

# Meeting at Dury's



## Picture of the Year James Phillips

### Speaker for April Jim Zuckerman



Jim Zuckerman is one of the world's best-known nature, wildlife, and travel photographers. His work has been sold in dozens of countries around the world in commercial, editorial and fine art venues. Jim is also a respected photo edu-

cator, and he is the author of 14 books on a wide range of photographic subjects. He leads international photo tours to exotic destinations such as Ethiopia, Indonesia, Turkey, India, and Namibia.

Jim's photographic pursuits are unusually diverse. In addition to nature and travel work, he also shoots children, fashion, electron photomicrography, and he is considered a master at creating conceptual imagery.

Jim has been a contributing editor for Photographic Magazine for 38 years. His images, articles, and photo features have been published in scores

of books and magazines including Time-Life books, publications of the National Geographic Society, Omni Magazine, National Wildlife, and Conde Nast Traveler. His work has been used in advertising and packaging design as well as in calendars, posters, greeting cards, and corporate brochures. Jim also teaches online for Betterphoto.com and conducts Photoshop workshop in his home.

#### Websites:

[Jim Zuckerman blog](#)

[www.betterphoto.com](http://www.betterphoto.com)

[www.corporatefineart.com](http://www.corporatefineart.com)

### News Letter April 2011

**Club meeting Tuesday  
April 19 : 7PM  
Note:  
Meeting is at Dury's  
6 P.M Informal Visitation  
7 P.M. Meeting  
8 P.M. Guest Speaker  
9 P.M. Adjourn**

*Map to Dury's  
On Club Website*  
• <http://www.nashvillephotographyclub.com/>  
*The quickest way to make money at photography is to sell your camera. - Anonymous*  
*Forgetting to load a Memory card in the camera just makes it a test session. - Catherine Jo Morgan*

## Reminder Club Picnic April 30, 2011

You need to register no later than April 19th so food can be ordered. Cost is \$5.00 per person.

Click for more information > [Picnic info](#)

#### Inside this issue

Tips for new photographers	<a href="#">2</a>
Picture of the Month	<a href="#">3</a>
Schedule of Future Speakers	<a href="#">4</a>
Club Picnic	<a href="#">5</a>
Flower Photography	<a href="#">6/9</a>
Map to Dury's	<a href="#">10</a>
Tips and Gadgets	<a href="#">11</a>
Things Happening	<a href="#">12/17</a>

## Tips for new photographers



"Capital" by Colby Johnson

Have you ever compared your own photographs to those of a more advanced photographer and wondered how they get their images so sharp? I mean, just look at them! Everything in their photographs is so sharp, so crisp! How the hell do they do it? When I first started out with photography these were things that were going through my mind constantly. I knew how to take somewhat sharp photographs, but then there's that other level of sharpness, known as "tack" sharp. Tack sharp is basically the absolute best clarity your image can have.

So how do you take tack sharp photographs? Well there are a couple of things that can help you get your images as sharp as possible:

### Digital photography tip #1: Use a tripod

This can be somewhat of a sensitive point. Using a tripod is annoying. It's a bulky, cold, heavy piece of equip-

ment that slows you down immensely when you are taking pictures outdoors. On the other side it's the best way to get to tack level sharpness. You can have the steadiest hand in the world, even the slightest movement can cause your photograph to look fuzzy.

### Digital photography tip #2: Use a timer

If your camera has a timer, use it. You are basically trying to eliminate as much movement as you possibly can. I might be a slower way to take photographs but remember we are aiming for quality here and not quantity.

### Digital photography tip #3: Lenses

This digital photography tip might be a bit out of your control right now but the better your lens is the sharper your photographs will be. Most digital cameras come with a standard lens that's usually a small zoom lens (18 mm to 55 mm for example). The problem with these lenses is that they have a lot of moving parts on the inside and if you want a quality one it costs a small fortune. If you don't have a super expensive lens don't worry, there are other ways to get maximum sharpness.

