

FOOTHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Monthly Newsletter

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Focus on the Foothills



Photo by Nickey Williams

ATTENTION!

Special Critique Process in August

For the August 16th meeting, instead of showing images on the projector, we ask that you bring a paper 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.

From Our President.....

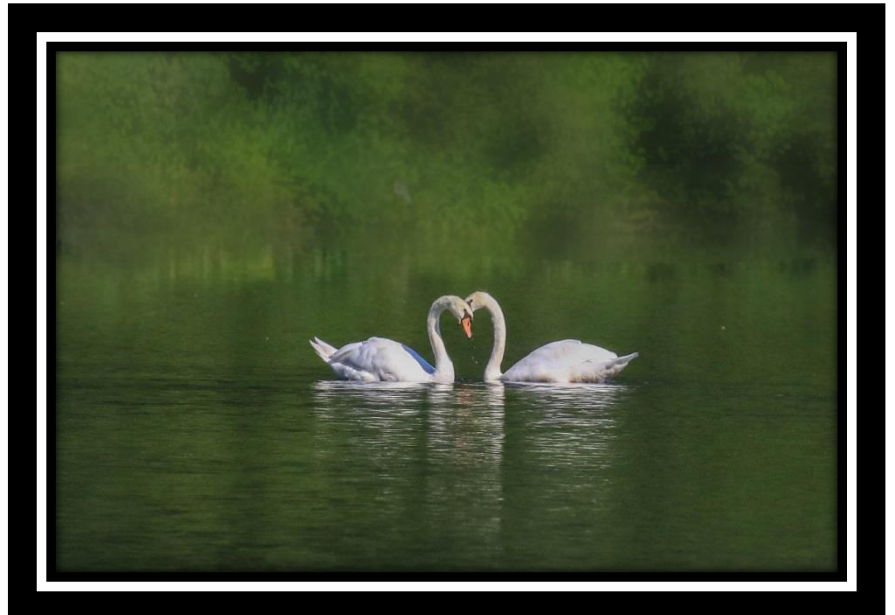
Welcome New Vice President. Foothill's Board of Directors approved the selection of Tonya Smith to be the new vice president, filling the role left by Sharon Alicea who moved to Florida. Tonya will be assuming only the responsibility stated in the by-laws, standing in for the president when needed. She will continue to be Social Committee chair lady. Thank you, Tonya!

Welcome New Community Service Committee Co-Chairs. Casey Bramlett and Laura Jenkins. One of the main duties of this committee is the managing of the free photo shoot at Christmas. Welcome, ladies, to the Board and thanks for serving.

Reception For Hospital Macro Display. Wendy O'Connor has announced that the photos are up at Habersham Medical Center and a reception is scheduled for August 30 between 4pm and 6pm. Location is near the Family Birth Center.



"Lightening Strikes Twice" Photo Moment. I tried for years to get a "swan heart" image. Finally, I got my first one about 5 years ago, and have been fortunate to get several since; but never two in one day, until recently. I was at Lake Junaluska, in Waynesville, NC. The beautiful lake now has about 10 mute swans. I saw two swimming toward each other about a football field's length away from where I stood. They approached and Click. Click. Click. Perfect hearts! But wait...not perfect! I hadn't changed my camera settings, images were washed out! (Bright sun on white feathers in shiny water kind of washed out.) I changed my settings, not expecting they'd do a sequel, but in just a few minutes they made another heart and seemed to pose a moment so I could get several images. (I think I heard them say, "He's the president of that Foothills Photography thingy, so let's make this a good one! Maybe he'll get it right this time!") Not too bad for handheld at 300 feet. I hope you get many moments like this!



Happy trails to you!

Danny Young

Article of the Month Provided by Audrey Moylan

Seeing Light in a Different Light

The first camera I remember was a Kodak Brownie my family had. My siblings and I still have several photos of us growing up, of elder family members, and of uncles in uniform during WW II. Although I don't remember having taken any of these photos, I do vaguely remember taking the camera up to the corner drugstore in Atlanta's Little Five Points to have the film loaded in a darkened room. Some of these photos are faded and tattered, but many are in amazingly good shape – sharp and clear, a testament to the ease of using “simple” cameras and the durability of black and white photos.

I'm glad I have these family pictures because many years passed before I had any interest in having my own camera. But then, instead of a still camera, I bought an 8mm movie camera. I tired fairly quickly of constantly looking into the camera and not really seeing my surroundings. After shelving the movie equipment and splicing together film sections I wanted to keep, it was yet a few more years before I got another camera – a 35mm. Since then I've had a couple of point and shoot digital cameras and most recently, a Canon Rebel DSLR. I've taken hundreds of 35mm and digital photos without knowing anything about real photography. But now, with a (to me) complicated camera, I need to learn how and when to use the various functions that control light entering the camera. As the saying goes, good photography is “all about light.”

It takes some determination to eschew auto focusing and learn how to control light for proper exposure. I wonder if I'll ever learn to successfully use the manual setting on my camera. Right now, I use the program mode a lot for quick shots and am trying to successfully use aperture priority for good landscape shots - landforms, sunrises and sunsets, water and waterfalls. (I'm not exactly a fan of “cotton candy” water.) Much of what I know about composition, I learned from the Foothills Photography Group and guest presenters. I have learned something at each meeting I've attended, and thought the last presenter, John Marianna, was especially informative about the technical aspects of good landscape photography.

As I continue to learn, I'm looking forward to fall and winter when sunrises are most beautiful and intriguing. I've taken many sunrise photos from my back deck, but hope this year to get up to some ridges in the forest to see sunrises over the mountains. Even though I know a bit about the behavior of visible light waves that results in an observable sky and other atmospheric phenomena like rainbows, I don't know why sunrises are more exquisite in colder air – unless it has something to do with the fact that the colder air is, the denser it is. Clean and clear, unpolluted, non-hazy air is the best medium for a bright and brilliant sunrise. Here's a photo I took on a good day last December.



