

FOOTHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Monthly Newsletter

Volume 3 Number 4

April 2017



Photo Provided by FPG Member, Ann Jones

From our president....

Greetings FPGers,
Spring has sprung and I hope you are enjoying it! This month, our club begins its art show at the Sautee Nacoochee Center, one of the premiere art



galleries in Georgia. All members are encouraged to participate by displaying two of their favorite images. We need to bring them to the Center, located in Sautee (283 GA-255, Sautee Nacoochee, GA 30571) on April 17 and 18, from 9-5. Please monitor the Foothills Facebook page for updates. This is a “big deal” for our young club and I’m excited we can all be a part of it.

Critique theme for April 18 monthly meeting: **PORTRAITS**, inspired by the wonderful program presented last month by professional portrait photographer, Matt King.

Thank you, Wanda Barfield, for taking the role as Field Trip Committee Chairman. She was voted in at the March meeting. She welcomes your suggestions for trip destinations.

David Akoubian will be our guest photographer/speaker at the April 18th meeting. His web page is <http://www.bearwoodsphotography.com/>. Read his bio at the end of this newsletter.

Welcome New Member! Wanda Barfield, Chris Aurora, and Teri Aurora.

It’s time to renew membership. Please see Wendy O’Connor, Secretary/Treasurer to pay your dues.

Turkeys and Trilliums.

I’m always excited when I drive into Cades Cove. It’s a long drive for me up and down those winding mountain roads, but I feel a bit of heaven entering my soul as I get my first glimpse of the beautiful “Cove”. I went there a week or so ago, mainly looking for the large turkeys that strut their stuff this time of the year. I’d seen them doing it every March that I had previously visited. But...not this trip. Not one single turkey did I see, and only 5 deer. To add to the disappointment, the trees weren’t budding well enough yet to add any color. I did find some Virginia Bluebells and was able to make a decent image of them. I had planned to spend the night in the campgrounds, but instead, I turned toward home about midafternoon. Shortly after I passed the Sugarland Visitors Center near Gatlinburg, I saw some white flowers growing on the steep hillside on the right side of the road. I stopped the car, got out, and a new adventure began. The flowers were everywhere, lying like a white blanket on the forest floor. But not just



any forest floor. This section of the forest was part of the big fire last fall that destroyed thousands of acres, hundreds of buildings, and killed 18 people. It's hard to explain what I felt as I walked over the charred stumps and limbs, now bathed in big bright blossoms of White Trilliums. I was witnessing new birth. I began making images and lost track of time. I stayed over two hours. I wanted so desperately to capture what I was seeing and feeling.

A few days later I put some of the images on Facebook. One lady liked the images and she reposted them on another FB page and she reported that after a few hours, there had been dozens of "shares" and hundreds of "likes". One lady even said she had teared up, seeing the beauty of new birth in the burnt forest.

So, I went looking for turkeys, but I ended up with trilliums. Turkey images would have made me happy. The trillium images blessed others. I like it when my photography can do that.

Happy Trails!

Danny

TIP OF THE MONTH

By Daniel Short

Birds in Flight

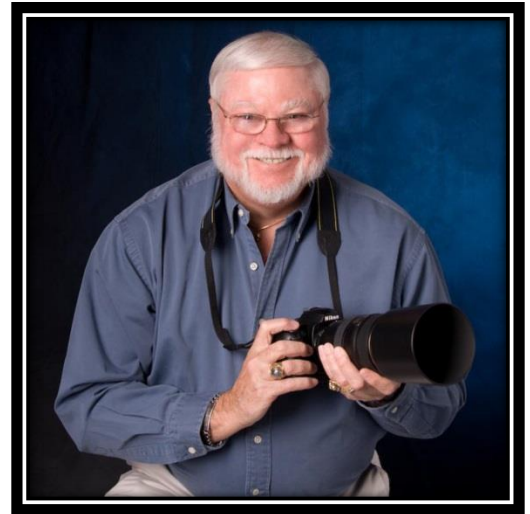
When I photograph birds in flight, I almost always use shutter priority. I set my shutter speed to 1600 or higher, and ISO to auto. I also set my auto focus to AIServo and usually I select the center cluster in my view finder as active. Rule of thumb, the smaller the bird the harder it is to track. I use back button focus almost exclusively for birds. For small birds, I will focus on the bird when it perches. I will then try to estimate where it will fly to, compose for that spot, and wait for the bird to fly. Sometimes I'm lucky, sometimes not, but when I am, it is extremely rewarding. Good luck to you.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

William C “Rusty” Russ

William C. “Rusty” Russ was born in Spartanburg, SC and raised there and in Greenville with his brother and two sisters until he was a young teen and his father was transferred to Jacksonville, FL as the head grocery buyer for Winn-Dixie Stores.

