

SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN



NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS

SANP News

Sharing the Awareness of Nature
through Photography

Visit us on the web at www.sanp.net

Volume 15, Number 2

Published monthly except June and July

August 2005

August Meeting:

Travel Photography: Off the Beaten Path with Bill Schneider

SANP member, Bill Schneider, will present our program on August 30th. Bill, who has a long-standing interest in nature photography, has been fortunate in recent years to travel to many places in the world that are far off the beaten path. As Chief Medical Officer of Interplast, a non-profit, humanitarian organization providing free reconstructive plastic surgery for children in developing countries, he has traveled in Asia to Myanmar, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Bhutan Nepal, Sri Lanka, China and Cambodia; in South and Central America to Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Honduras, Brazil and Nicaragua; and in Africa to Zambia, Botswana and South Africa.

In addition to sharing images from such places as Angkor Wat, Machu Picchu and Bagan, Bill will also talk about what he sees as the special challenges of travel photography.

Join us for a glimpse of golden temples, lost kingdoms, and faces from around the world.

Be a Newsletter Contributor!

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: mcconathy@aronsha.com. Let us hear from you!

Upcoming Meetings

- September: Duel in Death Valley - Ron McConathy and Clay Thurston (Death Valley as seen by digital and film)
- October: TBA
- November: Jerry Greer
- January: Larry Perry

New Fine Art Photography Gallery Opening in Knoxville

Jane Sampson of Sundancer Images is in the planning stages of opening a fine art photography gallery in Knoxville at 14 Market Square (the previous location of the Market Square Booksellers). The gallery will exhibit the works of multiple photographers on a gallery space rental or consignment basis.

Based on Jane's initial layout of the gallery, it looks like the largest space will be 170 sq. ft. of wall space (that's two 5x8 ft and one 9x8 ft wall). The largest prime spot will go for \$340 per month. The least expensive space will probably be 40 sq. ft. (5 ft x 8 ft), costing \$40 per month.

If you are interested in exhibiting your work in the gallery, please email info@smokymtnphotographers.com. You can find more information about the gallery plans at <http://www.smokymtnphotographers.com>.

Be sure to enter the gallery naming contest for a chance to win 3 months free gallery space.

Web sites provide digital photography information

If you, someone in your family or some of your friends are getting starting with digital photography, here are some web sites that provide useful, interesting information. You'll find tools, tips, downloads and more at these web locations:

- www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/
- www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/prophoto/

Find a digital calibration target at www.photovisionvideo.com/target.html.

Custom white balance can be done easily and simply with an ExpoDisc Digital White Balance Filter. Check out this white balance solution for digital cameras and digital video at www.expodisc.com/.

SANP Officers and Committee Chairs

President	Lee Ownby	865.690.8460
Treasurer	Joyce Wilson	
Secretary	Margarete Ohnesorge	
Membership	Alice Reed	865.483.4461
Programs	Brad Cottrell	
Newsletter	R/S McConathy	865.376.3976
Workshops/Trips	Kendall Chiles	865.693.2448
Salon 2006	Alice Reed & Bob Epperson	
Publicity	Open (any volunteers?)	
Web Site	Shawn Grant	

Elected Board Members:

Bill Carter	Harold Howell
Chuck Cole	Ron McConathy
Gloria Epperson	Alice Reed
Mark Frankel	Margarete Ohnesorge
Shawn Grant	Mike Williams

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 mconathy@aronsha.com

SANP mailing address:

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

Member News

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 with your photography.

Equipment For Sale

Ron or Sharon McConathy, 865.376.3976, mconathy@aronsha.com: EPSON Stylus Photo 870 ink jet printer. Bright and colorful pictures boasting 1440 x 720 dots per inch of Photo Quality. Six inks—one black cartridge and one five-ink color cartridge—optimized for photographic reproduction. Equals photo prints in archival ratings. Maximum paper size 8.5x11 inches. USB connection. Lightly used. Original retail price \$299. Sale price \$65.

Advertise your used camera or computer equipment in the **SANP News**.

*President's Corner***Summer Reflections...**

—Lee Ownby

The beginning of school marks the end of summer for my family. That generally means the summer trips are over, but planning for the next one is not too far away. It's amazing how long it takes for a vacation to arrive after the trip has been researched and booked. Yet, while you're out there, it never seems to be enough. I have to speak for myself though, as my wife and daughter occasionally desire to be reacquainted with their brand of civilization. My sons will go the distance as long as I'm paying.

Accumulations of slides and pictures are scattered about waiting proper cataloging, which may mean nothing more than stuffing them in a slide box and attaching a label. Some of them are awful and I know it. Perhaps, digitalized, they can be enhanced to the point that salvage is possible. Besides, that was a once in a lifetime shot of a black howler monkey in a dark canopy. Future technology may separate the dark blob from the forest. But then again, maybe not. I probably should throw it away and plan another trip. My heirs may wonder as much about what I missed as what I captured on film if I don't make the necessary culling.

I hope everyone has had a great photographic summer. If not, a great summer is okay, too. As the pages of the calendar are turned to reveal another month, it's time to start the fall SANP season. If you haven't been thinking about photography, we are but a few days away from the August kick-off. Plan on coming to the August meeting and sharing your camera's eye with a fellow member. See you there!

**Dogwood Arts Photo Contest
Winners—Update**

Janice Duncan won third place in the Dogwood Arts Festival Photography Contest. She was accidentally left off of the winner list in the May newsletter.