### Digital photography tip #4: Aperture

Most lenses are at their sharpest when they are about 2 stops down from wide open. Let's say you have a 18 mm – 55 mm f/3,5 lens. If you make sure your aperture is around

f/8 when you take your photograph you have a better chance of it being tack sharp.



"Breaking All The Rules" by Sean Nel

### Digital photography tip #5: Shutter speed

The shorter your shutter speed the less chance you have of getting motion blur. If you want tack sharp photographs, motion blur is your enemy. If you are taking pictures of flowers then a shutter speed of 1/250 might be more than enough to eliminate motion blur, but if you are at a sports event it's not even close to being enough. The faster your object moves the faster your shutter speed has to be. In case of a sports event your shutter speed will have to be something like 1/2000 – 1/4000.

These are just a couple of tips to increase your chances of getting tack sharp photographs. Like I said earlier you are basically trying to eliminate as much motion blur or movement as possible. If you want to learn more check out my blog.

Author Robin Lipton



Picture of the Month March 2011



"Motion"

CONGRATULATIONS! Laurie Gibbs

Camera: CANON XTi w/Canon 18-55 mm IS Lens

ISO 400 1/60 sec @ f 5.6 Shot at 55 mm

Location: St Louis, Mo.

Software: Photoshop CS2 Blur Filter

Upcoming Photo of the Month Themes

April - Newborn

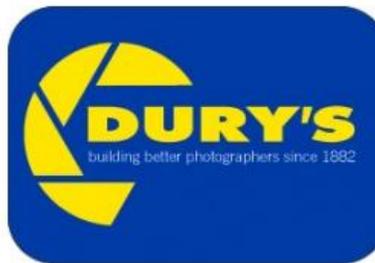
May - Curves

June - Sports

July - Eyes

-Rules for Photo of the Month Contest -

1. You **MUST** be a member and dues paid up to date.
2. Photograph must pertain to the Monthly Theme (i.e. November is FOLIAGE).
3. Image size limits: Minimum 4 x 6 to Maximum 12" (long side).
4. Place ONE photo in the Marked Folder on the center table.
5. Photograph needs to be taken within the past 3 months.



Sponsored by Dury's

*Note: Be sure an put your name on the back of your image.*



## NASHVILLE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Schedule of Speakers

<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Photo Theme</u>	<u>Spotlights</u>
April 19th	Jim Zuckerman	Newborn	Ernie Passwaters & Linda Hulsey
May 17th	Ed Miller, Copyright Attorney Baker & Donelson	Curves	Tina Brooks & Charles Rader
June 21st	Eric L. Hansen	Sports	LaCresha Kolba & Lee Smoot
July 19th	Member's Slide Show	Eyes	N/A
August 16th	Chris Hollo	Chillin'	Mark Ashburn & Doug Almy
September 20th	Ashley & Brannon Segroves	Silhouette	Gary Cole & Denise Gerkey
October 18th	Peter Nash	Barns	Virginia Gregory-Kojac & David Jones
November 15th	OPEN	Hills	Wayne Wilkerson & Shirley Williams
December 2nd	Christmas Party	N/A	MEMBER'S SLIDES



## Tips for Better Flower Photography



"Poppies" captured by Gregg Lowrimore

Flowers are naturally beautiful, and easy to find in the warmer months of the year, and so make a great subject for a photo. This article covers the top tips to get great photos when photographing flowers in their natural surroundings.

### Choose interesting angles

If you want your flower photos to stand out from the crowd, try taking photos from unusual angles, such as looking up.

Generally when taking natural flower photos, you will want to take the photo at slightly above eye level with the flower, ensuring that the centre of the flower can be seen. This will mean crouching down, or for smaller flowers getting the camera right down at ground level.

When photographing flowers at ground level you may need to flatten or remove blades of grass or leaves that would otherwise be in the way between the camera and the flower.

### Use natural light and a tripod if needed

For taking photos of flowers in their natural environment you will be best using natural light, and not flash. Natural light will generally give less harsh shadows, and should also ensure that the background behind the flower is lit well.



"inflorescence" captured by Raluca Mateescu

The best time of the day for photographing flowers is early morning or late afternoon, where the light will be warmer and less harsh than it gets later in the day. The wind is also generally lower at the start and end of the day, meaning you are less likely to get the flower blowing about while you try and take photos of it.

