

Foothills Photography Group's Monthly Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 3

March 2016

Focus on the Foothills

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From the President

I'm very glad to begin my service as your president. The first thing I want to do is to thank John Martin and the core group who helped birth this club. Previously, I was driving an hour to Athens to attend their monthly photography club meetings. When I heard about Foothills Photography Group, I was thrilled to belong. There are so many benefits one can enjoy when networking with other photographers.

John will continue serving the club as Program Chairman, and have you looked at the upcoming programs?! Wow! He has an awesome group of speakers coming to share information and inspire us.

I want to recognize **Sharon Alicea**, our new vice-president. She will also serve as chairperson of the Community Service Committee. In addition to those duties, Sharon will also be the newsletter editor.

Our secretary/treasurer is **Wendy O'Connor**. She is the one you will want to give your annual dues to, if you haven't already.

Want to get free photography lessons? See **Chuck Lotts**, Chairman of the Mentor Program. Or if you can volunteer to give some one-on-one lessons, see Chuck.

When he isn't flying Delta jets to Germany, **Steve Griswold** will be the club's webmaster. He's doing a great job!

Got a field trip idea? Share it with **Jasper Lee**, the Field Trips and Group Shoots Chairman. He'll be helping coordinate our outings this year and he'd love to hear your ideas about where we might go.

The other two board members are **Tanya Smith**, Social Chairman, and **Nikki Pittman**, who is in charge of publicity for our group. Thank you both for your willingness to serve.

I hope to see you Tuesday the 15th at 6:30 for socializing and the program at 7:00!

Danny

Hi All!

Sharon here! I want to make this newsletter your newsletter!

This page is for all sorts of stuff, or as I call them Bits and Bobs.

Do you have a favorite photography/photographer quote? Email it to me, as I would love to include it. This one is from our President, Danny Young:

There are always two people in every picture: the photographer and the viewer.
Ansel Adams

Do you have any tips or tricks? Send 'em in! Here's one of mine:
Don't be afraid to play with the shutter speed to create some interesting effects. When taking a night time shot, use a tripod and try shooting with the shutter speed set at 4 seconds. You will see that the movement of the object is captured along with some light trails. If you choose a faster shutter speed of say 1/250th of a second, the trails will not be as long or bright; instead you will freeze the action. This technique works well if you are using a tripod and if you are photographing a moving object.

What would you like to see more of in our meetings?

We want to know! No idea is too out there. If you'd like more hands on experiences or different types of speakers we'll do our best to make this club what you, our membership, want.

Field Trips!

Jasper Lee would love to know where you want to go on a field trip and what you'd like to photograph.

Like to Photograph Birds Close-up?

Danny is inviting bird photographers to use his backyard bird blind set up.

The peak times begin in a couple of weeks and goes through April. Call him at [706-499-9901](tel:706-499-9901) or email: dannyoung56@yahoo.com to set up a visit. He will share his Canon equipment with you and give instructions if you wish.

Steve Griswold, our webmaster is always looking for pictures for our website. Let's flood his inbox!

Articles!

Love to write? Tell a photography story? Submit an article to be included in an upcoming newsletter and be featured on our web page. Yes, we'll want pictures, too. (It's a PHOTOGRAPY CLUB!)

Thank you for your patience with me as I learn how to do this. (I haven't yet figured out how to change the cover picture, so we get to see last month's again.)

Upcoming Programs

March, 2016

Chuck Murphy

Better Birds, Bugs and Blooms Photos
<http://boywithcamera.com/>

Chuck is a photography instructor at the University of Georgia Continuing Education Center and has taught the Digital Plant Photography course at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia. His presentation will be entitled Better Birds, Bugs, and Blooms (with the emphasis on Better).

April, 2016

John Mariana

Travel Photography -Italy
<http://www.jmariana.com/>

John is the author of two beautiful fine art books based on his travels to Italy and Scotland. Additionally, he has written a seven volume set of educational books which show how he transforms photography into vibrant and emotionally filled images. He leads workshops through the American west.

May, 2016

Anne Yarbrough

Photographing Pets and Kids
<http://www.anneyarbroughphotography.com/>

Anne Yarbrough is a professional photographer who shoots just about everything but admits to a preference for pets and kids. Her fresh approach to portraiture is summed up in her advertisement: "...contact me with ideas that suit your vision and we'll go from there." Her presentation to our club will concentrate on making photos of those things that don't sit still: pets and kids.

