

### September Meeting:

## Duel in Death Valley—Ron McConathy and Clay Thurston

*Death Valley as seen by film and digital*

This month's presentation will be two views of Death Valley National Park in California presented by SANP members Ron McConathy and Clay Thurston. They visited Death Valley the week of March 21, 2005, and photographed the extraordinary wildflower bloom and unusual wet conditions that occurred. Clay shot slide film and Ron shot with digital. Clay had visited the Park several times, but it was Ron's first visit. Those present will be able to compare the images captured by these charter SANP members and hear a discussion of film and digital photography at the same location and during the same period of time. Come see who has the fastest draw in this duel!

Clay Thurston has been photographing for many years and sells his images at craft and art fairs in the southeast. He routinely wins awards when entering photographic competitions; the annual Dogwood Arts Photographic Competition is a good example. Visit [www.claythurston.com/home.cfm](http://www.claythurston.com/home.cfm) to view his works.

Ron McConathy, and wife Sharon, have worn out numerous cameras over the years. They frequently work together to create images and find that collaborating brings two viewpoints that often result in compositions they really like. Ron's photography began with a gift of a Brownie Hawkeye camera when he was a teenager, and he has been working on technique over the decades since. The McConathys have also sold their images at art shows in the southeast under their business name Aronsha. Their web site is at [www.aronsha.com](http://www.aronsha.com).

### Upcoming Meetings

- **October:** To be announced
- **November:** Jerry Greer
- **December:** No meeting

### Member News

Club member Sue Ramsey recently won two blue ribbons in the "portrait" category and the "other" category at the Appalachian Fair in Gray, Tennessee. Member Janice Duncan won 2nd place in the "skyscape" division. Congratulations to both!

*Don't be shy! Notify the newsletter editor, Ron McConathy ([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 in photography.*

### New Digital Camera Models Announced

*DP Review* website said that Canon, Olympus, and Nikon have just announced new digital camera models (9 Canon, 7 Olympus, and 5 Nikon models). Also Sony created quite a ripple in the digital photography pond when it announced the revolutionary Cyber-shot DSC-R1. The R1 is unique in that it is the first non-SLR to feature a "large" (APS-C sized) sensor. The R1 couples a 10.3 megapixel CMOS sensor (21.5 x 14.4 mm) with a dedicated non-removable 24-120 mm equivalent lens. *DP Review* consistently has good reviews of digital products. You can also subscribe to their weekly Digital Photography Review Newsletter to keep up on current information about digital photography equipment and products. Go to *DP Review* ([www.dpreview.com](http://www.dpreview.com)) to read about the new cameras and to subscribe.

### Canon CMOS Sensor Technology Website

Canon has launched a site promoting its CMOS sensor technology. This site is broken into four sections: Image capture, Technology, Full-frame appeal and Shooting options. It's an interesting insight into why Canon believes it has the edge in sensor technology and also exactly what goes on inside the sensor at the time of capture. Read more at [web.canon.jp/Imaging/cmoss/index-e.html](http://web.canon.jp/Imaging/cmoss/index-e.html).

**SANP Officers and Committee Chairs**

<b>President</b>	Lee Ownby	865.690.8460
<b>Treasurer</b>	Joyce Wilson	
<b>Secretary</b>	Margarete Ohnesorge	
<b>Membership</b>	Alice Reed	865.481.6237
<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 2006</b>	Alice Reed & Bob Epperson	
<b>Publicity</b>	Open (any volunteers?)	
<b>Web Site</b>	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](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 [mcconathy@aronsha.com](mailto:mcconathy@aronsha.com)

SANP mailing address:

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

**Equipment For Sale**

Contact **Lucy Scanlon**, 865.494.7654, for the following:

BOGEN 3001 tripod with 3028 head, lightly used—\$75.00

NIKON Series E f3.5 lens, 75-150mm — \$50.00

NIKKOR f4.5 lens, 300mm — \$150.00

PROMASTER Spectrum 7, f 1.4-5.6, auto-focus lens for Nikon, 70-210mm —\$75.00

NIKON N6006.auto-focus camera body — \$200.00

**Texas Shootout**

The Valley Land Fund in Texas has announced registration for the 2006 Wildlife Photo Contest. Registration will be ongoing through Feb. 28, 2006. The contest takes place April 1 - June 30, 2006. There will be \$100,000 in prizes. Visit [www.valleylandfund.com](http://www.valleylandfund.com) or call 956.686.6429 for updates, rules, and registration information.