Quote of the Month Provided by Teresa Ivey

"LIFE IS LIKE A CAMERA, FOCUS on what's important, CAPTURE the good times, DEVELOP from the negative, and if things don't work out, then take another SHOT."

Tip of the Month Provided by Rick Moorehead

QUICK TIPS for effective landscape photography

These quick tips are not essential to every landscape picture you take, but applying them judiciously will improve your picture-taking.

1. One or more [foreground](#) objects will give the impression of three-dimensionality, and can help to frame the scene.
2. Depth is achieved by combining foreground, middle ground and background objects.
3. Compose the image so that it contains a [center of interest](#) - an object that draws the viewer's eye into the picture.
4. Placing the center of interest off-center, in accordance with the [Rule of Thirds](#), will create a harmonious composition.
5. Placing the [horizon](#) a third of the way down from the top or bottom of the frame is usually much better than having it in the middle of the scene.
6. Scale can often be important to the understanding of a landscape, and can be achieved by including an object of a known size in the scene.
7. The quality of the light is perhaps the most influential attribute of a successful landscape. Waiting for interesting lighting that is moody, dramatic or diffused usually pays off in a memorable photograph. Top landscape photographers will often return again and again to a location until lighting conditions are just right.
8. Ensure that your camera's flash is turned off when shooting landscapes, unless you require it to brighten a foreground object. Flash in a dusty, misty or foggy scene may cause flare by reflecting off the droplets of moisture or dust particles.
9. Use a [tripod](#) to ensure sharpness, especially in low-light conditions.
10. In very low light, be sure to select a fast [film speed](#) or a high ISO sensitivity setting in your digital camera that will permit proper exposure and good [depth of field](#).
11. Watch for unsightly or unnatural elements such as overhead wires, hydrants, poles and garbage cans, especially in the foreground. If you cannot easily move them, reposition yourself to a camera angle that eliminates them from the frame.

August Guest Photographer, Wingate Downs

As the son of a photographer, I've been involved in the field since Dad bought me my first camera in high school and we turned my bedroom into a darkroom. I've worked as a photojournalist for almost 25 years, as photo director for daily newspapers and a city magazine.

I've traveled the country shooting sports photos, and represented international photo agencies most of my career. I've been fortunate in receiving recognition from many organizations in the course of my career. My journalistic work has garnered over 30 state and national awards from The Associated Press, United Press International and Georgia Press Association. It's always nice to have people like your images, but being singled out by professional groups for outstanding images is a wonderful boost in this competitive field!



After taking photography at Auburn University and LaGrange College, I received my journalism degree from the University of Georgia. The UGA Journalism School is special to me, as my father also graduated from this college, and I had the wonderful opportunity to teach classes there for a year in an adjunct position.

I've done seminars on photojournalism for the Georgia Press Association around the state, and have conducted classes for private newspaper companies at annual meetings.

Learn more about Wingate Downs at his web page: <http://www.wingatedowns.com/>

Come hear his presentation on August 16, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

CONTACT THE BOARD

Danny Young at dannyoung56@yahoo.com
Wendy O'Connor at wendyocoder@yahoo.com
Steve Griswold at sgriz@me.com
Chuck Lotts at catandchuck@windstream.net
John Martin at jmartin@hemc.net
Jasper Lee at jasperlee@windstream.net
Tanya Smith at tanya1951@live.com
Nikki Pittman at nikipittman07@gmail.com
Casey Bramlett at caseybramlett@yahoo.com
Laura Jenkins at laurapage@windstream.net

Open Letter About Mentoring

To ALL of our Foothills members and about to be members,

Many of us have nice cameras, some use their phones and then some have really nice cameras and the equipment and knowledge to help you get more familiar with your camera.

Don't be afraid to admit "I really don't know how to use my camera!"

I am one of those people. I may get lucky once in a while and take some interesting photographs, but if someone asked me What F-stop, ISO, etc. I used to get that shot; I don't have a clue...

So with a long trip out west coming up for Jim and I, we decided we needed some serious assistance with the functions on our cameras. I shoot Canon 60D and Jim shoots Fuji S1. Most of the features on his Fuji are auto features, but he still wanted to learn more.

I called Danny Young, yes our President, and he agreed to help us figure out the best settings for a nighttime photo, once in a lifetime shot, of 1500 lit Tee Pees at the Crow Nation Pow Wow. When I realized we would be there in that area the last night of the Pow Wow, when they light the tee pees, I almost fainted with excitement. Then it hit me! Oh no! I don't know how to take night time photos! At least a photo you can see!

So this is what you all need to know... Danny is an amazing photographer. He answered all our questions and showed us exactly how to take the photos we were looking to take. SO if you don't know something about your camera just ask!

These women and men in this program are brilliant photographers and will answer or show you anything you need to know. Below is a short list of things you may need improvement on:

MENTORING PROGRAM with a FOOTHILLS Photo Club member

- You want to take the perfect photo of your pet or child, family portraits, etc.
- Are you getting ready for a trip and want to make sure you get great photos.
- Need to take better photos for your job.
- Want to improve your post-processing in a one-on-one setting where you can work at your pace and get direct feedback on your images.
- Have a work schedule that doesn't allow for more traditional classes.
- Just want to get help on what you want when you have time.

We have members that have a flexible schedule to meet with you when it works for you, and you can get specific and intensive help to advance your photography.

Danny can get you a list of mentors in the club. So hopefully Danny's theme in September will be North by Northwest Themes!

Barb & Jim Johns

