

SANP Newsletter

May 2023

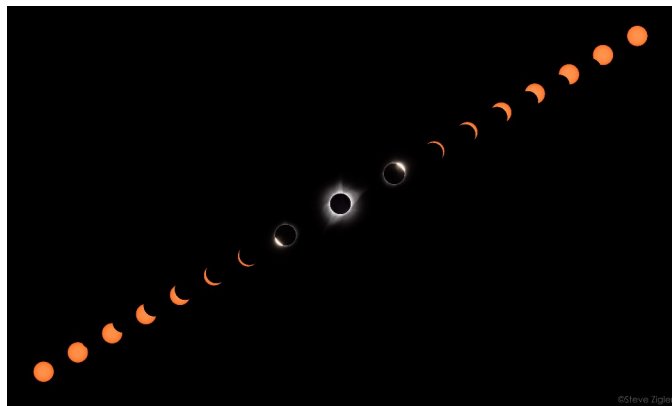
*Sharing the Awareness
of Nature
Through Photography*

Total Solar Eclipse. © Steve Zigler

May Meeting — Tuesday, May 23rd 7:00 PM, at the Watershed Building, Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church, featuring Steve Zigler

Join us on May 23rd for our monthly club meeting at the Watershed Building at Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church. Steve Zigler will be our presenter.

Social time begins at 6:30 PM, followed by the meeting at 7 PM. Come early and enjoy the opportunity to mingle with club members and chat nature photography with us. Friends are always welcome. We look forward to seeing you on the 23rd.



The Solar Eclipses of 2023 and 2024

Steve Zigler

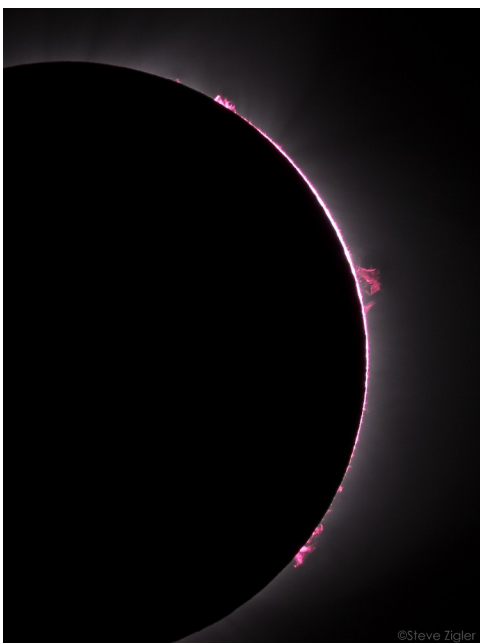


As a photographer living in East Tennessee, you probably remember what you were doing on August 21, 2017. That was the date millions watched a rare and spectacular total eclipse of the sun. If you were lucky, you may have even captured some memorable pictures of totality. If not, don't worry because you're going to get another chance on April 8, 2024! That is when a total eclipse of the sun will cut a path right through the heart of the United States from Texas to Maine. On that day, the moon will pass between the sun and the earth, casting a shadow that will completely block the sun for more than four minutes! That's almost twice the length of totality as the 2017 eclipse. That's huge!

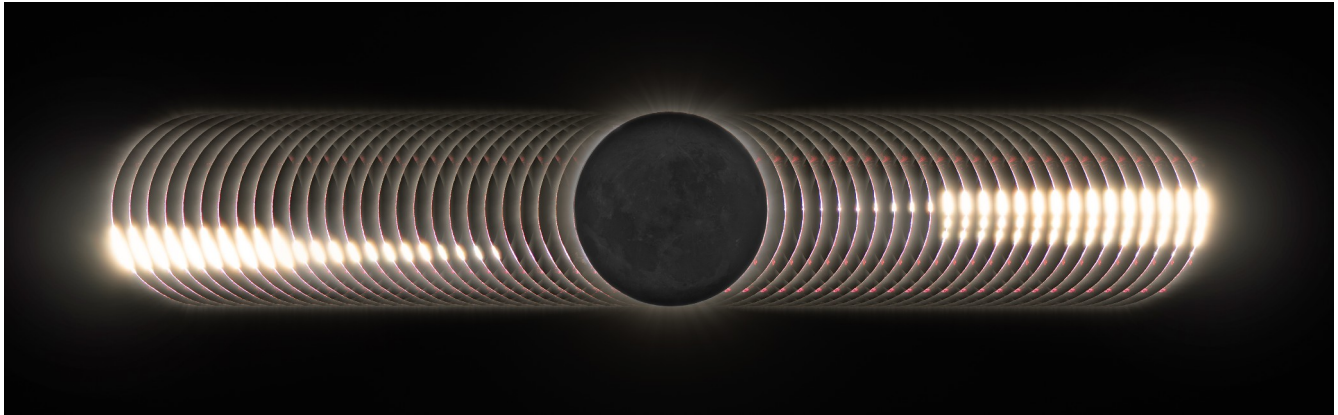
The 2024 eclipse will require a little extra effort for East Tennesseans since totality will pass west of us, just grazing the northwest tip of the state. If 2024 seems too long to wait, we can warm up with an annular solar eclipse on October 14, 2023. An annular solar eclipse is a unique type of partial eclipse when the moon *almost* blocks the sun except for a thin ring around the edges. A view of annularity during this eclipse will require a trip to the southwest United States. Although they lack the spectacular moment of totality, annular eclipses are still exciting photographic opportunities. And this is a great way practice for 2024!