Depending on how well your flower is lit (e.g. if you're shooting a bluebell in woodland then it's probably relatively dark), then you may need to use a tripod to stabilise the camera. When placing the tripod try to be careful not to squash other nearby flowers and not to knock the flower you are wanting to photograph. You don't want to find the perfect flower and then knock all its petals off while trying to position your tripod!



### Use a diffuser to diffuse harsh light

If you're trying to photograph a flower under bright daylight, you can use a diffuser to soften the light, and reduce harsh shadows / highlights on the flower. A diffuser is just a thin piece of material or paper that spreads harsh direct light out over a larger area.

You can buy commercially produced diffusers, or make your own. You need some white translucent material, like a plastic bag, tissue paper, or an old T-shirt. Stretch the material over a frame (an old coat hanger bent into a diamond shape works well), and attach it securely.

When photographing the flower, hold the diffuser between the sun and the flower. You should immediately see the reduction in harsh shadows and highlights on the flower.



captured by Donaldas Urniežius

### Landscape style flower photography

When you find a large area covered with flowers, you'll probably want to take a photo of the whole scene. The same rules as standard landscape photography apply here. Try and include some foreground, middle-ground, and background to create a sense of depth and scale. Try and use leading lines and the rule of thirds when composing the photo too. If it is windy, make sure you set the camera to use a fast enough shutter speed to avoid the flowers coming out blurry.

### Dew covered petals

Flowers covered in early morning dew make an attractive photo, but if you missed the early morning, or there wasn't any dew, you can create your own. If you have a misting bottle or spray bottle, you can use this to create a false dew on the flower.

Flowers are a popular subject for photographs, but how can you take good photos that really show off the beauty of a flower? Continuing on from part 1, this article covers several more tips to help you take amazing flower photos. The tips cover photographing flowers in their natural surroundings, rather than photographing flowers in a vase or a flower arrangement, which is quite a different affair.

### Use a reflector or flash to fill in shadows and help light the flower



"empire of the sun" captured by Radu Stanescu

If you are photographing a flower where the front of the flower isn't directly lit by sunlight, you can use a reflector or a small amount of fill-flash to help light the flower. You can purchase commercially made reflectors, or make your own by sticking a large sheet of kitchen foil to a piece of cardboard.

Place the reflector so that it reflects light back onto the flower. As well as helping to light the flower, since the light will be reflected from a different direction to the main light, it can help fill in harsh shadows on the flower.

As an alternative to a reflector, or in addition, you

may also consider using fill-flash to help light the flower and fill in dark shadows. Make sure you have your flash set at low power, as you only want the flash to contribute a small amount of light to the scene, not become the main light source.

### Get in close

If your camera has a macro mode, or you have a DSLR with a macro lens, try getting in close and filling the frame with the flower. And then try getting even closer to isolate just part of the flower. You can find some great abstract compositions when focusing on only a very small part of a flower.

When taking close-ups or macro photographs of flowers, you may need to use flash or long shutter speeds to illuminate the flower. At these very close distances, flash will usually appear relatively soft, and more like natural light.

### Prevent the wind from ruining your photo

A big problem when taking photos of flowers is that they blow about in the wind. This can cause problems in composing your photo if the flower is constantly moving about. And it will also result in a blurry photo if your shutter speed is not high enough to freeze the motion of the flower.

One thing you can do is to set up a wind break between the flower and the wind. You don't need to lug a full size wind break around with you though. If you have a tripod and diffuser or reflector with you, you can place the tripod between the flower and the wind, and then rest the diffuser or reflector up against the tripod's legs. So long as you're not photographing a tall flower, this should act as a decent windbreak. Another thing you can do is to secure the flower using an accessory known as a plamp (short for plant clamp) [See Tips and Gadgets for how to make one](#). This is a small bendable arm with clamps on both ends. One end clamps to your tripod leg, and the other end clamps onto the flower. This stops the flower blowing about in the wind. There are commercial version available.

