

# FOOTHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

## *Monthly Newsletter*

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Volume 2 Number 9

September 2016

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*Photo Provided by FPC Member, Casey Bramlett*

*From our president....*



**August Critique a success!** Thanks to all who participated in the non-traditional critique process last month. I've heard good things about it. The board discussed doing it again sometime with maybe a new twist added to it. For this month, we will use the jury room and the projector for our critique time. The theme? In keeping with last month's program subject – candid photography – let's see your best candid shots. Send them to my email: [dannyoung56@yahoo.com](mailto:dannyoung56@yahoo.com)

**Speaking of projectors.** Foothills Photography Group wants to improve the quality of its critique process by helping North Georgia Technical College get a new projector. After months of study and research, John Martin announced last month that FPG will be giving \$2000 to help the college buy a \$4000 projector. This will be a big help to both FPG and NGTC. The FPG board of directors has donated \$1000 from the FPG checking account. Members and friends of FPG are asked to make a donation to this special cause. So far, with just 3 donations we have reached 25% of the goal. Can you help? Any amount will be appreciated. And it is tax deductible. Be sure Wendy O'Connor, our Secretary/Treasurer has your name, amount, and mailing address.

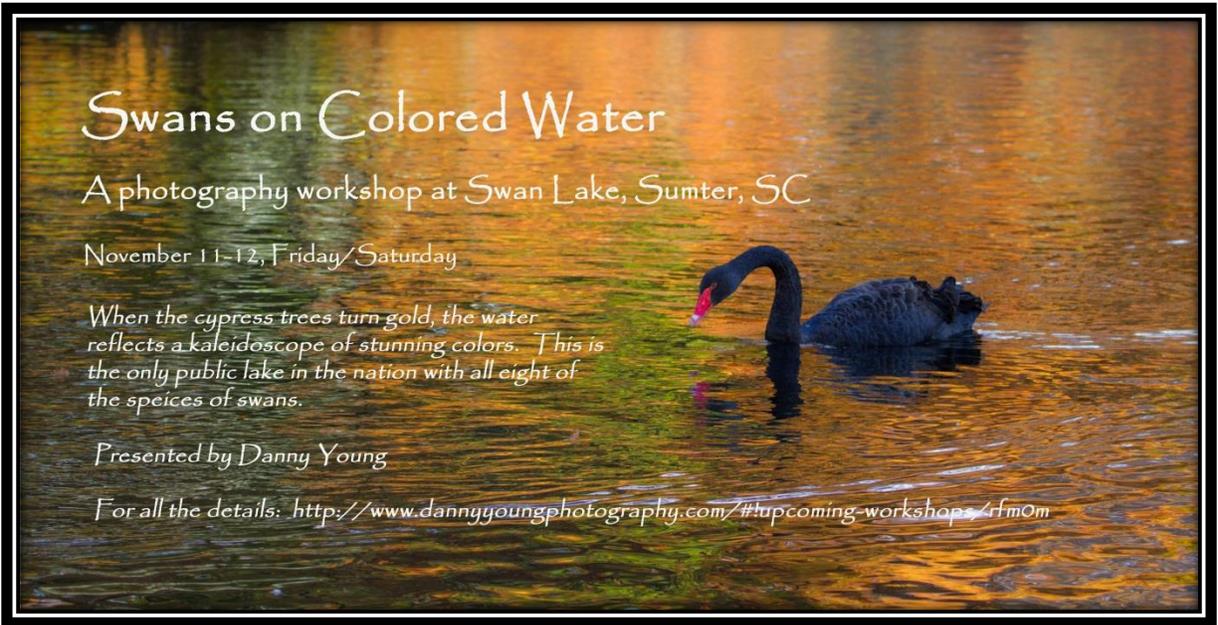
**What's New?** That's the question I'll be asking at the beginning of each monthly meeting. It will be your opportunity to tell us about new things in your photography life since the last meeting. What's New: 1. New place(s) to photograph. 2. New equipment you've gotten. 3. New exposure information you learned. 4. New post processing tips you can share with the group. Come ready to tell us on September 20, What's New!

**Thank you! Thank you!** Colby Moore, for your skilled, faithful, and instructive presentations to us each month. To all of you who volunteered to help with the newsletter. All slots are filled through December, except for the article that month. Thank you, Board of Directors, for your work behind the scenes to make this organization useful and enjoyable. And always a big thanks to the photography department at NGTC for hosting our monthly meetings.

**Want to win a photography contest?** Here's your chance. The Chattahoochee Mountain Fair has a photography contest each year. Go to <http://www.chattahoocheemountainfair.org/>, click on Contests, and sign up. First prize is \$50. Good luck!

Happy Trails!

*Danny*



<http://www.dannyyoungphotography.com/#!upcoming-workshops/rfm0m>

## **Tip of the Month** Provided by FPG member, Larry Holbrook

### **Lens Filters and why and when a “step-up ring” could save you time and money!**

If you own an interchangeable-lens camera system, chances are you own more than one lens. What’s more, there’s a good chance the filter thread diameter sizes of one or more of your lenses differ from the other lens. For example, two lenses might have 58mm threads, while the third lens might have a 49mm, 62mm, 67mm, or 77mm thread size. Then again, each of the thread sizes might be different. And the more lenses you own, the more likely this is going to be the case.

Once you go beyond the best-quality protector or UV filters to serve as basic protection, you may wish to use an additional filter such as a Circular Polarizer, ND, Graduated ND, etc.

