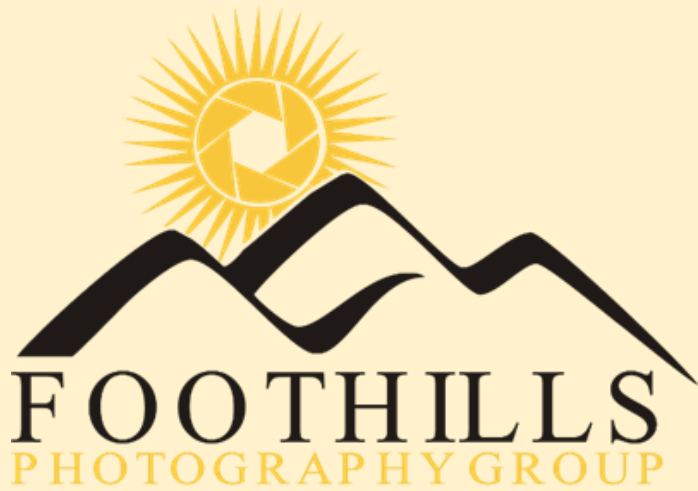




Foothills Photography Group Newsletter

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The cover photo is by Melissa Elzey. Melissa's photo earned the Club's "Photo of the Year, 2023". More on page 5.



Hello, Fellow Club Members and Happy New Year!! Did you make any New Year's Resolutions? I have a few suggestions:

- Is there a technique that you've thought about learning or mastering?
- Is there a photography location you've been thinking about going?
- Is there a particular image you've had in your head?

Make this the year that you do it. The club can help you accomplish your goal. Please let us know.

Congratulations to Melissa Elzey for sweeping the awards! She won the Photographer of the Year award and Photo of the Year award. My resolution is to beat Melissa!! LOL!!

Thanks to Barbara Johns for organizing the Christmas Party. It was great to see everyone, and I hope everyone enjoyed the fellowship and great food. Thanks to Sweet Breads for hosting and providing a wonderful meal.

Kim Martin and Melissa Elzey are working on a waterfall field trip. It should be a fun and exciting adventure. Stay tuned for more details.

I hope to see everyone at the January meeting. We will meet in person and via Zoom. Don't forget to upload photos for our guest, Lisa Langell to review. Instructions were in a previous email from me and posted on our Facebook page.

Also, send in a member showcase photo. The topic is "New." It could be New Year celebration photos, a new pet, a new family member, a new location you went to, or a new technique you used, etc. Be creative and get off to a good start earning points for the Photographer of the Year.

See you January 16.

Laura Jenkins
Foothills Photography Group President



THE CLUB'S CHRISTMAS PARTY WAS HELD AT SWEETBREADS IN DEMOREST.



Attendees waiting for the (excellent) meal.



Clockwise from upper left, more attendees, Laura peddling lottery tickets, David Hinson won \$25, Melissa Elzey and husband Gary, the lottery prizes, Kim Martin claims her lottery prize.





PHOTO OF THE YEAR!

This beautiful seascape photo (here and on the cover) was made by

Melissa Elzey and won the “Photo of the Year” competition. The photo is a sunrise at Jekyll Island’s driftwood beach made last September. Melissa used a tripod and an exposure of 3.2 seconds to soften and slow the motion of the water. Other meta-data: f13 and ISO 400, Lee .6 neutral density filter, 20mm focal length. Melissa shoots with a Canon EOS R6. She shot raw and processed the image with Lightroom and Luminar.

I (your editor) have often wondered why Melissa consistently makes quality images. The answer is in the paragraph above. She uses what she knows. This photo was *planned*. Time of day, camera position, water smoothing technique, use of tripod, perfect position of the sun, f13 for needed depth of field – all of these ingredients separate the real pro from the “shoot-a-lot-and-pick-the-best” approach.

Congratulations, Melissa!



The January program will be a little bit different!

Recently President Laura attended a photography workshop in Alaska and befriended the presenter, Lisa Langell. From that relationship Laura arranged for Ms. Langell to do the January program. (January 16)

So...what makes it different? Ms. Langell will be providing feedback and offering editing suggestions on photos submitted by our membership.



You can attend the meeting at home (via Zoom) or at the regular meeting place at North Georgia Tech. Personally, I prefer the in-person meeting because David Hinson brings cookies. If you insist on Zooming, here is the Zoom link and uploading instructions:

Click the meeting link below and register. You will receive instructions on how to upload your photos. **DO IT BEFORE TUESDAY!** Upload one or two that you would like feedback and editing advice on. During the meeting she will review the images (in a very kind, supportive, educational way---never insulting or harsh). She will choose a few to demonstrate some edits that might help make that image have even more impact, etc. She welcomes Q&A throughout the session.

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cg-QLFBVRNOY2ML3IVb0Ug



A nature photographer and birder from the age of eight, Lisa is the founder of Langell Photography, Inc. She started her business in 2010 after long vibrant careers as a floral designer, educational psychologist, consultant and in helping launch and manage two startups that grew into leading companies in the Ed-Tech space. Since then, she has earned numerous awards and has been published in *Outdoor Photographer*, *Arizona*

Highways, *Ranger Rick*, *Images Arizona*, and more. She is an Image Master for Tamron, an Ambassador for Fotopro and is a judge for Viewbug. Lisa loves creating nature photography and art that is inspired by her background in psychology and design. When Lisa isn't having fun making photographs, she's thriving on teaching photography—most often in Alaska! Her humility and passion for both shines through in how she provides memorable, fun, and educational experiences that enrich, invigorate, and expand photographers' minds in wonderful ways.

Some more stuff....

[Have you checked out the club's website recently?](#) There is a wealth of info there. For example, find information about the mentoring program, access to the club's newsletters going back to 2015, and a directory of places to photograph in our area (complete with sample photo, directions, and photographer's tips). Here's the site address:

<https://www.foothillsphtogroup.com/>

[The newsletter editor](#) (that's me) is always looking for articles to include in the newsletter. There are several ways you can help. First, you can draft an article yourself – a new place you've discovered, a new processing technique you use, or maybe just your observations on some photography subject (copyright, AI, etc.) Or...maybe you have read someone else's article and want to share it with our group. In this case, send me the details and I'll handle getting re-print permission, etc.

[Northeast Georgia Medical Center Habersham](#) has shown a renewed interest in having our member's photography decorate the walls in their newly renovated nursing home. That will be an item of discussion at the club's board meeting on January 23. By the way, board meetings are open to all. You are invited. Maybe there will be an avenue for you to find a volunteer activity for the club.