



Morning Sparks, Panoramas category, 2021 Salon, *copyright Kristina Plaas.*

April Monthly Meeting—Tues, Apr 27, at 7p: a virtual ZOOM meeting featuring Kristina Plaas

Join us on April 27 for a Zoom meeting with SANP Member Kristina Plaas, who is presenting “Interpretive Photography in America’s National Parks,” in which she shares her experiences and insight as a volunteer photographer for Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway. This presentation explores the many ways photography contributes to the mission and operations of the National Park Service.



Clingmans Dome overlook. Copyright Kristina Plaas.

Interpretation, per Kristina, is a communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between visitors and the natural and cultural resources of America’s National Parks. Photography is an important tool in this communication process, providing visual images for digital and print media. As an interpretive photographer, Kristina approaches the visual landscape with the visitor in mind, asking herself questions such as what story or emotion does she want to share or what connection is she trying to make between the park and the people that visit. It’s a unique way of communicating through the lens. See Kristina’s bio on p. 2.

The Zoom link for the meeting will be sent by email on Sunday afternoon, April 25, to SANP contacts and members. Join the meeting at 6:45 on the 27th for visiting time.

BREAKING NEWS:

While you are making summer plans this year, be sure to highlight these dates, **June 29** and **July 27**, and plan to join us for **SUMMER WITH SANP VIA ZOOM!** Program details will be shared in the May newsletter.

BIO: Kristina Plaas

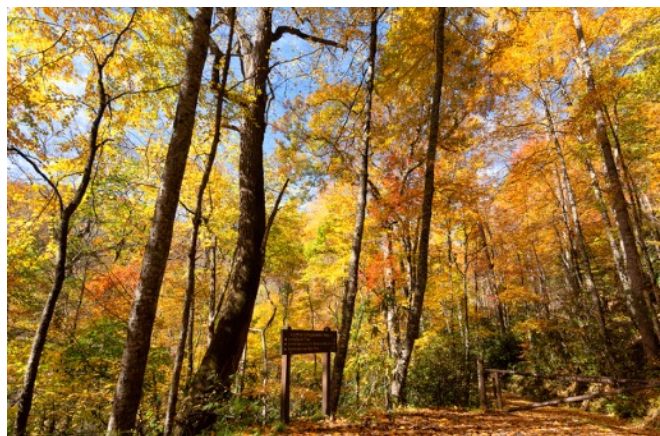
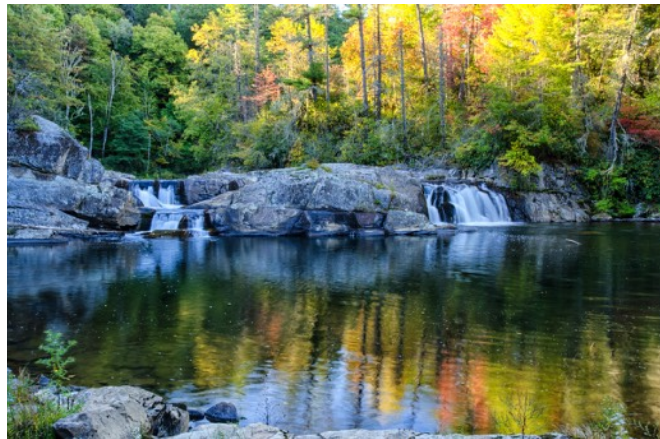
Kristina Plaas is a retired Registered Nurse. She is a Volunteer-in-Park with the National Park Service, collaborating with resource education, communications, and media specialists at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Blue Ridge Parkway, and the National Park Service Office of Communications in Washington, DC.

The daughter of a passionate hobbyist photographer, Kristina developed a love for photography at an early age, claiming the family Kodak Instamatic as her own. She purchased her first 35mm SLR camera after college and headed to the Smokies to photograph the history and beauty of Cades Cove. That love for capturing the wonders of nature has never ceased.

With the advanced technology afforded by digital cameras and computer-assisted editing, Kristina's passion for photography has grown over the last decade. She examines the many possibilities in nature and landscape photography. Wildflowers, waterfalls, and landscapes are her favorite photography subjects. Most of her work focuses on a naturalistic interpretation, but she enjoys abstract nature imagery as well. She shares her work on the "[Plaasabilities Photography](#)" Facebook page and on a [Fine Art America](#) website. Kristina invites all to come with her on her journey into nature – the "Plaasabilities" are endless!



Kristina Plaas, Volunteer-in-Park, April presenter for SANP



Photos by Kristina Plaas.

