

# Foothills Photography Group's Monthly Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 5

May 2016

## Focus on the Foothills



From the President

Hello Foothills Photography Groupers,

May is here and so are the flowers! What unspeakable beauty in each blossom! I really enjoy seeing your images posted on Facebook. And....Flowers 2016 is the subject for our critique at the May meeting, May 17<sup>th</sup>. We're hoping to get many images of flowers you've made in 2016. Please email me your images before noon on that day. [dannyoung56@yahoo.com](mailto:dannyoung56@yahoo.com)

I've heard many complimentary comments about last month's field trip to the "Bus Graveyard"! I believe some images of that trip can be found on this website. And speaking of field trips, Jasper Lee has announced that the next one will be a trip to the State Botanical Gardens of Georgia in Athens on June 25. You'll hear more from Jasper about this trip as it draws near.

I want to thank Jeff Gulle for his informative presentation at last month's meeting. What an awesome photographer! Our May program features Anne Yarbrough from Athens. You can learn about this talented lady at [www.anneyarbroughphotography.com](http://www.anneyarbroughphotography.com).

I'm always interested in learning about new places/things to photograph. I'll share some of my nature photography places if you'll share some of yours! Post them on Facebook or tell us about them at the next meeting.

#### Swan Lake in Sumter, SC

This time of the year, irises are blooming at the water's edge, creating beautiful reflection images. And then, add in the dozens of swans! A real paradise. Now is peak time.



Roan Mt. State Park, TN

Known for having the world's largest rhododendron garden, this is another photographer's paradise. You're 6,000 feet up, and you're on part of the Appalachian Trail, and in either direction you can see miles and miles of foggy mountain tops. Awesome! Middle of June is peak time.



Nacoochee Mound, White County

Have you been there in the early morning? Barbara Johns' images inspired me to visit this intriguing spot. Birds fly around the gazebo about 30 minutes after the sun is up and now the cows are grazing and that adds a special touch to your images.



Mauldin House, Clarkesville

I have a canvas print of an image I made there a few years ago hanging on my wall. It shows flowers in front of the log house. A friend recently saw it and upon learning where it was, said, "I imagined that was way out in the mountains some where!" I often stop at the Mauldin house to see what's blooming and have come away with several good images.



Ok, now your turn!

Happy image making!

Danny Young

Hi All!  
Sharon here!

Here's this month's Bits and Bobs.

I hope you enjoyed our drawing last month. For your reading pleasure I have included the submissions of our winners. You might be chosen at our meeting on Tuesday May 17<sup>th</sup>!

**A friendly reminder**, the critique theme for May is 2016 Flowers! Have you visited a garden or your own backyard? Show us! The images had to have been made this year, so get shooting! I have one I'm looking forward to showing you. I hope to see yours. Just email them to Danny and he'll get them to me or Colby for display.

**Our cover photo is by:**

Jim Johns. This image was made at Cades Cove. Ask him about it when you see him at our next meeting!

**Tip of the month:**

This month's tipster is Phoebe Martin.

Set your camera to rapid fire. This little used feature of most cameras can REALLY improve your chances of getting usable images in some situations. The obvious example is sports action but think, also, of using it when making photos of children at play or in nature photography (birds in flight!). And the one I like: Informal/casual portraiture. The human face changes incredibly fast and the chance of getting a satisfactory image with one shot is slim.

**Quote of the month:**

This month's quote is from Will Davis.

"There is only you and your camera. The limitations in your photography are in yourself for what we see is what we are." ----- Ernst Haas.

**Article of the month:**

This month's article is submitted by Walton Scott.

**Equipment Questions**

At the April meeting, I realized the gulf between me and my camera use and knowledge and that of both the leadership and many of the members of FPG. Since I "got lucky" and "won" the T-shirt that went with writing the member's column in the newsletter, I thought I would use it to ask for recommendations for equipment to fit my situation.

I have had a camera of one sort or another for over 65 years, starting with a brownie when I was eight years old. When I was in college, I had a Graflex Graphic 35 mm range finder camera that made you work for your pictures but that had mechanical aids for setting f-stop and speed that worked pretty well and taught me a lot about settings. While I was in Viet Nam in the 60's I got a Canon 35 mm SLR that took great pictures and was my camera until it was just totally obsolete. Then I switched to

Nikon and have had one Nikon film SLR and now a D80 digital. The D80 is still my only camera after 12 or so years. I have Nikon 18 – 55 mm and 70 – 300 mm lenses. I also have a Manfrotto tripod, but it is too heavy to carry about except on car trips. All that is to say, I do not buy camera equipment often or lightly.

I take a lot of pictures, overwhelmingly in three situations. I document- in perhaps annoying detail -family events, especially holidays and visits with grandchildren. I document trips to places of photographic interest, such as Greece or Barcelona. And I photograph the changing of the seasons around my yard.

