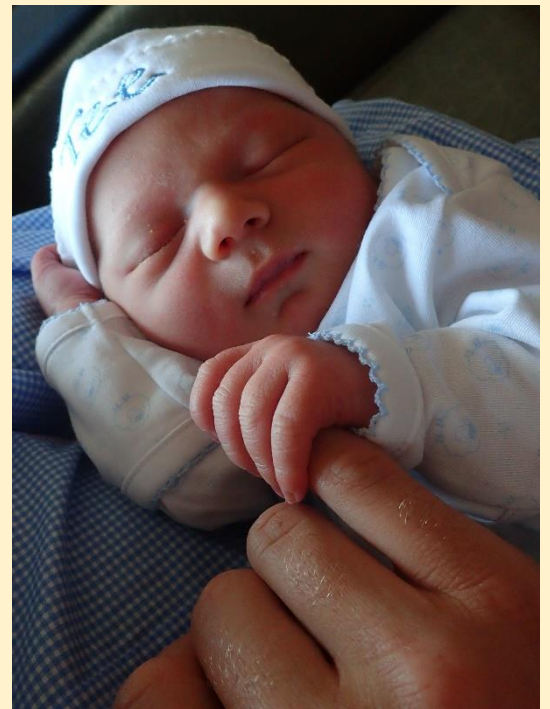


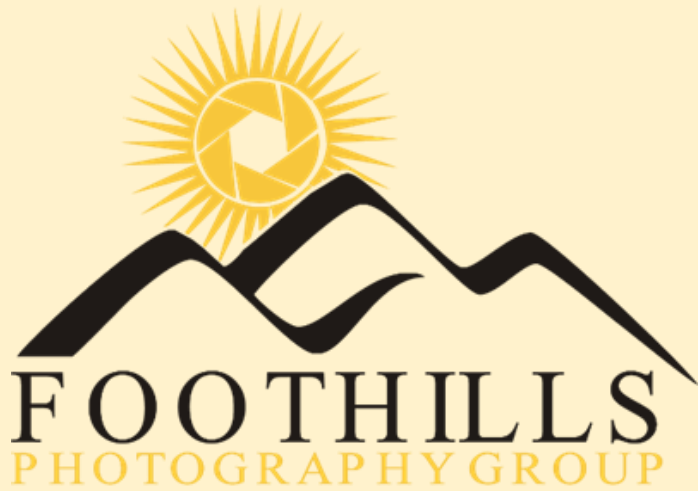
Foothills Photography Group



Newsletter



Volume 12,
Number 2



| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| President..... | Laura Jenkins | lpjphotography15@gmail.com |
| VP..(Mentoring & Comm Service | Melissa Elzey | mmelzey2002@gmail.com |
| Sec/Treasurer..... | Barb Johns | photobug46@gmail.com |
| Programs..... | Colby Moore | jcolbymoore@gmail.com |
| Social..... | Dave Hinson | davejanhinson@gmail.com |
| Newsletter..... | John Martin | johnmartin2842@gmail.com |
| Webmaster..... | Ashley Farmer | Ashley.farmer104@gmail.com |
| Field Trips..... | Kim Martin | klmmersphotography@gmail.com |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| In this issue... | |
| President's Letter..... | 3 |
| Member Showcase..... | 4 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Community Outreach..... | 5 |
| Programs..... | 6 |
| Upcoming Fieldtrip..... | 7 |
| Article: Waterfall Photos.. | 8 |

The cover photos are the winning entries to the January Member Showcase. See more on page 4.



Hello Fellow Club Members,

I hope everyone who attended the January presentation enjoyed it. It was great having an experienced photographer look at our photos and give editing suggestions, and it makes you think about your photos differently and see them through other people's eyes.

If you like to attend workshops or photography conferences, check out GNPA (Georgia Nature Photographers Association). I attended their conference in 2022 and have signed up for this year's event at Jekyll Island, April 11 – 14. What I like about this conference is they have many guided workshops that are not overly expensive along with workshops and speakers that are included in the conference fee. Plus, it's not that far away.

If you have any conferences or workshops that you have attended, please share with the group as many of our members are always looking for opportunities to learn.

Congratulations to John Martin (1st), David Hinson (2nd), and Linda Schultz (3rd) for their January Member's Showcase winning photos. We had great participation and some outstanding photos. In honor of Valentine's Day, the February showcase topic will be "Red." Feel free to be creative.

I hope to see everyone at the February meeting. We will meet in person at NGTC, and our own Ashley Farmer will be presenting on night iPhone photography and sharing her Iceland photos. I'm looking forward to it as Iceland is on my list.

See you February 20.

Laura Jenkins
Foothills Photography Group President

January's Member Showcase "NEW"



First place went to John Martin for his lucky photo of two "new" lambs. Photo made in Scotland in an ancient burial ground.

2nd place is Dave Hinson's photo of a "new" person (right) while Linda Schultz earned 3rd with her photo of a mom and "new" gorilla (below).