In this program, I'll share my personal experiences and photographs from the 2017 eclipse as well as the 2019 eclipse that passed across central Chile. If these eclipses taught me anything about eclipse photography, it is be prepared! After my talk, I hope you'll be inspired to do just that!

All images © Steve Zigler



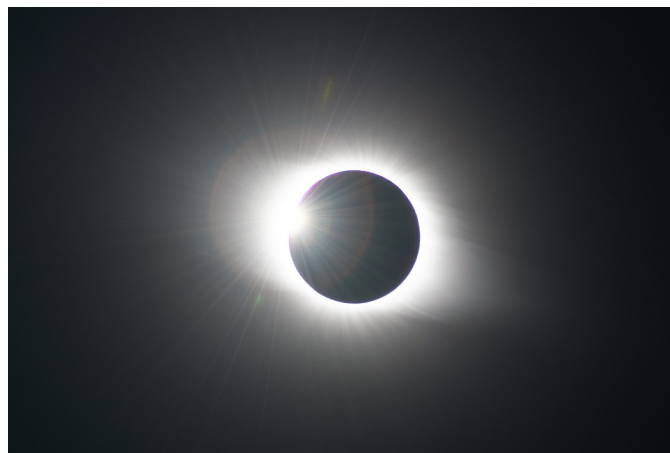
Solar Eclipse (cont.)



Bailey's Sequence--Corona and Moon. © Steve Zigler

About Steve Zigler

Steve's journey in photography began at the age of 11 when his uncle gave him a Pentax Spotmatic 35 mm SLR. He still has that camera. Steve's experience evolved significantly in 2002 with the purchase of his first digital camera. Since then, he has dabbled in various genres of photography, including color, B&W, infrared, deep sky astrophotography, solar eclipse imaging, and time lapse. Steve has studied with Marc Adamus, Guy Tal, Marsel Van Oosten, Ignacio Palacio, Alister Benn, Daniel Kordan, and many other accomplished photographers. He travels extensively, focusing on amazing landscapes wherever he can find them in east Tennessee, the US, and across the globe. His simple mission is to touch the hearts and minds of people around the world through photography to help them connect with themselves, the planet, and the universe. Steve photographed his first total solar eclipse in 2017 from a remote hayfield near Guernsey, Wyoming. Steve's second eclipse experience took place in central Chile in 2019. Steve's ambitious goal is to spend 20 cumulative minutes in totality under the shadow of the moon.



© Steve Zigler

SANP Photo Challenge

The May Photo Challenge competition focused on photographing wildflowers *in situ* in East Tennessee. Congratulations to the winners!

