

FOOTHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Monthly Newsletter

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Focus on the Foothills



Photo by Amanda Moon

From Our President.....

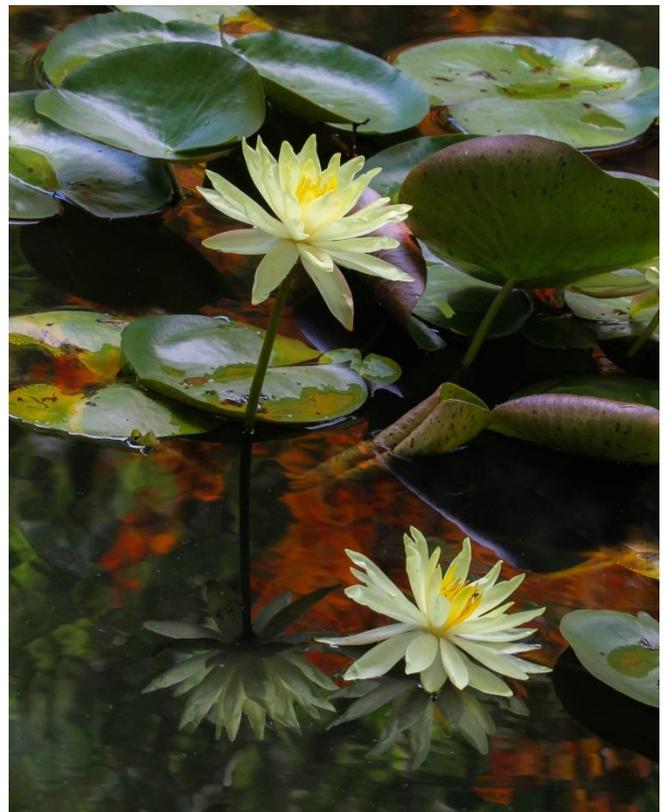
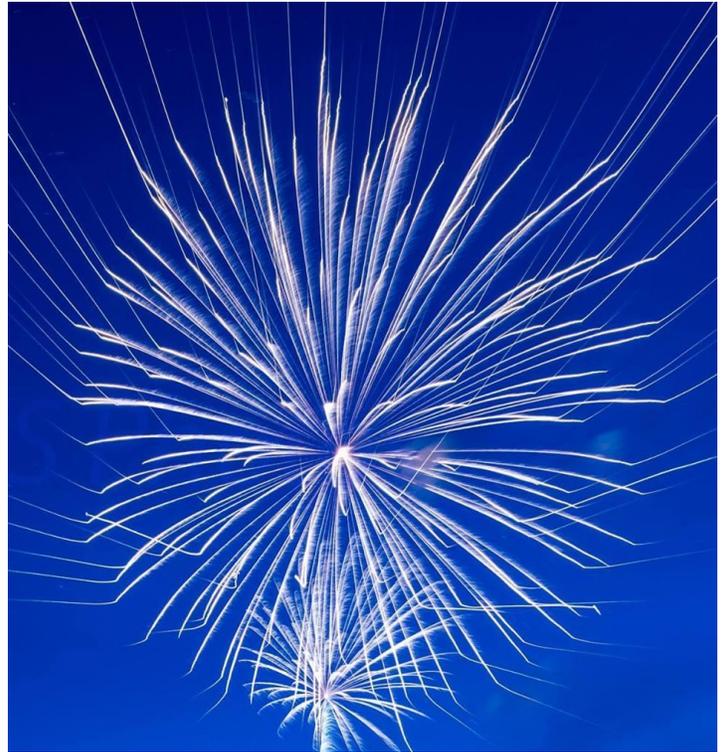
Challenged by Fireworks. Have you photographed fireworks? Are you good at it? I'm not....yet. I tried it for the first time on July 3rd and 4th and boy, do I have a lot to learn. With nature photography, I get to adjust my settings by looking at the last image I made, but not so with fireworks! Boom! Boom! Boom! One after the other. I followed the advice of others and read up on it, but it's a challenge. A friend on Facebook, Lindsey London, made this image using an interesting technique. While the fireworks explosion was still streaking through the sky, he zoomed his lens outward and created the "tails" to the light. I'm going to try that next time!