The starting point for configuring a step-up ring system is to establish a pecking order from widest diameter thread size to the smallest. As an example, if you own three lenses—one with a 52mm thread, another with a 67mm thread, and a third with a 77mm thread—you want a filter to fit the widest diameter thread size, in this case 77mm, and a pair of step-up rings, 67-77mm and 52-77mm, to couple the larger 77mm filter to the smaller-diameter thread sizes.

Although thread size doesn’t affect image quality, it does have an impact on the number of filters and lens accessories you have to keep on hand, regardless of whether you are taking pictures indoors or out. Rather than purchasing multiples of every filter and lens accessory to go along with each of the thread sizes, consider purchasing a single, high-quality filter to fit the lens with the largest thread size along with step-up rings to adapt the larger filter to the lenses with smaller thread sizes. (With thanks to B&H Photo)

**Quote of the Month** Provided by FPG member, Colby Moore

*"There are no rules for good photographs, there are only good photographs."* -- Ansel Adams

## **Foothills Photography Group**

### **Field Trip**

**September 10, 2016**

### **Atlanta Botanical Garden**

**Special  
Chihuly in the  
Garden Sparkling  
Exhibit**



Image source: ABG web site

**The field trip will be on your own schedule. Some people like mornings; others afternoons. Some evenings have special Chihuly Nights you might enjoy (6-10 pm). Go at the best time for you. Individuals can coordinate transportation. Admission tickets should probably be purchased online ahead of time. Cost of admission is typically \$21.95. Charges also apply if parking a vehicle. Hours of operation on September 10 are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm with a special Chihuly event 6-10:00 pm. Get more details online at <http://atlantabg.org/>**

**The address is:  
Atlanta Botanical Garden  
1345 Piedmont Avenue NE  
Atlanta, GA 30309**

**Information: [jasperlee@windstream.net](mailto:jasperlee@windstream.net)**



Another mentoring moment, aka, having lots of fun! Danny Young, Terri Pittman, and Nikki Pittman enjoyed several hours photographing humming birds, etc., a recent Saturday morning at the Botanical Gardens in Athens. (Photo by Judy Glen, president of Athens Photography Guild)

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**Article of the Month** Provided by FPG member, Danny Young

## My First Mentoring Experience

The alarm clock went off at 5:00 a.m. I dressed and stepped outside the lodge door, into the 40ish degree north Virginia morning. The cool mid-June air awakened me quickly. I walked the stone path to the parking lot where my teacher, Ken Conger, sat on his truck's tailgate. He greeted me and we got in the truck and rode a few hundred yards to the place in Shenandoah National Park called Big Meadow. We got out, checked our gear, and began scouting the meadow for signs of whitetail does and fawns.

By nine o'clock, we had seen 12 fawns, made a bunch of pictures, and were sitting in the lodge's restaurant, enjoying a hearty breakfast and conversation about the morning's adventure. After breakfast, I went back to my room, took a nap, then returned with Ken to the meadow later in the afternoon. We made images until dark. After dinner, we looked at my images on his laptop. He

showed me how he processed his images in Photoshop, gave me valuable tips, and we concluded the day around 10 p.m.

That day marked the beginning of a new era in my photography journey. The year was 2007.

In 2005, I bought my first digital camera, and for the first time, I began to improve; because now I could make practice shots. Previously, the cost of film and developing prevented that. Improvement brought joy. The more I made images that looked like the image I saw through my viewfinder, the more joy I experienced.

I studied online photography sites. I studied other people's images. I thought about formal, structured training, where I would be in a room with an instructor, but my schedule didn't allow for that. Besides, I knew my tendency from grade school through graduate school was to try to please my teachers/professors and it would be hard for me not to imprint my photography art with their styles and standards. But after two years of self study, I told my wife that I had gone as far as I could go on my own. I needed someone to help me.

She knew I had been admiring Ken's photos in Smugmug for some time. She secretly contacted him and bought this \$250 one-day workshop (we paid for our own room!) that I described above, as a birthday surprise.

The day after my mentoring day, without Ken being present, I again arrived at the meadow in the predawn darkness. I implemented everything I had been taught the day before. Later in the afternoon, because of

what I had learned from Ken, I was able to make this image of a doe and fawn, an image which has brought warm feelings to many. Not only did Ken teach me camera stuff, he taught me nature stuff. He knew that fawns like to run and play, but regularly, they feel insecure and they return to touch noses with their mom, to receive assurance that all is well in their world. I expected the nose touch, I



looked for it, and when it happened, I was fortunate to have the sun at my back and to capture a good image. I named this image, "Assurance."

Which, as I think about it, also describes my first mentoring experience. It helped me gain assurance that I could make better images. Better equipment, better knowledge of post processing, better subjects, a better me....all would result in better images. I was, and I am..... assured of that!

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Ashley Williams, Casey Bramlett and her mother, Rose Bramlett, admire the Foothills Photography Group macro photography display at the Habersham Medical Center. The reception for the display was held August 30.

Photo by Wendy O'Connor.



## September Program Features Our Very Own, **JOHN MARTIN**

John will be presenting the techniques he has used over the years in documenting his travels around the world. He and Phoebe have traveled to over 33 countries in 24 overseas trips.



As a backdrop for the talk he will use photos made on a trip in May of this year in which the Martins traveled to Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and Finland. John will share a few of the ways the trip was planned -- emphasizing the use of the Internet. You will hear his approach to landscapes, storytelling, architecture, interior details, and dealing with low light situations. And, along the way, you'll be entertained by the "travel log" content!

September 20<sup>th</sup>. Social time starts at 6:30 and program begins at 7:00.

