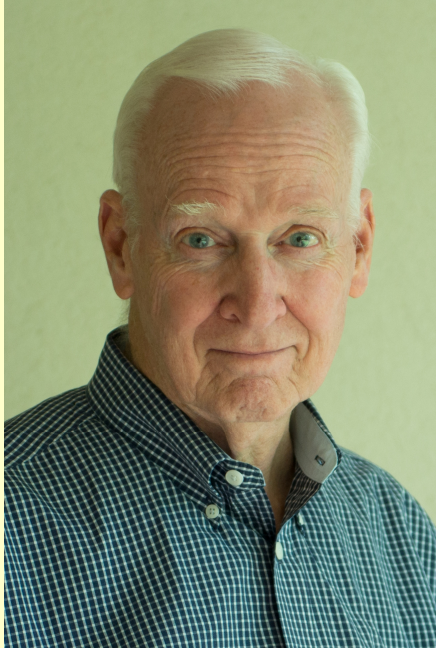


Focus on the Foothills

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From the president...

Foothills Photography Group is off to a great start.

The Club has 73 members, we've had one field trip and we have enjoyed (as guest speakers) two outstanding practitioners of our art.

And, on top of that, the near future contains a workshop for new photographers and a field trip to the spectacular Cades Cove.

And there is more. The speaker for the March meeting will be well worth the price of membership. Richard Calmes is - in a word - awesome. His photography of dance will amaze. I've studied the galleries on his website. The question is: How does he do it? Thanks to Colby Moore (Program Chair par excellence) for making this happen.

I want to encourage all members who are at the beginning stages in their photography journey to consider the "Basic Camera Skills" workshop on Saturday, 3/21. It will be held at 9 a.m. at the Attic Restaurant in Clarkesville. Colby Moore (who gets paid good money to teach the same thing at NGTC) will be the instructor. More about this on page 3 of this newsletter.

I'll see you all - members and visitors - at the March 17 meeting.

John Martin

Cover photo: Lynn McCollum shot this sunset from Yonah Memorial Gardens. In her words: "It's the Creator in the foreground and His creation in the background." If you would like your photo be considered for a cover of FOCUS ON THE FOOTHILLS, please send it to the newsletter editor at jmartin@hemc.net.



Because it is for the beginning photographer (or somewhere near), we're calling it...

Basic Camera Skills

NGTC photography educator Colby Moore, also award winning photographer, will lead the participants through the elements of exposure, composition, lighting, camera operation, you-name-it.

You will not learn advanced techniques - that will come in later workshops - but you will come away with a feeling of comfort with your camera and its functions. And that is a good start.

Meet at The Attic Restaurant in Clarkesville at 9 a. m. on Saturday, March 21. We ought to finish up around 2 p.m. Your registration fee pays for a light lunch furnished by The Attic.

This is available to Foothills Photography Group members only and you **MUST** pre-register.

Download the registration form [HERE](#). Bring it (along with \$10) to the 3/17 meeting or mail it to the address on the form.



This...is Cades Cove.

If you have been to Cades Cove you know that it is a photographer's paradise. If you haven't...well...here's your chance. The Group's Field Trip Committee has put together an outing that promises to be exceptional.

We will be at the park on April 18th and 19th. Note: We're staying the nights of April 17th and 18th. Plans are to arrive Friday afternoon/evening.

Reservations can be made at Tremont Lodge and Resort. They have several GOOD prices for rooms - older section \$69.00 per night and the newer, renovated section is a little less than \$100.00 per night. You MUST make your own reservations and mention Foothills Photography Group in order to get discounted rooms. Rooms are limited so don't hesitate. Call 865-448-3200 and ask for Lori or Coleen.



The Lodge is located near Cades Cove (in Townsend, TN). Wilson Reynolds is the new owner and is a famous photographer, speaker and world traveler. Google him to see his great photos. He was the keynote speaker at University of TN in 2014 for graduation. He also does presentations and has agreed to give us a presentation one of the nights we are there. Free of charge!

The Cove was settled in 1818 and by the start of the Civil War was home to 670 people. Population dwindled and, in the late 1930's, the area became a national park and is on the National Register of Historical Places.

Eighteen members have already reserved rooms!

More info: The Field Trip Committee, Jim or Barb Johns
(jimjohns@windstream.net)

The February Meeting -- finally held on March 3rd due to weather conditions.

When the guest speaker gets a round of applause and the buzz seems to go on forever, you know it was interesting. Jeff Gulle walked us through the craft of making HDR (High Dynamic Range) photos and, along the way showed us many of his prize winning photos.

