



White Mountains, Panoramas category, 2021 Salon, *copyright Bobbie Thurston.*

## October Monthly Meeting—Tues, Oct 26: a virtual meeting via Zoom, 7 pm, featuring Ron McConathy

Join us on October 26 for our monthly club meeting, which will be virtual on Zoom (the Watershed Building is not available). Visiting time starts around 6:45. The program, featuring SANP member and past president Ron McConathy, starts at 7 pm. Ron will present a program he calls “My Photographic Journey During COVID-19.” Here is Ron’s description of the program:

*I will discuss some photographic techniques I tried over the last 20 months and show images made during that time while I stayed home to avoid exposure to COVID-19. I am blessed to live on 24 acres of varied habitats which provide numerous photographic opportunities that I learned to love. During this time I explored several new-to-me photographic techniques and used a variety of photographic equipment. I hope this presentation will be an inspiration for others to explore the areas around their homes and to make images under different conditions and moods that express their creativity and love of photography.*

See Ron’s bio on p. 2.

SANP members do not need to register to join the Zoom session. The link will be emailed to all members on Sunday, Oct 24. Guests who are not SANP club members and wish to join the Zoom session must [register](#) to receive the Zoom link via email.



*Focus stacked image of stinging rose caterpillars, copyright Ron McConathy.*

## BIO: Ron McConathy, October presenter

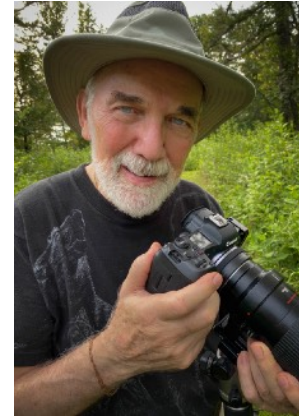
Ron McConathy has been working in the field of photography for many years. His love of photography began in grade school when he acquired his first camera, a Brownie Hawkeye. Over the years and with many more cameras in his collection, his love of photography evolved into a passion and a full-time endeavor. Ron's photographs have been featured in numerous fine-art shows in the southeast as well as in magazines and in various textbooks and government publications.

Ron's graduate work in forestry at the University of Washington and University of Tennessee and a 20-year career in environmental research at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory provided a solid foundation for his love of nature and photography. A 24-acre homesite in rural eastern Tennessee managed as a wildlife and natural plant habitat provides him with photographic opportunities literally just beyond his door. He has always loved photographing nature, wildlife, and scenic locations.

Ron is a charter member of the North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA) and a charter member and past president of SANP. After his retirement from ORNL in 2000, Ron expanded his photography business interests into wedding, travel, and portrait photography. He continues to teach photography classes for the University of Tennessee Professional and Personal Development photography program (15 years and counting).

In 2014, Ron officially closed his business, Aronsha Photography, but his passion for this art form continues unabated! The difference now is that he can photograph subjects and situations entirely of his choosing.

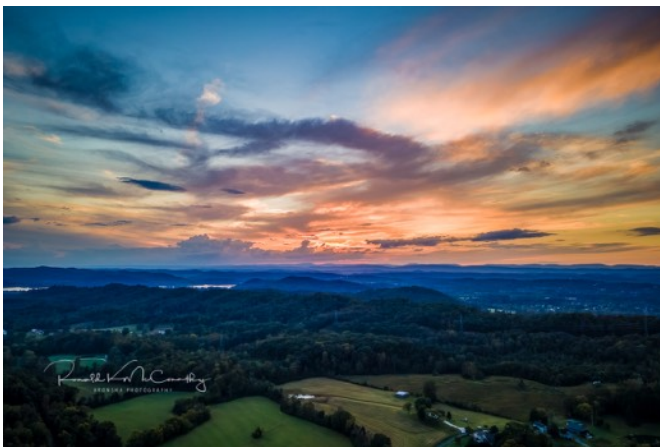
Join us on October 26 for a trip around Wynnsun Woods, Ron's home turf!



Ron McConathy, doing what he loves most, copyright S. McConathy.



Infrared B&W photo of dried grass, copyright Ron McConathy.



Drone sunset near Wynnsun Woods, copyright Ron McConathy.



Narrow-leaved sunflower, Wynnsun Woods, copyright Ron McConathy.

## SANP BOARD UPDATES

**Reminder:** The addition to the SANP Bylaws, which was approved by the Board at the September Board meeting, will be voted on by the membership at the October meeting. Review the Bylaw change on p. 3 of the [September newsletter](#).

