

# SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN



# NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS

## SANP News

Sharing the Awareness of Nature  
through Photography

Visit us on the web at [www.sanp.net](http://www.sanp.net)

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April 2004

### April Meeting:

## Naturalist/Photographer Connie Toops Presents Everglades Program

Connie Toops graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in Natural Resources. She began working as a naturalist at Everglades National Park during the 1970s and spent six winter seasons there, typically on duty from October through late May, then working in a northern park in the summer. She has worked at the Shark Valley, Royal Palm, and Flamingo areas of the Everglades. After she and her husband Pat left the Everglades to follow Pat's professional career with the Park Service, Connie returned frequently to South Florida to photograph and work on book projects. She has written and photo-illustrated nine books, including three on the Everglades region. They are *The Alligator: Monarch of the Marsh*, *Birds of South Florida*, and *The Florida Everglades*.

Connie has been a professional nature writer and photographer for more than 25 years and contributes regularly to magazines including *National Parks* and *Birder's World*. Connie's husband Pat retired from the Park Service about two years ago, and they moved to Lost Cove, a mountainside farm in western North Carolina. They are completing a log home there and will soon be offering workshops in photography and wildlife habitat landscaping at Lost Cove.

At the April 27 meeting, Connie will present a program on the natural history of the Florida Everglades and on nature photography in the region. The Everglades, a complex mix of pine forest, sawgrass marshes, cypress forests, and tidal estuaries, is unlike any other habitat in the world. At the core of this huge, watery ecosystem are Everglades National Park, Corkscrew Swamp, and several other state and federal preserves. Connie will present an in-depth look at the natural history of the region, and she will highlight many of the best subjects, times, and places for nature photographers interested in traveling to South Florida. During her presentation, we will be treated to a collection of her excellent photography accumulated throughout her exciting career.

This will be an opportunity for all of us to learn from an outstanding professional naturalist, photographer, and writer. You will surely love this program.

### Upcoming Meetings

- May 25, Tom and Pat Cory
- June/July, no meetings, no newsletter (Have a great summer!)

### Member News

Don't be shy! Notify the newsletter editor, Ron McConathy ([mconathy@aronsha.com](mailto:mconathy@aronsha.com)), if you have a service to offer members, have been honored, or have achieved something noteworthy. This is your newsletter—let others know what you are doing in photography.

**Linda Bolt** won a third place in Graphic Media -Photography division in the Smoky Mountains Traditions weekend, sponsored by Pigeon Forge Dept. of Tourism.

### SANP Winners at the Dogwood Arts Photography Competition

Clarence Berkley (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 HM), Jane Buchanan (1<sup>st</sup>, 3 HM), Joel Buchanan (2<sup>nd</sup>), Brad Cottrell (2 HM), Dick Doub (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3 HM), Paul Hassell (1<sup>st</sup>), Ron McConathy (two 1<sup>st</sup>, HM), Sharon McConathy (2 HM), Don Mills (HM), Dee Murphy (2<sup>nd</sup>), Larry Perry (2 HM), Hal Smith (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>), John Tipton (2<sup>nd</sup>, 2 HM), Clay Thurston (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 HM). Congratulations to all!

### Check Out This Web Site

The photographs of Sergei Mikhailovich Prokudin-Gorskii are shown at <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/empire/>. The photos shown are digitally reproduced color photos taken by the photographer between 1912 and 1915 using B&W film and three exposures of each scene through red, green and blue filters. The negatives were projected through a Lantern using the same filters. The original negatives were scanned by the Library of Congress and were combined into beautiful color composites. An interesting web site! (*Thanks to Margarete Ohnesorge for this information*)

**Membership Dues are payable by May 1, 2004. The form, enclosed in this newsletter, should be returned to Alice Reed.**

**SANP Officers and Committee Chairs**

<b>President</b>	Lee Ownby	865.690.8460
<b>Treasurer</b>	Joyce Wilson	
<b>Secretary</b>	Gloria Epperson	
<b>Membership</b>	Alice Reed	865.483.4461
<b>Programs</b>	Brad Cottrell	
<b>Newsletter</b>	R/S McConathy	865.376.3976
<b>Workshops/Trips</b>	Kendall Chiles	865.693.2448
<b>Salon 2005</b>	Mark Frankel	
<b>Publicity</b>	Allen Koch	
<b>Web Site</b>	Thom Ashton	

**Elected Board Members:**

Jane Blankenship	Ron McConathy
Chuck Cole	Alice Reed
Brad Cottrell	Margarete Ohnesorge
Gloria Epperson	Clay Thurston
Mark Frankel	

The SANP Board meets monthly. If you have issues you would like the board to discuss, contact Lee Ownby, [leeownby@mindspring.com](mailto:leeownby@mindspring.com).