First Place: Jack Benhayon (top right)

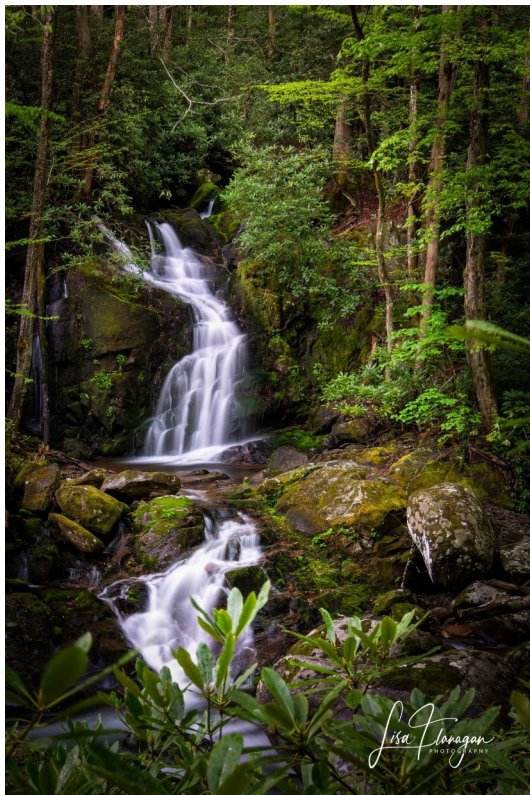
Second Place (3-way tie): Judith Marquand (top left), Helen McNutt (bottom left), Jack Benhayon (bottom right)



The next Photo Challenge will be in August.
Stay tuned for more information.

SANP Field Events

In recent weeks SANP members have joined field event coordinator Dale Potter for outings to Big Creek in Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Gupton Wetlands at TVA's Lakeshore Park in Roane County. Field events are a great way to meet club members, enjoy the camaraderie of being outdoors together, exchange ideas about techniques and equipment, and just have fun. Thanks to all who shared photos from recent field events on the [SANP Facebook page](#).



Above: SANP members at Big Creek Field Event, © Lisa Flanagan

Left: Mouse Creek Falls, © Lisa Flanagan

Below: Osprey Flying Over Pond, © Bill Gelsleichter

Upcoming field events:

May 27th – Ramsey Cascades is open
May 28th – Cades Cove Morning Walk
June 16th – Gregory Bald for the Azaleas

Details and registration are on the Events page on the SANP website.

Events

Contact Dale Potter with questions.

dalepotter55@gmail.com



Nature Photography Tips and Techniques

Being Steady Can Be Boring by Ron McConathy

Since I began photographing over 65 years ago (OMG, has it been that long?!), there has been this voice in my head telling me to breath slowly, tuck my elbows to the side of my chest, and hold the camera steady when the shutter release is pressed. That voice is hardwired and triggers automatically. Recently, however, I've been learning the intentional camera movement (ICM) technique, which basically means moving my camera while the camera shutter is open. This isn't easy to do, especially when that automatic voice in my head is screaming for me to hold the camera steady.

Even though ICM photography is not that common, it has been around for years. It is done by deliberately moving the camera during an exposure and can be used for creating images with an abstract/artistic look. ICM photography goes beyond the literal capture of a subject and creates a new world invisible to our normal vision. It is not just a camera technique but a new style of photographic expression that can resemble paintings—particularly watercolor, early impressionism, or abstract impressionism. ICM compositions use shapes, colors, tones, leading lines, textures, etc., in an artistic way.

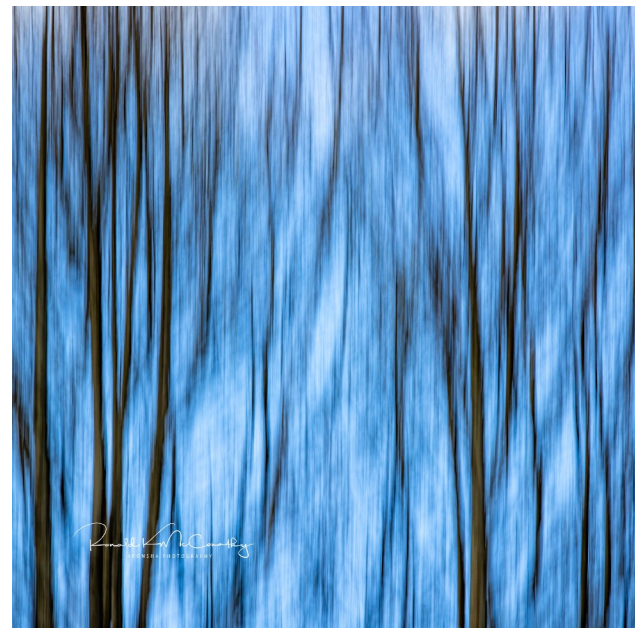
Because ICM images can be made at almost any time of the day and at any location, this technique can be a way to photograph when traditional photographic conditions don't work.

