

Foothills Photography Group

Newsletter

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In this issue...	
Next Outing.....	3
President's Letter.....	5
Editorial.....	6

March Meeting.....	7
Hinson's bird.....	8
Other Stuff.....	8

The cover photo is copyright by Pulitzer Prize winning photographer Emilio Morenatti of The Associated Press. Why on the cover of our newsletter? See the story on page 6.

Foothills Photography Group
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Date set for historic sites caravan !! Saturday, April 16.

When and where: We meet at 8:00 AM in the large parking lot at the OLD County Courthouse in Clarkesville. COFFEE AND DONUTS WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE CLUB. Then we'll head for Toccoa about 8:30.



The club is going to try something new with this outing. For those who want to...we will try to match up the less experienced photographers with those who have been at this a bit longer. Other clubs have done this with good results. It allows the beginner to ask the questions and seek advice in a smaller setting.

Our first stop will be the remarkably well-preserved Traveler's Rest just east of Toccoa. The stagecoach inn and plantation home was built around 1815. It is now a State Historic Site and a National Historic Landmark. Our own Tom Johnson (who led our tour through the Hardman Farm mansion) will deliver a short history of the site. Then we'll be able to roam the property (and the interior) to make our own photos. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors, and Erica gets in for \$3.00.





After Traveler's Rest we'll drive to Clarkesville to visit the oldest churches: First Presbyterian Church and Grace-Calvary Episcopal Church. Both of these churches were established in the 1830's. At each location there will be a person to give us a short history of the church, after which we can make photos. Above is a photo of First Presbyterian and one of the interior of Grace-Calvary.

From the same era is the Old Clarkesville Cemetery. Buried there is Jarvis Van Buren; first cousin of President Van Buren and builder of both the old churches. Also in the Clarkesville Cemetery is the now famous Moses Harshaw, reported to be the "meanest man in the county...". His grave marker reads "Died and Gone to Hell". The club has arranged to have a volunteer representative of the Historic Clarkesville Cemetery Preservation, Inc. to be on hand to give our group a short history presentation.

And then...we'll gather at a local restaurant for lunch – for those who want to.



Hope to see you there! Now, do this: Click jmartin@hemc.net and send me an email saying you are going. We need this to know what size group to expect for the "coffee and donuts" and the various sites. Club members and their guests only, please.

We should now have our images delivered to the Sautee Art Center and the exhibit will begin on Friday, March the 4th. There will be a reception Sunday afternoon, March 6th from 2 - 4 PM. You can bring a simple hors d'oeuvre if you wish. Drinks will be provided. Invite everyone you know and show off your work.

The Historic Sites Photo Caravan is scheduled for Saturday, April 16. The plan is to meet at the old courthouse in Clarkesville at 8:00 AM and leave for Toccoa at 8:30 AM. Our plan is to try a new system where we pair more experienced photographers with the less experienced members. This will allow members to more effectively share their knowledge with each other. If you have a question, feel free to ask.

I have been thinking we could hold some ZOOM discussion groups on topics that are of interest to the membership. If there are topics you want more information on submit them to me and we will see what we can put together for the first Tuesday of each month. Sample ideas are Lightroom, Photoshop, alternate editing software, mat cutting, photo composition, cameras, just to name a few.

We had some really great images at the February Meeting for the "Leading Lines and Rule of Thirds Challenge". Every image received several votes. Congratulations to the top vote-getters last month, which are as follows, 1st Place Melissa Elzey, 2nd Place Daniel Short, and 3rd Place John Martin. The subject for the March Members Showcase Challenge is "Portraiture". Don't forget to send me your image. The deadline to get me your image is 12 Noon on Monday March 14th. Send it to dshort@hemc.net . Our next meeting is on March the 15th, we are meeting at North Georgia Tech in the Visual Arts Building! Our speaker will be Bunny Laden. The meeting details will be elsewhere in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing each of you there. The ZOOM broadcast will be sent only to paid members as of this month. I hope to see all of you at the meeting.

Daniel W. Short
President, Foothills Photography Group
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An editorial about the sad state of affairs in Ukraine...

