

# 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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February 2005

### February Meeting:

### Annual Competition Dinner

NOTE! No meeting on Tuesday, February 22.

The SANP 2005 Nature Photography Competition dinner meeting will be on Sat., Feb 26, at the First United Methodist Church, 3316 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. The fellowship hall will be open at 6 pm for viewing the print and medium format entries. The buffet dinner will be served at 6:45. After dinner, the slides will be shown and prizes will be awarded. This event has been a highlight of the SANP year in the past. The member's impressive photographic talent is on display for all to enjoy.

Dinner tickets were to be reserved and paid for by Feb. 15th. Contact Mark Frankel if you have any questions.

### SANP 2005 Nature Photography Competition Judging

Judging for the 2005 SANP Annual Competition was held at Baptist Hospital West on Saturday, Feb. 5th. This is a very nice facility that worked very well. The rooms were large with comfortable seating. The room used for the slide judging had a large screen to show the projected slides in all of their glory. The only minor criticism was that the slide room could have been a little darker, but that would not have been easily accomplished. More than a dozen SANP members took advantage of this opportunity to learn from the judging of the entries.

The winners were immediately known to those present, and the official list of the winners will be presented at the dinner on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> and in the March newsletter.

### Member News

Michael Williams won a first place in the Landscape division and a second place in the Amateur Division at the Wilderness Wildlife Week Photography Contest, Pigeon Forge, TN. There were 173 photos entered in the contest. (Michael is going to the Tampa, Florida, area this spring to photograph birds and other wildlife. He would like to talk with someone who has been down there to help him plan his trip.)

Don't be shy! Notify the newsletter editors, [mcconathy@aronsha.com](mailto:mcconathy@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.

### SANP Web Site Getting Makeover

Reminder: The SANP web site is getting a makeover, thanks to member Shawn Grant. It will have a modern, fresh design that will better reflect our passion for nature photography.

Help us achieve this goal by sending in some of your photos. We need lots of them! Some photos will be used in design elements such as page header banners, navigation buttons and other elements. Those photos may undergo heavy manipulation for the purpose of making the SANP web site more presentable.

Other photos will be completely unaltered (other than resized) to be used to display the great talent of SANP members.

If you are interested in submitting a photo, just email it to Shawn ([shawn@grantcomputerservice.com](mailto:shawn@grantcomputerservice.com)). Make the photo no larger than 600 by 800 pixels and about 150kb in size. You will receive full credit for the photo. Also specify if you don't wish it to be part of a graphic design element.

Grant says, "I need the photos ASAP. The sooner I get them, the sooner the web site can have a better look."

### 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: [mcconathy@aronsha.com](mailto:mcconathy@aronsha.com)

### John Shaw's Photoshop Field Guide

John Shaw is offering an excellent e-book about the digital darkroom that focuses specifically on the needs of nature photographers. Called *John Shaw's Photoshop Field Guide*, this straightforward book explains how to produce the very best quality prints, whether you're starting from film scans or from direct digital files. He discusses the step-by-step work flow and procedures that he uses to make his own prints using Photoshop and Epson printers. Order the book from John at <http://www.johnshawphoto.com/news.htm>. It is shipped on CD-ROM in PDF.

### Upcoming Meetings

- March 29: Bill Schneider presentation

**SANP Officers and Committee Chairs**

<b>President</b>	Lee Ownby	865.690.8460
<b>Treasurer</b>	Joyce Wilson	
<b>Secretary</b>	Gloria Epperson	
<b>Membership</b>	Alice Reed	865.483.4461
<b>Programs</b>	Brad Cottrell	
<b>Newsletter</b>	R/S McConathy	865.376.3976
<b>Workshops/Trips</b>	Kendall Chiles	865.693.2448
<b>Salon 2005</b>	Mark Frankel	
<b>Publicity</b>	Open (any volunteers?)	
<b>Web Site</b>	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](mailto: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](mailto:mcononathy@aronsha.com)

SANP mailing address:

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

**Equipment For Sale**

**Eddie Evans** (865.458.9606, 865.755.2366) is selling these like new items: Toyo 4x5AII camera; CaltarII 90mm f8 MC with lens board (EX+); Nikor 210 f5.6 with lens board; Toyo focusing loupe; Gossen Luna Pro light meter (EX+); Fujifilm Quickload Film Loader; partially used box of film. \$1750 for all; will consider trading for good Nikon equipment.