If you have a question or issue to bring before the Board, contact [Ed Stickle](#), President, 48 hours before the 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. Read minutes from past [meetings](#). The September minutes will be posted after next month's meeting.

**Next meeting: November 8, 7pm, zoom.**

## Survey about the club, the newsletter, and the website closed Oct. 15

Thanks very much to the more than 70 members who completed our recent survey. The Board will be looking carefully at your answers to the survey questions to see how to improve the club and your experiences as members.

At the October meeting, we will select one member by drawing a name from a hat. Everyone who sent in the requested email indicating interest in this drawing is eligible. The winner receives a \$50 gift certificate to B&H Photo. If you completed the survey and have not yet sent in your email, it's not too late. Email [sanpinfo@sanp.net](mailto:sanpinfo@sanp.net) by Sunday, October 24.

One survey question asked if you would be willing to participate in the management of SANP in one or more of these ways:

- Serve on the Board of Directors
- Serve as a club officer
- Help organize and manage the Salon
- Participate in community outreach
- Help organize and lead field events
- Help identify and hire program presenters
- Help edit or provide content for the newsletter
- Help administer the Facebook page
- Help administer the website
- Other

If you selected any of the options above, please email [sanpinfo@sanp.net](mailto:sanpinfo@sanp.net) and indicate which positions or jobs you are interested in. Even if you didn't participate in the survey, you can still volunteer to help! We would love to hear from you.

## 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](mailto:sanpmembership@gmail.com).

## SANP Field Events

Check the [events page](#) on our website regularly for all the latest information on events. Contact [Dale Potter](#), 865.773.8114, if you are interesting in leading a field event.

### what's ahead...

**Rhododendron Creek Trail Cascades in the Fall—Sat Oct 23, 7:30am.** For those who want to visit some cascades that most do not get to see, join us for this off-trail adventure. The seven cascades collectively known as Rhododendron Creek Falls are on our list. Read about the [event](#). *Dale Potter, leader.*

### what happened in the last month...

**Hatfield Knob Elk Viewing Tower, Sep 22**—Ten SANP members enjoyed a cool afternoon with blue skies and a cooperative elk population in the fields near the tower. A large bull and his herd of about 20 cows entertained us for hours and gave us plenty of photo opportunities. Check the SANP Facebook group page for more images from this event. *Brad Cottrell, leader*

**Elk and a Sunset, Sep 26**—We had a good turnout to watch the Elk at Oconaluftee Visitor Center. One bull elk entertained us by wallowing in a marshy area until he made a nice mud hole. We got to enjoy the elk bugling, but there was no fighting that evening. That had all happened during the morning hours. The sunset, unfortunately, was a bust but the event was enjoyable. *Dale Potter, leader.*

**Focus Stacking Workshop 2 and 3 , Sep 30 and Oct 13**—Thirteen people (seven at No. 2 and six at No. 3) participated in the recent Focus Stacking workshops. The weather cooperated, providing interesting mushrooms and some late season wildflowers for both workshops. Six people are on the waitlist for a future workshop, which most likely won't be scheduled till spring, but... If you are interested and haven't signed up yet, send me an [email](#) to get on the waitlist. Read about the [event](#). *Ron McConathy, leader.*



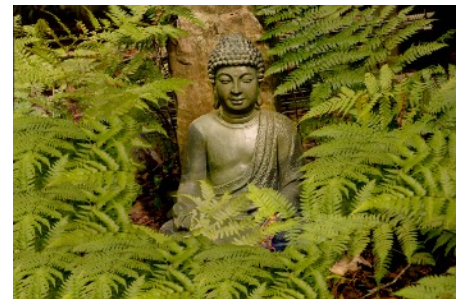
*Hatfield Knob event participants. Copyright Brad Cottrell.*



*Elk at Hatfield Knob, being watched by SANP photographers. Copyright Brad Cottrell.*



*Jack-o-lantern mushrooms (Olympus OM-D E-M1 using built-in stacking feature; aperture f/2.8; 60mm macro lens). Copyright Jim Parks.*



*Buddha in ferns. Copyright Ann Barber.*



*Cloudy morning off the Blue Ridge Parkway. Copyright Jack Benhayon.*

### **Cataloochee, Elk, Palmer Chapel and Old Homes, Oct. 2**

—Here's an image I took on Sunday on the way home from Saturday's SANP Cataloochee outing. As usual, Dale did a great job organizing this event. *Jack Benhayon, participant*

## SANP Director Dale Potter seeks truth in the courtroom, realism in the camera

by David Boruff

For career attorney and SANP Director Dale Potter, unedited photographs can be essential tools in prosecuting the guilty and defending the innocent. Outside the courtroom, Dale's imagery is less evidentiary than documentary – but no less focused on showing things as they are.

