



Photo of the Year Steve Choatie

Speakers for April

News Letter April 2012



George lives in Marietta, GA. He ran a successful photography business for many years doing weddings and team sports. He has won many awards both locally and nationally. He has sold work at fine art galleries and has a print on permanent display in the new wing of the Shepherd Spinal Center in Atlanta. His current area of interest is in Abstract and Macro Photography. He has published works including "Images From the Heart - A Photographic Journey".



Together, George and Gail are Thru Nature's Eyes Photography. They have been photographing and teaching together for 3 years. They conduct workshops on Macro and Creative Abstracts, as well as other areas of creative photography.

Gail lives in Canton, GA. She has been involved in photography for over 15 years and is a graduate of the New York Institute of Photography. She has won awards and sold work in fine art galleries. She has been published in Popular Photography and

[Continued Page 7](#)

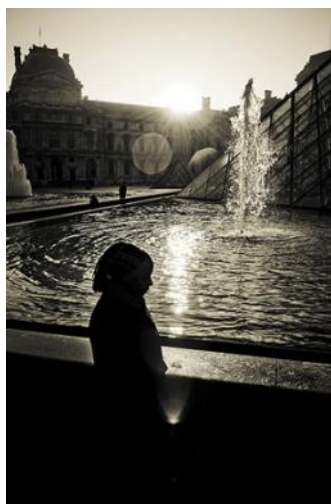
**Club meeting
7 PM Tuesday
April 17, 2012
Social at 6 PM
Guest welcome
first meeting free.**

Club Website
www.nashvillephotographyclub.com

Quote
 "To me, photography is an art of observation. It's about finding something interesting in an ordinary place... I've found it has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them."
 Elliott Erwitt

Beginner Tips

Ten Tips to becoming a more accomplished Photographer



captured by kalel koven

One of my friends was asking me about my photography and asking how I got started, and so I decided to write a top 10 list of things to help you become a more accomplished photographer. I hope there is something in here that proves useful to you!

1) **Love.** Love your camera no matter what its spec, age or make. A camera's only as good as the photographer.

[Continued on page 2](#)

Inside this issue

Picture of the Month	3
Schedule of Future Speakers	4
Map to Dury's	5
Club Picnic - Video Photo Manipulation	6
DFG - Elements of Great Photographs	7
Controlling Color, Exposure, Blurriness	10
Photo contest you can enter	14

Continued from Page 1 Point and shoot

2) **Equipment.** Take your camera everywhere; make sure it becomes your new best friend. So you'll never have to say 'I wish I had a camera with me' again. The most amazing photo opportunities are usually the ones you don't expect, look through a few tumblr blogs and you'll see what I mean!

3) **Practice.** Practice is everything. Don't get disheartened when a picture doesn't turn out how you expected it to take a deep breath and try a new setting. In the age of digital cameras mistakes aren't anything like as expensive to make as they used to be!

4) **Remind yourself.** Manual camera settings may be frustrating to fully grasp to start with. Get into the habit of writing down some reminders to yourself and keep them in your camera bag.

5) **Ask why?** Ask 'Why' why do I want to take this photograph? It may be as simple as 'it looks pretty'. But what is it that makes it pretty? Is it the amazing detail in the leaf or is it the way the light strikes the petal? Consciously thinking about these sorts of aspects will improve your photos instantly.

6) **Get close up.** Don't always just zoom in with the lens, walk up closer to your subject, fill the frame of the camera and your photos will come alive.

7) **Lighting.** Controlling your lighting is easy and can make or break a photograph. Try using anything from the flash gun to fairy lights to a desk lamp.

8) **Share.** Learn to share your photography with others. Submit your photos on PictureSocial, Facebook, twitter or create a blog and you'll find fellow photographers are always eager to help and share their own experiences too.

9) **Composition.** Have a look at the rules of composition, try following them and watch your photos improve. After you've mastered them, try breaking the rules!

10) **Learn.** Learning to use your camera to its maximum potential is vital to become a better photographer. Book yourself on to a [photography course](#) to help you unlock and understand your cameras manual settings. Author Michelle Bowden



Picture of the Month Feb. 2011

Winter

Taken near Brown City
Michigan
Shot with a Canon Rebel
XSi
Taken December 27th,
2011
f/8
1/250 sec
iso 100
Lens Canon 70-300
Focal length 70
Congratulations to
Candy Kidwell



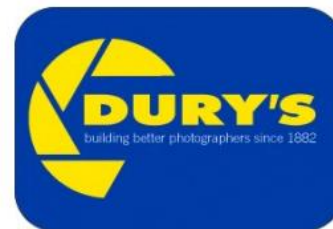
Upcoming Photo of the Month Themes

Aprils Theme "Leading Lines"

-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.

