

Springtime in the Smokies Photography Workshop

April 21-24, 2017

Tentative Workshop Schedule

(actual schedule depends on weather & light conditions)

FRIDAY April 21

Sunset @ 8:13 pm

- 1:00-5:00 Check in
- 3:00-5:00 Presentation: "Fundamentals of Photography in the Field" (Tom)
- 5:15-6:00 Presentation: "Macro & Focus Stacking" (Sue)
- 6:00 Supper
- 7:00-7:15 Welcome & Orientation: Tremont
- 7:15-8:00 Welcome & Class Introductions (Bill)
- 8:00-8:15 Break
- 8:15-9:15 Presentation: "My Approach to Nature Photography Over the Last Year" (Bill)

SATURDAY April 22

Sunrise @ 6:54 am Sunset @ 8:14 pm

- 5:15 – 9:30 Field Session/Picnic Breakfast (Foothills Parkway)
- 9:30 –10:15 Return to Tremont & Break
- 10:15-11:10 Presentation: "The Indoor Side of Outdoor Photography" (Jeff)
- 11:10-11:30 Break
- 11:30-12:25 Presentation: "Wildlife Photography" (Todd)
- 12:30 Lunch at Tremont
- 1:30-3:00 Birds of prey field session with birds of prey (Todd)
- 3:15-7:00 Evening Field Session/Box Dinner (Tremont)
- 7:30-8:20 Presentation: "Lessons from Ansel Adams for the Digital Age" (Steve)

SUNDAY April 23

Sunrise @ 6:52 am Sunset @ 8:14 pm

- 5:15 Field Session/Picnic Breakfast at Cades Cove
- 11:00-12:00 Prepare images for Group Review
- 12:30 Lunch at Tremont
- 1:30-2:00 Finish preparing images for Group Review
- 2:00-4:00 Group Review of participants' work
- 4:15-Dark Evening Field Session/Box Dinner (Cades Cove, Elkmont, Tremont)

MONDAY April 24

Sunrise @ 6:51 am

- 6:00 Breakfast (biscuits-to-go available)
- 7:00-11:00 Optional Shoot (Cades Cove, Elkmont, Tremont, or Foothills)**
- 11:00-12:00 Presentation: "Wrap-Up" (Tom & Bill)

****Please remove all personal items from the lodge BEFORE leaving for optional field session Monday morning. The dorm will be cleaned and locked before your return.**

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ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

Weather:

The average daily high over the last five years for April was 75° F and the average daily low was 42° F here in Walker Valley. Of course, average means it's been a bit warmer and a bit colder, so be prepared by dressing in layers. It can be cold in those pre-dawn hours, and even a little breeze can make it feel even colder. Rain gear is always necessary in the Smokies, as are gloves and a hat. Again, dress in layers.

Things to Anticipate:

We expect spring to be in full bloom at this time of year. Come prepared to shoot close-ups, wildlife, sunrises/sunsets, scenery and more. We will alternate lecture/presentations with field sessions, being out in the field during the best light times of the day. Expect to get up early in the mornings! ***Bring a flashlight for before dawn and after sunset. It's dark at Tremont!***

We would like to get to a variety of areas in the park. This can be a busy time of year for park visitation, so we have planned not to compete with traffic too much. We'll try not to drive more than an hour one way, but we ask that you be willing to carpool to our field destinations. We will have a van available to minimize this necessity, but it will not eliminate the need to carpool.

We maintain a student to instructor ratio of about 1 to 8. This allows for the all-important aspect of working directly with all the instructors and not getting lost in a crowd.

During the workshop, there will be several opportunities to review images you've made during the field sessions. We will also need three images taken during the workshop for the Group Review session the last day. If at all possible, please bring your laptop and card reader so you can download your photos throughout the weekend.

In addition to the list of suggested items to bring in Your Visit to Tremont, please also bring:

CAMERA GEAR CHECKLIST

Here are some things you should bring. (Important: there are no camera stores in the Smokies!) Fortunately, you probably won't need to buy anything special for this workshop. Remember, you can always rent what you don't own—a great way to test before you buy.