### A life built on the law

Dale's working life has always revolved around enforcing or arguing the law. After high school, Dale enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. During his six-year tour, he served as a military police officer and dog handler at bases across the western United States and Europe.

Although dog handling was the job he wanted – and becoming a cop made him a better qualified candidate – Dale says he quickly learned it was “the worst job in the Air Force. We worked all the odd hours and the holidays, and the equipment we have now for hiking in the winter is so much better than what we had back in the 70's and 80's.” Despite the initial allure, the dream of going to college and law school led Dale to make his first tour in the Air Force his last.

After being honorably discharged, he returned home to McMinnville and joined the police department. A year later, he started undergraduate studies at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro and, after graduating, went on to earn his law degree at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

### Affinity for justice

As a newly minted attorney, Dale was advised by a mentor to focus on civil law. But Dale's innate affinity for justice and fairness nudged him toward criminal law. He was appointed (one year) and then elected (eight years) public defender in Middle Tennessee's 31st Judicial District, and then he was elected district attorney for eight years. During that time he earned a reputation for toughness, particularly on those accused of gambling.

“I just didn't think it right that people had to work in a factory and barely get by yet these guys running card games and gambling machines could rake in lots of money, not pay taxes, and get by with it,” Dale says.

In 2007, Dale returned to his roots as assistant public defender in the 8th Judicial District. The 8th is one of the largest of the state's 31 judicial districts, serving Campbell, Claiborne, Fentress, Scott and Union counties with an office in Jacksboro, where Dale practices today.

On both sides of the bar, Dale found cameras to be handy tools for recording evidence, be it the grisly aftermath of a murder scene or the distinctive appearance of a marijuana crop as seen from aerial reconnaissance. But on his own time, Dale's photography tends toward more peaceful subjects.

“I still do occasional job-related photography but mostly my subjects are wildlife, animals, and birds,” he says.

### Beloved (but costly) mentors

Dale has progressed from one of the most basic cameras – a Kodak Instamatic he bought in high school from the venerable catalog company Johnson Smith & Co. (of x-ray glasses fame) – to one of the most advanced cameras available today: a Canon R5, the purchase of which he blames on SANP Director Ron McConathy and fellow photographer Bob Howdeshell. *(Continued on p. 6)*



Dale Potter, outfitted for an adventure.



Cades Cove coyote. Copyright Dale Potter.

## Interview with Dale Potter (con't from p.5)

“They have cost me quite a bit of money in the mirrorless camera business,” Dale says facetiously. “I was not going to invest in a mirrorless camera, but seeing Ron’s photos with his R5 and keeping tabs with Bob’s Facebook page and seeing what he’s done with the R5 caused me to get one.”

Though Dale has had a variety of Canon cameras over the years, he says the R5 has allowed him to take his photography to new levels.

“That camera has inspired me more than anything else. You can push the edge on the ISO more than with earlier DSLRs, so you can get shots of wildlife that you might not have been able to get because of lighting.”

### Gateway to the Club

Like many SANP members, Dale’s friendship with Ron – and his association with SANP – began through the UT non-credit photography program, where Ron, SANP Program Chair Kendall Chiles, and other SANP members have taught through the years and where Dale earned his certificate in 2016.

“I really enjoyed Ron’s classes,” Dale says. “He was willing to take the time to explain things and make sure you learned what he was teaching. He inspired me to push the boundaries, especially with macro photography.”

Dale also credits SANP member Larry Perry, who taught Dale how to use Photoshop, and his weekly newsletter called Larry’s Photo Notes. “Larry is one of the best ambassadors of photography in Tennessee,” Dale says. “He’s has photos in that publication that inspire readers, and he keeps us informed about what’s going on.”

Another SANP member whom Dale credits as an inspiration is Clay Thurston. “I like the print photography side, and Clay is one of the more amazing photographers of birds and animals.”

