

# FOOTHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

## *Monthly Newsletter*

Volume 3 Number 7

July 2017

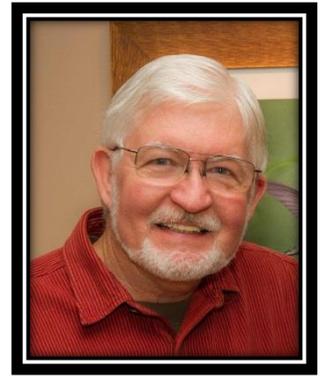


*Photo Provided by FPG Member, Daniel Short*

# From Our President....

Greetings FPGers!

Our July meeting is on the 18<sup>th</sup>. It will be a panel discussion of critique techniques. Be looking on our Facebook page for more information from John Martin about this event.



Ann Jones is leading a "Meet Up" at the airshow in Gainesville on July 8. Check the Facebook page for more info on this event also.

We always appreciate the photography school staff at North Georgia Technical College for hosting our monthly meetings. They are a real blessing to our club.

The field trip to the Gorge has been set for July 22. We'll give all the details at the July meeting.

Our Member Spotlight this month features our hard working Secretary/Treasurer, Wendy O'Connor. I know you'll enjoy her interesting story. She illustrates an important point about photography, and that is: we see what we are looking for. Wendy likes to photograph letters of the alphabet which she sees in nature. A hole in a tree looks like a hole in a tree to most photographers, but she sees an "O", which becomes part of a word which will someday decorate someone's wall.

But it's true, we see what we are looking for. Ten photographers can make pictures of the same subject, and they'll produce different images. Why is that? What is it that causes our eyes to see things the way they see them? I think it's our heart. I think we look for what pleases our soul. Just putting a camera in our hands doesn't change the personality of our heart. We will see what we're looking for and we'll look for what pleases our heart. What pleases your heart? This isn't a right or wrong issue. Think about it. Why do you see what you see?

I was forced to think about this years ago when I had to submit images to be juried in order to get into an art/craft show. I also had to submit a statement explaining my "philosophy and influences of art". I thought and thought and I began to remember that as a boy in a home with no TV and no magazines, I spent hours looking at the art in the big family Bible which sat on our coffee table. There were dozens of illustrations by Rembrandt depicting the major events in the Bible. Later, we got the Saturday Evening Post and I studied Norman Rockwell's drawings, entertaining myself with the stories his pictures told. The third influence was Thomas Kinkade, who is famous for his peaceful scenes, most of them featuring an inviting cottage. These influences direct my eyes to see some things and to overlook other things.

You can imagine, then, my delight, when at my last show, a customer entered my booth, looked at one of my images and said, "That looks a bit like a Kinkade painting." I'm not trying to imitate others, but I believe qualities of their work that I admire ends up affecting how I look at a subject, both through the view finder and in post processing.

Because Wendy looks for letters, she sees them. What are you looking for? What are you seeing?

Happy Trails,

*Danny*

## Quote of the Month

Provided by FPG member, **Bob Starkweather**

From one of my old-time rock n roll friends, Neil Young :  
*"There's more to the picture than meets the eye."*



**Wendy O'Connor**  
Secretary/Treasurer



I was born and raised in Milwaukee, WI, the oldest of four girls. I graduated from Rufus King College Preparatory High School in 1983 and went on to attend the University of Wisconsin at Madison, receiving a BS in Horticulture in 1987.

I hadn't really ever thought about when my interest in photography really began or why, but our father probably planted that seed as he was always taking pictures or movies of us kids. Both Mom and Dad worked for the Milwaukee Public Schools and had their summers off, so we had the opportunity to travel all over the United

States, Canada and Mexico. The photography bug was fueled by the desire to document our travels, as well my love for nature and wildlife. My first camera was an instant camera at age 11. My first SLR was an Olympus (OM 10?) when I was 15. Unfortunately I don't know where either of these are now. I currently use Canon. The only course I have taken in photography was the basics in digital photography offered at NGTC with Colby Moore two years ago.

My first job as a Horticulturist was in Denmark, WI (just south of Green Bay) for Greiling Farms, a wholesale grower with about 20 acres of greenhouses. After about six months I volunteered to relocate to their "new" greenhouse in Blairsville, GA. So, in October of 1988 I moved to Georgia. I also worked for Saul Nurseries in Dahlonega, another wholesale grower.

By 1995 I was working for Habersham Medical Center as a switchboard operator. They trained me to be a coder. I am currently a Certified Coding Specialist through AHIMA and have been the Inpatient coder for the last 16 years.

The part of photography I like the best is taking pictures. My favorite subject is anything in nature, so getting out in it, hiking, exploring, (even in my own yard) finding the details that others may not notice, that's what makes me happy.

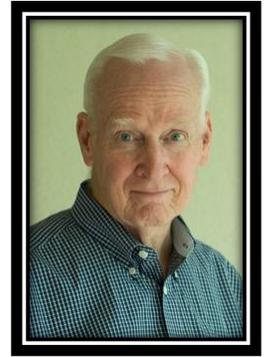
The only photographic "accomplishment" I can think of is that I've made and sold over 200 framed name pictures. I take pictures in nature of naturally occurring letters, then I print the individual letters and spell names mostly, but sometimes inspirational words. Recently I was invited to have dinner at the home of a church member I had just met and she had one of my name pictures hanging in her kitchen. It was amazing to me! We didn't know we had the same friend.

As far as long term goals, the obvious one is to continue to learn and improve. I look forward to my next adventure.



# Forty-seven Popular Places to Photograph in Northeast Georgia

(Fourth in a series) *By John Martin*



## Traveler's Rest

It's a National Historic Landmark - and well it should be. The oldest part of the building dates from approximately 1815. It was built as a stagecoach inn on the Unicoi Turnpike and operated as such into the 1870's. At one time or another the inn operated a cotton gin, blacksmith, general store, post office, sawmill, and tavern. On the property (all 14,000 acres) there was a ferry terminal, toll house, and gold mine. Traveler's Rest is owned and operated by the State of Georgia. Admission to the building costs \$5.00 for adults. Hours are Saturday and Sunday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Notes for the Photographer: I made this photo at mid day. Because of the tall trees surrounding the inn (particularly on the south and west sides) the lighting and shadows will offer interest almost any time of day. And don't neglect the inside. Soft, natural colored wood throughout are a great recipe for warm interiors.



Directions: From the main intersection in Toccoa (Highway 123 and South Broad Street) drive 6.4 miles on US 123 toward Seneca (South Carolina). Turn left on Riverdale Road and travel 0.3 miles to the site on your right.

GPS coordinates for the small parking area: 34°36'32.2"N 83°14'20.1"W

Interesting Fact: Mary Jarrett White, who sold her great-grandfather's inn to the state of Georgia, was the first woman in the state to vote. In May, 1920, White was permitted to cast a ballot having registered as required by law. This was three months before the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which gave women in Georgia the right to vote. How her name got on the voter rolls is unknown. (This from the informative site, About North Georgia: [http://www.aboutnorthgeorgia.com/ang/Travelers\\_Rest\\_Historic\\_Site](http://www.aboutnorthgeorgia.com/ang/Travelers_Rest_Historic_Site))