

Autumn Brilliance Photography Workshop

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Friday

1:00-5:00	Arrival, check-in, & move into the dorm
3:00-5:00	Presentation: <i>Fundamentals of Photography in the Field</i> – Tom
5:15-6:00	Presentation: <i>Composition</i> - Sue
6:00	Dinner at Tremont
7:00-7:15	Welcome & Orientation – GSMIT staff
7:15-8:00	Welcome & Class Introductions – Tom
8:00-8:15	Break
8:15-9:15	Presentation: <i>Composing and Exposing for Water</i> – Tom

Saturday

	<i>Sunrise: 7:47 am Sunset: 6:52 pm</i>
6:15-10:00	Field Session (Breakfast in field) – Foothills Parkway
10:00-11:00	Return to Tremont & break
11:00-11:40	Presentation: <i>Travel Photography</i> – Dan
11:45-12:25	Presentation: <i>Wildlife Photography</i> – Todd
12:30	Lunch at Tremont
1:30-2:15	Upstate Birds of Prey in-field session at Tremont – Todd
2:15-3:00	Download images, post-processing, & 1-to-1 with instructors
3:15-dark	Field Session (Dinner in field) – Tremont Road
7:00-7:45	Presentation: <i>Night Photography</i> – Steve
7:45-until?	One-on-one post processing with instructors
9:00-until?	Night Sky Field Session (clouds and moon permitting) – Steve

Sunday

	<i>Sunrise: 7:48 am Sunset: 6:50 pm</i>
6:15-6:45	Breakfast at Tremont
7:00-10:30	Field Session – Elkmont
10:30-12:30	Prepare images for Group Review
12:30	Lunch at Tremont
1:30-4:00	Group Review of participant's work
4:15-dark	Field Session (Dinner in field) - location TBD by weather & c

Monday

	<i>Sunrise: 7:49 am</i>
6:30	Continental breakfast at Tremont
7:00-10:30	Optional shoot in Cades Cove, Elkmont, Tremont, or Foothills**
10:45-11:55	Presentation: Post-Processing Techniques – Tom

****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.**

About This Workshop

Things to Anticipate: We expect good fall color at this time of year, but Mother Nature follows her own schedule! Be prepared to shoot sunrise, scenic views, colorful leaves, close-ups, wildlife, moving water, reflections, and old buildings.

We will spend time at several different areas in the park. This is typically a busy time of year for park visitation, so we have planned not to compete with traffic, and will not go long distances. We will have a van available for our travels to our field destinations. Since we will have more participants than the van can hold, the rest of us will have to carpool.

We maintain a student to instructor ratio of about 6 to 1. This allows the instructors to work one-on-one with each participant, both in the field and the classroom, throughout the workshop.

We split our time together between presentations in the classroom and field sessions. Our goal is to be out in the field during the best light of the day. Expect to get up early in the mornings! (But it's just three mornings.) *You'll need a flashlight every morning and evening to get around the campus.*

Our field trips do not require long hikes; most are very short walks from the cars. The more adventurous are free to explore the long trails at Elkmont and Tremont. Just remember that if you wander off *too* far, you'll find yourself out of range of the instructors.

On Sunday afternoon, we review images made by everyone during the workshop. We discuss what worked great and what might be improved next time. It's a fun, educational highlight!

Weather: To help you better anticipate the temperatures we might expect, the average daily high over the last four years for October was 75°F and the average daily low was 43°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 always feel cold in those pre-dawn hours, and even a little breeze can make it feel even colder. Rain gear is always advisable, as are gloves and a hat. Again, dress in layers.

Remember: *You'll need a flashlight every morning and evening to get around the campus.*

**GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS INSTITUTE AT TREMONT
9275 Tremont Road
Townsend, TN 37882**

Phone: 865-448-6709 Fax 865-448-9250

www.gsmit.org ~ mail@gsmit.org

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 rain or mist.

_____ **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 & Knee Pads** – For lying on the ground 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). 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.

Understanding Photography, Volume 1 by Sean McHugh (Cambridge in Colour). Clear, thorough descriptions and illustrations of the fundamentals of photography. Covers cameras, lenses, filters, exposure, light, composition, lighting, and camera handling skills. Available as an e-book or paperback.

Instructors

Lead Instructor: 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, Charlie Cramer, Bruce Dale, Jack Dykinga, Thom Hogan, Moose Peterson, the late Galen Rowell, Michael Reichmann, John Sexton, John Shaw, Charlie Waite, and Vincent Versace. Since 2004, Tom has been teaching photography, Photoshop, and printing workshops and classes, and has been giving talks and judging for numerous camera clubs throughout GA and TN. He has been president of two camera clubs—most recently, Georgia Nature Photographers Association. He enjoys the entire process from chasing the light in the field, through image preparation and printing once back home. His work can be seen on his blog and website at www.tomvadnais.com.

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.

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>.

Dan Thompson was born and raised in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains and began exploring the art of photography in a high school art class. Over the years Dan dabbled with photography as a hobby, until finally getting serious with it in 2003, when he and his wife got bitten by the travel bug, and saw refining his skills behind the camera as a means to better capture their experiences together. Dan now works as an industry analyst for a technology research firm, which sends him all over the world to meet with up and coming businesses, and simultaneously scratches the travel itch while also affording him the opportunity to photograph some interesting places. His work could be broadly categorized as travel photography, with a particular focus on night and nature photography, but sincerely loves the process of taking pictures, regardless of the subject. Dan's work can be seen on his and his wife's website, www.danandholly.com.

Sue Milinkovich began photographing with her father when she got her first Brownie camera in elementary school. Her dad gave her the gift of “seeing” a photograph and both parents gave her a love of nature and an appreciation for the beauty to be found in our everyday world. Sue attended her first Tremont Photography Workshop in the fall of 2003 and hasn’t missed one since, learning many skills from Will Clay, Bill Lea, Lori Kincaid, and Tom Vadnais. She has also attended workshops with John Shaw and Charlie Waite. Sue’s favorite subjects in the Smokies are the buildings of Elkmont, Cades Cove, and the Middle Prong. While Sue enjoys capturing the larger landscapes, it is the intimate details of a landscape, structure, or flower that draws her attention. Sue also enjoys photographing children and frequently volunteers at events for children and families to photograph and print pictures for families who cannot afford to have formal pictures taken. Sue’s photographs have been used in a residential facility for children and adults with disabilities to create a more pleasant and relaxing environment. Sue belongs to three camera clubs in the Cincinnati area and has been giving presentations on composition and the use of light. Check out more of Sue’s work at www.susanmilinkovich.com.