---

### Use backlighting to your advantage

The large majority of flowers have relatively thin petals, and so can make a great photo when backlit. The light shines through the petals, giving them quite a different look to a standard photo.

### Look at the flower condition and remove any distractions

There are exceptions to everything, but in the large majority of cases, a photo of an undamaged flower will look nicer than that of a damaged one. If you are in an area with lots of the same flowers, take your time to look at a few of the flowers and try to find the one that is in the best condition.



"Indian Paintbrush" captured by Dennis Behm

Pay attention also to what is surrounding the flower, and try to avoid including other elements (such as a random blade of grass) that distract from the flower. Sometimes you may be able to change the angle you are photographing at to remove the distracting elements.

Other times you may need to squash down or remove the distracting elements. If you are photographing outside of your garden, be careful what you are removing though.

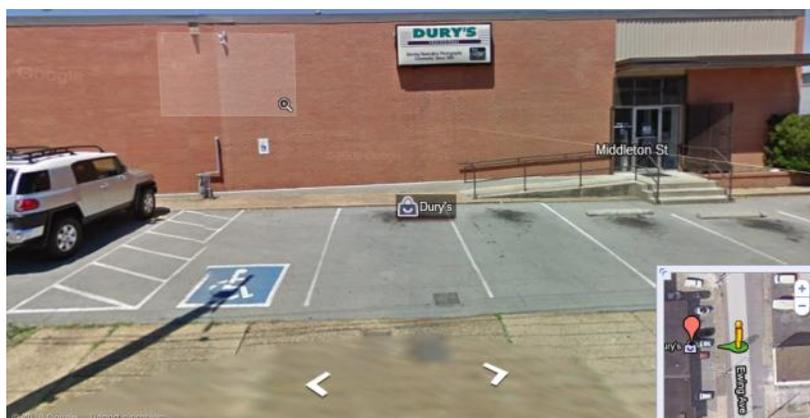
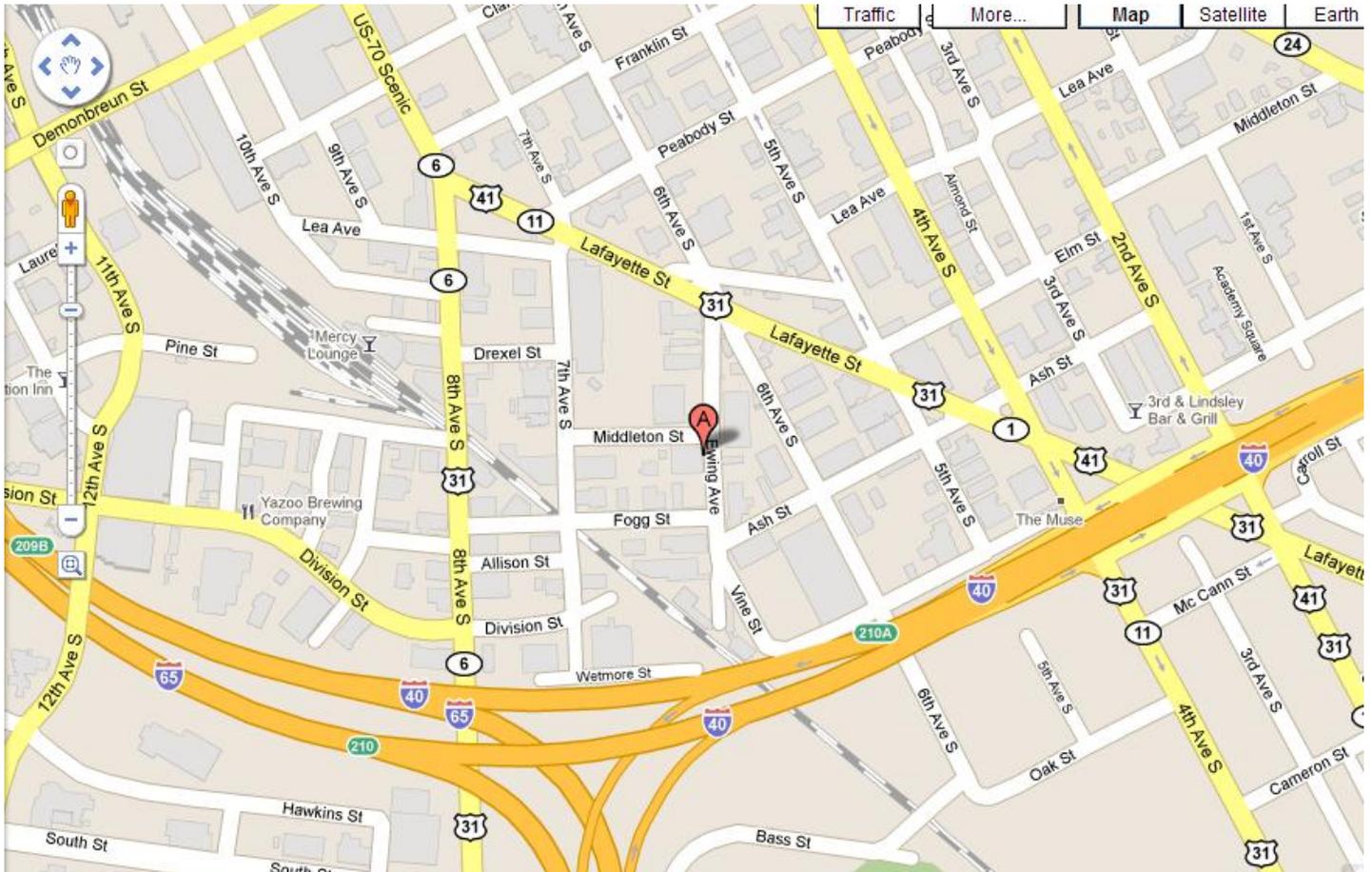
### Isolate the flower from its surroundings