**The President's Corner is vacant this month. Stay tuned next month to catch up with Lee Ownby and his unique view of life.**

**ACDSee Software Upgrade**

According to the Photo Marketing Association, more than 20 billion digital images will be taken this year in the United States alone. As cameras and camera phones create opportunities to shoot and store more pictures, it becomes increasingly difficult for enthusiasts to find, organize and share their digital photos. Family photo lovers, nature photo enthusiasts and creative amateurs alike are discovering they require advanced photo management capabilities when their photo collections exceed 500 photos. ACD Systems has announced Version 8 of its photo management software ACDSee. New features include a Quick Search bar, Photo Repair Tool, full IPTC metadata support, photo captioning and the ability to create VCD slideshows. IPTC metadata support allows photographers to add or edit caption, keyword, category and credit fields, and the Photo Repair function provides the ability to remove flares and lens scratches and fix red-eye. ACDSee 8 is available for \$49.99 or \$39.99 as an upgrade from ACDSee 7.

*[See article on page 3 on Cataloging Your Photographs.]*

**Ricoh GR Digital Announced**

—Ron McConathy

Ricoh has finally announced the 8 million-pixel GR Digital that echoes the styling of the 35mm analog GR series, which was popular with professionals and enthusiasts. The GR Digital is said to inherit the "superb image quality" from its analog brother. I own a film GR camera that is an outstanding pocket-sized 28mm (35 equivalent) lens camera. The GR Digital could be an awesome camera if Ricoh has included equally good digital features. Consider it as a possible high-quality backup to your digital SLR. For more information go to [www.dpreview.com/news/0509/05091301ricoh\\_gr.asp](http://www.dpreview.com/news/0509/05091301ricoh_gr.asp).

"The artist is the confidant of nature, flowers carry on dialogues with him through the graceful bending of their stems and the harmoniously tinted nuances of their blossoms. Every flower has a cordial word, which nature directs towards him." —August Rodin

## Cataloging Your Photographs

— Ron McConathy

If you are like me, the joy of photography comes while shooting the pictures, either in the field or in the studio. Reviewing the images from a day's shoot can be gratifying. And fine-tuning the best shots in a chemical or digital darkroom often brings a high measure of satisfaction. What fun!

A year or two after that great day in the field, however, I need an image to share with a friend or to make a sale. Can I find it? The answer is based on how well I have stored and cataloged my images. Notice the two parts to the previous sentence: "storage" and "cataloging."

"Storage" involves preserving the image (film, print, or digital file) safely over time. "Cataloging" is creating a system that lets me locate the image when I need it. Most of us know how to store photos. If we are unsure, the web provides links to a wealth of information on this topic. Cataloging, however, may be a different matter. It would be impossible to cover all the details involved with cataloging in this short article, so my purpose here is simply to awaken your desire to manage your image collection better.

While I recorded images on slides and negatives, I stored the originals in boxes or albums labeled with the subject and date, such as "Summer vacation, 1987." This approach met my needs, but as the number of boxes and albums grew, the method became cumbersome. Finding that mating elk picture was time-consuming and frustrating. Once I began scanning my slides and then shooting digital images, both my storage and cataloging needs changed—electronic ones and zeros can't be kept in a box, unless it happens to be an external hard drive!

Image management begins in the field when the picture is made. Record place and people names in a notebook as you shoot. A small digital camera is useful for photographing signs. You might want to use a voice recorder for storing important information, if you don't mind transcribing the information.