SANP Field Events—what’s ahead...

Check out our [website](#) for all the latest information on events. Links below provide more details, including how to sign up if there are spaces still available.

Wildflower and waterfall events, led by Dale Potter, 865.773.8114, dalepotter55@gmail.com. More info: [Events](#) page.

- Potluck Wildflowers, Sun, Apr 25, 7:00 AM (EDT), Townsend Wye [[sign up](#)]
- Mouse Creek Falls and Midnight Hole Waterfalls, Sat, May 1, 6:30 AM (EDT), Big Creek Campground GSMNP [[sign up](#)]
- Indian Flat Waterfalls, GSMNP, Sat, May 15, 6:30 AM (EDT), Upper Tremont Road at Middle Prong Trailhead [[sign up](#)]



Yellow Ladies Slippers. Copyright Dale Potter.

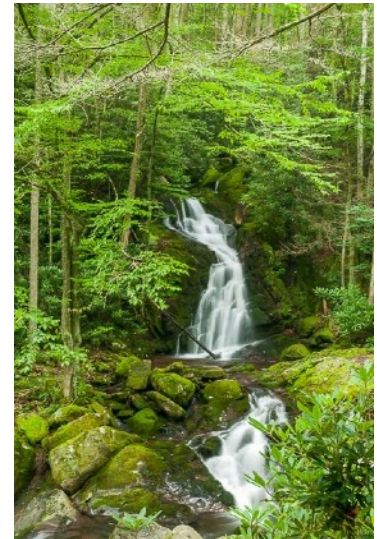
and what’s happened so far in April...

Norris Dam Wildflowers (Dale Potter, host), Apr 17, River Bluff Trail, Norris Dam State Park (see our [Facebook](#) page for photos)

Frozen Head Wildflowers (Dale Potter, host), Apr 18, Frozen Head State Park Visitor Center

Night Skyscapes (Ron Sentell, host). Due to unfavorable weather, this field event was rescheduled to the morning of April 5. Six people were able to attend. We started at Clingmans Dome parking lot where light pollution from Cherokee and a layer of haze near the horizon obscured the Milky Way. Although not visible to the eye, a few people did photograph a faint image of the Dark Horse Nebula near the galactic center. We then moved to Luftee Overlook where a ridge blocked much of the light from Cherokee and the parking area there provided a relatively unobscured view of the Milky Way.

Twenty four people originally registered for this event, indicating a big interest in Night Skyscape photography. Early June will be a good time for photography earlier in the evening beginning about 10:30 pm. More field events will be planned.



Mouse Creek waterfall. Copyright Dale Potter.



Luftee Overlook, copyright Dot Baxter.

SANP BOARD TO MEET 2ND MONDAY EACH MONTH

Ed Stickle, SANP President, has scheduled the Board of Directors to meet each month on the second Monday at 7pm. Per our bylaws, club members may bring issues before the Board by notifying the president or a Board member at least 24 hours before a scheduled meeting. An issue may be presented in person (via Zoom for now) if you wish, as long as the president knows that’s your preference.

If you want to attend a Zoom Board of Directors meeting (even if you have no issues to bring forward), email [Sharon](#) to get the Zoom link.

We Did It! SANP now has a Facebook site!

Well, Chris Cannon gets the credit for our Facebook site. When Chris joined the Board in January, one of his personal goals was to establish an SANP social media site. At the April Board meeting, the vote to approve the site was unanimous. Here's everything you need to know to join.

First, use this link, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sanpnaturephotographers>. If the link isn't handy, enter "Southern Appalachian Nature Photographers" into the search field on Facebook.

Once you are on the page, you'll notice the familiar logo. Since the Board meeting, Chris and his wife Elizabeth have been preoccupied with the birth of their son (see the announcement in the Members Corner on p. 7). Chris's intention and that of the Board is to use Facebook to help visitors find our website and to provide opportunities for members to have a safe platform for dialogue about nature photography, a place where we can forge connections with one another and recognize names and faces.

The site is a public group, which means that it can be viewed by anyone; however, only members of the Facebook group can post. To become a member, click the "Join Group" button. Before you can join, you **must** answer several questions:

1. Do you agree to abide by the group rules of respect, integrity and learning?
2. How did you find out about SANP?
3. Are you interested in becoming a member of SANP?

Once you have answered the questions, one of the three administrators of the site ([Chris Cannon](#), [Ron McConathy](#), or [David Boruff](#)) will review your answers and approve your membership. This approach was determined to be the most effective way to keep membership limited to those who have a sincere desire to share their love of photography.