Set your camera / lens to use a large aperture (e.g. f/2.8) when photographing the flower to help throw the background out of focus. If the space permits, also try using a lens with a longer focal length or zooming in on your camera, and taking the photo from further away. This change in perspective helps to isolate the flower from the rest of the scene. Article by Dave Kennard



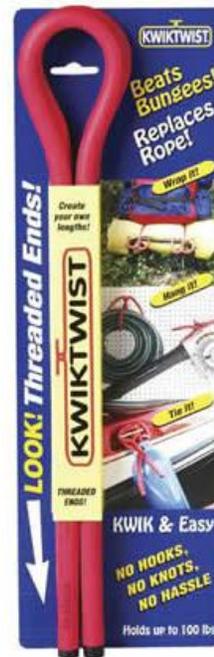
**Meeting at Dury's Tuesday February 15th, 2011**

Dury's is located at 701 Ewing Ave, Nashville, TN



## Tips and Gadgets

### Build your own Plamp



Purchase KWIKTWIST at Lowes or Tractor Supply.

Cost \$6.95

Can order from Amazon for a little less.

## Camera Slings



1. The R-Strap is the best known. I know at least one person who uses this strap and is very pleased with it. They have a wide variety starting at \$53.95 and up [R-Strap Website](#)
2. Luma Loop these folks make what appears to be a high quality strap cost \$70.00. [Luma Loop Website](#)
3. BossStrap looks like it would be a good choice priced at \$39.95. [BossStrap Website](#)
- 4 Make your own Camera Sling the least expensive method. Cost \$15-\$20. [Do it yourself Website](#)

---

## Things Happening

---

Peter Lik Extreme Photography [Weather Channel](#)

[Peter Lik Website](#)

---

The American Society of Media Photographers – Tn is hosting a Canon Explorer of Light, Parish Kohanim, on Monday, May 16th at 7 p.m.. The Public is WELCOME. Meets at Dury's.

---

Saturday, May 14th Canon Explorer of Light, Lewis Kemper in at Goins Auditorium at Pellissippi State (Knoxville). For more details see Kendall Chiles 865-36-1525

---



## How to Photograph Animals - Video Series

Club member Christian Sperka is working on a series of Animal Photography videos in cooperation with NewMediaEdge ([www.newmediaedge.com](http://www.newmediaedge.com)) and Nashville Zoo ([www.nashvillezoo.org](http://www.nashvillezoo.org)) at Grassmere. Sign up to the Animal Art Photography's mailing list on [www.sperka.com](http://www.sperka.com) to keep updated about new videos.