HDR: Making multiple images - some under exposed and some over exposed - and combining them in special software to capture the best exposures of shadows and highlights to make an image more like the human eye sees.

Every time Jeff Gulle speaks he brings a little something new. This time it was a fantastic, interactive tool available for free on the internet. If you didn't get a chance to make a note of it during his talk, here is the link:

<http://camerasim.com/apps/camera-simulator/>

The Camera Simulator is awesome! I wish I had known of it back when I was trying to unravel the interplay of the various ingredients of an image. If you haven't already, read about the controls below the interactive screen. Then play around with the sliders and see how it all comes together. Thanks, Jeff.



Richard Calmes to speak at the March meeting

"Award winning photographer Richard Calmes first picked up a camera during his 1968 tour of duty in Viet Nam where the most interesting takeoffs and landings were performed by helicopters. Now, four decades later, he has focused his camera on a different type of flight where dancers soar."



When Colby Moore revealed that Richard Calmes had been secured to speak to our club's March meeting we were in a group in Jeff Gulle's office. Jeff, who holds back nothing, jumped into the conversation and announced that "...I know some professional photographers in Atlanta that want to hear him speak. They will be here."

So...Members, that is the caliber of photographer that Richard Calmes is. I've just spent an hour plundering around in

Richard's web site. Over and over the same questions come to mind: How did he do that? What kind of lighting does he use? And, then a few more times: How did he do that?

Four days after Richard's presentation several of our club members will be making photographs at the Dancing with the Stars charitable event sponsored by the Circle of Hope and the Habersham Rotary Club. My guess is that our photographers will be inspired.



Check out Barb Johns. This is the lady that proclaims that she doesn't know how to operate her camera. She's not really sure what all those buttons

Local photographer featured in exhibit of nature artists at Callaway Gardens

PINE MOUNTAIN - Guests at Callaway Gardens visiting a new traveling visual arts exhibit entitled "Nature Angled," will see the work of local photographer Barbara F. Johns.

Through late July, guests can enjoy the works from Johns and seven other artists who interpret nature through their art forms including glass, paint, photography and three-dimensional paper.

"I was very excited to be asked to show my flower photos at such a grand place known for their flower gardens," Johns said.

Her photographs are inspired by her love of nature and just exploring the path ahead. She also does photography work for her church in Clarkesville. She is a charter board member of the newly-formed Foothills Photography Group. Her work is on exhibit at Mountain Gallery in Clarkesville and she has been pub-



JOHNS

lished in several magazines and newspapers.

The Bright Ring Foundation, sponsor of the exhibit, is a non-profit organization made up of individuals who volunteer their time and energy to help artists and craftsmen. "Nature Angled" is the fourth traveling exhibition created and curated by the Bright Ring Foundation.

In addition to Johns, the other Georgia artists featured in this exhibit include: photographers David Bell, Reginald Eravok, Richard Levy and Karl Warden; glass artist Hung Nyugen (apprenticed under Hans Godo Frabel); painter Errol Tomlinson (acrylics, pen and ink); and paper artist Mona Waterhouse.

The exhibit is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily through June at the Callaway Discovery Center (until 5 p.m. beginning March 21).

For more information, visit callawaygardens.com or call 800-463-6990.

do. But can anyone argue with the results? Imagine what she will turn out when she figures out what an f-stop is!

When Barb isn't busy making perfect photos of flowers, landmarks, and

sunsets, she heads up the Group's Social Committee (those brownies before the meetings are from her kitchen) she is pitching in with husband Jim to make sure that our field trips and outings come off without hitch. And then there is her job at Mountain Gallery in Clarkesville (where some of her photos are for sale), her volunteering at First Presbyterian Church in Clarkesville, and just being a general, all around nice person and helper to mankind.

Barb, we are proud of you! And thank you for all you do for Foothills Photography Group.

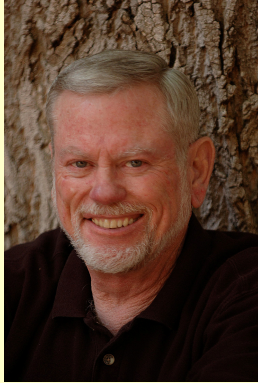
Exhibit Opportunity!

Habersham Medical Center has asked our club to decorate their walls. The Medical Center solicits photographs of local landmarks and scenes in their service area. This would include Habersham, Stephens, Banks, Hall, White, Towns, and Rabun Counties.