We LOVE to do Community Service!

Here is a great opportunity!

Come share your business acumen and expertise with the students and parents of Wilbanks Middle School on Friday, May 13, 2016 from 8:00- 12:00. The purpose of our Career Fair is to expose students to a wide variety of businesses and career options in a fun environment. We plan to spend a valuable and exciting morning exploring your career. There will be 463 students attending the fair in 25-minute rotations.

A table and two chairs will be available for each vendor. If you require any other equipment (including electricity) or additional tables, please let us know as soon as possible. Please plan to arrive by 8:00 to register and set up your table in the gymnasium. You may bring displays, power point presentations, slides, handouts, treats, and anything else that will attract the students' attention.

Some businesses will be set up outside, too. If you have a vehicle or mobile showroom, you can bring it for students to see.

We have invited vendors from various areas to make this the best Career Fair yet! We encourage you to make your area as authentic and original as possible.

Promote your business while supporting education!

Please RSVP as soon as possible by contacting Cindy Clark at 706-894-1341, ext. 1511 or at cgclark@habershamschools.com.

We look forward to seeing you on May 13, 2016!

Sincerely,
Cindy Clark

A Remarkable Lady in Romania by John Martin

Readers, this blog posting contains nothing technical and very little to do with the mechanics of photography. But it does relate to travel photography. It is a travel photography experience that has stayed with me (us) as much as any image I've made.



Looking through the wall of one of the fortified churches.

A few years back The Bride and I tracked down — to photograph — many of the ancient, fortified churches in the villages of the Transylvania region of Romania.

A bit of history: These churches (possibly 160 of them) were built in the 12th and 13th centuries by the Saxons; settlers who emigrated from what is now Germany.

The villagers soon built fortifications around the churches — the only stone building in town — to defend against the Tartars and Mongols who periodically swept through from the north and the Ottoman Empire which harassed from the south. The unfortunate circumstances surrounding World War II in that area of the world caused most of the inhabitants to abandon the Transylvania area in the 20th century. Today the German Saxons are only about four percent of the population in 1930 — and the churches (with a few exceptions) are falling to ruin. We wanted to document some of them before it was too late.

Often a village will be home to only three or four people who are descendants of the original Saxons...but one of them will have the key to the old church.



The Bride and Katharina walking near the church.

Enter Katharina.

Through some improvised sign language, I asked a shopkeeper if she would tell us who had the key to the fortified church. She pointed along the main street and said “green door”. That was enough to bring us to Katharina’s house. She seemed to know what we wanted when I pointed to the church. After disappearing into her house for a few minutes she came back with her cane, a blue hat, and a large key. A little way along the road we noticed the bandage on her leg and it became obvious that she wasn’t up to the long walk. I trekked back and retrieved the car.