**Faith Counselman** (423.335.0755) is selling a NIKON D100 (6.1 megapixel digital camera body). Purchased last spring/summer and used only a handful of times since. Will sacrifice for any reasonable offer. Like new; perfect condition. 70-300 mm and 35-70 mm lens to fit Nikon.

**John Baranyi** (865.482.4420) is selling a Minolta Maxxum 100/200mm lens, \$150; Maxxum 7000 body, \$125; Maxxum 28-85 lens, \$175; Maxxum AF Flash, \$65; Cannon Speedlite Flash, \$45; Weston 560 Lite meter, \$55; Nikon TeleTouch Camera with 38/65 Macro lens and case, \$65.

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

*President's Corner***Digital Klutz ...**

—Lee Ownby

When I first entered the work force many years ago, copy machines were relatively new. It was difficult to imagine copying documents by hand. An older gentleman in my office always asked someone else to make his copies. The youngsters (myself included) never could understand what was so difficult about placing a piece of paper on the machine and pushing a button. Seconds later we would have a duplicate. To us, it made a lot more sense to spend the time pushing buttons as opposed to the other choice—writing it all down by hand. I don't recall ever reading a manual on copy machines. Somehow, I would select the right button or I would waste enough paper until I figured it out.

Today, I feel much like the older man in my office. I ask my sons to program my cell phone and my daughter to properly align the dvd/vcr with the TV. Only when it's really necessary do I sit down with the manual to try and understand some piece of the equipment's function.

I've owned a digital camera of some type for about a year or so. There are many buttons and options on a digital camera, some of them hidden. Most of the time, I use that camera as an expensive "point & shoot." What was the photographic situation? I would look at the pictures on the dial and make a choice. Otherwise, I would default to film.

One of my loose New Year's resolutions was making an attempt to become more competent with my digital camera. Several weeks ago, I attended an Adam Jones' seminar in Kentucky. There were many things being taught, and a few that I learned. I discovered where to find the histogram on my camera and what to do with it when taking a picture. I was worried that I would have to spend most of my time in front of my computer reworking hundreds of images that are taken on vacation. The histogram is a valuable tool and it still helps to take the photograph right the first time.

Even before owning a digital camera, I had run across jpeg and tiff files on my computer. I didn't know much about them, but I knew that I wanted to save most everything as a tiff file. I still don't want to know the mathematical interaction between the image in my viewfinder and the final result on paper. But now I have RAW. After my seminar, I begin thinking that to be a real digital photographer, I had to take everything in RAW. (That's not what Adam taught, but that's the feeling one gets sitting around and talking with other photographers with fancy equipment).

Fortunately, I came back home and read Rob Sheppard's article in the February issue of Outdoor Photographer. He explained how it was OK to shoot large jpeg files and just use RAW for special circumstances. I was relieved. Now I wouldn't have to spend more time in front of the computer than behind the viewfinder.

All of this made me realize that, as a club, we are going to have to soon consider the impact of digital photography on the way we submit our images in the annual club's salon. More on this will be discussed in the future. Hope to see you at the Salon dinner on the 26th.

## Fee for Photography: What Do You Think?

The proposal discussed below is about a fee being charged to photograph at U.S. Department of Agriculture locations. It says there would be no charge for an individual photographer who is making pictures for personal use with a hand-held camera and a noncommercial tripod. However, a \$30 fee and application is required for "professional photography—photographs for which a fee will be received or which are for other than personal use." Most SANP members would probably look very professional and would have to pay the fee to photograph or at least would need to negotiate with the official whenever this policy is in place.