Rusty has been a talented photographer all of his life. As a youth, he documented holidays, birthdays, special events, etc. using his “Brownie Hawkeye” camera. In high school and junior college, he became more seriously involved in photography by using various large sheet film Graflex and 35mm film cameras to capture people and events as a school photo journalist where his images were used in the schools newspapers and annual yearbooks. He also gained knowledge and experience in developing and printing his creative images in the colleges “Darkroom Facilities”.



Later in his life, Rusty continued spending years capturing digital images of numerous events and activities as a photographic hobbyist. After graduating from Florida State University in 1973 with majors in Marketing and Accounting, he worked for a major computer manufacturer and also several national software companies before starting his own international software company in 1981. DTR Software International had grown to 85 employees and had a number of international distributors when it was sold in 2004 and Rusty retired. At DTR, he used his photographic knowledge and skills to develop advertising pieces, brochures, web pages, etc. for his business.

He also served in the US Military Signal Corps Reserves for 16+ years as a Radio Communications Officer, Company Commander, Battalion Staff Officer, and Staff Officer for the Commanding General. He is an Instrument Rated Pilot and has been flying, mostly Mooney Aircraft,



for 40+ years. He spends a good bit of time shooting clay pigeons and other targets when the time presents itself. He currently shows several of his award winning Porsche's at National Concours d' Elegances (car shows) around the US. He is also an avid amateur radio operator. And last but not least, he has been a national volunteer for the American Red Cross since 2005 and was the recipient of the **"2015 Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award"** for a lifelong commitment to building a stronger nation through Volunteer Service signed by President Barack Obama.

Photography has always been an enjoyable experience for Rusty, more as a semi-professional and hobbyist. One of the many proud accomplishments he's gained is to provide a number of young under-budgeted brides, who could not afford the expense of a wedding photographer, pictures of their wedding at no charge. He's had many people say that the pictures that he's taken at a wedding are equally as good, if not better, than many professional wedding photographers who have charged thousands of dollars. Other enjoyable events he likes to shoot include, car and aircraft related events, sunrises, party events, and travel destinations. Rusty maintains a private web site for his friends to look at his pictures, www.photoimagingbyrusty.com



As a result of a life changing experience in 2013, Rusty made a total life style change, leaving the Big City life and moving to a somewhat remote home in the tranquil foothill mountains of North Georgia near Lakemont where he resides with all of the local critters. A major transition unto itself, but he wouldn't change it now for anything in the world. Now he's free to take all of the nature pictures, waterfalls, sunrises, or whatever else he wants to take. It's still a big world out there and plenty of pictures to shoot ! His goal is to never stop learning.....



Forty-seven Popular Places to Photograph in Northeast Georgia

(First in a series) *By John Martin*

1.



Brasstown Bald - Highest Point in Georgia

Description: You can see forever from the summit (on a clear day) but even if you couldn't it's a really nice place to visit. It is the highest point in Georgia at 4,784 feet above sea level. The visitor center (located at the summit) is very nicely done. The exhibits give a glimpse into the natural and human history of the Southern Appalachians - including the Cherokee Indians that lived in this area. During the hours the visitor center is open (10 AM to 5 PM daily) there is a shuttle from the parking lot to the top.

Notes for the photographer: I made this photo at sunrise. To get to the top before sunrise we allowed an extra forty-five minutes for the steep walk from the car lot and, of course, packed flashlights. It can be windy and cold before sunrise even in the summer months. On the morning in early August it was 47°F and windy.

Directions: From Helen drive 11.5 miles north on GA 75 to the intersection with GA 180. (You will have crossed Unicoi Gap and the Appalachian Trail.) Turn left and drive approx 5.5 miles to a sharp right onto GA-180 Spur N. It's 3 miles (up) to the parking lot.

Coordinates of the parking lot: 34°52'26.6"N 83°48'39.5"W

Interesting fact: As you drive up the last three very steep miles you may be surprised to know that the Tour de Georgia raced up this roadway on bicycles in 2005 through 2008.

COMING IN APRIL....the 18th

DAVID AKOUBIAN

Bear Woods Photography is the photography of David Akoubian. David resides in the mountains of North Georgia with his wife Evelyn.

David has been a photographer since 1972 but his career in photography started in 1992. David learned his craft originally as a painter and from his father. Early in his career traveled with, learned from and taught beside some of the masters of nature photography including John Shaw, Art

Wolfe, Galen Rowell, Bryan Peterson, Pat O'Hara, and Rod Planck. David has been teaching photography since 1994 in the classroom and leading workshops around the United States. His focus remains on the Southeastern United States, where he calls home, but does workshops and lectures all of the United States.

David's clients have included, but are not limited to Coca Cola, PNC Bank, Tamron, Sirui, the Mountain Conservation Trust of Georgia, Lensbaby, The Nature Conservancy, Scholastic Books, and Gibbs Gardens. His photographs and articles have appeared in publications such as Nature Photographer, Audubon Magazine, Blue Ridge Country, Birder's World, Outdoor Photographer, Backpacker Magazine, and many local publications. His work has appeared in several feature books in addition to instructional guides on scenic locations. David is a Tamron Image Master as well as being designated as a Sirui Professional.