Community Outreach Opportunity

5

Northeast Georgia Medical Center Habersham has approached the Club with a request to provide photography for the walls of the newly renovated Nursing Home. This is the project we explored with the hospital before Habersham Medical Center was pulled into Northeast Georgia Medical Center. The project was then tabled until the dust settled on the acquisition.



The club would collect submitted images from the membership and – after formatting for printing – the club would provide the image files to NGMC Habersham. They would carry the project forward from there – print ordering, shipping, taxes, hanging, etc.

There would be no payment to club members for the use of their images. This is purely a service to the community; however, the photographer's name would be printed on a label with the final product.

The club still has the photos submitted for the earlier version of this project. If you submitted photos we will contact you individually to see if you still want to participate in the project.

Next month's newsletter will include information on the theme of photos and how to submit yours for this service project.

Programs Past and Future...

JANUARY



An unusual – and very successful – format featured Lisa Langell who provided feedback and offered editing suggestions on images submitted by the membership. Based on member feedback, there will probably be more programs of this type in the future.

FEBRUARY

This month’s program is brought by our very own Ashley Farmer. Ashley is the person that manages the club’s website -- <https://www.foothillsphotogroup.com/>



Ashley has just returned from a trip to Iceland where -- WITH HER CELL PHONE !! -- she made images of the northern

lights. If you’re making photos with your cell phone (or want to), attend the February 20th meeting to learn how Ashley does night or low light photography.

Kim and Melissa are planning a WATERFALL FIELD TRIP !!

One more reason we're waiting for warmer weather. Brasstown Falls Trail (not the mountain) is just over the border into South Carolina. I (your newsletter editor) visited the area a few years ago. My memory is of two or three separate falls accessible from a flat trail of a little less than one mile. Watch for details in the next FPG newsletter.



Editor: I'm thinking I'll take my dog on this field trip. She LOVES splashing water!

There are a few tricks to making good waterfall photos; try the below link for a refresher course in waterfall photos. It is provided by Ted's Cameras and is printed below with permission.

<https://www.teds.com.au/blog/how-to-photograph-waterfalls>

8 Tips for Waterfall Photography

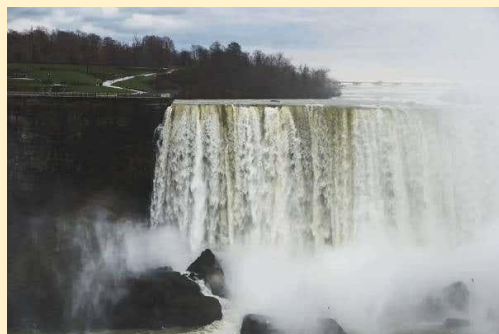
For many fans of landscape photography, shooting a waterfall is a major photography goal. It's not hard to see why: Waterfalls are striking natural features that are beautiful beyond compare, and make perfect photographic subjects.

In spite of this, the movement and colour that make waterfalls so beautiful also makes them difficult to capture in images. Below, we take a closer look at why waterfall photos appeal to so many [landscape photographers](#), and explain how to take waterfall photos like a pro.

What makes a successful waterfall photo?

We'll answer this question with another question: What do you love most about waterfall photos? For most people, it's the dynamic, dreamy effect created by the spray of cascading water. For others, it's the way light reflects off the water in a spectrum of colours ranging from pastel to vivid. In both cases, waterfalls are undeniably awe-inspiring and make you appreciate the beauty of nature.

The best waterfall photos also highlight the surrounding landscape and allow its beauty to shine through. For example, Katoomba Falls in the Blue Mountains are stunning — but the natural cliff face and lush greenery around the waterfall make photos of this [Australian landscape photography hotspot](#) even better.



The essential guide to shooting waterfalls

On your next shoot, focus on composing pleasing, well-balanced pictures, and the beauty of the waterfall will shine through. Here's your waterfall photography cheat sheet:

1. Set your camera to a slow shutter speed

To achieve that dreamy, haze-like effect, you'll need to switch your digital camera to a slow [shutter speed](#). This blurs the moving water while making sure the items in the background (like trees and rocks) remain sharp.

The "right" waterfall shutter speed comes down to personal preference, but 1-2 seconds is a good starting point. You can opt for a slower shutter speed, but if it's too slow, leaves and other items that sway in the breeze will also end up blurry. It's a delicate balance, and the only way to nail it is by experimenting!



2. Use a tripod

Since you're shooting with a slow shutter speed (the best shutter speed for waterfalls), it's important to mount your camera on a [tripod](#). A tripod reduces camera shake for clearer, crisper photos, and frees up your hands so you can explore the waterfall from different angles and perspectives. If you don't use a tripod, your entire image - not just the water - may end up blurry.

