



Summer Twilight in Auxerre, 1st Place, Panoramas category, Digital Images, 2021 Salon, *copyright Marcy Wielfaert.*

Special December Issue — Salon 2022 Information

For a number of years, SANP has held its nature photography competition, known affectionately as "the Salon," in February. Members entered their digital photographs and prints for judging, and everyone gathered for dinner, fellowship, and a chance to admire the work of fellow photographers.

Change in Approach

Beginning in 2022, SANP will have two major photo competitions--**Digital** (in February) and **Prints** (in August). This change, approved by the Board of Directors on November 30, 2021, will hopefully give members the opportunity to focus attention on one medium at a time and will also reduce the workload of the Salon Chairs. The goal is to increase the number of participants in both the digital and print competitions.

To participate in the Digital Competition, membership dues must be current on December 31 of the previous year. See p. 2 for the submission dates for the upcoming Digital Salon and to check your membership status.

For 2022, the Digital Competition will be judged via Zoom, and the entries and winners will be announced at the club meeting on February 22, 2022, which will most likely be a hybrid meeting (in person at Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church and virtually via Zoom).

More to Come

Stay tuned for more information about the Print Competition in August and for details about a future gathering to celebrate the accomplishments of our members.

SANP Salon 2022 Information

The Salon Committee spent a lot of time defining categories for this year, and with 15 of them, you are sure to find several favorites. Detailed descriptions of the categories are on the [Salon](#) page of the website. The Salon Rules are also linked from that page.

Dates to Remember

December 31, 2021: If your membership dues are not current by this date, you will **not** be eligible to participate in Salon 2022. Eligible members as of December 12, 2021, are listed below.

January 10-23, 2022: Send your digital entries to sanp.salon@gmail.com during this period. Ron Sentell is coordinating these entries.

Early February 2022: Judging will be held via Zoom. The SANP Board voted to have judging in a closed session to ensure that there would be adequate time for the judging.

February 22, 2022: The regular February club meeting will be devoted to presenting all the digital entries and announcing the winners.

No forms are needed. See the [Salon Rules](#) for an explanation of how to name files and submit them.

Salon 2022 Categories

1. Scenic
2. Birds
3. Wildlife (Mammals)
4. Wildlife (Other Animals)
5. Nature Close-up
6. Plants
7. Night Photography
8. People in Nature
9. Abstracts in Nature
10. Great Smoky Mountains National Park
11. Travel & Place 1
12. Travel & Place 2
13. B&W Wildlife
14. B&W Other
15. Panoramic

The first place winner in all categories will complete for Best of Show.

Current Members Eligible for Digital Salon 2022 (based on active membership 2021)

N. Aiello	R. Cooper	T. Hayzen	R.&S. McConathy	B. Pritchard	L. Smalley
L. Atkins	T. & P. Cory	J. Holladay	G. McCord	J. Proffitt	L. Spangler
N. Baban	B. & S. Cottrell	M. Horne	C. McLemore	P. Ragon	D. Spong
A. Barber	B. Cover	J. Horton	H. McNutt	D. & S. Ramsey	B. Spruce
K. & S. Bascle	Y. Dalschen	J. House	D. Miller	J. Rentz	E. Stickle
D. Baxter	C. Dalton	B. Howdeshell	M. & L. Miller	J. Retterer	L. Stilwell
A. Beasley	R. Dean	P. Hurley	M. & D.	S., I, & B. Robbins	J. Szabat
J. Benhayon	F. DeRoos	R. Hutson	Montgomery	C. & R. Rohwer	R. Tatum
S. Best	E. Dumas	K. Jenkins	D. Moore	H. & J. Rowe	C. & B.Thurston
C. Bocian	L. Duncan	J. Jeswald	K. Morgan	R. Russell	D. Tolliver
M. Boniol	S. Ecklund	J. Johnson	R. Moroukian	D. Sabo	B. Tuberville
D. Boruff	D. Fogerson	D. Jones	J. Moseley	C. Samuels	P. Turner
C. Box	M. Frankel	K. Jones	M. & L. Naney	S. Samuels	B. Turney
M. & R. Boyd	A. Gartner	E. Jones	J. Nichols	K. & J. Sauter	H. & K.,
C. Brekke	B. Girardeau	C. Juneau	B. Oberholster	W. Schneider	Vandergriff
J. Britt	A. Glazer	G. Kaplan	L. Oppel	P. & V. Schubert	K. Westbrook
C. Cannon	J. Glibbery	D. Kennamer	J. Parker	G. Scott	J. Whaley
L. Capozzola	C. Goode	P. Kent	J. Parks	R. Sentell	D. & M. Wielfaert
K. Chiles	R. Goodrich	B. Ketteringham	G. Pease	S. Shackelford	L. Willard
T. & D. Clark	J. & S. Goodwin	E. & L. Langston	L. Perry	R. Shrieves	C. Williams
E. Colquitt	S. Grant	R. Lee	K. Plaas	G. Sieve	J. Wilson
R. Cooke	L. Hallmark	J. Marquand	N. Plate	D. Silvey	
S. Cooper	C. Hatcher	T. Mashburn	D. Potter	N. Simmons	

