

October Meeting:

Fortney Talks of Esthetics and Technique

Bill Fortney is a nationally known professional photographer who has contributed to many magazines dedicated to the outdoors, photography, and flying. In addition to being a writer, Bill is a Professional Markets Technical Representative for Nikon. He is the founder and director of The Great American Photography Weekend, a company that organizes workshops and tours for teaching outdoor and nature photography. He was co-creator and editor for *The Nature of America: Images by North America's Premier Nature Photographers*; and with his son, Wesley, is the author of the best-selling *America From 500 Feet!*

Bill's latest book, published in March this year, is called *Bill Fortney's Great Photography Workshop*. This instructional book integrates the esthetics of photography with the technical considerations. SANP's meeting on October 28 will be based on a section of this new book, and it promises to be educational, entertaining and fun. Join us!

Lepp Seminar Opportunity

Rose Marie DeWitt, Roswell Photo Society, invites members of SANP to a one-day seminar with George Lepp in Roswell, Georgia on October 25, 2003. The seminar will cover all aspects of digital photography from capture to printing. The cost is \$79. If five or more members sign up at the same time, the fee is \$59 per person. Further information can be obtained at www.roswellphotosociety.org/lepp.

Magazine Subscription Renewal Forms

Outdoor Photographer and PC Photo currently have a limited-time offer of two subscriptions for the price of one. If you have received this offer in the mail and are willing to let another member take advantage of the free subscription when you renew, bring your form(s) to the next meeting.

SANP 2004 Photo Competition

Only a few months are left before time to submit your photographs for the photo competition. The entries are due the week of January 17; the award dinner is scheduled for February 28. More details will be included in the November newsletter.

The floating category this year is **pastoral**—the photography of rural and rustic areas, including old barns, farm equipment, farm animals, covered bridges and old cabins. The Hensley Settlement field trip coming up in October 24 (see more detail below) is a great opportunity to get some photos for this category.

Club Field Trips

Hensley Settlement: A trip to the Hensley Settlement, Cumberland Gap National Historic Park, is scheduled for Friday morning, Oct. 24. You must be registered in advance to attend this outing. The transport bus holds 13 and costs \$13 per person. Contact Brad Cottrell, 865.691.3986, to register.

Cades Cove: A field trip to Cades Cove is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, November 22. Dust off your telephoto equipment to capture photos of the magnificent 10-pt bucks in the Cove. Sign up at the meeting or contact Ron McConathy, 865.376.3976, mcconathy@aronsha.com, if you want to participate.

Sign Up to Show Your Slides

Show 8-10 of your slides at the social period just prior to a meeting. A signup sheet is provided each month for future meetings, or you can call Bob Epperson, 865.577.7474, or Kendall Chiles, 865.693.2448, to reserve a time.

Is digital photography is your passion? Contact Mark Frankel, 865.673.3140, wilkesboro@knology.net, if you would like to bring a CD with some of your digital images to show on his Windows XP laptop at the meeting in October. In addition to his own digital images, Mark will show as many of your images as time permits. (*More information from Larry Perry for digital enthusiasts on p.2 of this newsletter...*)

Notes from the Digital World. . .

SANP member Larry Perry attended the National Photoshop Show in Miami earlier this month and the following are his notes from the meeting. —Editor

NEW PHOTOSHOP. Adobe announced at the show that the new Photoshop CS (Creative Suite) will be available in mid November. We had advanced copies to play with, and I was blown away with all the changes. As a wildlife photographer, you will no longer need the big glass to get the sharp image subjects with the blurred background. Yep, Photoshop CS has a new photographic filter that lets you set the hyperfocal distance. Unbelievable...not to mention all the other new features. The upgrade will cost about \$150 or so. Also, the new Photoshop will have the ability to bring in the RAW images from your digital camera and convert them to 16 bit images for larger files and more color renditions. All serious Photoshop users will need to budget for this new program.

NIKON D2H CAMERA. Nikon introduced the new D2H camera at the show and let several of us use it for some shots used in the show. It will cost about \$3200 street price and be available probably in late December. The big thing about this camera is not the resolution (4.1 Megapixel) but that it can shoot about 8 frames a second for up to 40 frames before it has to download to its storage medium (e.g., CompactFlash card). For wildlife, sports and news photographers, this is the cat's meow. Of course it will drive the price of the D1X and the D1H down considerably. No word from the Nikon reps on a new version of the D100.

FILM DAYS NUMBERED. Got your attention now? I had lunch with a large group of photographers one day including a couple from *National Geographic*. It seems that everyone at the table had totally converted over to digital now. (Now folks, these were the heavy weights of nationally known photographers!) Since I hadn't converted over at that time, I asked about the resolution of film scanned in versus the digital output from the Digital SLRs. Big mistake! After lunch several took me over to the Epson booth to show me some 48 x 60 prints from a Velvia slide scanned in and prints using the same lens on a Digital SLR (Canon). I was blown away with the difference. The digital ran circles around the film scan. (Incidentally, the slide was scanned using a high resolution scanner (8000 ppi)). Anyway after recovering, I visited with reps from KEH (in Atlanta) and B&H (in New York City) and discovered that in the last 30 days the trade value on film cameras such as the Hasselblad, Mamiya RB, Nikon F5, and Canon EOS had dropped nearly 40%. They **highly** recommended trading any film

camera in **now** as they anticipate another drop before Christmas. It was interesting also that they predicted the demise of Hasselblad, Mamiya, and Bronica within 5 years! Yeah, I succumbed and have sold nearly all of my film cameras (Nikon F5, F100, FM2, etc.) and have gone totally digital now. More on this later.