Video 1 - How to Photograph Animals - Snake Photography

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCMi2Ncik2k>

Animal Photography Lessons:

- Shooting through glass
- Positioning to get interesting snake pictures
- Use of a torch/flashlight

Video 2 - How to Photograph Animals - Exotic Wild Cats

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSpH9BDu3l0>

Animal Photography Lessons:

- Shooting through fences (long lenses and full aperture)
- Under-exposure at high contrast (white)
- Shooting at eye level
- Patience
- Short shutter speeds and high ISO

Video 3 - How to Photograph Animals - Clouded Leopards with Newborn Cubs

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dn0uzRZqmZI>

The video includes very rare footage of two week old Clouded Leopard cubs!

Animal Photography Lessons:

- Shooting through glass
- Shooting at eye level
- Take a lot of pictures
- Take pictures of carnivores in the morning and in the evening
- Use full aperture for short shutter speed

More videos will follow.

All videos are available on [www.sperka.com/videos.html](http://www.sperka.com/videos.html)



Smyrna Airport on May 7, 8, 2011



The internationally renowned United States Air Force Thunderbirds precision flight demonstration team will entertain regional crowds at the Great Tennessee Airshow at Smyrna Airport on May 7, 8, 2011. This signature aviation event will also include performances by Airshow legends Gene Soucy and Wing Walker Theresa Stokes, Mike Goulian – USA pilot in the Red Bull Air Race World Championship, Jason Newburg flying the Viper, Red Thunder, Cheryl Stearns - award winning skydiver and first female member of the US Golden Nights, Kendal “Aeronut” Simpson flying the Pitts Model 12, F-15 Demonstration and world famous airshow announcer Danny Klisham.

**Gates open at 8:00 a.m. each day.**

Free Parking

All persons and bags are subject to search.  
No food or beverages may be brought into the airshow

**General Admission:**

Children ages 4-12 (under 4 are free)

Advance ticket: \$8.00

Gate price (day of show) \$10.00

Adult (12 and older)

Advance ticket: \$15.00

Gate price (day of show) \$20.00

No refunds-no exchanges.

All persons and bags are subject to search. No food or beverages may be brought into the airshow.

[http://www.smyrnaairport.com/air\\_show](http://www.smyrnaairport.com/air_show)



**THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF CHATTANOOGA  
CHATTANOOGA STATE  
and CANON present**

**RICK SAMMON:  
EXPLORING THE LIGHT**

**... THIS IS NOT JUST ANOTHER PRETTY SLIDE SHOW**



**WITH EVERY IMAGE**

- Digital photography tips
- Lighting designs
- Photo philosophy
- Photoshop and Light Techniques



Author of 36+ photography publications, co-founder of The Digital Photography Experience ([www.dpexperience.com](http://www.dpexperience.com))  
Considered one of today's top digital-imaging experts. [www.ricksammon.info](http://www.ricksammon.info)

**RICK SAMMON**  
**JUNE 11 9:00A – 4:00P**  
  
@ CHATTANOOGA STATE  
HUMANITIES AUDITORIUM  
  
ONLINE REGISTRATION:  
**CHATTANOOGAPHOTO.ORG**  
  
QUESTIONS?  
[workshops@chattanoogaphoto.org](mailto:workshops@chattanoogaphoto.org)  
or 423-504-4026

**REGISTRATION: ONLINE @ CHATTANOOGAPHOTO.ORG or MAIL THIS FORM TO:**  
Rick Sammon Seminar, PSC Treasurer, PO Box 8886, Chattanooga TN 37414  
Checks Payable to: PSC

