

April 2022

*Sharing the Awareness
of Nature
Through Photography*

SANP Newsletter

*Cold Snap (Cades Cove), Great Smoky Mountains National Park Category, 2022 Digital Image Salon,
© Jim Britt*

April Meeting – Tuesday April 26 at 7 PM, at the Watershed Building, Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church, featuring Sharon Wright Cottrell

Join us on April 26 for our monthly club meeting in-person at the Watershed Building. Our presenter is Sharon Wright Cottrell. Sharon will be taking us on a road trip to the *Missions, Mountains, and Magical Moments* of the southwestern United States. It promises to be a wonderful evening.

Social time begins at 6:30 PM, followed by the meeting at 7 PM. Come early and enjoy the opportunity to mingle with club members and share your latest photo opportunities with us. Friends are always welcome. We look forward to seeing you April 26th!

See Sharon's bio on page 2.

Right: Mendicino Headlands
© Sharon Wright Cottrell





Missions, Mountains, And Magical Moments

Left: Monument Valley
 © Sharon Wright Cottrell

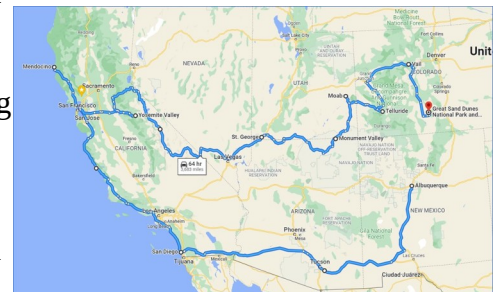
How would you like to take a road trip for seven weeks exploring some of the highlights of the scenery, history, and culture of the Southwest? The SANP April program by Sharon Wright Cottrell will take you on that road trip and show you what made this a special trip for her with new experiences around every bend. It includes photos gathered from places that she has wanted to visit for many years, and she finally made the trip that would take her to see those special locations. You will see many of the Southwest’s beautiful national parks and public lands, the California coast and goldrush towns, historical locations and buildings, Navajo lands with a Navajo guide, happy places in the Colorado mountains, and the colorful red rock deserts of Arizona and Utah. These are some of the elements that have made the Southwest so popular with people from all over the world.

Biography of Sharon Wright Cottrell

Sharon started photography and joined SANP about twenty years ago after retiring from her 29-year career in Information Services at TVA as a Systems Analyst. One of her first interests in photography was photographing downtown Knoxville’s historic buildings for the Knox Heritage organization. She continued to make photos for their Art and Architecture Tour over several years. She wrote a book called “Architecture of Knoxville” including photos of those Knoxville historic buildings and currently sells the book at Mast General Store and the East TN Historical Society. In 2012 she won Insight Vacations International Photo Contest with her photo of Santorini which was published in the Insight Vacations 2013 Tour Catalog, and in the 2012 AAA *Going Places* Magazine. In September 2015, she was published in the TVA Retiree Association Newspaper detailing her World Cruise and again in December 2018, detailing her 85 day Mediterranean Cruise. She enjoys landscape, travel, and architecture photography and enjoys making photos to make slideshows and books to document her travels. Since retirement her travels have led her to six continents and 50 countries around the world.



Above: Santa Monica Pier, © Sharon Wright Cottrell
Below: Southwest trip route



SANP May 2022 Photography Challenge

Date: Saturday, 7 May 2022

Time: 9 am until 1 pm EDT

Location: The grounds within the boundaries of the UT Gardens, Univ. of Tenn., Knoxville, TN

Sponsor: Ron McConathy, mcconathy@aronsha.com 865-387-8673 (m)

(Note: SANP members who live more than 65 miles (straight line distance) from the Location may go to a similar location near them (*ie.* a public park or garden) on the Date and Time to make photographs to enter.)

Maximum Number of Participants (5 minimum): No maximum.

Description of the Challenge's Purpose: This Photo Challenge is designed to let participants photograph flowers, landscaping, and structures at UT Gardens. Any applicable subjects allowed in the 2022 Salon can be photographed (<https://www.sanp.net/salon-2022>).

To sign up for this Challenge: Register on the SANP website using the challenge event link emailed to members. You will receive a confirmation for your registration. If you have questions, contact Ron McConathy. mcconathy@aronsha.com

Note: Challenge image submissions will be posted in a Challenge Gallery on the SANP Zenfolio website accessible to the public; winners will be displayed on SANP social media, the SANP website, and in the SANP Newsletter.



Above right: Striped & Dotted Eyes, 3rd place, Wildlife (Other Animals) category, 2022 Digital Image Salon, © Chris Cannon

Left: Reflection, 3rd place, Black and White (Other) category, 2022 Digital Image Salon, © Paul M. Schubert

May Photography Challenge (cont.)

Equipment Specifications

Camera: Any handheld type of camera is allowed. (Drones are not allowed.)

Lens focal length: Only lens focal lengths from 16–300 mm may be used (35mm equivalent focal lengths).

Filters: Neutral density, polarizing, and closeup filters may be used.

Flash: No flash.

Tripod: Any tripod is allowed.

Cell Phone: Any cell phone is allowed.