Mentoring Moments. Mentoring doesn't mean you sign up for a lesson a week for 17 years! It can be a few moments while on a field trip, an hour or two in preparation for a special event, etc. Every time I see an image on Facebook that seems challenging to me, I ask the photographer questions. This is a type of mentoring. The one day I spent with a seasoned wildlife photographer several years ago totally upgraded my skill level! He showed me his methods in the field, then spent hours on the computer giving me tips in Photoshop. As a member of Foothills, mentoring is one of the benefits. Ask.....and you will receive

Lovely Looking Lilies....in the ponds at Gibbs Gardens. They are blooming and are usually are open fully by 10 a.m. Wednesdays aren't the best days to go, if you are trying to make reflection images of the lilies. They cut the grass on Monday or Tuesday and clippings are still in the water on Wednesdays.

Happy trails to you!

Danny Young



Article of the Month Provided by Casey Bramlett

Composition in Photography

What is composition in photography? Composition is the placement of a key object in your photo or work of art; it's also the key aspect in a good photograph. Here are few rules in composition:

- **Rule of Thirds:** imagine your image as a grid (like a tic-tac-toe board) of 9 equal parts. To make your image have a balance and a point of interest, you want your subject to intersect at one of the points.
- **Leading Lines:** pulls your eyes deep into and around the image. The lines don't have to be straight, but rather can be curvy, smooth, zig zag or etc. Leading line can be from roads, buildings, bridges, people or anything in between.
- **Framing:** draws the eyes exactly to the place you want them to go. Use your natural surroundings to add more meaning to your subject. It can be anything from trees, windows, doorways and even people.
- **Clean Background:** A clean background should either give compliment to the subject or be an important part of it. Having a clean background should give emphases on your subject, and not distract your viewer's eye from the main subject.
- **Negative Space:** is the area located between the subject and the frame of the photo. Negative space helps to tell the story of the photo subject and helps the subject be more noticeable. Negative space can enhance the overall image. It leads your eye to the subject in the photograph.
- **Symmetry and Pattern:**
 - Symmetry is when you split a photo in half and both sides of the object are an exact mirror image of each other.
 - Patterns appear in lines, colors, shapes or forms. They repeat themselves.

All of the above are rules that will help to improve your photography skills if you learn and practice them. When out photographing, pay attention to the details surrounding your photograph. As I've been taught in night classes at North Georgia Tech by Colby Moore – work the scene and tell the story. Look around for rule of thirds, leading lines, clean backgrounds, negative spaces, symmetry and patterns. When you know the subject and can tell the story of your photograph, then you can apply the rules above and know your photograph will be great!

Good Luck!

Quote of the Month Provided by Larry Holbrook

"Photography is an art of observation. It has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them." —Elliot Erwitt

Tip of the Month Provided by Luther Tison

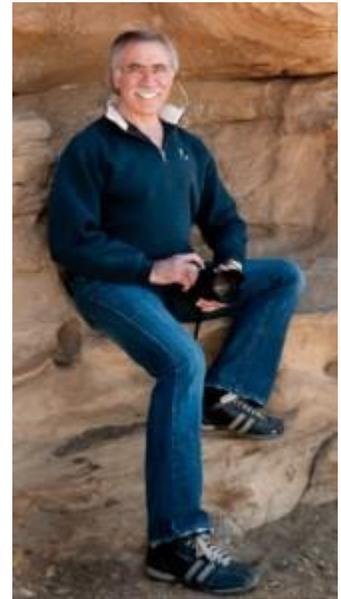
Here is a tip. Probably for beginners, taken from David Busch's Nikon camera book. When repeatedly using your flash you may need to allow time for your flash to cool off. Some flashes will warn you when it is time to let your flash cool. Otherwise they could burn out.

July 19th Meeting Features Photographer John Mariana

<http://www.jmariana.com/>

In 1980 John started using photography in connection to his art background to create color images. By 1984 black and white prints became his specialty. Today, John uses photography to create fine art black and white and color prints expressing his thoughts and artistic vision.

Until 1990, 35mm was his preferred film format. Today John uses medium format, large format negatives and digital files to bring a new and different look to his work. A uniqueness of composition, contrasts, colors and tones comes from formal art training at age 11. Formal art courses continued through his undergraduate studies. Although photography was not the first medium used as an expression of creativity, the early artistic training combined with photography gives his images a unique visual and emotional presentation.