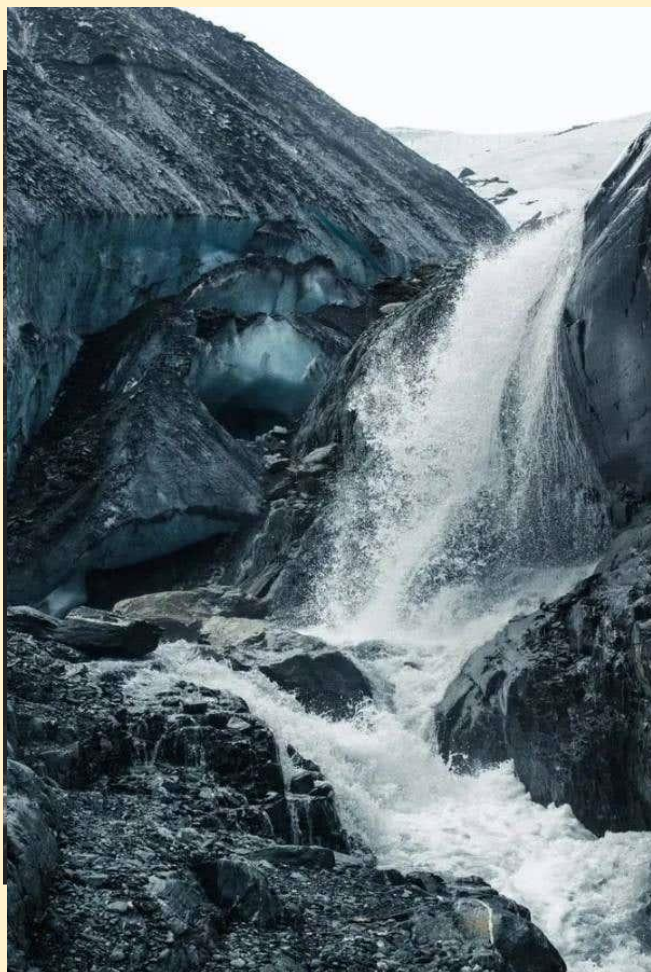
Your tripod should be sturdy and reliable, so that it doesn't run the risk of tipping over into the water. Choose a tripod that can find its footing in a range of terrains, and which has a moveable head. This maneuverability makes it much easier to compose landscape photos.

3. Turn your ISO to the lowest setting

When you're shooting waterfalls during the day and using a slow shutter speed, your images can easily become overexposed. To prevent that from happening, adjust your camera's [ISO](#) so that it's at its lowest setting. Then, switch your lens to a small aperture between f/11 and f/16.

4. Make the most of an ND filter

If you do a test shot and your shutter speed still isn't slow enough, it's time to call on a Neutral Density (ND) filter. These filters come in varying



degrees, and their main purpose is to reduce the amount of light that enters the lens. To give you an idea of their strength, a 2x ND filter will let in 50% less light (equal to 1-stop), while a 4 x ND filter will let in 25% less light (2-stops), and so on. The best filter for your waterfall photo shoot depends on how bright your surroundings are.

By manipulating the amount of light that comes in, ND filters require you to slow down the shutter speed on your [digital camera](#) to get a good exposure — and this is the secret to snapping beautiful waterfall photos!

ND filters also smooth and blur any movement, and enhance the texture and tonal contrast of your photo. When you use one, you can expect to end up with crisp,

vibrantly coloured shots that aren't washed out.

5. Take time with the composition

Landscape photography is all about showcasing the details that other people may miss, and the landscapes surrounding waterfalls are often full of these!

Approach your shoot like an adventure. When you get to the scene, walk around to try and find the most interesting angle. While waterfalls are incredibly beautiful, many of them look somewhat alike. So, your mission is to uncover what makes this particular waterfall stand out and compose your photo accordingly.

If you're new to composition, you can rely on one of the tried-and-tested techniques, such as the Rule of Thirds or Leading Lines. These techniques will leave you with aesthetically pleasing photos that draw the viewer's eye to the waterfall.

6. Pick a focal point

The best waterfall photos require a smaller aperture, which also means your image will have a greater depth of field. This means you can focus on an item in the foreground, such as a rock or log, and the rest of your photo will stay sharp and in focus.

Experiment with choosing different focal points to see which one has the most memorable effect.

7. Wait for the right light

Lighting can make or break a photo, especially when you're working with nature. If you can, wait to shoot in the "golden hours", the first hour after sunrise and the last hour before sunset. During these times, the light is soft and glowy, and the low angle of the sun creates a more natural-looking landscape image.

On the other hand, if you shoot in the middle of the day, you might struggle to edit harsh shadows out of your photos. Plus, the beauty of the moving water may get lost in the bright light.

8. Consider using a remote

With slow shutter speeds, the aim is to avoid any movements that may lead to blurry photos. Even pressing the shutter button on your camera can cause shakes, so it's worth using a remote control on your shoot.

If your camera has WiFi and Bluetooth connectivity, you might even be able to connect the remote to your smartphone and control it from there.