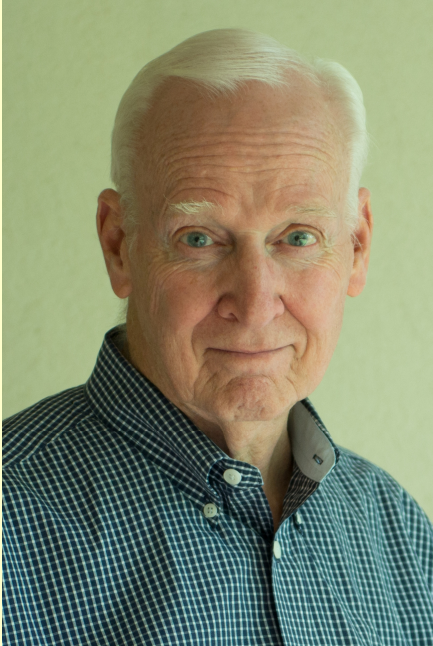


# Focus on the Foothills

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From the president...

Hello, Photographers.

I hope you are enjoying the beautiful summer days - wherever you are. Not to cut your vacation short but...I am looking forward to seeing everyone in the fall. I know many are out of town because attendance at the meetings has been down the last few months.

Many photography clubs shut down for the summer but our board of directors has elected to keep the club active. Some changes have been made, however. For example, we have decided to have club programs that do not include a guest expert. Rather we will have meetings directed at "hands on" experiences or activities better suited to small groups.

You may have noticed that this edition of *Focus on the Foothills* is labeled "Summer, 2015". This, of course, reflects the lower level of activity of the club.

At any rate, if you are here, you will be able to participate in the meetings, field trips, and the special interest groups.

Christy Berry made the photo for this issue's cover. She made this image of an apple blossom with her barn as a backdrop. If you have an image you think would make a good cover send it to the newsletter editor: [jmartin@hemc.net](mailto:jmartin@hemc.net).





Hemlock Falls Creek - June 20.  
**FIELD TRIP PHOTOS**



## The Hemlock Falls Creek field trip was...

...absolutely awesome! The weather was cool, the sky was overcast (perfect for pictures of moving water) and the company was excellent.

Right here is where I tell you that we are going back to Hemlock Falls Creek when the leaves are at their peak - tentatively August 17. Mark your calendar!

Probably the most rewarding thing to come from this field trip was that we learned from each other. Several of us had some experience with moving water while others were wrestling with how to slow down the shutter speed on their particular camera. The mix was great - and everyone got some great pictures.

And one more thing: This group was organized by the Landscape SIG (special interest group). You can join the SIG by sending a quick email to John Martin at [jmartin@hemc.net](mailto:jmartin@hemc.net) and asking to join. Easy enough.

There are other SIGs. The UrBex SIG - urban exploration - which is headed up by Rich St. John ([rrstjohn@gmail.com](mailto:rrstjohn@gmail.com)) and a Flowers SIG which is looking for a leader.

SIGs are simply a group of people with a common interest. There usually isn't a whole lot of organization. They may meet to discuss their work or they may travel together to make photos. At minimum the members of a SIG get to know each other and enjoy their photography more.



Carole Kropscot writes this column for the *PSA Journal*. She has given our club permission to include her articles in *Focus on the Foothills*.

## ***Just for Beginners!***

### **Horizontal vs. Vertical Format**

Each photographer makes a conscious decision to capture an image in a horizontal or vertical format. That decision is often based on commonly followed rules. Other factors should influence the decision.

It is often said that a vertical subject is best photographed in a vertical format. Examples are a tree, tall building, or a standing individual person. This common idea is probably based on filling up the frame with the main subject. The main subject in horizontal pictures is often a wide subject, such as an ocean scene with waves, a field of cows, or a group of three people standing side by side.

These format choices seem natural but can result in ordinary images. The beginning photographer is encouraged to frame the subject both horizontally and vertically before taking the picture. This promotes creativity.

Also, this motivates the photographer to study the composition. Some basic elements of composition include secondary subjects, distracting elements, and subject placement. Analyzing the image in both horizontal and vertical views is a wise learning experience.