SANP News is published monthly except June and July to provide information to members. Articles or ideas from the membership are welcome.

**Newsletter Deadline: First of each month**

Send submissions to [mconathy@aronsha.com](mailto:mconathy@aronsha.com)

SANP mailing address:

P.O. Box 32324, Knoxville, TN 37930-2324

**Photo Tip: Artistic Backgrounds**

An article by Arthur Morris in the January 2004 issue of **NatureScapes.net** (<http://NatureScapes.net>) titled "The Pure Background" is good reading. In the article Arthur says, "Whether you enjoy photographing bugs or birds or bears or blossoms, be aware that the background can be just as important as the subject when it comes to the artistic and dramatic success of your images. If you choose your situations wisely, and take extreme care when designing your images, your backgrounds can and will add to the strength of your compositions rather than detracting from them. By learning to utilize pure background techniques, you can create graphically powerful images on a consistent basis."

**Air Travel with Film and Photography Equipment**

Go to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) web site for information on getting through airport security more easily. The following link specifically gives advice for carrying photographic equipment and unexposed film:

<http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?content=090005198006ce43>

(This page links to information on unexposed film.)

**NANPA Currents publishes article about flying with photographic equipment**

The Nov-Dec 2003 copy of NANPA *Currents* has an article by Russ Kinne that reported the American Society of Media Photographers (ASMP) has been talking with TSA about flying with photography equipment. The following is copied from the ASMP announcement at

[www.asmp.org/tips/tsa.php](http://www.asmp.org/tips/tsa.php).

Thanks to the efforts of ASMP and the cooperation and understanding of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), working photographers and other members of the traveling public may now take on board an additional piece of carry-on baggage containing photographic equipment. This means that you are allowed to carry on two bags—when at least one is photographic equipment—along with a personal item. This accommodation will make it easier for working photographers to travel with sensitive and valuable equipment. Document Checkers are being informed at this time of the change in Transportation Security Administration regulations. The TSA has said to go ahead at this time and take advantage of the new policy.

Be advised that some Document Checkers may not be aware of the change in policy and this will require your speaking to the airline's customer service personnel. Also, the additional bag must conform to the carry-on regulations for size and weight. There will still be occasions when there simply is no space available on board for additional carry-on and this will require checking a bag.

Read this information carefully and carry copies of the ASMP website article with you when you travel in case you have to explain this new policy to airline and security personnel.

**Update from Russ Kinne:**

Russ Kinne recently passed on this good news and advice from the TSA regarding getting your film through airport check-in without being x-rayed:

"I've just been talking to a new person at TSA in Washington, and she was very helpful. She assures me there is already a way to put film in our checked baggage and NOT have it go through any X-rays. A few days before traveling, call your airline and explain that you want to put a large amount of film into your checked baggage and be assured it will NOT be X-rayed. Do whatever they suggest, and get to the airport an extra half-hour early. There the airline's representative will go with you to the TSA people and they'll do a physical examination, and maybe also a "sniff-test" (an ETD), on your bags and label them CLEARED. They won't be x-rayed any further down the line, even if you change planes once or twice. Once they've been cleared, there's no reason to. As always, ask for the TSA Supervisor if you have any problems."

**Art Market Gallery Presents Exhibit**

The Art Market Gallery presents a special exhibit, "Nine Photographers," Apr 27-May 30, featuring color and b/w, traditional and computer-based images. The Art Market Gallery is an artists' co-operative located in the Candy Factory, World's Fair Park. Hours are 10a to 5p, Tues through Sat; 1-5p, Sun. For information, call 865.525.5265 or contact Dick Penner, [sbecker1@utk.edu](mailto:sbecker1@utk.edu).

## Musings on Photography as Art

—Ron McConathy

**Just what is “art”?** One dictionary defines art as conscious creative work that results in things that have form and beauty. An artist creates works of aesthetic value with a feeling for form and effect. Something that is artistic is done skillfully and with imagination. From these definitions, it seems logical to conclude that combining photographic skills with creativity and a feeling for the subject can result in a photograph that satisfies the definition of art.