Information from a Member

For what it's worth (if you're still shooting film), I called Fuji to get reciprocity info on the new Velvia 100 (not the Velvia F). I was advised no compensation is necessary for exposure up to 1 minute. For longer exposures add 2-1/2 magenta color correction and 1/3 stop for 2 minutes, 1/2 stop for 4 minutes, and 2/3 stop for 8 minutes. —Jack Williams (SANP member)

Seeing – the First Step to Great Photography

Ron and Sharon McConathy

The click of the shutter defines the moment a picture is created. Prior to this "click," the photographer must aim the camera and compose the image. And even before aiming and composing, the photographer must "see" the image. This ability to see is what separates great photographers from those who take snapshots.

From my point of view, there are two primary ways to see photographically: previsualization, which I'll call image dreaming, and realization, which is like a photographic scavenger hunt.

Previsualization (dreaming those images)

Often a photographer is inspired to create a specific image that is seen in the mind's eye, almost like dreaming the image. Such dreaming typically happens even before picking up the camera. Perhaps you see another photograph that stimulates the artistic side of the brain to visualize an image, or you notice a beautiful scene when it is not convenient to make the picture. For example, while waiting at a traffic light, you notice a gorgeous backlit daisy growing in a crack in the concrete road. Your artistic mind visualizes the daisy against an out-of-focus natural background. The memory of this visualization stays with you until your next photographic opportunity.

People previsualize in different ways. Some of us need a catalyst to start the process -- like seeing the daisy in the road. Others can let their imagination run free, creating artistic visions on the fly. One method is not necessarily better than the other. Enjoy whatever appeals to you. This creative process works best when you are not stressed and your internal creative energies are not blocked by other thoughts or concerns.

The dreaming and stimulation that produces visualized images creates a library of images in your memory that you can draw from when you are holding a camera. Great photographers have a large library in their memory that stimulates the process of creating their images. Studying other photographs you admire and using them as inspiration is a great way to build your personal library.

On the practical side, to create the image you have previsualized, you must be in the proper location at the right time, and that takes planning. Using our previous example of the daisy, you could locate wild plants in bloom or visit the florist. If you purchase flowers, try positioning them in pleasing light against a simple background. Finding a backlit wild daisy against a soft background in the field requires more work.

Realization (let's go on a photographic scavenger hunt)

I like to walk into locations with a camera and an open mind to find subjects that I can make into beautiful images. To me, this is a photographic "scavenger hunt," where I compose a found subject into a photographic image that illustrates how I felt about the subject when I found it.

To allow the mind to "see" effectively, I find it important to try to free it from the stresses of daily life, so that I can think creatively. Realization, at its optimum, can be like a meditative process. You must be fully aware of what is around you to see subjects clearly and distinctly. Think of it as a chance to let yourself be completely "in the moment," absorbing the beauty around you and realizing photographs as you go.

How often have you looked at a scene and said, "Wow, this is beautiful!" Then you wonder how you might capture this beauty in a photograph. One way of getting from the "Wow!" to the camera's click is to ask yourself, "What is it about this scene that appeals to me?" Is it the colors, the lighting, the shapes and patterns, the subject, or a combination of these things? If it is a combination, then figure out what the dominate element is that ties everything together. Once that is determined, you will know what to emphasize in your image.

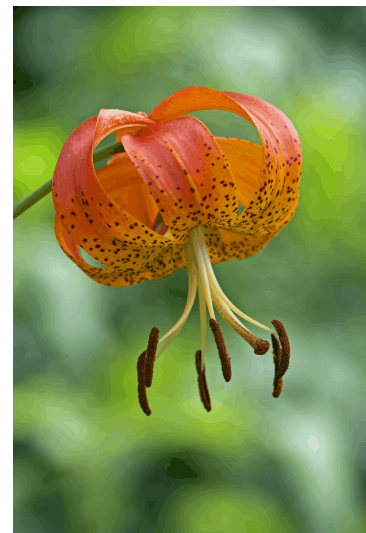
To summarize, realization is the process of finding a subject in its setting and then applying photographic techniques (learned knowledge and acquired skills) to produce an image that interprets your feeling about the subject. Such photography is an extension of how you view your world, a very personal vision presented for others to see.

Combining the two

Often "Previsualization" and "Realization" can be combined in a powerful way. Some photographers have one or more themes they work on. One theme could be the color yellow, where you previsualize different photographs that emphasize the color yellow. On a photographic outing, you see a yellow flower in a setting that reminds you of one of your previsualized images. You can then apply different compositions and techniques to create the final image. Without the prior creative ideas stored in your memory library, you might not notice the yellow flower, and thus pass up the chance to create a great image.

A photographic field trip can put you in contact with nature subjects such as flowers, sunsets, and wildlife. Your ability to recognize potential photographic compositions will be determined by the depth of your library of previsualized images, your knowledge of technical possibilities, and your personal artistic and emotional interpretation of the subjects you see. By combining these qualities, strive to produce a memorable image of almost anything, even a tin can in the middle of an empty parking lot.

"Seeing" is very different from just looking at things. The click of the shutter can capture a glimpse of who you are, and the resulting photograph can touch viewers and perhaps allow them to see themselves through your work. Such photographs are indeed worth a thousand words.



Turk's Cap Lily, photographed on Cherhala Skyway, North Carolina.
Ron McConathy

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!