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE JUNE 4**

# OF ATTENDEES: \_\_\_\_\_  STUDENT/CSTCC FACULTY (w/ID) FREE

PSC MEMBER \$15  NON-PSC MEMBER \$30  AFTER JUNE 4 - \$5 LATE FEE

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

YES! Feed me lunch for \$10 (sandwich, chips, cookie and a drink). NOT guaranteed for late registration.  
Choose a sandwich:  Ham  Turkey  Roast Beef  Vegetarian



**The Photographic Society of Chattanooga and Canon presents  
Exploring the Light with Rick Sammon**

In this informative and fun-filled presentation, Rick Sammon will begin by sharing his pictures from around the globe – some of which have appeared in his books and thousands of newspaper and magazine articles. For every image, Rick will share a photographic technique, digital darkroom tip, or a photo philosophy. He will cover seeing the light, controlling the light, playing with the light, HDR photography and some Photoshop techniques. This is not just a slide show of pretty images. Rick is there to share what he's learned over his many years as a professional photographer. After Rick "takes" us on a visual journey through the exciting world of digital photography, he will share some of his favorite Photoshop CS5 enhancements.

<http://chattanoogaphoto.org/index.php>





Have you been thinking about a Photo Safari to Africa?

Go with one of our own members as the Safari Leader.



**RENOWNED WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER CHRISTIAN SPERKA**

**TO HOST PHOTO WORKSHOP ON SAFARI THIS SUMMER**

**EXCLUSIVELY FOR GUESTS OF AFRICAN PORTFOLIO**

***Five-day, four-night "Sperka Safari" package in July;***

***Sperka will instruct and inspire photographers of all skill levels to capture***

***extraordinary animal portraits in South Africa's Timbavati Private Game Reserve***

GREENWICH, CT January 31, 2011 – Diane Lobel, founder and president of luxury safari specialists African Portfolio, has created a once-in-a-lifetime safari experience taking place this summer featuring Christian Sperka, the renowned wildlife photographer.

Sperka, the German-born photographer who now resides in Nashville where he has a gallery, has created an extensive library of wildlife portraits and conducts photo workshops on African safaris. He is the resident professional photographer at the Nashville Zoo where he teaches classes for amateurs and professionals and he is also an avid animal conservationist.

This year he is bringing his 'masters series' photo workshop to South Africa July 1-5 in a special program created just for African Portfolio guests. The workshops will focus on how to photograph animals in the wild, whether in flight or on the run, regardless of skill level. He recommends using a digital SLR camera with at least a 300 mm lens to get the best results.

African Portfolio guests will join Sperka at Waterbuck private lodge at Kings Camp in the Timbavati Private Game Reserve and he will accompany the group in the open-air vehicles during twice daily safaris in the bush. -more-

---

The Timbavati reserve covers about 60,000 hectares of pristine African bush and is part of the world-famous Kruger National Park. Waterbuck at Kings Camp offers the ultimate in a safari experience, featuring an air-conditioned four-bedroom private villa with a personal butler and chef.

The private and exclusive lodge will only serve to enhance the educational experience for all participants and maximize time with Sperka. The camp is situated on a dry river bank and affords great views of game and plenty of photographic opportunities.

“This program is designed for anyone who wants to turn their safari adventure into a memorable educational experience. They will travel for five days with one of the world’s best wildlife photographers who will help them fine tune their skills to get the most out of photographing animals in their natural habitats.” said Ms. Lobel.

Cost of the five-day, four-night program with Sperka is \$3,775 and includes deluxe accommodations at the luxurious Waterbuck lodge at Kings Camp, all meals, most drinks, and daily safari trekking on foot and in open-air vehicles with Sperka as well as a professional safari guide.

The five-day photography program is part of a 10-night trip. The remaining five nights of the trip can be arranged either before or after the Sperka Safari. African Portfolio will work with guests individually to custom design those nights to feature whatever they wish, which could include more game-viewing, or traveling outside the game reserves to visit Johannesburg or Cape Town for shopping, sightseeing, golf, and visiting South Africa’s wine country.

For more information and to book this extraordinary program contact African Portfolio at 800-700-3677 or visit [www.onsafari.com](http://www.onsafari.com).

<http://www.sperka.com/jnafrica.html>

---