Other: The photographer must get a signed model release from any people recognizable in photographs submitted for the challenge.

Photography Technique Specifications: None

Processing Technique Specifications: None

Entering your images from the Challenge:

Entries must be received by midnight, Saturday, 14 May 2022. Submit up to three JPEG digital image files (not over 4 MB each), naming the digital files in the following format. The Participants' copyright information and the image metadata **MUST** be embedded in the submitted image files. Send your entries to mcconathy@aronsha.com. Entries received late, too large, or not in the proper file name format will not be judged. If you want your images displayed on Zenfolio but not judged, state that when you submit the images. Only current SANP members can submit entries.

Example of the required digital file name format: SANPPC-202205-a-A_Photographer

SANPPC stands for 'SANP Photography Challenge' (do not change this)

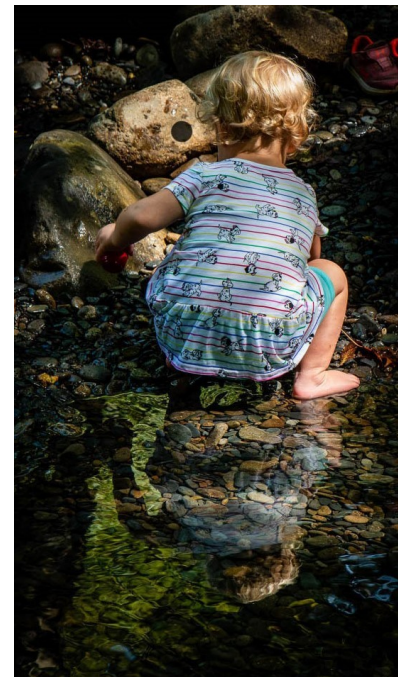
202205 is the year and month (month is always two digits)

a is the participant's first entry (b = second entry, c = third entry)

A_Photographer is the photographer's first initial and last name

Do You Have a Story? Tell Us!

SANP Historian Ann Barber is looking for club members willing to share their personal experiences as a part of the narrative about our club. Why did you join SANP? What has SANP meant to you? What stands out to you about your time in SANP? Help bring our history to life, share your stories! Email Ann at annbarber40@hotmail.com



Lady of the Lake, People in Nature Category, 2022 Digital Image Salon, © Ann Barber

SANP Field Events – Nature Photographers in Action

Early spring is an exciting time to head out into nature and capture the newness of life as it emerges from winter's slumber. Over the past month club field events have traveled to the Gupton Wetlands (Roane Co.), Cades Cove (GSMNP, Blount Co.), Porters Creek (GSMNP, Sevier Co.), and Frozen Head State Park (Morgan Co.). SANP field events are announced on the website and email, so look for your opportunity to join in the fun.



Above left: Sweet Betsy trillium (*T. cuneatum*) at Frozen Head, © Kelly Stevens

Above right: Eastern bluebird at Gupton Wetlands, © Dale Potter

Center right: Northern cardinal (female) at Gupton Wetlands, © Nawras Baban

Below right: Dutchmans Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*) at Porters Creek, © Shawn Grant

Below left: White-tail deer in Cades Cove, © Julie Glibbery



Nature Photography Tips and Techniques

Wild About Wildflowers

by Kristina Plaas

Spring and summer in the Southern Appalachians calls many nature photographers to locations where wildflowers abound. Wildflowers are easy to find throughout East Tennessee. Did you know that Great Smoky Mountains National Park is often referred to as wildflower National Park for its rich biodiversity of flowering plants? It's true!

Photographing wildflowers can be as simple or complex as you choose. Hikers often photograph wildflowers with cell phone cameras and capture nice images. Optimal wildflower photography is best accomplished with cameras that offer more precise control. Tips for photographing wildflowers are easily found online. Here are two to get you started:

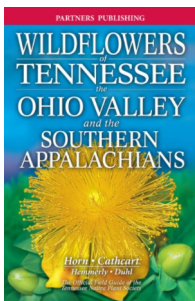
[DPS - Digital Photography School](#)
[Outdoor Photographer](#)

Part of the fun in photographing wildflowers is in correctly identifying the plants and learning a little about them. This requires taking photos of not only the flower, but of the entire plant. Many wildflowers can only be distinguished by their leaves or some other non-flower characteristic. Be sure you capture it all! You'll need a good field guide to assist you in identification. I strongly recommend using field guides that are specific to the area you are photographing. Apps and guides that cover broad areas may include plants that do not grow in your location, increasing the risk of incorrect identification. Here are a few suggestions:



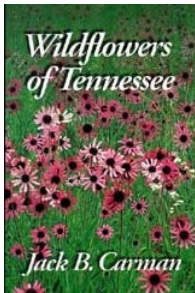
Dwarf crested iris (I. cristata), Porters Creek, © Kelly Stevens

Wildflower Guides for the East TN/Smokies Region



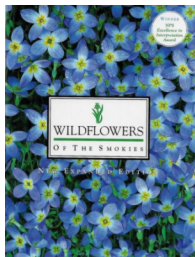
Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley, and the Southern Appalachians (2nd ed.) by Horn, Cathcart *et al.* If you only choose one book, choose this one. Organized by plant families, it will take some time to get used to finding what you are looking for, but the photos are clear and the descriptions detailed. This is an excellent, comprehensive volume for our region. You won't find every plant, but you'll find most of them.