Establishing a work flow for your images is also important. The first step is learning to use a waste basket or the delete key to eliminate those that will never be used. Another important step is deciding on an organization scheme. You can organize by date, subject, or geographic location.

Sorting into categories can be useful for both slides and digital files. The bird photographer might put all raptor images in one binder or in a computer directory structure named Birds/Raptors. Let's say you have a slide of an eagle landing on a spruce branch in Denali National Park, Alaska, in September 2004 with Mt. Denali in the background. This image might be filed under "Eagles," "Sept 2004," "Alaska," or "Denali N.P." The dominant theme of the picture often determines best how it is filed.

For digital files, imagine your computer hard drive as a filing cabinet. Each drawer, or computer directory, is labeled as a main category (e.g., Birds). Within each drawer, or directory, are folders, or subdirectories, that represent subcategories (e.g., Birds/Raptors and Birds/Woodpeckers). The subcategories, or subdirectories, could be divided further into species (e.g., Birds/Raptors/Bald Eagle and Birds/Woodpeckers/Red-Bellied).

You may be more comfortable with a different organizational scheme. Some people prefer naming their directories with the date (e.g., 2005-08-30 for Aug. 30, 2005). The date can be appended with a location to give more information (e.g., 2005-08-30 Cades Cove). Choose a system that makes sense to you and stick to it.

Once you have an organizational scheme, it's time to consider an image numbering system so that each image has a unique identifier that is written on the slide mount or becomes the image file name. One solution is to label images by subject (e.g., BR-BE-0001 for Bird, Raptor, Bald Eagle, image 1; or DNP-WL-0001 for Denali N.P., Wildlife, image 1). A solution for digital shooters is to take the number the camera generates and modify it slightly (e.g., IMG-8366.jpg becomes 040830-8366.jpg, where the first six numbers are the year, month, and day). Using the yymmdd date format allows the computer to sort the images in the time sequence they were made.

These web sites offer additional ideas on numbering schemes:

- [www.nscspro.com/useful.htm](http://www.nscspro.com/useful.htm)
- [wmuma.com/photography/filingsystem.html](http://wmuma.com/photography/filingsystem.html)
- [www.wildlifphoto.net/articles/workflow.html](http://www.wildlifphoto.net/articles/workflow.html)

The best solution for cataloging images stored in electronic format, however, is a computer database program, which keeps track of the physical location of each image on your storage media and lets you search for what you need by keywords that you have assigned to the images. A number of good programs are available: ACDSsee, iView MediaPro, Portfolio, and Photoshop Album are just a few. In fact, most any software program used to catalog your image collection is better than none at all. Based on my experience, the sooner you start using a cataloging system, the better. The longer you wait, the more daunting the task becomes!

Select a cataloging program that has a flexible keyword system and searches on words in image captions and file names as well. This searching ability is the real power of today's cataloging programs. For example, the eagle picture mentioned above could be described with any or all of the following keywords: eagle, birds, raptor, spruce, Denali, National Park, Alaska, September, 2004, Mt. Denali, mountain.

When selecting keywords, use nouns and adjectives separately. Instead of entering "purple phlox," use "purple" and "phlox" as two keywords or "flying" and "squirrel." This ensures that your overall keyword list is smaller. Proper names such as "Cades Cove" are probably better left as is.

If you have entered your images into a cataloging program and labeled each one with appropriate keywords, you can search on any of these keywords to find all the images that match. The program knows exactly where you stored the images, and the search results come back very quickly. It is like reaching into a basket of loose slides and instantly pulling out the exact 2 or 3 that you want.

Image collections of 1 to 1000 images can usually be managed manually without too much trouble, by hand-searching through categorized slide boxes. Larger image collections become difficult to search manually. A cataloging program can be a time and sanity saver. Start using cataloging software for your image collection now. Once you adopt a system, use it faithfully, and you'll never wonder where that image of the mating elk is again!

## **Southern Appalachian Nature Photographers**

**P.O. Box 32324**

**Knoxville, TN 37930-2324**

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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!