



Foothills Photography Group

Newsletter

Volume 11, Number 5

This cover photo was made by Melissa Elzey at the Club's outing to Gibb's Gardens.

And...it earned first prize in the Member Showcase at the April meeting.

See other winners on page 9.



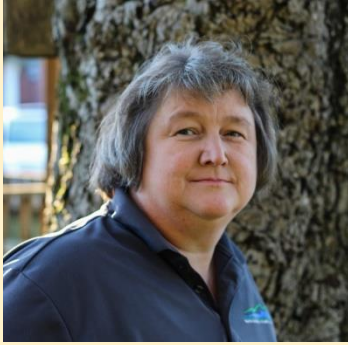
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Hello Fellow Club Members.

I hope everyone is enjoying the weather. I saw this quote about May last week – “I know why this month is called May. It may rain, it may snow, it may be 70 degrees, or it may be 20 degrees!”

Don't forget that the May meeting has been moved to the fourth Tuesday (May 23). Our speaker will be the renowned bird photographer, our own Danny Young. In preparation for his presentation, here are a couple of links on bird photography.

<https://expertphotography.com/bird-photographers/>

<https://www.audubon.org/news/10-tips-photographing-birds>

Thanks to everyone who participated in April's Member Showcase. Congratulations to the top three: Melissa Elzey, Daniel Short, and Amelia Chatham. Thanks to Kim Martin for showing us her work and giving us field trip ideas. If you have any trip ideas, or if there is somewhere you want to go, let her know as she is continuing to work on this exciting list.

Don't forget to share your photos on the Facebook page. We all like to see what you're doing. The Club's page is here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/foothillsphtogroup>

I hope to see everyone at the May meeting. The Member Showcase topic is “M is for _____.” I challenge you to think outside the box with your “M” as there may be a recognition for the most creative! Send photos to lpjphotography15@gmail.com

Laura Jenkins, Foothills Photography Group President

This space is reserved for a "Spotlight on a Member".
You just read a letter from the President. Now...you can read ABOUT our president, Laura Jenkins. This is a digital interview with Laura.



Tell us a little bit about yourself. *I live in Clarkesville with my three dogs, Cooper, Bailey (aka Hot Shot) and Sydney. I also have three cats running around the house, Noah, Gracie and Duke. I care for my mother who has dementia. I currently work at North Georgia Tech but am looking forward to retiring soon. I am the Department Chair of General Education, and I also teach math.*

When did your interest in photography begin? *I think I've always had a camera. I remember my mother having a Polaroid. I started using a DSLR around 2009.*

What camera do you use? What is your favorite lens? *Canon R5
Canon 70-200 or 100-500*

What do you like to shoot (e.g., landscapes, portraits, pets, wildlife, babies, weddings, etc.)? *Landscapes and wildlife mainly. I also do some sports photography.*



Where is your favorite place you've been to take photographs? *Yellowstone & Grand Tetons*

What is your dream destination to photograph? *Australia or Africa and I'm heading to Alaska in August*

Who or what inspires your interest in photography? *I like to capture memories.*

What is your favorite photo you've taken? *I don't really have a favorite. Here are a few recent ones that I like because they show joy. (See photos on these pages..)*

What is your favorite all-time photo by another photographer? *I can't really say I have a favorite. I admire the photographers that capture iconic moments in history such as Iwo Jima.*



What advice would you have for someone who wants to become a photographer? *Practice, practice, practice....experiment with your camera and you'll start to understand what makes a good photograph and you'll develop a style. And photograph what you love. Don't get caught up in the technicalities. A photograph can have great meaning to you but not technically be a great photo to someone else.*

The May meeting...

Editor's note: *Until a few months ago, I arranged for the presenters at each meeting. We've had some good ones over the years and Danny Young is as good as it gets. Ten or eleven years ago I watched as he was stumbling into the world of bird photography – trying new backyard setups, building new landing spaces, building new blinds, always experimenting. Today he has perfected practices and techniques that produce the absolute best, sharpest, and most evocative bird portraits you will see anywhere.*

How good is he? This lizard was chosen as shot-of-the day in National Geographic out of 8,000 entries and the dragon fly was chosen as best-in-show at Gibbs Gardens out of 800 entries.



Danny Young is a self-taught, award-winning nature photographer who lives in Hollywood, GA. He sells his images at regional art shows and in art galleries. At the FPG meeting on May 23, he will be demonstrating some of his techniques for backyard bird photography. Additionally, he will share his journey in photography, including how he and any

photographer can improve their skills. Emphasis will be given to helping a person understand why they see/perceive things the way they do and how this perception can be changed.

Note that the May meeting is on May 23 – not the normal third Tuesday. See you there!



The June meeting...

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.

See more of Tom's photography here: <http://tomvadnais.com/>

PET PHOTOGRAPY is a fairly narrow slice of the world of photo subjects but what possibilities!

Most pet photos (like this one below) are taken from the perspective of an adult looking down. Ho Hum. Not one you'd put on the family portrait grouping in your living room.



There are ways, however, that professional photographers have worked out over their careers which produce really striking images. Our program chair, Colby Moore, is in touch with a professional pet photographer to

do a presentation to our club. The date and other details haven't been firmed up yet, but possibilities include a Saturday morning outing at the "dog park" in Clarkesville. Could be one of those rare meetings to which we bring our camera --- and our pet.



That sweet creature to the right is my new Weimaraner puppy.

"Daisy" is now four months old and doesn't pose for photos

anymore. (Videos work but you can forget still shots.) I'm hoping to learn how to make those stills when the club holds its meeting featuring pet photography. Stay tuned!



The colors of spring...

Member's Showcase theme at the April meeting.



Melissa Elzey brought home first place with this view over the daffodils at the Club's Gibbs Gardens outing.



The ever-patient Danny Short caught this male purple Finch.

Amelia Chatham's pink azalea against black brought home third place.



PARTING SHOT: THE CLUB'S MAY MEETING IS MAY 23RD. THIS IS A ONE TIME CHANGE FROM THE NORMAL "THIRD TUESDAY".