins
Foothills Photography Group President

My travel camera is a cell phone – sometimes.

By John Martin, editor



Major technical advances by the cell phone manufacturers have, arguably, challenged the idea that serious photographers must shoot with DSLRs. Personally, I was “forced” to embrace iphonography, by a recent decision to walk a 200-mile trek in Italy.

A little about the trip: I was Inspired by Cynthia Whelan’s article The Way of Saint Francis, Italy Intimate Photographs of an Italian Landscape which appeared in the Fall, 2020 edition of PSA’s Photo Traveler. The trek approximates the path taken by Francis and his first eleven followers to Rome (in 1209) to seek permission from Pope Innocent III to establish a new religious order. There are several ways to do the pilgrimage, but I chose to walk in daily segments of 10 to 17 miles and to stay in B & B’s or inns booked by phone a day or two in advance. All this accompanied by my sixteen-year-old granddaughter.



I wrestled a long time over the choice to take my camera or rely on my cell phone for pictures. Weight seemed to be the most important factor. A year

earlier – with this trek in mind -- I had retired my “boat anchor” Nikon D-850 and replaced it with the mirrorless Nikon Z7. A pound and a half saved. Plus...I really like the Z7. But, as the departure date got closer and I was making training hikes with my pack loaded, I began to appreciate – even more -- the importance of pack weight reduction. My pack’s base weight was fifteen pounds. With the day’s water and food, it became twenty pounds. Did I really want to take my camera and add another four and one-half pounds?

So...camera or iPhone?

I quickly concluded that it wasn’t a choice between the two. The cell phone was going on the trip either way (GPS, accommodation reservation, and safety). The decision, then, was to take the camera or not and THAT decision was made based on my requirement for image quality. After making side-by-side comparisons of images made both ways, I chose the iPhone. I would need to avoid situations where tight cropping was needed but that was partially managed through the lens choice on my iPhone 11.



Am I a convert? For activities like this long trek, absolutely. For almost all other photography I certainly would not give up the quality, control, and capabilities of my DSLR.

How did the hike turn out? My granddaughter and I completed the 200-mile walking trek of the Way of St. Francis from La Verna to Rome, Italy. Actually, we walked only 133 miles – we lost (took public transportation around) sixty-seven miles of the trek due in part to a minor injury early in the hike and, later, the heat. Regarding the heat, we walked a lot in 90-degree weather but elected to skip three days where the temperature was at or over 100 ° F. Lots of ups and downs with two days maxing out at over 3,000 feet elevation gain. Who says Italy doesn't have mountains? I'm glad I left my DSLR at home. And...I'm forever glad I took my granddaughter.

The Club is working on these...FIELDTRIPS!

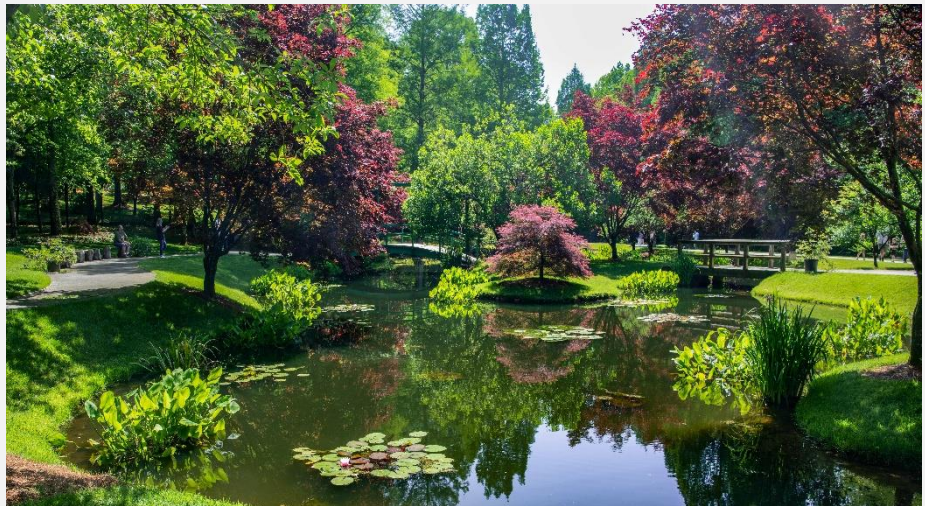
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One of the benefits of membership in FPG is the opportunity to go on organized fieldtrips.



Uhuburg is special. This eight-year project will be (when it officially opens later this year) one of the iconic attractions in Helen. We're working on arranging a members-only pre-opening tour.

Gibb's Gardens!
Two hundred twenty acres of magnificence. Gibbs Gardens has been named one of thirteen "Best American Botanical Gardens." Among other varieties, there are a few daffodils. Twenty million blooming now.



That's a 1939 Packard coupe driving through the "dip" on Hwy 197. The owner has eleven more vintage cars. The club is arranging with him to allow us (members only!) to photograph his collection.



“A Back Row Baptist is a 30-something guy who sits in the back of your church. He loves potlucks and long naps during boring sermons. His favorite exercise is running from the lady asking for nursery volunteers.” That’s a quote from *Don’t Sidehug Me: The Best of Back Row Baptist* by Matt Coker.

Well...we’re not all Baptists but we do have our share of Back Row Members. I’m not referring to you, of course. But you know the member I’m talking about.

Oh, by-the-way, the club needs people to help on committees and someone to fill the job of Vice President. The pay includes a potluck dinner if we ever have one.

Committees: Community Service, Programs, Publicity, Mentoring, and Social. If interested, contact President Laura lpjphotography15@gmail.com

More: I wrote the feature article (Cell Phone vs Big Boy Camera) but I’d rather run an article you wrote!! Interested? johnmartin2842@gmail.com

John
Editor



Barb Johns is going to Cades Cove!!

She hasn’t settled on a date yet but wants to talk with anyone else who is interested in visiting this one-of-a-kind location. Probably one or two nights.

Contact Barb at 706.499.6382 or photobug46@windstream.net

MEMBER SHOWCASE



“Kissin Cousins” by John Martin earned 1st Place. Both are now 17 years old and probably embarrassed that this became public.

This still life by Kathleen Townsend shows the theme “Love” very well.



Can animals show love and affection? Here’s living proof in Amanda Moon’s 3rd place image.

NEXT MONTH’S THEME IS “GEORGIA LANDSCAPE.”

UPCOMING PROGRAMS...



March 21st. Wingate Downs

"My Life in Images- 45 years of photographic exploration"

Wingate has 25 years' experience in: publishing, advertising, annual reports, brochures, books, newspapers and magazines.

He's been printed by Time, Life, and Sports Illustrated, and has done the cover and inside images for books

such as "Glory, Glory" by Lewis Grizzard, and "Twenty Five Years of Coaching" by Vince Dooley.

His photo work has taken him all over the U.S., and into Canada, Italy, and Poland. His wedding work has taken him to fifteen different states, and he's taught photojournalism at the University of Georgia.

April 18th. Our own Kim Martin – who never seems to sit still – will do a program on her travels.

Both programs are Live – no Zoom. Dave's cookies at 6:30, program 7:00.