SANP Photo Challenges Update

Remember reading in last month's newsletter about a Challenge in January and a new web page for Challenges?

There is now a [Photo Challenges](#) page on the website under [Competitions](#) in the navigation menu. But the January Challenge has been postponed to **Saturday, Feb 5**, so that we can all focus on getting our submissions ready for the digital portion of Salon 2022.

February's Challenge. We are calling this first challenge a "test" challenge, hoping that those of you who participate will help us iron out details that we may not have anticipated. To make it easier for all our members to participate, the location for this challenge is "any ground-level outdoor location within a mile radius from the front door of the building where you live."

To learn all the specifics about Photo Challenges, read the Summary and the Details documents linked above. The hours for the first test Challenge on Feb. 5 are noon till 4pm.

The first challenge is explained in detail on the Events page, including how to register, equipment specifications, and how to submit up to three images for judging. Here's the direct link: [February Photo Challenge Event](#).

We Need Your Help. Three members of the SANP Board volunteered to judge the first challenge (Kristina Plaas, Dale Potter, and Charles Samuels). That means, of course, that these judges won't be able to submit their own images to be judged, at least not in February. For the months and challenges that follow, we need members for judges. No training required!

I'd like to have a panel of 12 judges each year, and from that panel, I'll assign three people to judge each challenge. That way, you can volunteer to help and also participate, and scheduling can be flexible. In fact, if you are assigned to judge a particular challenge only to discover that you want to submit images yourself, just find a replacement judge from our list of 12.

Judges will receive scoresheets to use in the judging process. Links to information about how to judge are available on the [Photo Challenges](#) web page. You can be the first to volunteer! [Email me now!](#)

Photo Challenges Are Fun! Remember, the main purpose of these Photo Challenges is to have fun. I also think we will all learn as we go, both from participating as photographers and acting as judges. You've probably heard this saying before: "To learn, teach." Well, I'm changing it up a bit. "To learn, judge." We can use this opportunity to learn what makes a great photo and how to judge it, and we can have fun in the process!

Let me know if you have questions and if you want to be a judge. I promise we will have a good time!

— Ron McConathy, mconathy@aronsha.com, 865.387.8672

Photo Challenge Info:

[Photo Challenges webpage](#)

[Summary](#)

[Details](#)

[Photo Challenge Judges](#)

[Instructions](#)

SANP BOARD UPDATES

Reminder: At the Jan. 25, 2022, club meeting, we will be electing Board members to replace Sharon Cottrell, Ron McConathy, and Charles Samuels, whose terms expire this year. If you are interested in adding your expertise to the Board, please contact [Ron McConathy](#), search committee chair, or [Ed Stickle](#), president.

Have a question or issue to bring before the Board? Contact [Ed](#) 48 hours before the next meeting. Present your issue in person (via Zoom for now) if you wish, as long as Ed knows in advance. Want to attend a Zoom Board meeting without an issue? Email [Sharon](#) to get the Zoom link. Read minutes from past [meetings](#).

Next meeting: Jan. 10, 2022, 7pm, via zoom.

In her pursuit of winding paths, SANP Director Marcy Wielfaert's journeys take her off the beaten path *by David Boruff*

SANP Director Marcy Wielfaert has fanned the smoldering ember of talent she exhibited as a 10-year-old Girl Scout into a wildfire of critical and popular success. In the past six years, Marcy has earned considerable acclaim and commercial demand for her innovative and creative photography.

As a young girl, she had an innate affinity for photographing wandering paths through the woods. Her journey to creative success continues on – and off – the beaten path.

Roots in the South, branches in the Midwest

Marcy was born in Middlesboro, Kentucky, but spent much of her youth in Michigan, where her father relocated the family for better opportunities in heavy construction. It was there that she met and dated her future husband and ROTC Cadet, Doug.