Here is how it will work: Club members will submit as many 11 X 14 prints as they want. Orientation does not matter. The Medical Center will choose up to 20 for display. The cost of each print is to be borne by the club member but the framing of those chosen will be done by the Medical Center. The Medical Center will host a reception to promote the collection and to honor the authors of the photographs chosen.

The Medical Center may choose some of the 20 to be made into larger prints (at their expense) for the Medical Center's permanent collection. This process may be repeated periodically to freshen the display and/or to change the theme.

More details to follow - submission dates, etc.



Richard's Rants Last month, I briefly mentioned setting ASA rating. ASA, ISO and Din are all designations of sensitivity. What is the real meaning of these terms, you ask? Each of these terms is the measure of the ability to record light. Hey, photo-graphy is literally the recording of light. The speed of the film you are using or the gain factor of a digital camera determines the ability to record that light. Back in the days of film, the usual routine was to set your ASA (ISO) dial to match the film's speed rating you were shooting. This means that your exposures, if set correctly, should match the sensitivity of the film. When the film is developed normally, your pictures or slides should look 'properly' exposed, i.e., not too dark or not too light. But

what if you had a situation where you needed to 'effectively' speed up or slow down your film?

“Push processing is a technique that compensates for underexposed film by over-developing it at the processing stage. Push processing is commonly used as a deliberate attempt to obtain usable images when working in poor lighting conditions, but the method is also necessary on occasions when a film has been underexposed accidentally.”

“Pull processing is a technique that compensates for overexposed film by under-developing it at the processing stage; thus it is the opposite of push processing.” ...As quoted from Ilfordphoto's web site.

Wow. What a hassle! All we folks who have embraced the digital age need do is crank up the ISO dial. Simple.

We will have our first workshop on Saturday, March 21st at the Attic restaurant. This workshop will be devoted to learning how to operate your camera in Aperture priority, Speed (Time) priority, and the feared but much under-used Manual mode. You will learn the relationships of apertures (f-stops), speed (1/sec) and other fun stuff.

Consider: If you are looking at a light source from four feet; then stepped back to eight feet how would the light look? The same brightness, less intense, half, a quarter or even darker? The same size, half the size, or smaller? How would a light meter interpret it?

Some fun facts to ponder: Our star, the sun's diameter is but 109 times the diameter of the earth. However, if you were to hold your thumb up between your eye and the sun (not recommended), it would be hidden (shadowed) behind your one inch wide thumb! Be thankful that the average distance between us and the sun is 93,000,000 miles.

Think about the sun facts above and you should have an 'Aha' moment as they relate to photography. If not, you really need to be at the workshop—see you there.

Next month I'll be 'zoning out. Keep shooting, keep smiling!

Rich St. John, rrstjohn@gmail.com

Some other items...

SIG's are **S**pecial Interest **G**roups. Vice President Rich St. John is going to form an UrbEx SIG. Other groups that could be formed might be bird photography, waterfall photography, or pet photography. Using Rich's UrbEx group as an example, here is what a SIG does: He and others interested in UrbEx (plundering around in and making photos of derelict buildings, etc.) would get together and plan outings. They may compare notes, discuss approaches, examine the legality of a particular site, etc. It is almost certain that the group would include experienced photographers and those just starting. And that is the beauty of the thing: It's a teaching/learning experience for all.

Mentor Program Read about the Mentoring Program on the club's site: <http://www.foothillsphotogroup.com> Steve, the WebMaster, has put in a form that makes finding a mentor a cinch.

Classifieds Send me yours and I'll publish it here! jmartin@hemc.net

Member's Web Sites Webmaster Steve Griswold has added a page to the Group's web site which shows member sites and favorite sites sent in by members. Check it out at <http://www.foothillsphotogroup.com> . If you don't see your site there send it to Steve at sgriz@me.com.

Facebook Click here: [Foothills Photography Group](#) to access the club's Facebook page. The page is "closed" but you can join by clicking the Join button. It's a good way to keep up on club announcements, coming events, and what the other members are up to.

Send me your photos for the "Critique" section of club meetings. Your photo is projected on the screen and the attendees offer compliments, suggestions for improvement, etc. It is painless. No one knows who's photo it is. And all of us will learn something. Send photos to me (John Martin) at jmartin@hemc.net

Photo Op The Mountain Laurel 5K Run will be on Saturday, May 16th, starting at Clarkesville Elementary. Photos may be used in future promotion or newspaper coverage. Contact Wendy O'Connor wirvin@hcmcmcd.org or wendyococer@yahoo.com for more information.