Another precaution regarding postings has also been established: an administrator must approve each posting before it appears on the site.

The "About" tab provides visitors with some information about the club, including the group rules from the administrators. Check out our Facebook page and be among the first to join and share some of your photos and experiences! Questions can be directed to any of the administrators.



Our Facebook logo as first created.

Group Rules from the Admins

- 1 Be Kind and Courteous**
We're all in this together, loving and learning about Nature Photography. Let's treat everyone with respect. Healthy debates are natural, but kindness is required.
- 2 No Hate Speech or Bullying**
Bullying of any kind isn't allowed. Degrading comments will not be tolerated.
- 3 No Plagiarism**
Sharing photos in this group is part of the fun. However, please make sure you share only your images. If the image was taken by someone else, please credit that photographer and source.
- 4 Photo Etiquette**
Please only critique images when requested by the photographer. Do not alter, crop or repost another photographer's work without the permission of the photographer.
- 5 Get outside, take photos, & enjoy!**
This rule - I think we can all get behind!

SANP Facebook rules. [View the rules on Facebook](#) (scroll to bottom of page).

I wonder who in SANP shares my interests?

If this is a question you've asked yourself, you are in for a treat! Read below to see how to find other club members who enjoys the same types of photography as you.)

First, let's look at some numbers: 38 members say macro photography is a major interest, 63 love wildlife photography, and 21 are interested in cell phone photography. To find the members with interests like yours, go to [Members](#) in the website menu and select the [Member directory](#). Start typing the name of a major interest in the Search box, and the directory will be filtered to show the members with that major interest in their profiles. For example, if you want to find members interested in print making, type "print" in the Search box, and only the members with "print making" as a major interest will be shown, along with their contact information.

Questions about membership? Contact Brad Cottrell at sanpmembership@gmail.com.

Our SANP BOARD, UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

[Note from the editor: This is the first in a series of interviews with our current Board of Directors, the people who direct the future of our club. Let's find out more about them, starting with **David Boruff**, who recently shared with me how he found SANP and his hopes for the club's future. David has also agreed to help me interview others in our quest to make sure we all know and appreciate each other.]

I'm an East Tennessee native, and I've spent all of my adult life here. At age 64, I've been blessed with a long and happy career in broadcasting, journalism and public relations.

In December, I celebrated my golden anniversary as a photographer! My dad gave me my first SLR when I was 14. At the time my dad was really big into bird photography, and he thought that if I was also interested, this might be something we could do together. As it turned out, I wasn't really interested in taking pictures of birds—I didn't have the patience for it—but I did love photography, so my dad was at least partially successful. Photography became a lifelong passion for me, as it was for him.

I've focused primarily on outdoor subjects, nature certainly being part of that, but not the only part. I also enjoy cityscapes and architectural photography and things like that. But the common denominator is outdoor photography—that's what I enjoy most. Fortunately, I live in East Tennessee, which is one of the most beautiful places for year-round outdoor photography.

My first camera, the one my dad gave me when I was 14, was a Praktica LTL 35mm SLR. Praktica is out of business now, but they made relatively inexpensive SLRs for Pentax screw-mount lenses. My dad rightly figured that would be a good choice, not knowing if I would take to photography. Obviously, I did take to it, and in a few years, I basically wore out my Praktica and aspired to something better. Taking a big leap, I graduated to the Nikon F series and became a hardcore Nikon fan for many years.

I have great memories of my film cameras and of participating in the old Nikon school weekend workshops. Looking back, I realize those were marketing events mostly, promoting Nikon gear and making you want everything Nikon made. But they also had some dazzling presentations of photography back then, using a bank of carousel slide projectors, maybe six of them, with dissolve units. Very fancy and high tech for the time. Today we can do the same thing on our laptops, but back then this was pretty jaw-dropping, and it really got me excited about photography.

I wondered whether I should make photography my profession. I looked into some photo schools in New York and California pretty seriously but, ultimately, I decided that I loved photography too much to make it a job. I was afraid that if I had to take pictures, it wouldn't be so much fun. And I also realized that taking great pictures is much easier than selling great pictures, and I knew I wouldn't enjoy the business side of photography. So, I decided to keep photography as just a hobby and find an easier way to make a living.

