

SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN



NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS

SANP News

Sharing the Awareness of Nature
through Photography

Visit us on the web at www.sanp.net

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October Meeting:

Wildlife in Cades Cove—Presented by Chiles and Stinnette

The October 26 SANP meeting will feature a program by Kendall Chiles and Harold Stinnette called “Wildlife in Cades Cove.” This subject is especially timely because November/December is the prime season for photographing white tail deer in Cades Cove.

Kendall is a freelance nature and travel photographer with over 20 years of photography experience. What once was a hobby has grown into a passion to photograph the beauty of creation and America. It is this passion that continues to motivate him and his photography. His nature and travel photographs have appeared in numerous magazines, books, and brochures, including *Blue Ridge Country* and some of the Amphoto books. He offers half-day and full-day individual photo tours in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He also has numerous commercial clients in East Tennessee and elsewhere.

A graduate of the University of Tennessee, Kendall is a photography instructor for the UT Professional & Personal Development program and the Smoky Mountain Field School. He is also an instructor and workshop leader for Natural Impressions Photography. Since 1992 he has been a workshop leader at the annual Wilderness Wildlife Week in Pigeon Forge. His photography is currently featured on the web sites for Carson-Newman College Bookstore, Natural Impressions Photography, Smoky Mountain Field School, and SANP.

Harold Grew up in a small rural East Tennessee town and gained an appreciation for nature early in life. He was involved in hiking and camping as a youth and eventually developed a desire to record on film the beauty he saw in nature. Harold believes that nature photography is a positive way of learning to protect and preserve the natural world we all share. Sharing nature and nature photography through teaching photography workshops has been Harold’s passion for the last 15 years. His images have been published in magazines such as *Outdoor & Travel Photography* and *Outdoor Photographer*. He is the author of *Camping Tennessee*, a guide book to all the public campgrounds in Tennessee.

Harold lives in Spring City, Tennessee, with his wife Donna and son Brandon, where they own and operate Harold R. Stinnette Stock Photos and the Natural Impressions workshop and tour company.

Kendall and Harold will focus on the different wildlife that is possible to photograph in Cades Cove. They will talk about locations, time of year, technique and other bits of information they have learned over the last 20 years. This program should get you ready for the fall wildlife shooting season.

Member News

Bob Quinn (SANP member) received a call from the editor of *Nature’s Best Photography* that one of his images had been chosen from more than 14,000 images submitted (142 were selected). The magazine will be on the newsstands in late October.

Don’t be shy! Notify the newsletter editors, 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.

Upcoming Meetings

- November 30: Byron Jorjorian is guest speaker.
- December: No meeting. Merry Christmas!
- January 25, 2005: TBD
- February 2005: Annual Competition Dinner.

Other Notables

Adam Jones, adam@adamjonesphoto.com, sent update information on his July 2005 Africa safari announcing the addition of the Ngorongoro Crater in Tanzania to the safari. The trip limit is twelve and he has 8 currently signed up, so if interested contact Dick Mills at World Discovery Safaris (205-972-8733) to sign up. Contact Adam for a brochure.

The Roswell Photographic Society will have a seminar presented by David Middleton on October 29-31, 2004. Details about this are at their website:

<http://www.roswellphotosociety.org>

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 2005	Mark Frankel	
Publicity	Open (any volunteers?)	
Web Site	Thom Ashton	

Elected Board Members:

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

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 mcononathy@aronsha.com

SANP mailing address:

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

NANPA Regional Summit Declared A Success

The NANPA Regional Summit in Chattanooga in September brought together a small but lively crowd of avid photographers from all over the country. From Washington State to NYC, we gathered, shared images and ideas, and thoroughly enjoyed the grand early fall weather in East Tennessee.

Tom and Pat Cory, Byron Jorjorian, and Connie Toops presented inspirational talks and showed some of their incredible images. Several SANP members participated.

We got up early to provide plenty of time for traveling to the Big South Fork, Cloudland Canyon, Fall Creek Falls State Park, and the Ocoee Scenic River for day-long photo shoots. Memories of time spent with fellow photographers will probably be just as long-lasting as the images captured during those four days.

