

FOOTHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Monthly Newsletter



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December 2017



Cover Photo provided by Amelia Chatham

From the President.....



The Annual Christmas party is December 19th at the First Presbyterian Church in Clarkesville, which is located next to the Charm House. See the info ad in this newsletter and on our Facebook page for all the details!

Unrecognized Blessings! At the Help Portrait event last month, three students from North Georgia Technical College, all members of the Student Photographic Society, participated all day, printing the images which were given to the families. **Kim Martin**, president of the SPS, **Sydney Ivey** and **Gladys Wright**. Thank you ladies, for your valuable contribution to this memorable event.

End of Year Self-Evaluation. Did you make better images this year? What improvements do you see in your work compared to last year? I compile a folder each year entitled "Best of ____ " for that year. At the end of each month, I look through my images and pick the ones I like the most and put them in the "Best of" folder. I have more "Best of" images this year than ever before. And the main reason isn't because I got new equipment or I myself became a more skilled photographer. No, the main reason is: I made more images. My schedule allowed me to go to many places, none farther than one state away. The two images that were recognized by *National Geographic* were made on my front porch! Other special images just happened because I was there at the right time, and often, it wasn't the target subject that I had planned.

There are only three elements of photography we can change in order to make better images: 1. **You.** Learn more, experience more. 2. **Equipment.** Make smart upgrades. Equipment DOES make a difference. 3. **Subject.** Common subjects get common reactions. Uncommon subjects get uncommon reactions.

In addition to self-evaluation, measure yourself against the world's best. One way to do this is to go to the *National Geographic* website and look at the images from the "Your Shot" program. Every day, about 8,000 images are sent in and one editor chooses 12 to be the "Daily Dozen". Imagine the hundreds of years of experience and the millions of images that these 12 images represent! It can be humbling to study these images, but don't be intimidated....be inspired. Remember, 10 years ago, or 5 years ago, none of us were as good as we are today. And today is just another stepping stone to tomorrow's better images.

Happy Trails!

Danny

47 Popular Places to Photograph In Northeast Georgia

by John Martin

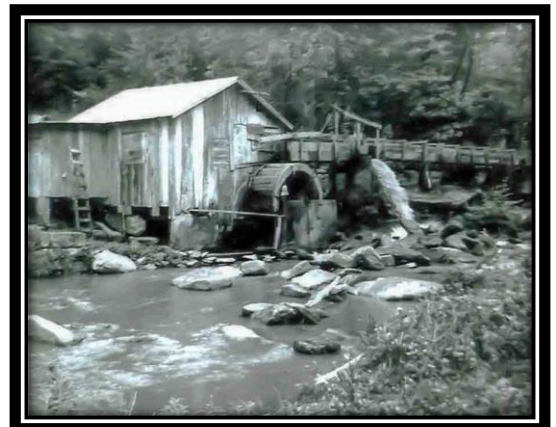
#9: Darnell Mill



This little mill (on its last legs) rests on the banks of Warwoman Creek east of Clayton. It has been Captain Beck's Mill, Dixie Wilbanks Mill, and in the early 1980's, Darnell's Mill. It's been washed away and it's been rebuilt. It's been a saw mill. It has been a grist mill. It is included here because it may be a photographer's last chance to make a photo of vanishing America. There is a beautiful, serene sadness here. The black and white photo (courtesy Rabun County Historical Society) shows the mill when it was still viable.

Notes for the photographer: You'll want to climb down the bank opposite the mill to get this shot. And don't miss the pretty little rapids just upstream from this spot.

Directions: Take Warwoman Road 6.0 miles to a point where Tom Bleckley Lane veers to the right. Take it and immediately turn right on Sandy Ford Road (also John Houck Rd.). In a little less



than a mile make a left onto Sandy Ford Road. Cross the bridge and park. The mill is less than one hundred yards upstream.

GPS: 34°52'60" N 83°18'9" W

Interesting Fact: Go here to hear a recorded Foxfire interview with J. P. Speed, a man who once operated this mill. <https://www.foxfire.org/w004.htm>

Attention Foothills Photography Group members!!!

An exciting and unique opportunity has been offered to our group! A new, local business (to be named a little bit later) has asked us to "decorate" their office space with our photographic art. The exact number of photographs needed is not yet known as it will depend on several factors, but it'll probably be upwards of 40.

The club will be compensated for the photos this time and most of the money will flow back to the members whose photographs are used. The club will take care of mounting and framing.

This opportunity is only for current members of the Foothills Photography Group.

Please email your best/favorite images, for the themes listed below, to Wendy O'Connor wendyocoder@yahoo.com. These emailed images are just for the selection process and can be reduced in size. Once the selection process is complete, we can discuss the printing details.