All images © Ron McConathy



Above: Maple leaves – jiggle & multiple exposure

Below: bare tree branches against a blue sky – vertical swipe



Tips & Techniques (cont.)

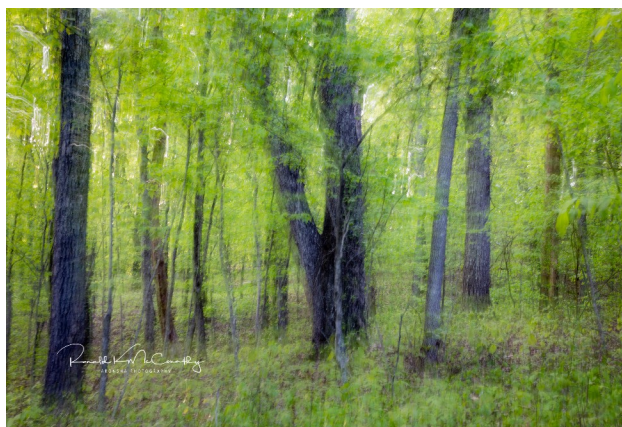


Rocks in the Pond: before and after ICM applied

Finnish photographer Kaisa Sirén (<https://www.kaisasiren.fi>) says, “ICM photography is not a random or accidental movement of the camera but controlled moves in order to create the desired image and atmosphere.” UK-based impressionist landscape photographer Andrew Gray (<https://andrewgray.photography/>) is one of the few photographers who has mastered the art of impressionistic ICM, and he says he gets inspiration directly from the paintings of artistic masters.

Photographers have been conditioned (consciously or not) to believe that photographs document, rather than reimagine or interpret, the world. So creating a photograph that looks like a blurry, abstract image can be challenging and difficult. In addition, other photographers may not know how to react to your ICM images.

Andrew Gray said, “If you are new to the technique, you might struggle to fully let go of everything you’ve learned about photography previously. I see that many people find it hard to lay down their tripods, their sharpness, their latest and greatest gear acquisitions, and their properly exposed captures. Also, having the kind of eye and mind that can spot potential in a streak of light or a blob of color helps, (as does) the kind of eye that sees recognizable shapes in clouds, etc. Whether it is one of those things you are born with or you develop it over time—I’m not sure about. It will take time, hard work, and experimentation both in the field and in post-processing to get below the surface of it all.”



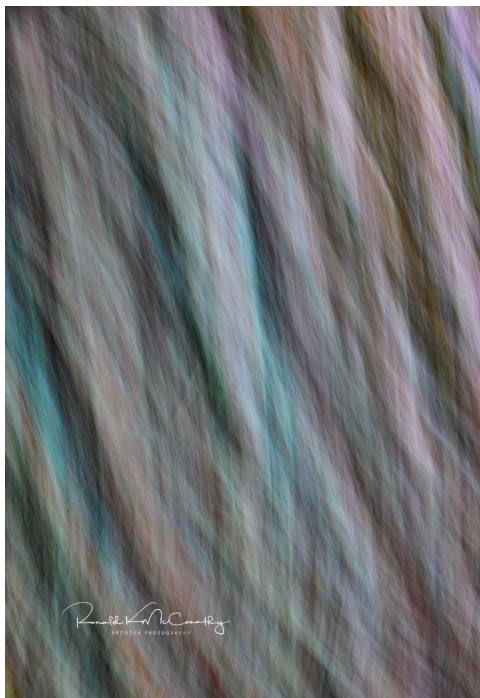
Forest trees – Jiggle & zoom out

Tips & Techniques (cont.)



High-quality photographic equipment is not needed for ICM photography. Any camera that allows you to control f-stop, shutter speed, and ISO will work. Any focal-length lens will work, and each focal length can give a different effect. ICM usually uses relatively slow shutter speeds of around 1-2 sec, so the typical camera settings used are large f-stop numbers and low ISO settings. Overcast days are ideal for ICM, since bright light conditions might require the use of a neutral density (ND) filter to allow the slower shutter speeds.

ICM photographers rarely make just one image, since many attempts are usually required to capture that one magical photo. It is best to shoot in RAW to capture as many pixels as possible. A high-capacity memory card is helpful because you don't want to delete any ICM images in camera. ICM images often come alive in post-processing through adjustments of clarity, texture, exposure, etc. Extra memory cards and batteries may be needed in the camera bag.