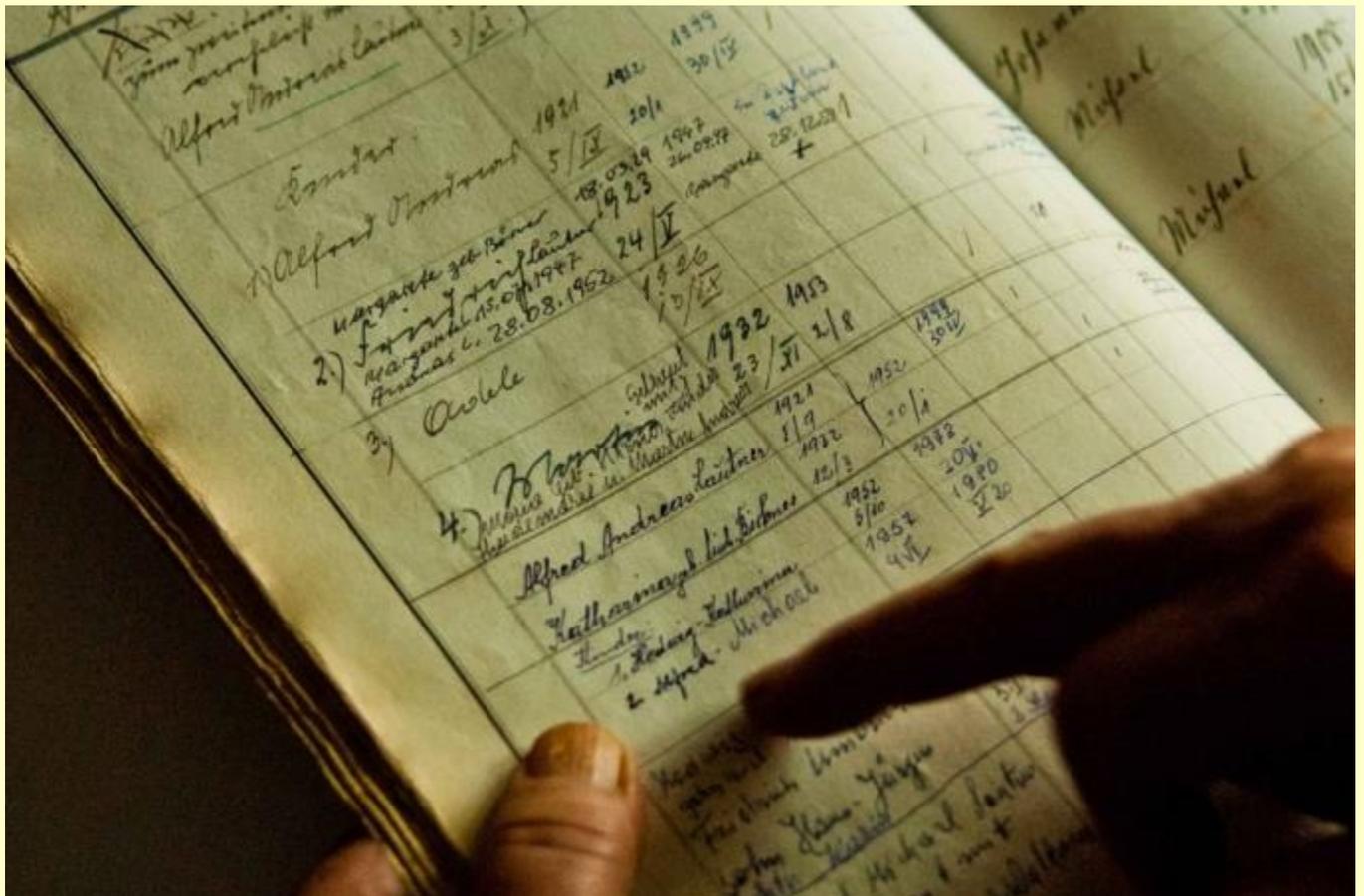
I was able to make some nice, documentary images of the church — which isn’t the important part of this tale. We were very appreciative and tried to convey that to her.



Katharina leaving her barn.

When we thanked her (as best we could without the language) she indicated that we should go back to her house for tea. And, of course, we did.

Katharina – who lived alone — hosted us for almost two hours. With not one word of language in common, she told us about her life style, the history of the village, her family, and her farmstead. All the while speaking in what, I think, was the old Saxon, she squired us through every room of her house and barn. She showed us each of her hogs (2), horses (2), chickens (many) and dog (1). She flagged down a person walking by and asked her to summon her daughter from next door to come meet us. And, finally, she (with great ceremony) pulled down a large book which turned out to be the hand written genealogical record of all the Saxon families in her village. It was a privilege to see and touch such an important artifact.



Katharina points to her family in the town record of genealogy.

What a remarkable woman. And what a remarkable show of hospitality.

Incidentally, although Katharina was exceptional, experiences like this were not uncommon as we sought out the old churches in Romania.

Is there a message in this for travel photographers? I think so. People are gracious the world over. As travelers/photographers we benefit from that attitude. Flip the coin. Can't we make

the world a bit better through 1) being thoughtful and considerate as we travel and 2) showing hospitality to others that visit our homeland?

Note: Considering Katharina's health I've left out the name of her village.

Thanks, John for sharing such a beautiful story!

Just a final note...

Membership dues are due at our March meeting. Come out, renew your membership, have some goodies before we listen and learn. I'll be there, and I hope you will be too!

You can reach us at:

Danny Young at dannyoung56@yahoo.com

Sharon Alicea at flaglady@gmail.com

Wendy O'Conner at wendyocoder@yahoo.com

Steve Griswold at sgriz@me.com

Chuck Lotts at catandchuck@windstream.net

Jasper Lee at jasperlee@windstream.net

Tanya Smith at tanya1951@live.com

Nikki Pittman at nikkipittman07@gmail.com

See you on Tuesday March 15th! Gathering time starts at 6:30 and our meeting starts at 7:00.