The themes are: 1) Black & White 2) Black & White portrait 3) Flowers/Plants 4) Landscapes
 5) Waterfalls 6) Wildlife 7) Nightscapes 8) Local Landmarks

The deadline is January 7th.

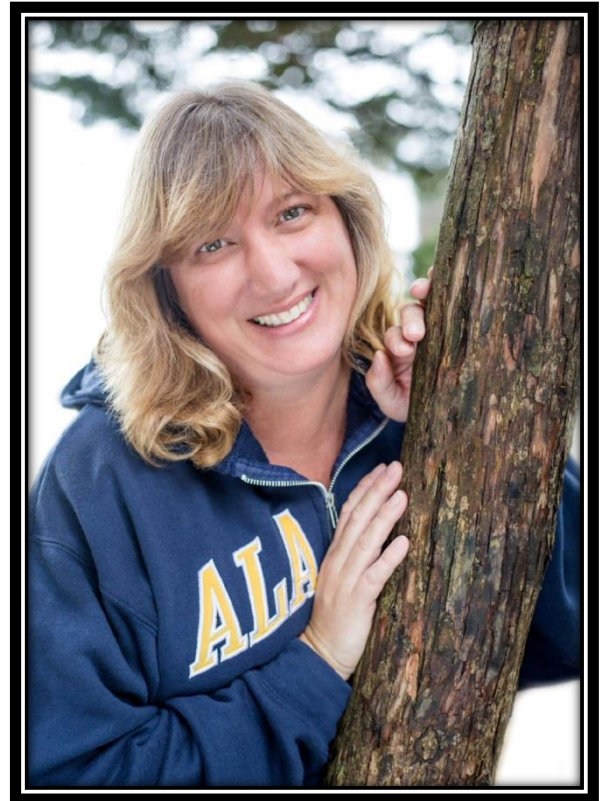
Ready?? Go!!

SPOTLIGHT MEMBER

Kimberly Martin

I was born in South Weymouth Massachusetts. My parents, David and Tracy Potts, were both in the Navy then they got married. He stayed in and retired so we moved a bit as I grew up. He was mostly stationed at Bethesda Naval Hospital during the school year and at Annapolis in the summers. When he retired, they moved us to Hollywood Georgia and built a house in the "woods".

I attended North Habersham and then Habersham Central. I graduated from Gainesville College with an Associates in English in 1992, on the same day that we got married.... yes, our families were a bit surprised at graduation. We lived on a 25 foot sailboat for the first year of our marriage, but had to move on to "reality" when we found out we were having a baby the next year. We have 6 "babies" ages 24, 22, 19, 18, 14 & 12.



I've mostly been a stay at home mom but have worked off and on as an Aquatics Director, Lamaze & Lactation consultant, and recently student and photographer. I'm a "part time" student and have really enjoyed learning more about photography. I had people asking me to take photos and weddings but didn't feel comfortable with charging without an education to back it up. I'm currently working as the Aquatics Director at UNG in Oakwood. I run the



program handling adult & child lessons as well as water aerobics (it's only part time so I have plenty of time for my family and photography).

Doug and I have been married 25 years and our 2 oldest are recently married. Our daughter Kaley, is on Team USA and travels the world paddling. Our 18 year old son is serving a 2 year mission. And of course, our 2 youngest still live at home and homeschool (all 6 were home educated).

I've been attending NGTC for 2 years part time. I'm the Student Photographic Society President. There are 8 classes between me and my graduation from the photography program. I have discovered that I really enjoy commercial work, photojournalism, nature and sports photography. I do tons and tons of volunteer work for Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club (several of my children paddle). I photo their national events as well as their local events. I also do lots of church, Boys and Girls Club, and SPS volunteer events.

Photography makes me happy! I love to be creative and capture special moments. It's been really fun to go back to school and learn! I'm not sure what my goals are.... maybe just to keep improving and learning! I'm probably most proud of the work I've had published and for pushing forward even when occasionally it's been tough to juggle all of my responsibilities!

I started my own photography business and website recently.... www.kimmersphotography.com. My phone is 706-348-3044 if you ever need me for anything!





Annual Christmas Party

Potluck Dinner...please feel free to bring your spouse, significant other, and/or family.

There will be door prizes and great fellowship...hope to see you there.

Turkey, Ham and drinks provided

If your last name begins with

A-G...bring a side dish

H-O...bring a dessert

P-Z...bring a salad or appetizer

Please RSVP by Dec. 15th with number of people in your party and what you are bringing.
You can email me at tanya1951@live.com

Also please let me know if you can come early to help with setup!

Tanya Smith, Social Committee Chair