After college, Doug's military obligations took him and new wife Marcy to Fort Hood, Texas, for his first tour of duty as an officer. After four years, they considered staying in the military. But with a desire to settle down and raise a family, they set that option aside and looked for a stateside home. Tennessee was at the top of their list.

"We had actually just come through this area going from Fort Hood to Michigan," Marcy says. "We would drive through Tennessee, and we always thought Tennessee was the kind of place we would like to be." Marcy's uncle in Oak Ridge helped Doug get an interview at K-25. Marcy found a job teaching, resuming a career in education she began in Texas but interrupted to raise their children. "Those were some good years during the time we were raising our children, and I remember them fondly."

From teacher to principal to devoted caretaker

Teaching duties soon morphed into administrative roles, and Marcy worked 13 years as a school principal. Both her children are teachers today. But being an administrator took its toll on Marcy. She grew weary of "being the one that got all the complaints," and she retired early to devote more time to her aging and ailing parents.

When they passed, Marcy says she felt "lost, because I had always been very busy. She turned to photography – of which she had fond memories from childhood – to fill her newfound abundance of time.

"I always had an interest in photography from the time I was a Girl Scout," she says. "I went to my first Girl Scout camp, and my mom and dad sacrificed to get me a little Instamatic point and shoot camera. I remember just being so thrilled!"

Marcy says that all she had was black-and-white film, but with it she shot "what I thought were such beautiful scenes, and I wanted to show them to my parents."

Marcy's mother, however, was not impressed with Marcy's choice of subject matter.

"We got this so you could take pictures of your friends," her mom said. "All you took were pictures of little paths through the woods." Marcy adds, "As I look back now, I realize I love to take photos of roads – winding roads – and as I go through much of my photography now I think, there I am, still on paths!"

Indeed, that same interest resurfaced when Marcy returned to photography later in life, and it plays a central role in the type of photography she enjoys most today. *(Cont'd on p. 5)*



Marcy Wielfaert, photographed by husband and fellow club member, Doug Wielfaert.



Curtis Island Lighthouse. Copyright Marcy Wielfaert.

Interview with Marcy Wielfaert (con't from p. 4)

A rekindled childhood interest

Marcy's return to photography began on social media, where her latent talent was readily apparent to Facebook friends who marveled at her cellphone pictures. "Everybody would say, 'These are so good! How did you do that?'" Marcy recalls. "I got a lot of attention from that, so when I was out of anything to keep me occupied, I thought I would just go out and buy a camera!"

She and Doug helped their son, Jared, in his wedding photography business, which he started to get himself through graduate school at the University of Toronto. Now a professor at Lee University in Cleveland, Jared has retired from wedding photography, though he uses photography to document trips with his history students.

For her part, Marcy says that wedding photography was not something she wanted to continue on her own. Her passion is nature photography – just as it had been during her childhood. So with a much nicer camera in hand, Marcy taught herself how to shoot. It's been a hard-won and largely self-taught education, relatively devoid of formal instruction and benefiting from her husband's technical bent.

"I consider myself very technically challenged," Marcy says. "My husband is a genius! Computer wise, electronic wise. He repairs anything that goes wrong. When I have a problem, he says, 'Mars, it's intuitive.' I have a computer problem, and he'll say, 'It's intuitive!'"

Teaching herself

With Doug as her technical backup, Marcy got out and learned. "I did take one basic photography course online because I didn't even know what ISO was," she says. "But I did know that I didn't want to be one of those shooters who puts the camera in auto. I was just determined I was gonna learn. So learn I did!"

Marcy says that unlike many other SANP members, she avoided in-person classes, like those taught at the University of Tennessee, for a surprising reason: "I was always afraid I would be so embarrassed because I felt like I knew so little, and I didn't want to embarrass myself."

Through a succession of cameras and self-taught experiences, Marcy gained confidence. "The first camera I got was the Nikon 7100 and then I went to the 7500," she says. "I shoot with a Nikon D850 now."

"I know my camera, and I can make a good picture. I'm confident in that, but I'm sure I don't use my camera to its full advantage in every way. There are times when I have to look things up and get frustrated. Anyway, I manage. I manage to stay happy."

Marcy would rather be out shooting than anything. "I can't get enough of it," she says. "I find particularly that nature photography energizes me, restores me." It also provides the impetus for far-flung travels across the globe.