- ___ **Camera** – DSLR or point-and-shoot.
- ___ **Memory Card(s)** – One or more clean memory cards. (No camera stores are close by!)
- ___ **Lenses for DSLR** – Consider normal, wide, telephoto, and macro options.
- ___ **Lens Hoods** – Or some way to block light from your lens.
- ___ **Camera Manual** – This will help instructors help you.
- ___ **Tripod** – This is the most important item on the list, after your camera. Best tripods are versatile, easy to use, & tall enough. Trust us; you'll learn to love using your tripod if it's good! A good tripod is #1 on the wish list of every participant who doesn't already own one.
- ___ **Tripod Head** – Best if it can be used for both vertical & horizontal compositions.
- ___ **Batteries** – Bring spare(s) if you have one (them). (Remember—no camera stores there.)
- ___ **Battery Charger** – To recharge your camera batteries at night.
- ___ **Remote Shutter Release** – With cord or wireless. Very helpful.
- ___ **Polarizing Filter** – If you don't own a circular polarizer, it's worth buying one.
- ___ **Neutral Density Filters** – For slowing shutter speeds, especially for water. Optional.
- ___ **Graduated ND Filters** – For selective darkening, especially for bright skies. Optional.
- ___ **Flashlight or Headlamp** – For pre-dawn field sessions, & for getting around Tremont before sunrise and after sunset. (It's really dark there.)
- ___ **Backpack, Camera Bag, or Belt System** – To carry your gear with you into the field.

COMPUTER GEAR CHECKLIST

___ **Laptop** – With software to post-process, or at least view, your images. We recommend you calibrate your laptop if you can. *NOTE: If you don't own a laptop or don't want to travel with one, one can be rented for \$50 for the weekend. Requests must be made to the GSMIT office no later than two weeks prior to the workshop.*

___ **Laptop Charger** – There are no computer stores in the Smokies, either!

___ **Card Reader** – Best choice. 2nd choice is a cable to directly download from your camera.

___ **Thumb or Flash USB Drive** – For transferring images for critique. We'll have some in case you don't.

FIELD GEAR CHECKLIST

Remember, you're in the mountains, so temperature and weather conditions can change quickly and often. Better to be prepared. Always dress in layers, and always be prepared for precipitation.

___ **Rain Gear** – Umbrella, rain suit, rain hat, and a cover for your camera.

___ **Gloves** – Preferably ones you that can still operate your camera while wearing.

___ **Hat** – For sun shield, for warmth, for rain, or to block sun from your lens.

___ **Ground Cloth** – For lying on the ground for macro work.

___ **Knee Pads** – For macro work.

___ **Flashlight or Headlamp** – For pre-dawn field sessions & for getting around Tremont in the dark. (Remember, it's really dark!)

___ **Water Bottle** – Can be refilled at Tremont. No bottled water or soft drinks available at Tremont. Needed for water with meals in the field.

___ **Thermos or Thermal Mug** – Coffee and hot water & tea bags available at Tremont, and first morning in the field.

Suggested Readings:

Your camera manual. The better you know how your camera works, the more creative you can be. But this workshop will also be a great time to learn more about how and when to use some of the features on your camera. Just be sure to *bring* your manual so we can help you with your specific camera model.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: *John Shaw's Guide to Digital Nature Photography* by John Shaw. This is the long-awaited follow-up to John's classic ***Nature Photographer's Complete Guide to Professional Field Techniques***. It is available in paperback and as an e-book. Even if you never read another photography book, please read this one. Invaluable.

Digital Landscape Photography by John and Barbara Gerlach. While "landscape" is in the title, this highly readable book is a great guide to any outdoor digital photography. It has the benefit of being written to specifically take advantage of all digital has to offer the nature photographer. Available in paperback or electronically.

The Ultimate Guide to Digital Nature Photography by The Mountain Trail Photo Team (including Bill Lea). Like the Gerlach's book, the gorgeous photographs and clear text both explain and demonstrate the digital photographic techniques that will allow you to capture what you visualize.

The Art, Science, and Craft of Great Landscape Photography by Glenn Randall. A great book for more advanced photographers, Glenn describes how weather, geography, and optics work, and how to incorporate them into your photography. He also describes his system for composing a photograph. Available as an e-book or paperback.