This photo was shamelessly lifted from the internet with no credit. Let's look closely. No tanks, no guns, no flags, no smoke. What we do see is an under exposed image of the music room of a nursery school. We see toys, soccer balls, colorful pictures appealing to young children.

It was made within the past week in the city of Stanytsia Luhanskain, Ukraine. This is a powerful image documenting the Russian incursions into Ukraine. Much of the power comes from the inclusion of the woman. Her face is indistinct and – because of that – she could represent all Ukrainians.

The scene implies a massive force levied on the innocent and the unprotected. Not unlike the overwhelming action of one of the world's super-powers against a weaker country because the bully wanted to take what wasn't his.

The photographer (and others like him/her) have covered the globe with photojournalistic statements about the Ukrainian war and may have played an important part in galvanizing world sentiment against Russia and could change the direction of the war. Photography is powerful.



As an introduction to Bunny Laden, our presenter at the March meeting, I'll start with a quote from her web site:

"When I realized that space travel would not become a reality in my lifetime, I decided to explore the only planet I'll ever set foot on – the Earth. Cultural encounters, scenic beauty, wildlife, and the unexpected are what compel me to set out on a journey. Through travel, I learn about the world and my place in it."

Her presentation at the meeting will describe her 17-day adventure sailing the northwest passage. She'll relate the (sometimes tragic) history of the passage's discovery, tell of her interaction with Inuit people, and describe the conditions and wildlife.

Bunny Laden is an avid traveler who has visited every continent. After joining her local camera club and PSA in 2019, she set out in earnest to learn the craft of digital photography. Although the pandemic put a damper on travel, it provided the opportunity for her to take the PSA History of Photography, Image Analysis, and Still Life courses as well as a variety of other photography webinars.

Bunny has a Ph.D. in Cognitive Science and Music but don't let that scare you – she's an excellent photographer and an excellent traveler. If you are wondering how someone could be an excellent traveler, I invite you to spend some time reading her blog: <https://www.digitalrabbit.org/>

In researching Bunny's biography, I came away with this: She's contemplative and she THINKS about photography. And that is a compliment.



David and Marsha Hinson caught this guy trying to break into their house! It's a Pine Warbler and he's obviously upset. Turns out that the Pine Warbler is a territorial creature. Upon seeing his reflection in the window, he's going after the interloper.

Good shot, David. Guess it pays to have your camera handy when someone tries to break in.

And here is something else about David and

Marsha. Behind the scenes they manage the refreshments and other gathering details. (For example, they're bringing the coffee and donuts for the start of the History Caravan outing.) There is a place for you, too. Currently we have two openings in the club leadership – Program Chair and Community Service Chair. It is a fact that you will get more from the club if you contribute something. Funny how that works.

Other stuff...



Arik Gorban (the presenter for last month's meeting) has sent the club several documents related to portrait photography. If you would like a copy of any (or all), I'll email it/them to you. jmartin@hemc.net

His notes re portrait photography (3 pages)
Portrait crop guide
The Legal Rights of Photographers
The Photographers Rights



Here are some more sources for photographers interested in portrait photography:

<https://digital-photography-school.com/10-ways-to-take-stunning-portraits/>

This by Gurpreet Singh Portrait Photography - 16 Top Tips to Create Great Portraits <https://www.pixpa.com/blog/master-portrait-photography>

Rob Dunsford wrote this: 8 Portrait Photography Tips Every Photographer Should Know <https://photographypro.com/portrait-photography/>



And, speaking of portraiture...that's the theme for this month's member showcase challenge. Send your entry to Daniel Short -- dshort@hemc.net -- by 12 noon on Monday, March 14.



Last month's member showcase challenge (leading lines and rule of thirds) was won by Melissa Elzey. Daniel Short and John Martin took second and third.



At the March 15 meeting, a lady from Clayton is bringing a large selection of camera equipment owned by her (now deceased) brother. She has cameras, tripod accessories, frames, paper, filters, and lenses. The prices seem to be reasonable. The items will be on display from 6:30 PM until the meeting starts at 7:00.



You can find the FPG web site here: <https://www.foothillsphtogroup.com/>



And the club's Facebook page here:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/foothillsphotogroup/?ref=nf_target&fref=nf