A passion for travel

"Travel and photography are tied together for Doug and me," she says. We took our first overseas trip to Ireland for our 40th anniversary." Marcy has family roots in Ireland on her father's side. "My great grandfather came here during the potato famine." After some departure delays due to Hurricane Arthur, Marcy and Doug finally made it back to her ancestral home, meeting up with their tour group in Dublin. She was hooked.

Since that inaugural trip, Doug and Marcy have returned to Ireland once, adding Scotland to the itinerary. And they may go back again, if they can find time between all their other trips.

"Since 2015 we've visited 16 countries. We are traveling bandits." Marcy says their best trip was to Africa. "When I was a little girl, I wanted to be a vet," she says. "I'm animal crazy, and I always wanted to do a safari. I was high as a kite the entire time I was there. Get up at 2:30 a.m.? No problem!" (Cont'd on p. 6)



Amish Brothers. Copyright Marcy Wielfaert.

Interview with Marcy Wielfaert (cont'd from p.5)

Next year she and Doug have plans to visit Iceland, Australia, New Zealand and Tanzania.

Growing confidence

Despite her artistic skill, Marcy was reluctant to enter the competitive and commercial arenas. After being recruited at another photography club's meeting by SANP Director Sharon Cottrell, Marcy joined SANP. Even so, Marcy says she was hesitant to enter photos in the Salon.

"I feared I wasn't good enough, but I won some things and that gave me more confidence."

From that fortuitous beginning, Marcy has gone on to earn many accolades for her work (see the sidebar) and her obvious talent and unique perspective have enabled her and Doug to build a thriving photography business around her work.

Starting on Fine Art America, Marcy now also sells her work at two brick-and-mortar venues, one in Cleveland and the other in Knoxville. Both dubbed Marcy's Photo Journey, they feature note cards, calendars and matted prints, wall art and canvases. Doug custom frames her work, and Marcy does some custom photography to satisfy specific requests.

"A lady came into the Knoxville store in August and picked up one of my cards," Marcy says. "She said she wanted a Knoxville skyline taken across the river in sunset, and she wanted it 3 feet by 4 feet for her apartment. I was able to get the image, and we delivered it Monday."

Marcy says sometimes she marvels at her own success. "I still can't believe we're really doing this," she says. "We're having a lot of fun, and it consumes our entire life for now, but we enjoy it."

Enthusiasm for field events

Marcy also enjoys her service on the SANP Board, which she joined in 2021. "It's been a wonderful experience," she says. "We have an excellent Board, and I've been so impressed with Dale and the field events." Marcy also is a big fan of efforts by Brad and others to increase membership. "We are headed in a good direction. Increasing membership is good. The more people we have who love photography, the better off we are."

Making time for what matters most

While photography consumes a great deal of Marcy and Doug's time today, they still make time for other passions in their lives, especially God and family. "We sing in the choir at Westmore Church of God in Cleveland. Our son and his family live nearby, so after choir practice and Sunday service, we go out to eat with them." She and Doug love singing and spending time with son Jared, daughter, Rachel, and their five granddaughters – one of whom has an eye for photography, Marcy says.

Today, it's still nature that Marcy loves to photograph most.

"I'm motivated to show God's beautiful earth to other people."

A few of Marcy's accomplishments...

- *Lee University in Cleveland commissioned a 24-page photo book for presentation to their Board of Directors.*
- *Berry College in Rome, GA, saw one of Marcy's photos of their Frost Chapel, and licensed it for advertising purposes.*
- *The Knoxville Mayor has one of Marcy's Knoxville skyline images on display for 6 months, courtesy of the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Knoxville.*
- *Marcy's photo "Forgotten in Elkmont" was displayed at the Knoxville Airport from spring till fall 2021.*



Forgotten in Elkmont, copyright Marcy Wielfaert.



Out of the Fog. Copyright Marcy Wielfaert.

My best day, and I didn't take a photograph... by Frans DeRoos

Saturday, June 13, 2020, was a beautiful 75-degree day. I had been planning since the previous week to do some hiking and photography on the Laurel Falls trail, a location highly recommended by several friends. My goal was to hike and photograph the waterfall. Instead, something happened that far surpassed my expected joy and fulfillment of waterfall photography.

I had been hiking for about 30 minutes or so, feeling good and simply enjoying myself. I followed a turn in the trail around a tree and was startled to see four bear cubs playing just off the side of the trail about 20 feet in front of me. I experienced a sense of awe and wonder along with some fear. Until this point, I had never seen a live bear in the wild, let alone four bear cubs!