I understand that my camera is technologically obsolete and would like to replace it. I want to stay in the Nikon family, but could change if there is a substantially better system out there. I would like a camera that brings me up to date (and won't leave me in the technological dust in a few months) and especially that has GPS built in and that can communicate with other devices by Bluetooth. My problem is that technology is changing rapidly and increasing in complexity with every change. As I have shown, I do not like to buy camera equipment very often, so my questions are:

1. Is this a good time to be in the market to buy a new basic DSLR, or are technological developments moving so fast now that a new camera (especially a Nikon) would likely be obsolete before I learned to use it?
2. For my use, what would be good specs for a new camera (and any needed lenses)?
3. The talk of multiple memory cards of different formats and using RAW format at the April meeting flew right by me. I know I am not going to go to RAW, so do I need/want more than one memory card?
4. I am awful with flash, even the Nikon SpeedLight that I have. Should I continue taking almost everything in natural light or teach myself how to get a decent picture with flash? If the former, what sort of lens does that imply?
5. I use the 18mm lens setting for "macro" pictures of flowers, etc. Would another lens be better?
6. What else (other than price) should I be thinking about?

Sharon, again. Colby will be covering some of this in our 10-minute lesson at the next meeting. Please let us know if you feel that we need to cover this more in-depth. This is your group. Please, please, please tell us what you want to learn!

### **Upcoming Programs:**

**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.

## **June, 2016**

### **Tom Query**

Tom has been a licensed professional counselor for twenty years. He's also a minister and a great photographer.

Tom Query is a semi-professional photographer with several national and regional awards.

He has taught several photography courses at the Cedar Heights Center in Clarkesville -- one of which is Emotional Photography. That is the subject of the June program.

"In my personal life - I am a Father, Friend, Psychotherapist, Photographer, Reluctant Minister, and Retired Magician. I have an adult daughter. I am married to my girlfriend for life."

He is a member of Roswell Photographic Society and has been on their board.

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## **July, 2016**

### **Wingate Downs**

#### **Education**

Graduate, UGA Grady College

Studied photography at Auburn Univ., LaGrange College and UGA

(My father was a UGA journalism grad, a photographer, and newspaper owner-I literally grew up in the business!)

#### **Experience**

18 years director of photography for Athens' two daily newspapers;

wire service photographer for AP, UPI, and World Wide Press

Sports Photographer for Kodak's Prototype Digital Camera, 1987

Staff photographer, '96 Olympics, for Atlanta Olympic Committee

Remote image transmission from every part of the US

15 years operating commercial, portrait, and wedding business

Certified vendor for Microsoft, contract photographer for hundreds of businesses, governments and publications over NE Georgia

**Awards**

32 State and National awards for news and advertising photography

**Teaching**

Adjunct Professor, University of Georgia, Photojournalism  
State Instructor, Georgia Press Association  
Private consultant for southeastern media companies

**Printed Work**

Life, Sports Illustrated, Time, Newsweek, People, U.S News &W.R.  
Dozens of book and CD covers  
Cover, major contributor, Lewis Grizzard's "Glory, Glory",  
Vince Dooley's "25 Years" and dozens of other UGA books

**Studio**

3,000 Sq. ft. facility with dressing room, complete digital production system, equipped with digital A/V.

The multi-talented John Martin has submitted an interesting article on Street Photography.

Street Photography: Why Black and White?

I think the answer lies partly in history -- but not totally.

First the historical perspective. The fact is that street photography got off the ground before shooting in color was practical. Henri Cartier-Bresson, et al, carried SLRs and rangefinders loaded with the black and white roll film. Would these pioneers in street photography have used color if it were available? I contend that they would have used black and white or even converted to black and white in post processing for the same reason that we shoot in color with our digital SLRs and convert to black and white in our computers.

Allow me to present a premise: Street photography carries a message -- or it isn't street photography.

And a corollary to that might be that color often detracts from or masks the message. Here's an example:



The message might be any of several things. It may be the contrast between the ancient church and the modern hotel façade. It could be the contrast between the tiny woman and the huge buildings. Or, you may see something different (one of the beautiful aspects of street!).

At any rate, check out the same picture (as shot) in color.

It is cumbersome to do this in a short article but try to follow me here. When the color image is initially presented your eyes first land on the color play between the two buildings and then wander down to the woman. On the other hand, the black and white version draws you first to the woman and you track her gaze up to the new/old dichotomy of the two buildings.

The woman is important -- cover her with your hand and the image goes flat. Her importance is diminished, almost lost, if the image is presented in color.

And so it goes with most good street photography. So often color directs our minds into seeing the world as we experience it -- the way it is -- while losing the subtleties that make street photography the fun sport we love.



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### **Just final note...**

Membership dues are being accepted at our May meeting. Stop by and see Wendy O'Connor. 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](mailto:dannyoung56@yahoo.com)

Sharon Alicea at [flaglady@gmail.com](mailto:flaglady@gmail.com)

Wendy O'Connor at [wendyocoder@yahoo.com](mailto:wendyocoder@yahoo.com)

Steve Griswold at [sgriz@me.com](mailto:sgriz@me.com)

Chuck Lotts at [catandchuck@windstream.net](mailto:catandchuck@windstream.net)

Jasper Lee at [jasperlee@windstream.net](mailto:jasperlee@windstream.net)

Tanya Smith at [tanya1951@live.com](mailto:tanya1951@live.com)

Nikki Pittman at [nikkipittman07@gmail.com](mailto:nikkipittman07@gmail.com)

See you on Tuesday May 17th! Gathering time starts at 6:30 and our meeting starts at 7:00.