DINNER MEETING. One of the highlights of the meeting for me was dinner with Jodi Cobb, a *National Geographic* photographer who did the story in the September issue on Slavery around the world. Her stories were really depressing about the situation . . . not photography, but slavery. I won't go into the stories she told here, but you need to read the story. The other person with us that night was Lynn Goldsmith, who has been a magazine cover photographer for 40 years, having shot some 58 major magazine covers.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY. Several things I learned very fast: you can't compare film photography with digital photography. That would be like comparing apples and oranges! For example, in film you have a dynamic range (tonal range) of about 6 to 8 f-stops. In the digital world you have a dynamic range of 9 to 11 f-stops. In film, with the higher ISOs, you have a lot of grain; in digital you have some digital noise similar to grain **but** with the new computer programs and digital chips used in the cameras, that is becoming less of a problem. Yes, most of the digital cameras still have the 1.5 magnification factor on all lens, making it hard to match the 18-20mm wide-angle lens used with film cameras, but with the image stitching software built into Elements 2.0 and the new Photoshop CS, that isn't a problem. Even the 4.1 Megapixel cameras such as the Nikon D2H will run circles around film using the new software programs.

In future issues of the newsletter, I will answer many questions that I have been asked and that I asked of the pros. So stay tuned!

—Larry Perry

For Sale:

Darkroom Equipment (\$12 for all): 2 ea plastic film developing tanks (35mm to 620 film), 8x10 enameled metal developing tray, safe light, 4 ea SS film clips, 8 ea SS "Kodak Film & Plate Developing Hangers No. 4A." Contact Ron McConathy, 865-376-3976, mcconathy@aronsha.com.

Bogen 3028 Super 3-D tripod head. Will be on display at the October meeting. Brad Cottrell, 865.691.3986, cottrelb@bellsouth.net.

New SANP Officers and Committee Chairs

President	Lee Ownby	865.690.8460
Treasurer	Joyce Wilson	
Secretary	Gloria Epperson	
Membership	Alice Reed	865.483.4461
Programs	Brad Cottrell	
Newsletter	R/S McConathy	865.376.3976
Workshops/Trips	Kendall Chiles	865.693.2448
Salon 2003	Shawn Grant and Mark Frankel	
Publicity	Allen Koch	
Web Site	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.

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@aronsa.com

SANP mailing address:

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

Photo Tip: BE THERE!

"The secret to nature photography . . . BE THERE! It's worth repeating: BE THERE! The simple fact is that the more time you spend out in nature with your camera, the better you're going to get at photography and the better your photos will be." Excerpt from Canadian photographer Ethan Meleg's Tip #10, <http://www.ethanmeleg.com/tips.htm> (reprinted with permission of the author).

Read about Ethan's journey into photography (Tip #10) and see some really terrific photos at the gallery link on his web site.

President's Corner:

How to Photograph in the Wild Without Leaving the Wild at Home

For months, I had waited for this moment. With significant mileage added to the family car, my camera was ready; the light was right. As the evening sun cast a golden glow on his fur, a prairie dog stood prayerfully by the entrance to his subterranean home. Now, all I had to do was squeeze the shutter. "Daddy, look, a buffalo!" Emily, my seven year-old daughter's attention shifted quickly to the huge, mangy creature, the disappearing prairie dog abandoned. I stood beside my tripod, unsure whether to laugh or cry, the shot missed.

Unless you possess unlimited funds and substantial blocks of time, you will find it necessary and even desirable to include family members in some of your photographic travels. You must remember to utilize the same patience with your kinfolk that is necessary to acquire those great shots.

Family vacations offer plenty of opportunity to obtain those much sought-after pictures. You still may not be cool to your children, but they will put up with you, especially when you take them to explore new territories; and if not now, they will appreciate the adventure much more, years down the road.

Do your kids exhibit the type of behavior associated with an animal in the wild? (Nature purists, bear with me.) If so, you have my sympathies; mine are angels. Just kidding! But there are ways to make any trip pleasurable for all. Your family can have a great time and you will accomplish your sneaky objective—acquiring awesome shots of all those places you see in your favorite photo magazines.

Each summer, my wife and I introduce our three kids to a different geographic section of the country. By involving the family in the early planning, I don't have to resort to coercion later. Show them the maps, travel guides and especially the pretty pictures. If you expect your kids to give up TV and video games for the journey, you need to excite their imaginations. Build up their expectations so they can't wait to go.

On a recent western trip, we found ourselves wandering through the Badlands and the Black Hills of South Dakota. I have a simple requirement for my nature photography: if the landscape is different from my back yard, then we're in the right place. But your family may not share that enthusiasm. So work on your salesmanship skills.