Maryland-based photographer Lori Lankford (<https://www.lorilankford.com>) says, "Often I will take 25-50 photos at one location and have one or two that I keep. Every shot taken with ICM will be different. Adjust your settings as you work with the scene."

Camera setting recommendations include:

1. Turning OFF lens image stabilization so it doesn't fight your intentional movements.
2. Turning OFF autofocus since it can interfere with the shutter release.
3. Using the shutter priority mode and setting the desired shutter speed or using the manual mode.

With ICM, just about anything you want to do can work. ICM is an experimental form of photography. You are the artist and if you like the results, that's all that matters.

Top left: Cedar Branches – Vertical swipe

Bottom left: Sassafras tree trunk bark – Vertical swipe & jiggle

Tips & Techniques (cont.)

Creative photographer Charlotte Bellamy (www.charlottebellamy.com) advises, “Don't forget the basics. It's easy to get wrapped up in making ‘an ICM’ image—but the most captivating ICM images are those that still contain a balance, good exposure, a point of interest, and good composition. So don't throw away everything you have learned from other photography genres—use the awareness of these elements to create an ICM that grabs the viewer and asks for their attention that little bit longer.”

Charlotte Bellamy continues, “My ICM images are all about looking for contrasts—this could be light/dark, hard/soft, straight/wiggly, color/black-and-white, and opposing colors on the color wheel. I look for these elements in what I am photographing and then concentrate on bringing these contrasting points to the fore in my images.”

However, overly bright or dark areas in the composition attract the viewer's attention and can indicate the direction of camera's movement, and this can be a distraction.

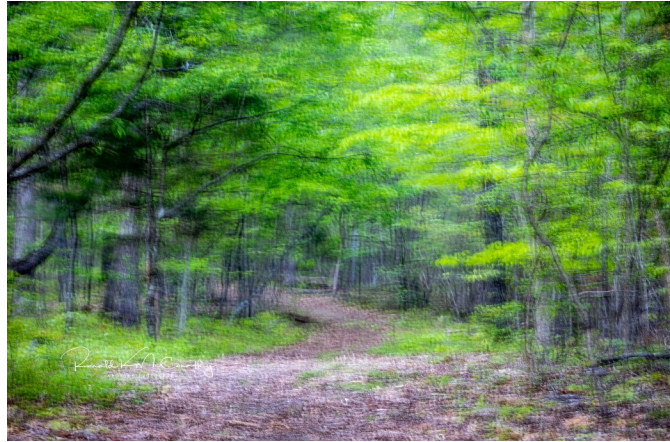
A shutter speed that is long enough to achieve the ICM blurring effects is necessary. In bright light, use a neutral density filter. ICM is optimum on dark, cloudy, and dim moody days when other photographers start heading for home.

Below are some classic techniques used in ICM photography. Be aware that all of these can be combined for unique effects.

1. Shutter release: When to press the shutter, before or after the camera movement is started, makes a difference. ‘Before’ allows a smooth image and ‘after’ records a hint of the starting point.
2. Movements: Camera movements can be described as swipes, swoops, shakes, zooms, twists, jiggles, swirls, wiggles, twitches, etc. You can come up with a unique name for your type of motion.
3. Panning: Follow a moving subject with the camera and then add additional camera movements for effect.
4. Orientation: Move the camera vertically for tall subjects, such as trees. Move horizontally for landscape subjects, such as beaches or horizons. The speed of the camera movement can create different effects. It is best to start with small movements.
5. Lines: Look for obvious lines in the scene, and then use camera movements to accentuate them.
6. Variety: Start simply. As you gain experience, try combining different camera motions to create different artistic effects.

Do you need more challenge? Try adding in-camera double or multiple exposures along with ICM. This can create unique and interesting images.

Tips & Techniques (cont.)



Path in the Forest - Jiggle

ICM is a highly creative form of photography, and each photographer's vision of a scene can be captured in a totally unique image. An ICM image cannot be duplicated from shutter click to shutter click.

