

# 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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October 2002

## **Ed Thompson, Jr., To Present “Historical” Program**

Come to the October meeting, meet Ed (Eddie) Thompson, Jr., of Thompson's Photo, and learn some of the fascinating history of Eddie's great-grandfather Jim Thompson, founder of Thompson Photo Products. Jim's body of work spans over 60 years, including documentation of local historical events, commercial photography, and assistance in the establishment of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Did you know. . .

- Jim Thompson received the Professional Photographers Association of America's highest award, the Degree of Master Photographer, and served on this organization's board of directors and later as president.
- Jim was around when the decision was being made on where the region's national park would be located. Five of his large photographs convinced several of the committee choosing the location to check out the region. They hiked to Mount LeConte with Wiley Oakley and several members of the local hiking club.
- Jim was on hand to document the Great Smoky Mountain National Park Dedication by Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1940s at Newfound Gap.
- A number of Jim's photographs were used in publications promoting the Park and on postcards. One of his photographs of Mount LeConte was elected in a spirited competition for reproduction on the ten cent postage stamp commemorating national parks.
- Jim's photographs of the Great Smoky Mountains, many made before the construction of modern roads and trails in the park, emphasized the beauty of dramatic vistas, landscapes and waterfalls.

This and much more interesting historical information about Jim Thompson will be available at the October meeting. Eddie will demonstrate the use of the original 1927 Cirkut Camera Jim used for his panoramic photographs and will showcase some of Jim's work.

Ed Thompson, Jr., worked in the family business until 1986 while attending the University of Tennessee. Upon graduation he worked with the Minolta Corporation outside sales force for over 13 years before returning to Knoxville in 1999. In addition to telling us about his great-grandfather, Eddie will also discuss the products and services available today at Thompson Photo Products.

## ***Club News***

### ***Welcome to New Club Members***

Linda S. Bolt; Sam & Su Jenkins  
(samjenks@bellsouth.net), Hendersonville, TN;  
J. David Lewis (dlewis@resourceadv.com).

### ***Alice Reed to Chair Competition***

Alice Reed has agreed to chair the 2003 SANP Competition. We appreciate her volunteering to organize this important activity. The co-chairman role is still open. If you want to discuss the co-chairman's role, contact Alice (865.482.0056) or Ron McConathy (865.376.3976).

### ***SANP Web Site Needs New Images***

The photographs featured on the SANP website have been there for many months. This is your chance to submit your best images to a site that averages 1800 visitors per month. To submit your images, click on the "Members Area," and then the "Upload Image to SANP.net Server." Read the "Image File Specifications" information. Call or email Thom Ashton (865.397.0465; thom@ashtonitc.com) if you have problems.

## ***Silliker Workshop Scheduled for November 16***

If you haven't already registered to attend the SANP sponsored nature photography workshop presented by professional nature photographer Bill Silliker, Jr., on Saturday, November 16, 2002, don't delay! You can register at the SANP web site, <http://www.sanp.net>. Bill's presentation will be unlike other workshops SANP has presented in the past. This promises to be an inspiring day focused on nature photography. Join us for the fun! Lunch is included in the workshop fee of \$49.

### **SANP Officers and Committee Chairs**

<b>President</b>	Ron McConathy	865.376.3976
<b>Treasurer</b>	Joyce Wilson	865.457.3191
<b>Secretary</b>	Gloria Epperson	865.577.7474
<b>Membership</b>	Chris Windham	865.588.3011
<b>Programs</b>	Lee Ownby	865.690.8460
<b>Newsletter</b>	S. McConathy	865.376.3976
<b>Workshops/Trips</b>	Kendall Chiles	865.693.2448
<b>Salon 2003</b>	Alice Reed	865.482.0056
<b>Publicity</b>	Open	
<b>Web Site</b>	Thom Ashton	865.397.0465

### **Elected Board Members:**

Jane Blankenship  
 Brad Cottrell  
 Gloria Epperson  
 Mark Frankel  
 Ron McConathy  
 Margarete Ohnesorge  
 Clay Thurston  
 Michael Whitaker  
 Joyce Wilson

The SANP Board meets monthly. If you have issues you would like the board to discuss, contact Ron McConathy, [mcconathy@aronsha.com](mailto:mcconathy@aronsha.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 [mcconathy@aronsha.com](mailto:mcconathy@aronsha.com)

SANP mailing address:

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

## **On Creativity: Make Use of Routines (Part 1 of 2) by Ron and Sharon McConathy**

A photography outing sometimes turns out to be like a scavenger hunt, where the challenge is finding subjects to photograph. Something catches the eye, we position the tripod, frame the subject, determine the exposure, press the shutter release, check that one off the list, shoulder the camera and continue on in search of the next subject. At times, this method may be necessary because of appointments or deadlines. Thank goodness at other times the pace can be slower – times when being attracted by a possible subject is just the beginning of an often rewarding creative process.

Although it may seem contradictory to talk of "creativity" and "routines" together, having a photographic routine that can be followed easily and quickly allows us more freedom to approach our subjects creatively.

Establishing a routine way to work with a subject helps us quickly take a shot or two, clears the mind of confusing technical concerns, and kick-starts the creative process.