Studies with such noted photographers as Howard Bond, John Sexton and Dan Anderson provided training in the style of photography taught by Ansel Adams in the Owens Valley Workshops. John's current works include color prints, black and white prints, warm brown sepia toned prints and hand tinted prints.

John was President of the Chicago Area Camera Clubs Association in 1990. This organization consisted of 40 clubs in the greater Chicago metropolitan area. He became the Chairman of the Chicago Area Photographic School from 1986 to 1990.

Co-founded the not-for-profit American Photographic Academy dedicated to Education In The Art Of Photography and provided two day workshops with John Sexton, Jerry Ulesman and others.

Founded the ambient light workshops to provide in-the-field and darkroom education.

IN-THE-FIELD WORKSHOPS

- YOSEMITE – BODIE GHOST TOWN – MONOLAKE, Northern California and the Sierra Mountains
- MONUMENT VALLEY – MESA VERDE – SHIPROCK, Four corners, Colorado, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico.
- THE SOUTHWEST EXPERIENCE, Durango, Taos, Santa Fe, Ghost Ranch, the Great Sand Dunes, Chaco Canyon
- ANASAZI RUINS AND BISTI WILDERNESS

ATTENTION!

Special Critique Process in August

For the August 16th meeting, instead of showing images on the projector, we ask that you bring a print, about an 8x10, but other sizes will do. The images will be given a number and placed on tables.

Printed critique forms will be available for members to rate and critique each image anonymously. More info about this will be given at the July 19th meeting.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

I'm Sharon Alicea and I'm a photographer. My love affair with photography started when I was about six years old. I kept trying to use my Dad's old rangefinder camera with not so great results. My parents bought me my first camera when I was 7. It was a 126 cartridge camera with FLASH CUBES! (I'm old, what can I say?) My allowance was spent buying film and paying for processing. 99 cents and I had to wait 2 weeks to get it back! I learned a lot about composition – my dog was very patient – light and focus. I now shoot Nikon cameras, and

have shot with Canon, Mamiya (Dad's rangefinder) Pentax and Minolta. I've shot with various medium-format cameras, but I always return to 35mm. I've done a lot of different photography, managing one-hour photo labs, had my own studio and have been blessed to work with many talented photographers. I've taken many grip and grins at functions, was a fill in photographer at events for local newspapers, took pictures for small business advertising and for a long while I was a wedding photographer.

Digital photography was my nemesis. I was a photographer! Photographers used film! I wasn't about to embrace the new technology! I was stuck in my ways. Essentially I put down the camera for 5 years. Then our niece told us she was getting married. I'd promised her that I would shoot her wedding back when she was in pigtails and princesses were something she aspired to be. I knew what I had to do. Yep, I had to be pulled kicking and screaming into the 2000's and buy a digital camera. NOOOOO! Guess what? It wasn't that bad.

The same principals applied, and oh boy, I got into the immediacy of seeing the work RIGHT NOW! To this day, I shoot to get it right in camera. I minimally use editing software, and for the most part I get the shot within 2 frames.

Flash forward to 2010. The economy had its downturn and I'd been downsized out of my job. People didn't have money to go on vacation, to fix their homes or pay someone to take family or wedding pictures. I decided to go back to school. I never finished my degree, I was young and thought I knew everything, and figured it was a good time to go back. Financial aid was on my side and I wanted to learn computer programming. Um, no, not for me! This brain doesn't work that way. So I decided to take the easy-for-me classes. Photography! Talk about being out of my comfort zone. I was the "Mom" of my class and stuck in my rut of doing the same things the same way that I had been doing them all of my photographic life. I had awesome teachers. Jim Loring and Jeff Gulle were amazing, but I also learned so much from being around my younger classmates. I saw things differently, started tracking trends and learned editing software. Oh, and it was FUN!

Today, I shoot small destination weddings and elopements throughout Florida, but mostly in the Orlando area. I also teach small groups basic photography skills and work with photographers and officiants on how to achieve the best images. My number one lesson is to remind the wedding officiant to move out of the way when it's time for "the kiss". Photogs get the best shot and the officiant doesn't look dorky in the background.

I was honored to be asked to serve on the board of the Foothills Photography Group and have been enriched by all of you. Each one of you teach me something when I see your photographs and I thank you. Y'all have my email address, drop me a line if you're heading down south, I'd love to see you!

CONTACT THE BOARD

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