(Continued next page)

President's Corner (continued)

Dirt possesses a universal fascination for both adults and children. Plenty of it is available in the Badlands. You can photograph it in the early morning and late afternoon. During the middle part of the day, spend time hiking through it with your family. Your ulterior motive is scouting out places to photograph later, when the light paints a more exciting scene. But they don't have to know.

Not more than a horse trot across the grassland from the Badlands National Park is Custer State Park, located in the Black Hills of South Dakota. This place will keep the rest of your family entertained while you get those great shots that you've always wanted. And without the nagging guilt.

Wild burros welcomed us into the park. Before I could lecture the family on the inappropriateness of feeding the wildlife, Emily rolled down the window and started to pet one rascal. The rest of his four-legged friends blocked the road while she negotiated the terms of our access. Soon we were granted admission and entered the park, and before I could change lenses, the "loner" from the Badlands became a multitude of bison on the hillside.

Mommas, babies, frame-filling portraits, solitary or a cast of a thousand can be added to your collection without ever leaving the road. If you are not judicious in your selections, you can burn rolls of film before you even reach lodging for the night.

If you want free time to photograph, the location of your bed is critical. You can lose a lot of valuable time driving to the place, and then hurrying back to participate in a family activity. That is why I try to find my accommodations as close to the photo objective as possible. After budget considerations, whether you camp or stay in a more climate controlled enclosure is a decision ultimately made by your spouse. Your kids will sleep anywhere. And after spending several days on the trail with them, so will you. I must admit that the older I get, the harder the ground seems to be, and I look forward to retiring to the comforts of a lodge within whatever park we're visiting. Especially after a sunrise shoot, a fill-in-the blank family outing, and then back for the sunset.

Custer State Park has four different lodges and seven campgrounds sprinkled around its 73,000 acres, so you have many choices in which to park your family, agreeably. The area has so much frontier history that you shouldn't feel guilty if you only brought them to the park to be near important landmarks of the wild west. But while you are here, unpack your camera bag.

What are you going to do with all that gear? One change of clothes and three bags of camera equipment! How will you carry it? Kids are cheaper than llamas, and since you have that expense anyway, load them up. Your children will feel special when you allow them to carry what they perceive to be your most treasured possessions. Hopefully, by the day's end, some of their boundless energy will be discharged.

Make your trip an educational experience. Without overdoing it, you can discreetly point out some of the historical characters that have passed through the region. General George Armstrong Custer and the Seventh cavalry. Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane. You may also take the time to explain how dear old dad makes all those bragging

photos hanging on the wall at home or the office. If the instruction is doled out carefully, perhaps the photo sessions will be remembered fondly as something you did together.

My older son, Drew, treasures the moment that he broke his finger, when acting as my porter and slipping on a wet rock with the tripod. I didn't deem the injury serious enough to cancel the morning photo session; of course, I wasn't suffering with the throbbing hand.

Custer State Park has many hiking trails and rocks to climb. This is another example of merging a place and a family activity into a successful photographic experience. My kids love rock climbing almost as much as they like playing in the dirt. The Needles section of the park reminded me of the "hoodoos" of Bryce Canyon painted grey. Both are great places to photograph and both are sufficiently intriguing to keep all family members satisfied.

Consider your children as assets. Use your spouse or children as models when a picture screams for one. No model releases are necessary. They can administer first aid when you act like Papa Berenstain Bear and inflict physical torture on your body. A hike to the top of a big rock may be the recollection of a vision from your teenage years. Sometimes, the reality looks better in the photo back home. During a summer hike into the Grand Canyon, I demonstrated the value of one of these tips. I had hiked to the Colorado River and back as a teenager. Now, I was a mature adult, ready to take my sons on a serious hike. We left early to take advantage of the morning light for photography, but rather than rest, we continued to hike during the hottest part of the day. Thus, I was able to provide them with an example of heat exhaustion. They poured water on my head as I lay propped up under a tree until I recovered. Drew and Craig rendered first aid and then carried out most of my camera gear, illustrating my point.

Children are intrigued by unfamiliar animals. When properly trained (bribed), they can act as scouts. The Black Hills contain a wide selection of desirable specimens to photograph. Some of them are not easy to spot, but your kids' young eyes and ears may compensate for the diminished capacity of your own. By making a game out of collecting shots of bighorn sheep, pronghorn, elk, and mountain goats, you can unobtrusively, develop an appreciation for wildlife in your children.

Why do you like nature photography? If whatever it is that propels you into the elements to get "that picture" is not transmitted to the next generation, then your favorite wall hanging may not be there for your children, or your grandchildren. Get out the maps. Give your kids a camera. Teach them the joy of the Wild. Share your vision with the most important people you know—the wild that you almost left at home!

—Lee Ownby

Take a look!

The web site "Field and Forest" has a terrific series of short articles about Wyman Meinzer, called one of Texas' and the country's most celebrated nature and wildlife photographers: www.fieldandforest.com/tips/tips_1199.html

and while you are there, check out the Field and Forest home page at www.fieldandforest.com.

Southern Appalachian Nature Photographers

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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!