I wanted to take pictures, but my camera and cell phone were tucked away in my backpack, and I really didn't want to attract any attention. A few moments later, momma bear appeared from behind a very large tree and led her cubs down the trail. My racing heart was filled with excitement and frustration because I could not take any pictures. All I could do was simply watch and enjoy what I had always wanted to see—real bears in their natural habitat in the Smoky Mountains.

While this may seem like a missed opportunity of a lifetime, in retrospect, that wasn't the case at all. Photography is about the enjoyment and fulfillment it provides; it also encourages us (the photographers) to leave our houses, get outdoors and experience the amazing creation that God has made. Nature provides for us the opportunity to reach our human sensory experience. When we go outdoors, we hear, see, smell, touch and sometimes taste what we are experiencing.

In my case, the original intention that Saturday was to photograph waterfalls; instead, what I experienced was excitement and wonder far beyond what I had imagined possible. I saw a female adult bear mothering her cubs without any human intervention at all, while being surrounded by a dense wooded area—my sensory experience was truly heightened. Allow me to explain in more detail. I was in the midst of extremely tall trees in a variety of thicknesses with green, brown, red, and yellow leaves. The sound of the rushing water in the distance and the sweet smell of certain bushes and plants contributed to my heightened senses.

I have obviously not forgotten the minute details of this special moment in time even though I didn't take a single photograph. If I had taken an image or two, I would have a reminder of what I had experienced, but I'm not sure if seeing a photo could recreate that moment any better than my memories of it. In any case, what I learned is that sometimes life brings an experience that is far better than what you originally expected.

The bear image in this article was taken this past summer in Cades Cove. That day was the second time I had the opportunity to witness bears, and that time I had my camera ready! In a way, that was a second chance to see and record what I had always wanted to experience.

So let's try to remember to have fun and not get bogged down with the particulars, reminding ourselves why we wanted to be photographers in the first place.

It's me again! Today I'm sharing my best day (so far) as a photographer, even though my camera was tucked away in my backpack.

*Until next time, be adventurous, be curious, and have fun shooting! **Frans***



Just hanging around! Copyright Frans DeRoos.

Future Club Meetings

Dec 2021 No meeting
 Jan 2022 TBD

SANP Officers

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

Volunteer Managers

Community Outreach: [Ron Sentell](#)
 Field Events: [Dale Potter](#)
 Librarian: [Ann Barber](#)
 Membership: [Brad Cottrell](#)
 Newsletter: [Sharon McConathy](#)
 Photo Challenges: [Ron McConathy](#)
 Programs: [Kendall Chiles](#)
 Salon: [Ed Stickle](#)
 Social Media: [Chris Cannon](#)
 Website: [Shawn Grant](#)
 Workshops: Open

Board of Directors

The Board meets 2nd Monday each month.

2019-2021:	Sharon Cottrell Charles Samuels Ron McConathy
2020-2022:	David Boruff Kristina Plaas Dale Potter
2021-2023:	Chris Cannon Gretchen Kaplan Marcy Wielfaert

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.

A Note from the Newsletter Editor: *As my years as SANP Newsletter editor and website manager end, I want to say thanks to some special people.*

*First, thanks to **Shawn Grant** for volunteering to become the website guru (I can use that term for Shawn because IT is his speciality). Next, thanks to **Kristina Plaas** for stepping forward to become the next newsletter editor. Both these positions require time and attention to detail, and I'm confident that the club's website and newsletter are in great hands with Shawn and Kristina.*

I have had so much positive feedback from club members about both the website and the newsletter, and I can't tell you how encouraging it has been to know when you find either or both helpful. Please continue to provide your feedback to Shawn and Kristina.

*During the last year and a half, I've had the great privilege of working closely with **Brad Cottrell** as we set up the new website, complete with its Membership Management System. Brad is one in a million, and I have treasured the time we've worked together.*

*In the first quarter of 2021, I suggested having an article in each of the next nine newsletters to introduce one of our Board Members to the membership. Immediately, **David Boruff** volunteered to help me. That began a collaboration that not only brought details about our amazing Board to the membership, but it also gave me the opportunity to learn so much about interviewing and writing interesting articles. Thank you, David, for your help!*
 —Sharon McConathy

Membership Renewal—

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



Eyes of a Tropical Palm, Abstracts Category, 2021 Salon, copyright Roni Boyd.