The use for the photographic image is another factor in choosing a horizontal or vertical format. If the image is used for an advertisement, there must be free space for the advertising text. The same principle applies to greeting cards. If the goal is stock photography, it is common to submit both formats for the same subject.

Exciting images result from unusual, unexpected compositions. Static images can easily result when following the commonly accepted choice of format. Nevertheless, it is important for a beginning photographer to master the traditional formats.

## Special Guests at the July 21 Meeting !!

These three people will form a panel of experts to discuss the role that amateurs have in photojournalism.

Do the media want your news photos? Will they pay for them? Do you retain ownership? How do you submit your photos?

These questions and more will be answered by the people who know. Questions from the floor will, of course, be taken.

From the top:

Christina Santee is news editor at the Northeast Georgian

Joy Purcell is owner and publisher of Now Habersham.


Billy Chism is editor and publisher of the White County News.



This meeting (like all of our meetings) is open to the public. So...bring a friend.

July 21, 6:30 PM Social Time, 7:00 PM meeting starts. We meet in the Visual Arts Building at North Georgia Tech College, Clarkesville.





# MONTANA PHOTOGRAPHY EXPEDITION

**\$2,195**

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY - PER PERSON

**\$2,495**

SINGLE OCCUPANCY - PER PERSON

**SEP 2015      8 DAYS & 7 NIGHTS**

[renniemarie.com/montana-photography-expedition](http://renniemarie.com/montana-photography-expedition)

Our own Marie Nease leads an expedition to Montana in September -- as well as one to Costa Rica in January, 2016.

Click [here](#) to see her web site and more details about the trips. You might want to check out the VERY nice photography in her portfolio.



Botanical Garden Field Trip Saturday, July 18



We will meet at 8:00 AM in the Cornelia Walmart parking lot at the SW corner directly across from Captain D's. We will depart at 8:15 sharp! Please give your carpool driver \$3-\$5 for the round trip. Admission is \$8 for individuals or \$7 for groups of 10 or more.

Directions: South on GA 365/US 23. Right onto Jessie Jewell Pkwy (exit #24). Right onto US 129/Limestone Pkwy then Left onto Sweetbay Drive. (The entrance to the garden) Driving time 25-30 minutes, distance approximately 27 miles.

There are two ½ mile trails in the gardens; nice if you want a walk in those wooded areas. The planted areas cover about two acres now and will be expanded in the years to come.

Recommended kit: Minimum – Camera w/ wide angle lens (short focal distance). A close-up or macro lens is much better.

What you really want: The above w/ a tripod that allows low level shooting, i.e. 1'-3' height. Extension rings (tubes) or bellows for your lens. A brimmed hat to shade your viewfinder - and you. Something for your knees if *kneeded*. A spritz bottle of water, if you want to embellish your flowers with 'rain drops'. I checked; it's okay. A black cloth to isolate a specimen or to shade it.

Barbara Johns, John Martin and I will be available to help you - or learn from you. The gardens open at 9:00 AM. Two hours seems about right for the shoot. So let's meet back at the ticket counter and count heads before leaving at 11:00. If the majority wants more time, we can all remain or split up. This will be a large group so make sure you are accounted for. Lunch at Captain D's upon return to Cornelia.

Questions: Rich St. John 706-754-8895.

Other things you will want to know...

The **photography gallery at Habersham Medical Center** will be open to the public soon. Watch the newspaper for an announcement of the show and reception. Members of Foothills Photography Group have contributed twenty-two photographs for the gallery.

This article spotted in the *Georgia Magazine*: **Annual Simple Pleasures Photography Competition**, Nov.7, McRitchie-Hollis Museum, Newnan. An international competition that highlights "life's simple pleasures" through photography, this event is open to beginning, amateur and professional photographers 18 and older. Cash prizes are awarded. At its inaugural show in 2010, Simple Pleasures was praised as one of the strongest photography shows in Georgia...and it has continued to garner national and international interest. Details [here](#).

An **upcoming meeting** will feature a panel of photographers who have recently become professional (read "money making") photographers. If you have ever entertained the idea of turning your photography skills into income-producing skills, this is for you. Keep an eye on the club [Facebook page](#) for details.

**George Wendell Underwood**, 79, a member of Foothills Photography Group and the father-in-law of Jim Loring, passed away on June 16, 2015.