Even so, I put a lot of effort into self-education about photography, reading books and studying the work of famous photographers like Edward Weston and his son Brett Weston. Also, Andreas Feininger, Joseph Muench, Eliot Porter, and of course Ansel Adams—who isn't a fan of Ansel Adams? I also attended a lot of workshops. Often, I was the youngest person there. I wasn't aware then that photography seemed to be of greater interest to older folks. It's a little disconcerting for me to walk into a meeting now and realize that I'm not the kid in the room anymore!

When digital became a thing, I really wanted to stay with Nikon, but Nikon was dragging its feet on getting into digital, and Canon was moving ahead. After a while, I grew tired of waiting and defected to Canon. My first Canon was the EOS 10D. Honestly, I wasn't a fan of that camera, but it did set me on the path of investing in a Canon system. As we all know, once you start building a system, it becomes sort of a "golden handcuff" for you, such that it is hard to justify going to another system because you would have to get rid of everything and start over again. I've not done that, and I'm still in the Canon system today. *[continued next page]*



David Boruff on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

SANP BOARD, INTERVIEW WITH DAVID BORUFF (CON'T)

I'm also a huge fan of the Sony RX100 series—the little pocket cameras. I'm on my third one of those. I'm a little embarrassed to say that a very high percentage of my favorite photos have been taken with one of those RX100s. There is truth to what Annie Leibovitz said—that the best camera is the one you have with you.

I have come to realize over the years, after spending way too much on equipment, that equipment is overrated. Frankly, I've never seen a dramatic improvement in my photography just by upgrading my gear. What has mattered most is having an acceptably good camera with me at all times. Very few of my favorite photos were taken when I was out looking to take pictures with my best gear. More often than not, they've come from having a decent camera in my pocket when unexpected opportunities arose. So, I'm very much a believer in having a “good enough” camera with you at all times; chances are that good-enough camera is going to be the one that really hits the home runs for you!

I've also come to believe that what's more important than having fancy gear is having great teachers and mentors. I mentioned earlier the mentors I had when I was a young photographer. But even today I continue to be blessed with great learning opportunities. I belong to several clubs, all of which offer great education opportunities, but I have to say that SANP has had the most relevant education programs that address the things I like to shoot most.

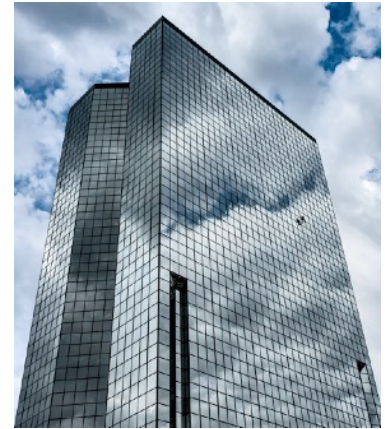
I also have to give a big shout-out to Kendall Chiles for his hard work in bringing us good speakers month after month and for his overall commitment to education. I've learned so much from him and also from Ron McConathy, not only through the club directly but also through their work at UT. They have both helped me improve my photography enormously. It's because of their work at UT that I came to be a member of SANP. I appreciate their generosity over the years. I feel like I've really grown as a photographer through my membership in SANP.

I'm also really excited about the direction the club is heading. There's a lot of energy going into trying new things; for example, the increases in membership thanks to Brad Cottrell and the membership management system he put together that's given us a 38% growth in membership since last year. That's just incredible! And Dale Potter's great work in reviving our field events—we have six scheduled this month! We need to keep that momentum going. Let's emphasize what is best for the club's future, while still respecting the club's past. We can build on the previous contributions of long-time members—appreciating all the hard work they've done that has put us in a great position to move forward.

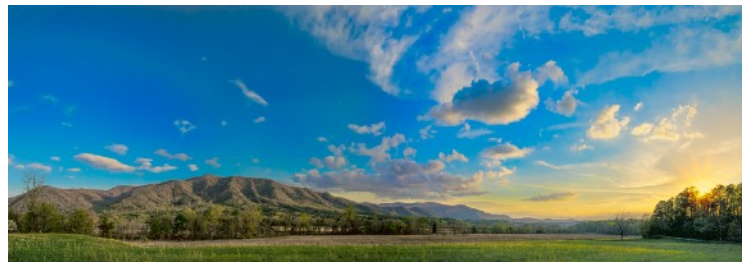
It's also important that we expand our circle of inclusion and outreach to encourage and embrace new members who share our interest in nature photography but whose preferred approach to it might be a little different from what some of us old-timers are used to. I hope we will continue to encourage and appreciate all of our new members, realizing, for example, that in skilled hands an iPhone is a legitimate camera. That may be a heretical statement, but it's one that we need to embrace. If our club is to thrive, we've got to bring in new and younger members along with the technology they want to use. Even if it puts some of us out of our comfort zones, we need to encourage new people to join, make them feel welcome, provide them with opportunities to dive in and learn the ropes, and allow them to make meaningful contributions as full-fledged members of the club whose presence is noticed and appreciated.