Sometimes photographers are annoyed when painters, sculptors, and other “artists” do not view photographers as artists. Perhaps these folks only see photography as pointing the camera and pressing the shutter. It is true that modern cameras have automated much of the technical side of taking pictures, so you don’t need to be technically skilled to make a decent photograph. But people who simply “take pictures” are generally taking “snapshots,” which are defined in dictionaries as a hurried shot fired with little or no aim or a quick, offhand shot, or as a casual photograph made typically by an amateur with a small handheld camera.

Admittedly, anyone with a camera can take a lucky picture that is exceptional and is comparable to those made by the best photographers. A lucky image like this could be called art, but the person who pressed the shutter would be naive to consider himself or herself an artist. I suggest that only the photographer who consistently makes outstanding images would be justified in describing himself as an artist.

Just where do we draw the line between casual photography and artistic photography? Most of us in this club probably take our share of snapshots—photographing the kids, documenting vacations, or taking routine pictures. To enter the realm of the artist, I believe we need to increase our concentration, think creatively, and slow down the photographic process to explore the possibilities present in each subject. Photographing in the artistic realm is hard work, it requires a connection with the inner self, and it is intentional. You must step deliberately into this space and then work to stay there.

Admittedly, this discussion is academic because the true worth of an individual photograph is determined by the photographer and the viewer. The picture of Aunt Harriet that pleases everyone is acceptable art whether it was done professionally or by Uncle Joe. As the photographer, you are the ultimate judge of how well your photograph captures the subject. If you are pleased with your photographs, what other people think really doesn’t matter.

**How does this apply to SANP?** Photography contests are one place where works of aesthetic value with a feeling for form and effect, which are done skillfully and with imagination (or in a word, “artistic”) will dominate the list of winners. We will all likely say that people who consistently win contests are artists. And it is obvious that they have worked hard to attain this status.

The SANP photography competition and other similar competitions are a venue for club members to show what they have photographed during the past year. Displaying your photography reveals who you are and how you view the world. Competition winners are selected by judges who have their own artistic concepts, preferences, and, yes, prejudices. Given the same set of photographs, different sets of judges would likely select different winners. Judges are instructed to select photographs that conform to artistic principles and that show creativity and unique views of the world. Being human, most judges select what appeals to them personally.

Competitions give us the opportunity to see each other’s work, which broadens our outlook of the world. Although prizes are awarded and honors bestowed, the lasting “prize” is our own enjoyment of the fine work displayed, our pride in the growth and creativity of our fellow photographers, and our opportunity to learn from what we see.

Most photographers are very willing to share their knowledge. Search out those you admire and ask to learn from them, either informally or in a more formal mentoring interaction. If you are asked to share your knowledge, remember that teaching someone else is one of the best ways to learn new things yourself. By reaching out within SANP, and to the community, we can have a positive benefit beyond that which we can imagine. *Be generous with your time and knowledge, and everyone involved becomes a winner.*

## Adam Jones, Friend of SANP, Publishes New Book

Adam Jones has a new book entitled *Great Smoky Mountains, Simply Beautiful*, published by Farcountry Press. This is a coffee table book filled with pictures and very little text. He has autographed copies available for \$29.95 + shipping and handling, which is the same price as the non-autographed copies from Farcountry Press. Those interested can visit his web site at [www.adamjonesphoto.com](http://www.adamjonesphoto.com), call him at 502.327.0416, or email him directly at [adamjonesphoto@insightbb.com](mailto:adamjonesphoto@insightbb.com).

Adam is leading a Kenya Safari July 11-24, 2005, in three totally different and interesting areas of Kenya. Some time will be spent in Samburu National Reserve, and Lake Nakuru National Park, but the majority of time will be in the Masai Mara Game Reserve, which is famous for its diversity. There is an optional highly recommended Masai Mara Extension from July 24-27. Base Price: \$5895. Optional Mara Extension \$1195. These prices include all meals, in country ground transportation, lodging, and superb driver/guides. Round trip Airfare is extra! Contact Adam for more detailed information. (Adam has presented SANP workshops and spoken at meeting in the past.)

# **Southern Appalachian Nature Photographers**

**P.O. Box 32324**

**Knoxville, TN 37930-2324**

## **In This Issue**

- **April Meeting: Connie Toops brings us the Everglades**
- **Member News, Photo Tips, and More**
- **Useful Information on traveling with photographic equipment**
- **Musings on Photography as Art**
- **Membership Form (due May 1, 2004)**

**Southern Appalachian Nature Photographers** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to "Sharing the Awareness of Nature through Photography." The club meets the last Tuesday of every month except June, July, and December at the First United Methodist Church on Kingston Pike in Knoxville at 6:30 p.m. for social time and 7 for the program. Visitors are welcome!