

SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN



NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS

*Sharing the
Awareness of
Nature thru
Photography*

www.sanp.net

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2002 Nature Photography Competition & Salon

This was a banner year for the SANP Annual Nature Photography Competition. We had a total of 106 prints and 221 slides entered in the contest by members. Unfortunately, there were insufficient entries in several categories in the Black & White Print and Medium Format Slide divisions. The Creative Imagery categories did not have enough entries in any division either. Any entries in the categories that received too few entries were combined with other categories within the same division in accordance with the competition rules. The only exceptions were the several Creative Imagery entries that were judged, but no prizes will be awarded.

The number of entries kept competition volunteers quite busy, and judging took several hours. Our appreciation goes out to all of the folks who assisted and the judges. The five judges this year were Bill Campbell, Frank DiStefano, Lynn Freeny, Terry Marler, Mark Rowelette, and Chuck Summers.

The Annual SANP Salon meeting where judging results will be announced and prizes awarded begins at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 23 at the United Methodist Church located at 3316 Kingston Pike in Knoxville. Print entries will be on display. A buffet dinner will be served starting at 7:15 p.m. All slide entries will be shown following dinner, and after the meeting, all awarded prizes and certificates will be distributed. Various photo vendors have donated more than 200 items for contest awards and Salon 'door prizes.'

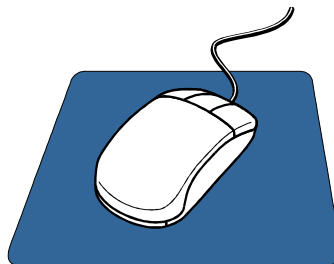
Don't forget that advance tickets are required for all members, visitors and guests planning on attending. Tickets to the SANP Salon 2002 are \$15 per person, and ticket payment must be received by February 16, 2002. Make your check to SANP and mail it to: SANP c/o Lutie Culver, 925 Glennshire Drive, Knoxville, TN 37923. All entrants must pick up their entries after the meeting.

Letting Your Mouse Do the Walking, Part II

by Tobin Shepardson

(Continued from December's online edition.) As many people claim, preparation is the key to a successful photography outing. Today, there are numerous, easily accessible sources of information on the Internet that were previously either difficult or impossible to obtain. You can use these resources to help you plan an itinerary and make other preparations. In this and future articles, I will share some of the resources that I often use to plan significant outings.

To begin with, I like to see how the weather gods may treat me. Since hiking and cross-country skiing into backcountry areas are some of my other interests, weather is somewhat of a hobby for me. In my opinion, one of the best weather information sites on the Web is Intellicast (www.intellicast.com). Besides domestic and international forecasts, you can find radar and satellite shots that are often only 15 minutes old. You can find out about a place's typical weather and average temperatures to help plan your wardrobe as well. Supposedly, Intellicast is where most local television and other weatherpersons get their information.



Also, the Weather Channel's website (www.weather.com) isn't bad either, but has too many annoying ads that clutter the screen.

If I'm planning a trip outside of the local area, I find that some country, state, and even local tourism board websites can often provide some good information. One of the best tourism websites that I have found is that of the New Mexico Department of Tourism (www.newmexico.org). I used that site a lot to plan a trip last summer because of its good information about scenic byways and destinations. TN's [Department of Tourism Development](http://www.tn.gov) has a website, but I can't say much about it. Lonely Planet (www.lonelyplanet.com) also is a good site for finding general information for domestic and international trips. If planning to go abroad, I often check the U.S. Dept. of State website (travel.state.gov) for warnings, immunization recommendations, regulations, and other pertinent information.

In upcoming segments, I'll cover some of the other websites that I frequently peruse, including government ones. Hopefully, a couple of my favorites will be restored by then.

Photo Resources on the Internet

Here are some useful websites that I have come across while surfing the Internet:

USDA Forest Service

<http://www.fs.fed.us>

The site provides a wealth of information about national forests. It also includes a library of historical data, maps, forest fire pages and links to specific national forest websites.

US Public Lands Information Center

<http://www.publiclands.org/html/home.html>

This is a somewhat buggy site set up by the Public Lands Interpretive Association to provide information about recreation and permits primarily for the Intermountain West. Supposedly, maps and books for all 50 states can be ordered through this site as well. One of the interesting aspects of the PLIC site is the Public Lands Museum.

Bureau of Land Management

<http://www.blm.gov>

Besides information about various public lands managed by the BLM across the country, BLM sites provide information about new National Monuments, including Grand Staircase/Escalante and Canyons of the Ancients. Unfortunately, BLM websites have also fallen victim to the same litigation that has taken down all National Park Service information pages.

Web's Top Photography Websites

<http://www.topphotos.net>

This site is owned and maintained by a Grant Collier and contains numerous links as the name implies. It includes links to a web ring, bookstore, photo tips and various photographers.

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SANP Website: <http://www.sanp.net>

Newfound Gap Road Closures

Tunnel work on US Route 441, Newfound Gap Road over the Smokies continues and is now in Stage 2. The schedule is posted below for your reference. As work progresses, the dates are subject to change due to weather and other delays, and the road may also be closed on scheduled open dates because of snow and other bad weather. When NPS websites are restored, you can find the schedule at www.nps.gov/grsm/tunneltable.htm.

You should check for any construction schedule changes before making any plans. Besides the page link above, you can call the toll free hotline at (888) 355-1849, or dial 436-1200 in the Gatlinburg and Knoxville calling areas for current information. Here is the last schedule made available on the Internet:

STAGE 2

Jan. 19 – Mar. 15, 2002

No buses, trailers, or RVs are allowed. Short sections of the road near the two tunnels will be restricted to *only one lane* of traffic. Traffic will be regulated by automatic traffic signals 24 hours a day. **BE PREPARED FOR LONG DELAYS**, especially on weekends.