Wildflowers (cont.)

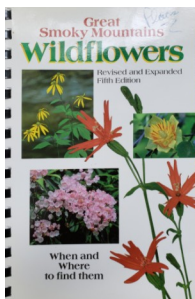


Wildflowers of Tennessee by Jack Carman.

This volume is similar to the Horn, Cathcart book but has not been updated as recently. Some of the scientific names will have changed, but the plants have not. I still love and use my copy, I still recommend it.



Wildflowers of the Smokies by White *et al.* This little volume, published by the Great Smoky Mountains Association, is my top pick for a first field guide to wildflowers in GSMNP. It's organized by color so it's easy to find what you are looking for. There are helpful tips for trails and locations to look for specific flowers, too.



Great Smoky Mountains Wildflowers: When and Where to Find Them by Hutson, Hutson, and Sharp. SANP member Robert Hutson is a coauthor of this very popular guidebook, which covers more species than the GSMA volume. Organized by bloom season, it's easy to find spring flowers towards the front of the book and summer flowers further back. Helpful tips for flower locations can also be found in this guide. This was my first Smokies guidebook. I'm on my third edition upgrade now, it's a great book!

Websites

[UT Herbarium – TENN](#) The University of Tennessee has a comprehensive database of essentially all the native plants species found in the state, including wildflowers. You can use the search box or look under Vascular Plants > Browse Vascular Plants by, then choose family, genus, or common name. This site will not only show you photographs and names, but it gives county locations where plants have been documented in the state. I have seen species that were not “documented” in locations, but for the most part it's a great tool to help you verify plant identifications.

[Name That Plant: Native and Naturalized Plants of the Carolinas & Georgia](#) Name That Plant is an online database rich in photographs with detailed comments about distinguishing one taxa (or species) from another. While the locations are specific to Georgia and the Carolinas, this site is especially strong in discriminating the fine details of wildflowers. If you think you know your plant ID but want to be sure, look here.

Wildflowers (cont.)

Apps

There are many apps out there, but I find users often draw incorrect conclusions after looking at plant apps. The app I prefer is the one GSMNP recommends for its Citizen Science effort – iNaturalist. Read more at their website, then download the app from your favorite app store. [Inaturalist](#)



Pink Ladys-Slippers, Plants category, 2022 Digital Image Salon, © Jerry Whaley

News from Great Smoky Mountains National Park

by Kristina Plaas

If you've spent much time in Great Smoky Mountains National Park the last few years you know you were not alone. In fact, places that once seemed calm and isolated are no longer peaceful. The most popular park locations are showing the signs of extreme overcrowding – damage to roadsides, increased litter, unsafe parking, and a growing backlog of maintenance that needs to be done. Park officials, consultants, and volunteers have been gathering data for years and trying to come up with a plan to address issues caused by insufficient funding and 14+ million visitors a year.

At the beginning of April, Park Superintendent Cassius Cash introduced an initiative called **Park it Forward** – a plan that addresses many issues the park is facing. Central in this plan is a proposal to increase visitor usage fees for camping and introduce a parking pass fee. Details of the *Park it Forward* plan can be found on the park website. [Park it Forward](#)

Public comments are being accepted through May 7, 2022 and your input is needed. Please take a few moments to read all the documents in the proposal, then share your thoughts with the park. [Park it Forward Comments](#)

Don't Let Silence Be Your Voice!

Future Club Meetings

Apr 26, 2022 Sharon Wright Cottrell
May, 31 2022 Clay Thurston

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: Kristina Plaas
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 on the 2nd Monday
each month

2020-2022: David Boruff
 Kristina Plaas
 Dale Potter
2021-2023: Chris Cannon
 Gretchen Kaplan
 Marcy Wielfaert
2022-2024: Jack Benhayon
 Yvonne Dalschen
 Clay Thurston

Camera Club Council of Tennessee (3CT)

SANP is a member of 3CT, a network of camera clubs across Tennessee and neighboring states. Their monthly newsletter is filled with information about meetings and events for member clubs. Details can be found on their website www.3ct.org or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CameraClubCouncilOfTennessee>

One Day Macro Workshop

Mike Matthews will be hosting a Macro Photography Workshop on Saturday, July 16 in Louisville KY. SANP members will remember the fascinating presentation Mike shared with us last July. More information can be found at [One Day Macro Workshop](http://www.mikematthewsphotography.com) or email Mike at mike@mikematthewsphotography.com

Members Corner

SANP member Nye Simmons is offering landscape photography workshops in 2022. Details and additional workshops can be found on his website at www.nyesimmons.com

Spring Blue Ridge Parkway: May 5-8
<https://nyesimmons.com/spring-workshop-details-1-1>

~~~~~

If you are an SANP member and have something you would like to share with club members please contact Kristina Plaas, newsletter editor, at [kplaas@gmail.com](mailto:kplaas@gmail.com)