Regional Summits are held in different locations around the country. If you have a chance to attend one in the future, we highly recommend it!

*President's Corner***Taking a Break ...**

—Lee Ownby

That's it. I'm taking a break this month. Read on for more interesting information on photography!

Sign up for Winter Wildlife Workshop

Kendall Chiles and Harold Stinnette (SANP members) are conducting a winter wildlife workshop Friday, December 3, starting at 7pm and running through Sunday, December 5, at 12 noon at the Talley-Ho Inn, in Townsend, Tennessee. Limit: 8 participants.

Overview: This is primarily a hands-on, in-the-field workshop in Cades Cove. Classroom instruction and critiques will be provided Friday and Saturday evenings.

What's included: Continental breakfast each morning, drinks and snacks, instructional material, and a free roll of Fuji film. Lodging is NOT included; however, the Talley-Ho Inn is offering a discounted room rate to Natural Impressions workshop participants. To register contact Harold Stinnette, Natural Impressions Photography, Spring City, TN, 423-365-6433, www.naturalimpressionsphotography.com.

Cost: \$250.00 per person.

For Sale:

Canon 10D digital SLR camera, including all factory accessories: rechargeable battery, battery charger, USB cable, video cable, Photoshop Elements 2.0 software (unopened), Canon EOS Digital Solution Disk (File Viewer Utility converts RAW files), ZoomBrowser (image file organizer), PhotoStitch (panorama software), Manuals for camera and software. Price: \$899. Canon 20mm f/2.8 EF USM lens with lens hood, in like-new condition. Price: \$299. **Contact Brad Cottrell**, 865.691.3986 or cottrelb@bellsouth.net.

Do you have some used camera or computer equipment sitting idle in a closet? Advertise in the **SANP News**. It's a great way to free up some storage space for those new gadgets on your Christmas list.

Your Contributions to the Newsletter are Welcomed!

If you have a favorite spot for photography or a tip you find particularly useful, send in a short article about it for publication in the SANP newsletter. This is a great way for members to share experiences (and it helps your newsletter editors as well)!

Here's our email address: mcononathy@aronsha.com

Choosing a Camera—A Digital Primer

— Ron and Sharon McConathy

The wide range of cameras available today gives the nature photographer many choices. Sales of digital cameras now exceeds that of film cameras, so here are some digital basics.

Interchangeable lens vs fixed lens. Digital cameras can be divided into those with fixed lenses and those with interchangeable lenses, or single-lens reflex (SLR) systems. We focus here on fixed-lens digital cameras. The major advantages of these cameras is their small size, making them easy to carry, and their lower cost when compared to SLR systems. As you might expect, the more expensive cameras have more features and higher resolution. About 20 camera manufacturers produce over a hundred digital camera models, ranging in price from \$100 to \$2000 with resolutions from 2 to 8 megapixels. Sizes vary from those that fit in your pocket (~8 oz.) to standard 35mm camera size (~26 oz.).

Desirable features. For nature photographs, you will likely want a camera with a zoom lens and closeup capability. Having an LCD screen of adequate size (1.5 in. or larger) helps you frame and review your images. If the position of the LCD screen is adjustable, you can hold the camera in an optimum position for the subject without contorting your body.

Storage media vary among fixed-lens and interchangeable-lens models. In general, storage options are improving, and new features, especially expanded capacity, are introduced regularly. If you plan to own more than one digital camera, you may want to select cameras that use the same type of storage media. This allows you to share storage cards between cameras and reduces the number of accessories such as card readers and portable storage devices that you'll need.

It is a good idea to examine the type of batteries a camera requires. Rechargeable batteries are a must; some cameras use AA size batteries, but often manufacturers use proprietary batteries, many of which are more efficient and more powerful than AAs. Even though these proprietary batteries may not be interchangeable between brands of cameras, they are still very effective. Plan for at least one backup battery for each camera, as well as a battery charger that can be used at home, in the car, and while traveling, and enough batteries for each camera to handle one day's shooting.