STAGE 3

Mar. 16 – Sept. 27, 2002

No construction work is scheduled on weekends or holidays.

Mar. 16 – May 18: Single lane closures at tunnels

May 19 – Aug. 18: No scheduled construction

Aug. 19 – Sept. 27: Single lane closures at tunnels



New X-Ray & Shipping Dangers

Perhaps I'm beating a dead horse with this issue, but Eastman Kodak and NANPA have both recently released information about new threats to film and other imaging media. Kodak states that some airports may now be using high intensity x-ray machines that will damage any type of film. Any checked baggage may be subjected to high intensity x-rays, so Kodak recommends that you never pack film in checked bags.

The Postal Service has begun sterilizing mail, especially that which is coming from or going to any government office or installation. In addition to damaging film, the mail sterilization process can even damage processed negatives, prints & slides; writable CDs & DVDs; and other computer media.

Kodak recommends purchasing and processing film locally because even package shipping services may use airlines on some routes and also their own x-ray policies may change.



In The News

New SANP Members

Last month, four more people joined the SANP. Please give these folks a warm welcome at upcoming meetings. Our new members are as follows:

Dan Brittain
Markus Eisenbach
Johnny Flanagin
Sherry Morgan

New National Monument Proposed in Utah

Gov. Mike Leavitt of Utah has requested that President Bush designate a new 620,000 acre national monument in a remote area in the center of his state. The monument would encompass a rugged and beautiful area that is called the San Rafael Swell. This includes what is referred to as Utah's Little Grand Canyon and also what was the area used as hideouts by Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid's Hole in the Wall Gang. Oddly enough, Leavitt was among those who loudly protested a similar measure taken by former President Clinton that established the Grand Staircase/Escalante National Monument in Utah.

Wolf Camera Acquired by Ritz

Wolf Camera stores have recently been bought out by Ritz Camera. The manager of the West Knoxville store said that as far as he knows, the local store's name will not be changing and they will continue to honor current Wolf Pack discount cards. However, this editor had some trouble about a month ago getting a clerk to honor this card without the manager's intervention.

Other News Briefs

- The final date for completing the SANP Field Trip survey is March 15. Results will be used for setting up future field trips and will be made available in a future newsletter. Fill one out to make your opinion heard. Also, a survey concerning this newsletter's future will start next month.
- Tennessee state parks closed last year due to budget battles remain closed. Various measures to reopen these parks are being debated in the current legislative session, but nothing is assured. Furthermore, state officials have promised another round of draconian cuts, including elimination of TN Tourism and Economic Development departments, if the so-called tax reforms are not passed. Be aware that if you enter the grounds of a closed state park, you may be cited and fined for trespassing.
- National Park Service, other Department of Interior websites, and their e-mail servers are still shut down as a result of an ongoing court battle. Recently, all Bureau of Land Management websites were also shut down as a result of the same litigation. It remains unclear when and if these sites will ever be allowed back online. However, the National Park Service Campground and Reservation Service has been restored at <http://reservations.nps.gov>.
- Fleetwood Photo continues to offer all current SANP members a 20% discount on all of their services.

Viewing Newsletters Online

Since October, we've begun putting this newsletter on the SANP website (www.sanp.net) in Portable Document Format. A few folks have complained of having trouble opening the files, so there may be others. To begin, I'll start with explaining what the newsletter files are and then how to easily open them.

Portable Document Format or PDF, is a universal file format developed to preserve fonts, graphics, formatting, etc. and also compress the file's size. PDF documents are typically created using Adobe Systems (www.adobe.com) software and can be viewed with Adobe's *free* Acrobat Reader and its browser plug-in. Besides the reduced size, an advantage of PDF is that fonts are embedded in the documents so you don't need to have the fonts installed on your PC to properly view the file. Also, PDFs are safe because I have never heard of a virus that infects actual PDFs in the almost 10 years Acrobat has been around.

To get the latest version of Adobe's Acrobat Reader if you don't have it installed already, go to <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>. I make the newsletters downwardly compatible for the last couple Acrobat versions, but I suggest that you uninstall older versions and then install the latest one.

Do not open the files with Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, or any other programs. Use Acrobat Reader unless you want to be prompted for fonts or have the document's formatting go haywire. Also, some browsers, such as AOL's, don't like plug-ins. To avoid this, I suggest that you go to the SANP homepage, right click on the underlined word Newsletter, select *Save As*, and save the file (i.e. Feb2002.pdf). The PDF newsletters have been under 100k so far, so they won't fill your hard drive.

Photography Joke

Here is a joke that a friend sent me a while back that also appeared in the January 2002 edition of *Popular Photography*:

An amateur photographer went to a friend's house for dinner one night and brought a few pictures to show everyone. While looking at the photos, the hostess said, "These are really nice! You must have a good camera to take pictures like these." The photographer said nothing. Later that evening, when he got up to leave, he said to the hostess, "That was a really nice dinner! You must have some very good pots."

Contact the Editor

I welcome story ideas and suggestions to improve this newsletter. If you are an SANP member and have a story or an article that you would like to submit for publishing in this newsletter, please feel free to send it to me for review. Also, send me any weblinks, photo swap shop notices, trip reports, upcoming workshop or field trip activity announcements, or news items that you would like to appear in the newsletter. You can catch me at monthly meetings or contact me via either of the following methods:

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