### Passion for prints

Dale’s love of printed photographs, and his desire to keep that aspect of the SANP Salon going strong, were prime reasons for his accepting the role of Salon Chair in 2020.

“Prints may be a dying art,” he says, “but to me a good print tells a much better story than a digital image. Print photographers put a lot of time in turning out an image. They are invested in it. They make sure the details are there and the photo tells the story they want to convey.”

Dale says that commercial print shops don’t always give consistent results – a realization that could have grave consequences in photographs submitted for legal proceedings. But even in his personal photography, he prefers the control that do-it-yourself printing provides.

“The process has gotten better because by calibrating your monitor in Photoshop you can print it out the way you want it printed,” he says. “It’s nice to see a print you made that comes out just like you saw it on your monitor. That wasn’t so easy to do years ago.”

### Just the facts, ma’am

Dale’s quest for fidelity extends to his raw images, to which he used to be reluctant to make any adjustments.

“When I first started, I thought post-processing was unnecessary,” he says. “It has taken me a while to get comfortable making some of the changes. Shadows and highlights are fine, and I’ve gotten accustomed to cloning out distractions.”

Nevertheless, Dale says he draws the line at more significant alterations. “I still have big issues with those who change out the sky. I don’t think you should add things into a photo, and I’ve seen photos ruined because of additions that caused a mismatch between the sun and the shadows.”

(Continued bottom of p. 7)



Black bear. Copyright Dale Potter.



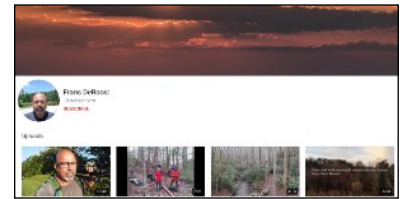
Cataloochee Elk. Copyright Dale Potter.

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

From **Ron McConathy**: I have a Canon EF 17-35mm f/2.8 L USM lens for sale. Excellent condition. This is a lightweight, full-frame, f/2.8 professional ultrawide zoom for all Canon EOS digital and 35mm autofocus cameras. I have purchased a newer lens and no longer need this one. Sale includes the original box, unused Canon case, lens hood, lens caps, and the lens. See an excellent review of this lens at <https://www.kenrockwell.com/canon/lenses/17-35mm.htm>. This review lists the used selling price at ~\$800. My price: \$689



From **Frans DeRoos**: If you want to see some videos of my photographic journey, check out my [YouTube Channel](#). The article on p. 8 of this newsletter tells how my journey started. Stay tuned for more articles in upcoming newsletters. *[Editor's note: thanks, Frans, for leading me to the quote on the last page (hint: check out "Back Yard Fun" on Frans' YouTube channel).]*



## Interview with Dale Potter (con't from p.6)

Today Dale appreciates the value in judicious and reasonable adjustments, and he encourages newcomers to get acclimated to post-processing sooner than he did. "It's amazing what a difference just changing the lighting or shadows makes to a good image."

### Increasing participation

Dale is excited about the Club's renewed momentum and where he sees the Club heading. "I think we're moving forward, thanks to the new website and more participation in field events. I'd like to see more younger people involved, but that's an issue for all clubs right now."

Nevertheless, Dale says he's heartened by the increase in member participation, despite the challenge of COVID. "Field trips have brought more people out, which is great, especially for those who enjoy photographing in a group. Getting back to in-person meetings where people can meet face-to-face will help," he says. "Zoom participation has been great, but it will be even better when we can all get back together comfortably and safely."

Dale hopes to encourage more participation in the Salon, where he enjoys seeing what others are doing. "I learn from the work of others—composition and locations for photos. I get all kinds of ideas I want to explore." Dale hopes we can hold an in-person Salon banquet. But if that isn't possible, he will find ways to make an online Salon better than ever. "If we have to fall back to Zoom, we'll be looking at ways to improve the process."

### Closing arguments

As Dale approaches the closing years of his career, his thoughts turn increasingly to the next chapters of his life. Though he loves East Tennessee, he does long for other places. "Montana has a big pull for me," he says. He blames the Big Sky State's allure on his years in the Air Force and a taste for winter weather. "They sent me to North Dakota, Wyoming, and Germany, all of which have snow, and we don't have much here anymore."

Whether he stays in East Tennessee or opts to retire elsewhere, Dale expects the call of the wild and the desire to photograph it will be a driving force in his life for many years to come. And if he does move to Big Sky Country, there's one thing you can be sure of: the "big skies" you see in his photographs will be just as nature presented them.