The following message was emailed by NANPA to its members:

*As nature photographers we are constantly faced with challenges that we learn to overcome in order to perfect our craft. Today we are faced with a greater challenge—one that could ultimately affect our very ability to pursue our subjects on public lands. The National Arboretum in Washington D.C. has proposed a fee and set of regulations for photography at its facility. This proposal, which can be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/4hhtz> section 23, is so sweeping that if the National Arboretum's parent organization, the Department of Agriculture, and other government agencies were to adopt these fees and restrictions for public lands, nature photography could be seriously hampered in the future. I believe this proposal is poorly thought out at best and illegal in the worst case. This proposed regulation is in opposition to the congressionally-enacted P.L. 106-206, which states that professional and amateur photographers do NOT need a permit and do NOT need to pay a fee to take still photographs unless the still photography will:*

- *Use models, sets or props that are not part of the site's natural or cultural resources or administrative facilities;*
- *Take place where members of the public are generally not allowed; or*
- *Take place at a location where additional administrative costs are likely.*

*As you can see, this law reaffirms our right to conduct most common nature photography on public lands.*

Jess Lee, Chair of the NANPA Resource Relations Committee, sent an official NANPA response regarding the National Arboretum's proposed regulation to

Thomas S. Elias, Director  
U.S. National Arboretum  
Beltsville Area Agricultural Research Service  
3501 New York Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20002

In his response, Jess Lee voiced NANPA's support for P.L. 106-206 and indicated that NANPA feels the proposed fees violate this law.

In addition, Mr. Lee encouraged members to forward individual input on this proposal to Mr. Elias before the public comment period ends on February 18.

## CompactFlash Performance Database

Rob Galbraith has just updated his CompactFlash Performance Database. The following information comes from Rob's web site, <http://www.robgalbraith.com/> (choose CF Database link).

The CompactFlash Performance Database is a regularly updated compilation of write and read speed test results, vendor information and technical background designed to aid the serious and professional photographer in selecting camera storage media for a digital SLR. More and more vendors are jostling for position in an already crowded CompactFlash marketplace.

Major and minor players alike now ship cards with respectably fast write speeds. Prices have plummeted. While all of these changes add up to more choice for the pro digital SLR shooter, they also make it trickier than ever to select a card that is fast and reliable, from a company that stands behind their products.

As a result, the CompactFlash Performance Database includes information on several aspects of card performance. Write speed test results remain the centerpiece. As the write speed potential of CompactFlash has outstripped the pace at which most cameras can deliver data to the cards, real world performance differences between the write speed leaders has diminished greatly. In fact, there are now plenty of cards that come close to saturating the write interface of most digital SLR models currently available, though recent models from both Canon and Nikon show a potential reversal in this trend and an overall speed up in camera write interfaces generally.

## WILD HORSE TOURS

Wild Horse Tours contacted SANP to see if anyone was interested in a year-round 3-7 day, N.W. Colorado or S.W. Wyoming 4x4, fully guided tour, for a free roaming Bureau of Land Management, federally protected wild horse and landscape photography tour. They can also arrange just a 1-day sightseeing, photography tour. They are located only 50 miles from Steamboat Springs, Colorado. They use 4x4 vehicles to make it very easy on everyone. Three-day packages start at \$450 per person. If you are interested, contact **Jim Beall**, Wild Horse Tours, P.O. Box 1, Craig, CO 81626, phone 970.824.7369 or email [jbarb1@mindspring.com](mailto:jbarb1@mindspring.com). For additional information, visit their web site at <http://www.wildhorsetours.com>.

## "Shoot the Hills" Photo Competition

The 4th annual "Shoot the Hills" photo competition (<http://shootthehills.com>) will be held on April 15-17, 2005, in the Hocking Hills State Park near Logan Ohio. Entrants in the competition are given 24 hours to "shoot" the competition entries—from 1:00 p.m. on Friday, April 15th, to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 16th. After shooting one roll of color transparencies (slides) during the competition, the film will be processed and returned to photographers at the Hocking Hills Dining Lodge at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 17th.

Registered photographers will then choose their favorite 6 photos to compete in these outdoor photo categories: Landscape, Flora, Wildlife, People in Nature, Abstract, and "Photographers' Choice." More than \$5000 in prizes will be awarded to winners!

# **Southern Appalachian Nature Photographers**

**P.O. Box 32324**

**Knoxville, TN 37930-2324**

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- **President's Corner: Digital Klutz**
- **Information on photography tours, and competitions**

**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!