"ICM is about emotion. Feel the images you are making. Don't obsess about slight imperfections. Painters embrace the splashes, runs, and dribbles on a canvas—they inject life and feeling into a piece of art. The same is true of ICM images. It is the unexpected, the imperfect, the serendipitous that makes ICM work so special. Let go. Enjoy not being encumbered by a tripod. Free yourself from the 'rules' of photography and see where the images take you. Just have fun!" — Doug Chinnery (Doug Chinnery Photographic Expressionism, www.dougchinnery.com)

You can find more information about ICM photography on the internet and YouTube. Look at the photographer's web pages referenced above for examples and inspiration.

I hope you are encouraged to try ICM. A future SANP Photography Challenge will use ICM photography as its challenge. The accompanying photos are my initial attempts at ICM photography, so please judge them gently.

See Ron's collection of ICM images at
[Aronsha Photography: ICM \(Intentional Camera Movement\)](#)

SANP Image Salon 2023

Guess What It Is Almost Time For?

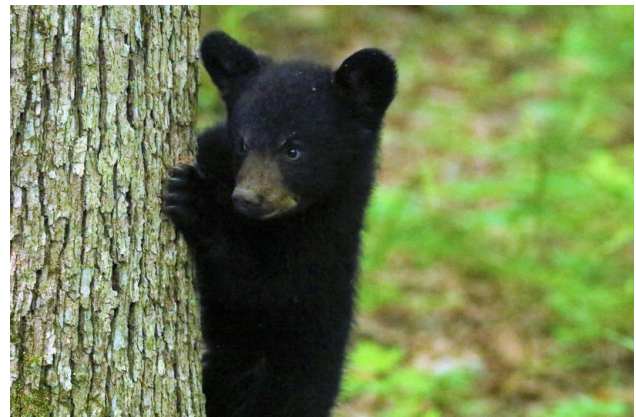
By Dale Potter

It is almost time for the SANP Salon. Yes, you will start submitting images in September for Digital and Print. While there may be some tweaking to the Salon before the date for submitting entries, the rules for the Digital and Print Salon are available on the SANP website. If you haven't reviewed them, you should.

We have heard a few complaints about prints having to be matted and that increase the costs for prints. Unfortunately, prints have always cost more to enter. That is why some have never entered prints in the SANP Salon. Think about how much your camera, lenses, tripods, processing and other camera equipment cost. Prints are only a small percent of what your equipment cost in addition to online and in person workshops you attend. For those that want to avoid the cost of prints the Digital Salon is the route for you. Prints must be matted this year. That has been the rule for years. We were lax on enforcing it. That was our fault. You can always give away or sell your prints that you enter. I had a couple of prints that did not win anything but resulted in someone offering to purchase at a generous price. I gave them as a gift.

You should start reviewing the categories for the Salon. Think about what images you want to enter and what images you would need to take this year. If you are interested in bears. There are plenty of bears out in Cades Cove this year. You need to check them out. Long lens is needed for most from the road. There are more out this time than last May.

Please don't chase the mama bears with cubs. There is an area that has been marked closed due to some photographers dressed in full camos, with the really long lens, and some wearing fancy knee pads that were warned by the park staff and they continued to pursue the mama and her cubs early the next morning. There were five that I saw the afternoon of May 4th that were part of the group. Part of the group was from out of state. Whether they were part of a photography tour group or had local contacts I do not know. They knew where they were going in the off-trail areas. The volunteer ranger that I was chatting with while photographing a bear was still irate with the group. He spent most of the time ranting about how bad the group had chased the mama and her cubs for two days and that the park was going to close the area. It has been closed.



Bear Cub. © Will Williams

SANP Salon (cont.)

If you are looking for flowers to photograph, the mountain laurel is blooming and can be seen from the road in several places including the Foothills Parkway going toward the Dragon. Rhododendron will be in bloom soon. You can always check out the Cherohala Skyway for flowers and vistas. The Turks Cap lily will be blooming possibly late July or early August.

If you are wanting to do night photography, the weather is warming up so those late nights will not be as chilly. There are all types of landscape options available between now and September.

If you are interested in waterfalls, the trail to Ramsey Cascade is now open. Ramsey Cascade is the waterfall that you have seen and may still see on several of the Coke machines in Gatlinburg and Sevierville area.

New this year to the Salon will be a scanner that can detect whether the camera was a Canon or Nikon. It is almost a sure thing that Canon entries will beat all those Z9s and Z8s that some of you have invested in.

Start thinking about the Salon and what you are interested in entering. September will be here soon. Digital images must be submitted no later than September 23rd. Prints must be entered no later than October 9th.