Here's a suggested routine: Mount a lens or zoom to the focal length needed to capture the image you have in mind; select the f-stop for the proper depth of field; choose the shutter speed to give the proper exposure; frame and compose the image; and press the shutter release. If shutter speed is more important than depth of field, first set the shutter speed and then determine the exposure by setting the f-stop. Carrying your camera set on an automatic exposure mode can speed up capturing the first image, as insurance against missing the picture entirely, but this is probably not the best technical image. Once you have established your routine, adapted to your own style of photography, the creative process can flow.

The "insurance" shot is made. What now? Using the camera, lens, and tripod position of the initial photograph, consider the effect changing depth of field might have (using the depth-of-field preview is helpful). Consider changing exposure. Changing f-stop and shutter-speed combinations can produce a high-key look, give a dramatic silhouette, or show your subject in motion. Shallow depth of field could focus attention on a particular portion of your subject. The key here is exploration. Stretch. Go beyond your boundaries. Consider the possibilities.

Once you have explored the possibilities of the initial composition, take another look. Use a lens that includes more (or less) of the subject. With a macro, go for the minute detail in the leaf, or with a wide-angle lens show the subject's unusual relationship to its surroundings. Train your eye to become aware of the background, which is typically as important as the subject in an effective image. Use your "routine" each time you set up a new composition.

**Next month: Creativity: Beyond Routine (Part 2)**

## Coming Events

**October 26** Fall Field Trip (Kendall Chiles)  
Foothills Parkway and Big Creek (call Kendall to sign up)

**October 29** Meeting, 6:30, First United Methodist Church, Knoxville

Eddie Thompson of Thompson's Photo shows historic photographs and talks about his great-grandfather and photography. (See article on page 1).

**November 16** Silliker Workshop  
Register on the SANP web site, [www.sanp.net](http://www.sanp.net).

**November 26** Meeting  
Photographer Lynn Freeny shows his images.

**December** No meeting

**January** Meeting  
Clay Thurston shows his recent images from Texas.

**February** 2003 SANP Competition Dinner

## Sign Up to Showcase Your Slides

Last year the Epperson's provided an Ektagraphic slide projector prior to each meeting for members to display their images. Participation waned during the spring. This year SANP members are invited to sign up to show 8-10 slides prior to a meeting. Three members can sign up for each meeting. A signup sheet will be provided at the October meeting for future meetings, or you can call Bob Epperson (865.577.7474) or Kendall Chiles (865.293.2448).

## Digital Photography Email List

For SANP members who are stepping into the world of digital photography, the "Digital Darkroom Questions email list" can help keep you on the road and out of the ditch. To subscribe to the list, send an email to [mailer@leppphoto.com](mailto:mailer@leppphoto.com) with the subject: SUBSCRIBE DDQ. Tim Grey, who works with George Lepp, answers submitted questions on a daily basis. This is good stuff! The Digital Darkroom Questions (DDQ) email service is provided on a "shareware" basis. It is absolutely free to join to the list, and you are under no obligation to pay anything. However, if you find the information provided to be of value, a contribution to help support the effort that is put into the service would be appreciated. The service is provided by Tim Grey on his own time.

## SANP Swap Shop

The SANP Swap Shop is open to any member who wants to buy, sell or trade photographic equipment. Send your Swap Shop items to [mcconathy@aronsha.com](mailto:mcconathy@aronsha.com) and we'll post them here.

New tan photo vest (man's large) \$90, call Jane Blankenship (982-3632) after Oct. 22.

## The President's Corner

— Ron McConathy

The August SANP meeting featured the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) and its current management issues. Cades Cove has recently been receiving attention because of the problems people are experiencing driving the 11 mile loop road. The number of people using the Cove has reached a point where a visit's enjoyment is lessened by the traffic problems on the single-lane one-way road. The Cove is a photographer's paradise for both scenic and wildlife subjects, and many SANP members have fond memories and favorite photographs of the Cove.

Recent management decisions by GSMNP have attempted to help visitors tour the Cove more efficiently. I sense that these changes are being done out of frustration because of public concern for preserving the character of the Cove and a lack of money to make necessary changes. Changes made this past year include new fences along the road that effectively prevent vehicles from pulling off the roadway. This, combined with blocking unpaved pull-offs, make parking and then hiking a major problem. Vehicles will have nowhere to go and will form a long creeping line. Recent news that Park Rangers are shooting deer with rubber bullets and scaring them with noise makers could be an attempt to reduce the number of animals for people to stop and look at, thus improving traffic flow. These "solutions" seem to be creating new problems.

As in any heavy-use area, there is probably no perfect solution. I do believe GSMNP is listening to the public and will base future decisions on what they hear. I urge those of you who cherish your ability to photograph in the Cove to speak out and make your views known. You can make comments via the Cades Cove Opportunities Plan at <http://www.cadescopeopp.com>. Consider contacting your representatives in congress and the senate. Adequate federal funding will make solutions to problems in the Cove much easier. Let our voices be heard!

**Southern Appalachian Nature Photographers**  
**P.O. Box 32324**  
**Knoxville, TN 37930-2324**

### **In This Issue**

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**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!