YOUR INSTRUCTORS

Bill Lea has been photographing in the Smokies since 1975, which has afforded him limitless opportunities to observe and record the flora, fauna, and scenery of the region. Capturing intimate images of wildlife, scenery, wildflowers, and a variety of other natural subjects in “just the right light” has long been the trademark of Bill’s photography. He may best be known for his artistic documentation of deer and bear behavior, the various moods of the Great Smoky Mountains, the Florida Everglades and southern ecosystems. He has been teaching photo workshops in the Great Smoky Mountains since 1989 and leads photo tours to other destinations. More than 7,000 of Bill’s photos have appeared in hundreds of publications. He has authored three coffee-table books: *Great Smoky Mountains Wildlife Portfolio*, *Cades Cove – Window to a Secret World* (in its fourth printing), and his most recent *The Everglades – Where Wonders Only Whisper*. He has co-authored *Great Smoky Mountains Wonder & Light*, *The Ultimate Guide to Digital Nature Photography*, and others. Bill believes that learning to recognize quality of light is the secret to successful photography. To see more of Bill’s artistic work, please visit his website at www.BillLea.com or at www.Facebook.com/BillLeaPhotography/.

Jeff Miller has immersed himself in digital photography, even before its explosive growth in the last several years. Beginning with early computer graphics in 1975 and following with several degrees in technology and management, Jeff’s career focused on technical communication as an analyst, manager, writer, editor, and instructor. More recently, Jeff has combined his experience in digital technologies with his creative passion for nature and landscape photography. Inspired by the natural beauty of the Blue Ridge and the Great Smokies, Jeff has exhibited award-winning images in over a dozen venues, including the Pisgah National Forest, the Biltmore House, and several galleries from Asheville to Greensboro. Jeff’s published photography has appeared in the 2005 Cradle of Forestry calendar, in relocation guides, and on the covers of a dozen publications for Century 21 Mountain Lifestyles. Currently, Jeff has over 100 framed prints on display in various hotels, restaurants, landmarks, and galleries around Western NC, including the Henderson County Visitors Information Center, the Carl Sandburg National Historic Site in Flat Rock, and the new Bluewood Gallery in Brevard. Jeff is an active member of F/32 in Asheville and of the Carolinas Nature Photographers Association. He has also moderated for the Camera Club of Hendersonville. Through these affiliations, Jeff’s mission is to connect people to the natural beauty around them, and to help them capture that beauty, render it, share it, and ultimately preserve it.

Todd Moore’s interest in photography started when his father gave him an Argus C31 Rangefinder when he was ten years old. After college he borrowed his father’s Nikon and truly began his photographic journey. Many of his photographs have been taken within Great Smoky Mountain National Park. During his numerous trips to the Smokies, he has developed a deep fondness for the park, especially Cades Cove and the Middle Prong. Other interests include photographing birds of prey, especially the bald eagle. Whenever he can find the time you will find him in the field photographing wildlife and anything else that catches his interest. His images have been used by the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens and other publications. During the day Todd owns and runs a computer service company and has more than 20 years of experience in Information Systems. Todd is also part owner of MK Controls Inc., a new company that produces camera control systems. Their first product, the Lightning Bug™, is used to safely photograph lightning. For more information on the Lightning Bug™ visit www.mkcontrols.com. Todd’s photography site is www.naturephotog.com.

Tom Vadnais has been shooting strictly digital since November 2001. Although he takes many pictures in his day job as a consulting automotive engineer, his personal work consists primarily of landscape, nature, and travel images. Tom has studied with such luminaries as John Paul Caponigro, Willard Clay, Charlie Cramer, Bruce Dale, Jack Dykinga, Thom Hogan, Bill Lea, Moose Peterson, the late Galen Rowell, Michael Reichmann, John Sexton, John Shaw, Charlie

Waite, and Vincent Versace. Since 2004, he has been teaching photographic, Photoshop, and printing workshops and classes, and has been giving talks and judging for numerous camera clubs throughout GA and TN. He enjoys the entire process from composition and exposure in the field, through image preparation and printing once back home. His work can be seen on his website at www.tomvadnais.com.

Steve Zigler, a native of the Midwest, has lived in Knoxville for more than 15 years. Though he wishes he could say he was born with a camera in his hand, he can't. Virtually all of his photography experience has evolved since buying his first digital camera in 2002. Since then, he's studied all aspects of photography, including digital (color, B&W and infrared) and large format film cameras. As a Ph.D. chemist, he's fascinated by the combination of art and science that creates a photographic image. His goal is to simultaneously capture the natural beauty of a scene and challenge the viewer's eye with subtle distortions that create a visual impact, through the use of wide angle and perspective control lenses, composite imaging, and differential editing. Keep up with Steve and see some of his work on his Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SteveZiglerPhoto>.

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