Some shutter delay (lag time) is inevitable in digital cameras. If you shoot fast-action photos, evaluate the lag time carefully. In some fixed-lens models, the delay is significant enough (>1-s lag) that it will be nearly impossible (except with great luck) to capture action shots effectively. Lag times of 0.5 s are typical on fixed-lens digital cameras, and faster is always better.

Digital cameras are usually equipped with a small pop-up flash that is effective to about 10 to 17 ft maximum. Most pop-up flashes function in auto mode, slow sync mode, and, in some cases, fill-flash mode. Some of the more expensive cameras also have a flash hot-shoe, allowing use of more powerful shoe-mounted flash units. Flash is useful as a fill light in scenics and as the primary light source for macro subjects. Pop-up flashes are not effective for fill, except between 5 and 10 ft, or for macro photography. Shoe-mounted flashes work well, especially when used with an off-camera flash cord for macro or with a Fresnel lens flash extender for wildlife photos.

Digital SLR cameras produce a higher-quality digital file even when an SLR and a fixed-lens camera have the same

resolution. Recent camera reviews state that the current 6 megapixel SLR cameras give a better-quality image file than 8 megapixel fixed-lens cameras. In spite of this, some professionals carry a fixed-lens digital as backup to their SLRs.

Animal Photography. The size of the animal makes a difference in the equipment you need. For large animals such as deer, elk, or bison, a telephoto lens is a must for safety and to enlarge a shy animal in the frame. Bird photographers also need a telephoto lens to capture small birds that may be difficult to approach closely. On the other hand, if you want to shoot butterflies and insects, you'll need a macro lens.

Fixed-lens digital cameras can have a zoom range from ~28 to ~300mm (35mm equivalent), a very useful range. Many cameras have telephoto conversion lenses that extend the telephoto reach by 1.5 to 3 times, with 2X being the most common. This is adequate for most large-animal photography, but it may not be adequate for small, shy birds or even for large angry bears. In the case of the latter, the larger the telephoto lens, the better! Approaching large animals with an inadequate telephoto lens is dangerous and stressful on the animal.

Many fixed-lens digital cameras offer close focusing capability, with a macro focusing distance of 1-10 cm from the front of the lens. Supplementary macro lens are available for some cameras. Thus, macro pictures are possible with many fixed-lens digital cameras, but butterflies and other critters may not tolerate the camera being as close as 1 to 10 cm. Remember that lighting for macro pictures is much easier with a shoe-mounted flash on an off-camera flash cord, so choose a model with a flash hot-shoe if macro photography is your thing.

Plant Photography. If you want to photograph plants, particularly flowers, be sure your camera has macro capability or a close-focusing lens. Most digital cameras work fine for plant photos. Using a tripod improves the sharpness and is generally a good idea if you want to realize the maximum quality from your camera. Photographing plants with a telephoto lens works well because you can isolate the subject. The shallower depth of field of the telephoto lens helps separate the subject from the background. However, be aware that fixed-lens digital cameras usually have a great depth of field, so soft, out-of-focus backgrounds are nearly impossible.

Landscape Photography. If landscape photography is your love, a fixed-lens digital camera will serve you well. The main problem is that the widest angle zoom lens setting available is about 28mm. Many 35mm photographers have a love affair with their 17-24mm wide angle lenses and really miss that broad scene-capturing ability with digital.

Wide-angle converter lenses are available for most digital cameras. These converters are roughly equivalent to a 24mm lens. Some converters function as a 14mm lens. The major manufacturers tend to only offer converters that function in the 20 to 24mm range, so be suspect of the quality offered by a converter that goes below ~20mm. Check the specifications carefully; if it seems too good to be true, it probably is!

Improvements are on the way! Digital cameras are constantly improving, and new models are introduced rapidly. The camera you buy today will probably be eclipsed by a new, improved model within a year. List the features you want in a digital camera, and then research currently available models to find the best fit. Web sites such as www.dpreview.com can give you good information about various digital camera models. Enjoy nature photography with whatever camera you decide to use!

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!