Case closed.

## My Journey as a Photographer *by Frans DeRoos*

In 1984, as a freshman in high school I was introduced to the world of photography. I enrolled in a photography class because I heard it was easy. The only camera I had ever held prior to this class was a Kodak Instamatic camera with a cube flash. I'm a curious person, always asking questions. At age 9 or 10, I tried to figure out how my mother could take pictures with what looked like a box with an ice cube on top. She didn't know how the camera worked; she said she points the camera at the subject and presses the button. Once the film was exposed, she carried the film to be developed and picked up the prints a few days later.

If you took photography in high school, you may remember making a camera out of a small box and using a safety pin to puncture a hole according to the teacher's directions. I found a subject, followed the instructions, and the magic of photography happened in the darkroom. When I began to see my image of a tree appear on paper before my eyes, I was so excited that I didn't care whether the technical stuff was right. What mattered was that the process worked, and I could hold my photo in my hands. I had transformed a physical reality into a photographic reality.

As the class progressed, I wanted to take photography more seriously. However, I had already invested time in music, and my mother said music was a better option, citing my natural ability to play the drums. Ironically, playing drums in a house built in 1932, with paper-thin walls, wood flooring, and small rooms, was less than ideal. Well, the semester ended, and that was the last time I did any photography for many years.

Fast forward to 2013, a very difficult time in my life (subject for another day). One afternoon, while talking with a friend from church, I was reintroduced to photography. In our long conversation, he made a comment that led me to purchase his camera, a Nikon D5600, with a kit lens, which was great on this entry-level camera. Now I had a camera and access to Pocahontas State Park in Richmond, Virginia, and the Blue Ridge Mountains within a 1.5-hour drive. I jumped into the world of photography with both feet.

The combination of hiking and photography was a perfect fit for me. Landscape photography was what I enjoyed the most because of the hiking, adventures, and challenges. It got me out of the house and away from the busyness of life. I found peace in nature, a relief from stress. Being in nature and away from the stress of daily life are factors that contribute to my love for photography today and encourage me to battle through the times of burnout, lack of creativity, or lack of desire to pick up a camera.

The images with this article were taken in 2013 with that Nikon D5600. At first glance, they are good, but since then, I have learned much about composition and editing, and now I see these images as a great starting point, fun to reflect on. My photography has improved, at least in the sense of my approach to a subject, but I will leave that up to you to decide in a future article.

Next time, I will share my current camera gear and why I chose it, along with my experience using a digital camera (the Nikon D5600) for the first time and a story that ended with me being soaking wet.

Until then, be adventurous, be curious, and have fun shooting!

**Hello everyone. I'm Frans DeRoos, a new member of SANP. I want to share why I love photography in spite of its challenges. Over the years, various people have talked with me about their lack of knowledge and understanding of the technical aspects of photography. Truth be told, I, too, am learning—through mistakes, reading, and asking questions constantly. This means we are on the same journey, learning as we photograph. I wanted to share my journey into the world of photography with the hope that others who are still learning would not be intimidated by those who are more experienced. The fact is, we were all beginners at one time. In this series of articles, I will be open and transparent with both my photographic successes and failures, hoping that you will find encouragement for your own journey.**



View from the bedroom window, 2013.  
Copyright Frans DeRoos.



Winter 2013, near Williamsburg, VA. Copyright  
Frans DeRoos.



### Future 2021 Club Meetings

Oct 26 Ron McConathy  
Nov 23 TBA, note date is the 4th Tuesday

### 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](#)  
Historian: Open  
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 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](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/CameraClubCouncilOfTennessee).

## Welcome, New SANP Members!

*Click on the names below to read more about our new members and send a message (available to members only.)*

[Seymour Samuels](#), Gainesville, Va (interested in landscapes, travel, cell phone photography)

[Carey Box](#), Kingston (interested in travel, conservation, abstracts, black & white, print making, artistic post processing)

[Norma Aiello](#), Loudon (interested in wildlife, close-up/macro).

Questions about membership? Contact Brad Cottrell at [sanpmembership@gmail.com](mailto:sanpmembership@gmail.com).

*"I took a walk in the woods and I came out taller than the trees."*

— Henry David Thoreau



Fall Morning, Scenic category,  
2021 Salon. Copyright Yvonne  
Dalschen.