I look forward to helping the board and the officers move in this direction so the club can continue to serve the time-honored interests of our long-time members as we work to make the club more relevant to more people and more sustainable for the long-term. I'm confident that we can do that in the months ahead.

— David Boruff



Jobs from hell (note window washer at first horizon), taken with a Sony RX 100.
Copyright David Boruff.



Easter sunset, Cades Cove. *Copyright David Boruff.*

Want to share an interesting field experience or other information with fellow members? Email sanpinfo@sanp.net and include a short description and some photos.

From **Mark Frankel**: Marcy and I have never walked this trail, called the Wildflower Greenway, located off W. Vanderbilt Dr. near the junction with the OR Turnpike. It is easy but very slick in spots, so wear good shoes! At one point you cross a stream by rock hopping. There was a cascade along the trail too. See [map of area](#) and more of my [photos](#).



Chris, Elizabeth, and Elliott Cannon. Copyright Chris Cannon.

Congratulations to **Chris and Elizabeth Cannon** on the birth of their son, Elliott Christopher Cannon, on April 15 at 1:29 am! May his first significant gift be a camera!

To **Sarah Best**, SANP member and student at Pellissippi, sincere condolences on the death of her mother.



Yellow trillium from the OR Wildflower Greenway. Copyright

Welcome New/Returning SANP Members!

Names are linked to bios provided by these members. Click to read more and send a message. (Available to members only.)

[Roy Cooper](#), Knoxville (interested in travel and wildlife photography; travels internationally)

[Colby McLemore](#), Knoxville (professional photographer with special interest in video)

[Jim Nichols](#), Knoxville (interested in landscapes, travel, video and artistic post-processing)

Questions about membership? Contact Brad Cottrell at sanpmembership@gmail.com.

On the technology front...

For most of us, the ideal method for backing up our image files while traveling is with a computer, but while traveling it may be impossible or impractical to take a computer along, especially when you need to minimize the weight and bulk of your luggage and gear. The small, lightweight system described here allows you to leave the computer at home and safely back up and review your images while on the go. The system weighs about 2 ounces and will fit in a shirt pocket with room left for sunglasses! Read the [details of the system](#) and travel computer-free. [Thanks to Brad Cottrell for this travel tip. The linked file is also available on our website's [Advice from the Pros](#) page.]



Brad Cottrell's solution for file storage while traveling.

Future 2021 Club Meetings

May 25 Darrell Gulin
June 29 TBD
July 27 TBD

SANP Officers

President: [Ed Stickle](#), 865-405-8143
Vice President: Open
Secretary: Charles Samuels
Treasurer: Steve Shackelford

Volunteer Managers

Community Outreach: [Ron Sentell](#)
Field Events: [Dale Potter](#)
Membership: [Brad Cottrell](#)
Newsletter: [Sharon McConathy](#)
Programs: [Kendall Chiles](#)
Salon: [Dale Potter](#)
Social Media: [Chris Cannon](#)
Website: [Sharon McConathy](#)
Workshops: Open

Board of Directors

The Board meets 2nd Monday each month.

2019-2021:	Sharon Cottrell Charlie Samuels Ron McConathy
2020-2022:	David Boruff Kristina Plaas Kent Sauter
2021-2023:	Chris Cannon Gretchen Kaplan Marcy Wielfaert

Membership Renewal

If you need to renew your membership, go to your online [profile](#) on the SANP website and click the button labeled “Renew to mm/dd/yyyy.” Follow the prompts to pay by credit card. If you want to pay by check, click the “Invoice me” button, and follow the instructions on the invoice.

Other questions about renewal? Contact Brad Cottrell at sanpmembership@gmail.com.

“There is a way that nature speaks, that land speaks. Most of the time we are simply not patient enough, quiet enough, to pay attention to the story.”

—Linda Hogan



After the Storm, 2021 Salon, Scenics Category. Copyright Shawn Grant.

CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL OF TENNESSEE (3CT)

SANP is a member club of 3CT, www.3ct.org, which is a network of photography clubs from across Tennessee and neighboring states. Their [monthly newsletter](#) (over 20 pages) includes information about meetings and events for member clubs. You can also visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CameraClubCouncilOfTennessee.