Take advantage of the weather and get out use that camera, Start focusing on your ideas for the Salon.



Snowy Owl on a Dune. Honorable Mention, Black & White Wildlife Category, 2022 Print Image Salon. © Edward Stickle

SANP Members Corner

Have You Been to the Library Lately?

Improvements in photo technology and processing are happening every day. How can you keep up with the new developments? A good place to begin is the SANP website. The “Advice from the Pros” feature on the home page is the gateway to a library of more than a hundred tutorials, videos, webinars, and blog posts by professional photographers. Each entry is packed full of valuable techniques, tips, and tools to help you improve your photography. The library is accessible to SANP members only.

Advice From the Pros



Left Center: Sunset at Favàritx Lighthouse, Menorca Spain. © Nawras Baban
Bottom Left: Cataloochee Divide Cows. © Donna Silvey
Top Right: Dogwoods along the Middle Prong. © Jack Benhayon
Center Right: Meadowlark near Hyatt Lane. © Douglas Wielfaert

SANP Members Corner (cont.)

Welcome New Members!

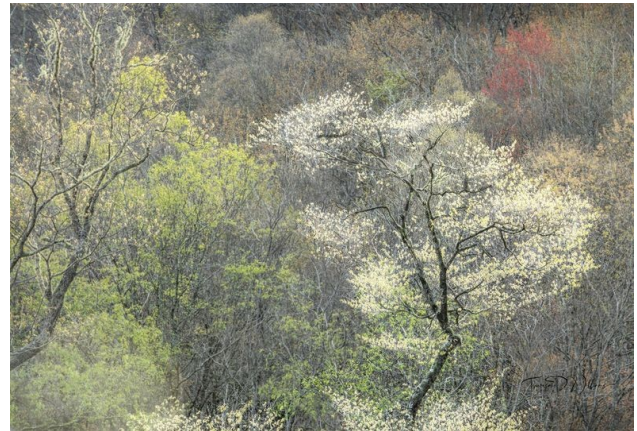
We are delighted to welcome the following new members to the club this spring:

Amy Arnold joins us from Knoxville. Welcome!

Steven Madden is also from Knoxville. He is a self-professed *hikographer*—one who captures photos while hiking using a smart phone. He shares his photos on his website: [In My Treks](#)

Pamela Schwartz is a retired financial planner from Knoxville. She loves hiking, photography, and Photoshop.

Welcome to SANP. We're glad you're here!



Left: Bluebird Feeding Her Young. © Jeff Parlow

Top Right: Spring in the Blue Ridge Mountains. © Theresa Williams

Bottom Right: Groundhogs on the Alcoa Greenway. © Randy Puckett

Upcoming Club Meetings

May 23 rd	Steve Zigler
June 27 th	TBA
November 17th	Salon & Banquet

SANP Officers

President: Ed Stickle
 Vice President: David Boruff
 Secretary: Ann Barber
 Secretary's Assistant: Jack Benhayon
 Treasurer: Sharon Cottrell

Volunteer Managers

Community Outreach: Ron Sentell
 Field Events: Dale Potter
 Librarian: Ann Barber
 Membership: Brad Cottrell
 Newsletter: Kristina Plaas
 Photo Challenges: Ron McConathy
 Programs: Kendall Chiles
 Salon: Ed Stickle
 Social Media: Chris Cannon
 Website: Shawn Grant
 Workshops: Open

Board of Directors

The board meets on the 2nd Monday
 each month

2021-2023:	Chris Cannon David Boruff Marcy Wielfaert
2022-2024:	Jack Benhayon Yvonne Dalschen Clay Thurston
2023-2025:	Bob Howdeshell Dale Potter Jerry Whaley

It's More Fun with You!

Joining or renewing your SANP
 membership is easy. Visit the website and
 renew your membership today. Bring a friend
 with you!

Join SANP



*Kenya's Maasai Mara National Park. © Marcy
 Wielfaert*

Camera Club Council of Tennessee (3CT)

SANP is a member of 3CT, a network of camera
 clubs across Tennessee and neighboring states.
 Their monthly newsletter is filled with
 information about meetings and events for
 member clubs. Details can be found on their
 website www.3ct.org or on Facebook at
[https://www.facebook.com/CameraClubCouncil
 OfTennessee](https://www.facebook.com/CameraClubCouncilOfTennessee)