

# FOOTHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

## *Monthly Newsletter*

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Volume 4 Number 2

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February 2018

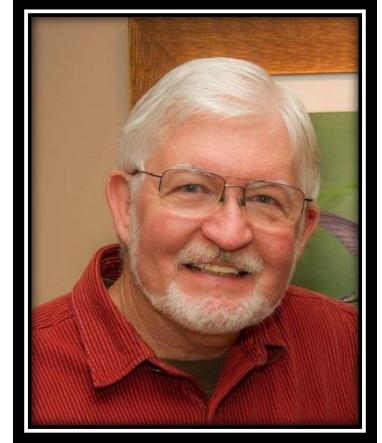
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Photo by Amelia Chatham, FPG member

# From the President.....

We missed you at the January meeting! In fact, we missed EVERYONE! The meeting was canceled because of predicted bad weather AND because the college canceled classes for that night and when that happens, we cancel our meeting. The February meeting is February 20<sup>th</sup>. I hope everyone can attend!



## 2018 List of Officers and Board Members

President: Matt King

Vice-president: Tanya Smith

Secretary/Treasurer: Wendy O'Connor

### Committee Chairpersons

Social – Amelia Chatham

Program – John Martin

Community Service – Laura Jenkins

Publicity – Daniel Short

Mentoring – Chuck Lotts

Field Trip/Meet Up – Laura Jenkins

Webmaster – Steve Griswold

The list of officers and board members will be presented and voted on at the February meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted prior to the vote.

The critique theme for the February meeting is SHADOWS. We're always talking about "getting the light right". What about the shadows? Aren't they important too? Show us your interpretation of interesting shadows. Please email all presentations to me at [dannyyoung56@yahoo.com](mailto:dannyyoung56@yahoo.com) by noon on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Membership Renewal time is here! Our club's calendar year is from March 1 to the end of February the next year. Please renew now by seeing Wendy O'Connor. Membership fees are \$40 per person or \$50 for family and \$10 for students.

Lake Junaluska Field Trip. What lake? That's what the 6 of us were asking upon arrival on January 27<sup>th</sup>. What a shock to learn that the lake was being drained! Fortunately, there was still plenty of water for the swans and ducks, and we even saw the eagle. Those attending were Ann Jones, Laura Jenkins, Danny Young, Willie Boyce, Kathy Jameson and Kase Jameson. This should definitely be a return day trip!

Thank you for letting me serve as president these past two years! It has been a pleasure and honor. I encourage each one who has the time to be as helpful as you can in the club. There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes. I appreciate the great effort of John Martin and all the other founders of the club. I look forward to my continued activity in the club and leave with this one word: better. I want to make better images and become a better photographer. Being in this organization has helped me do that and I believe it can help you too! God bless!

*Danny*

# 47 Popular Places to Photograph in Northeast Georgia

*By John Martin*

## #10 Hurricane Falls in Tallulah Gorge



**Description:** Actually, this is only one of five waterfalls in Tallulah Gorge. Start your visit at the Jane Hurt Yarn Interpretive Center (see Directions) and be sure to watch the very informative short video about the gorge.

From the Interpretive Center you can walk the entire rim for some nice high angle shots down into the gorge. Some really great action photos can be made from the rim trail during the weekends in early April and in November when a torrent of water is released for the thrill seekers in kayaks. Check here for specific dates: <http://gastateparks.org/TallulahGorge>

You can descend to the floor of the gorge. Near the bottom is a swinging foot bridge which takes you to the south side. At the bottom is an observation platform (from which this photo was made of Hurricane Falls). If you want to explore the floor of the gorge - and two of the other waterfalls - you must get a free permit at the Interpretive Center. Permits are limited to 100 per day.

**Be aware** -- getting back out of the gorge is a strenuous 531 stair steps. (If you are fit, it is worth it!)

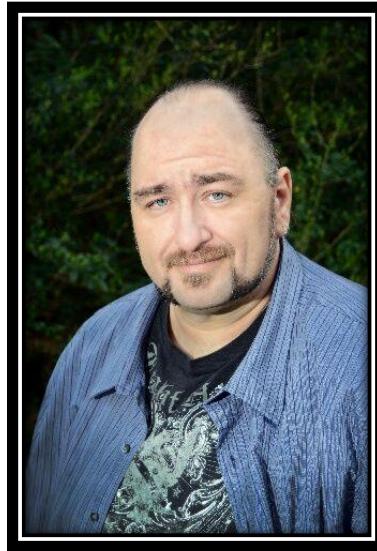
Note for the photographer: You can make a pleasing shot by putting some of the boulders in the foreground. I used a shutter speed of one second to get the silky effect of the water.

**Directions:** From Clarkesville, drive 14 miles north on 365. Shortly after crossing the bridge in Tallulah Falls turn right onto Jane Hurt Yarn Road and follow signs to Tallulah Gorge State Park. Parking fee \$5.00.

**Coordinates:** Coordinates for State Park 34°44'24.4"N 83°23'25.8". Trail head from the north rim starts here. You can also access the trail descending into the Gorge from the South Rim Trail head here: 34°44'07.5"N 83°23'24.4"W.

## February Meeting Speaker: Matt King

When it comes to portraits, Matt is the man! He's been a professional portrait photographer for many years and is going to share some program, improve program, plans now of that knowledge with us as it connects with the software Portrait Pro. This simple to use program will dramatically improve your portraiture photography. Matt will be demonstrating the program using the projector and big screen in our meeting room. Make plans now to attend! February 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. Social time begins at 6:30.



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## What Ansel Adams Said...

“There’s nothing worse than a sharp image of a fuzzy concept.”

“You don’t make a photograph just with a camera. You bring to the act of photography all the pictures you have seen, the books you have read, the music you have heard, the people you have loved.”

# Get Your Camera and Let's Go!

By Danny Young

I recently spent 3 days photographing birds and scenes around Lake Mattamuskeet in North Carolina. The lake is well known for the water fowl that visit there in the winter. It is 14 miles long, 5 miles wide and is an average of 2' deep. The 40,000 acre lake comprises most of the 50,000 acre Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, and is located less than an hour from the Outer Banks.

My primary target was the Tundra Swans that sometimes number in the 10's of thousands at the lake. Because of the unusually cold weather, the lake was frozen over, a true oddity said one resident who had lived there 32 years and had never seen this. A park ranger informed me that big flocks of swans were in cultivated fields near Fairfield, located at the north end of the lake.

My best images were made there. The swans will allow humans to get about 60 yards before they fly. Here are some of the images from the trip that I was most proud.





I usually make about 2,000 images a day when I'm photographing flying birds. This trip was no exception. I felt blessed to find a few good waterscape images.

An injured Northern Shoveler stayed close to the banks in the part of the lake near the Visitor's Center. His beautiful strong wing was hanging limp, probably a wound received as he flew over a duck hunter's blind. I sat

on the cold ground about 30' from the nervous bird, watching him, studying him. His family had gone on, he was alone. No other bird tried to interact with him. I watched him feeding in the shallow water, always keeping an eye on me. As I studied him, I was reminded again how much animals and humans have in common. Because of an injury, the duck is separated, destined to either heal or become easy prey. Humans, too, become injured, and they can also be separated from others because of it. Physical injuries. Emotional injuries. They both can result in separation from those we love, those we need.

I found myself rooting for this duck, silently cheering him on. What beauty and strength! He was made to fly with the flock, but now injured and walking alone on the frozen lake.

Injured people need cheering on, too.