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



Sponsored by Dury's



NASHVILLE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Schedule of Speakers

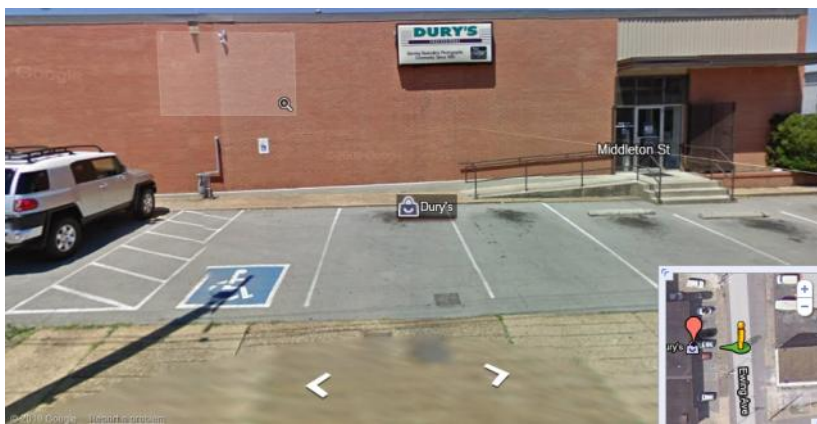
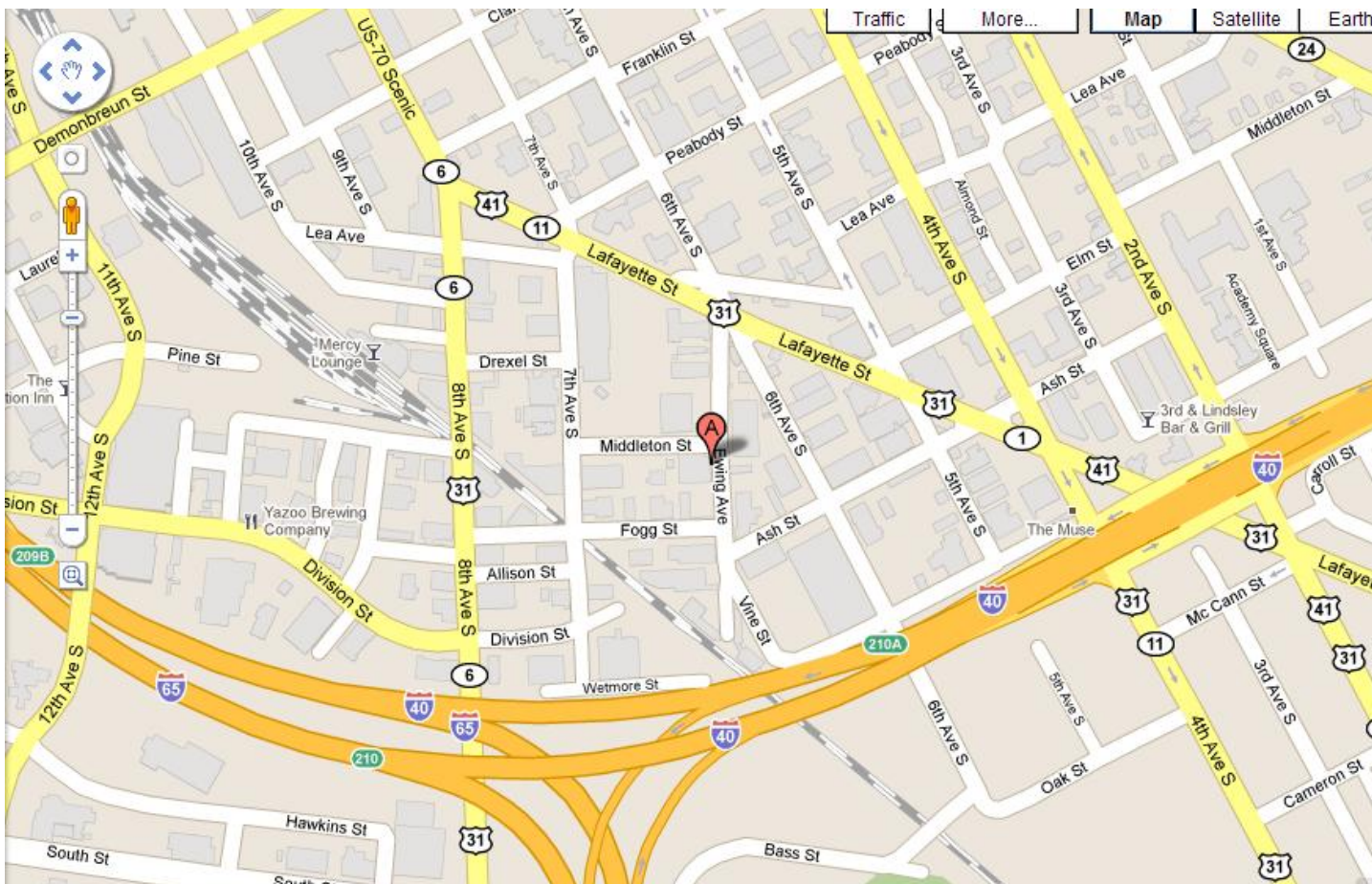
<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Photo Theme</u>	<u>Spotlights</u>
January	Jason Tucker	Christmas/Holiday decorations	Trish Kaberle, Joyce Erickson, Misty Ellis
FEBRUARY	Russ Harrington	Love	Jon Warren, Larry Fuldauer, Yvonne Johnson
March	BOB GLOVER	Winter	Dana Barrett, Joe Fizer, Christie Wall
April	GEORGE BRADFIELD & GAIL STEWART	Leading Lines	Verna Turner, Bob Ellis
May	Brannon Segroves	Spring	
June		Architecture	
July	Members slide show	Americana	
August	Randy Hedgepath	Black & White	
September	John Guider	Night Time Photos	James Frazier
October	Christian Sperka	Reflections	
November		Repetitive Patterns	

There are still slots for Member Spotlights for May to Dec. Please signup so we can all see some of your best photographs and learn a little more about you. The Member Spotlight was designed to allow club members to learn more about each other. So far we have seen some amazing and wonderful work plus heard several entertaining and informative bio's.



Meeting at Dury's 3rd Tuesday of the month.

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





The Club picnic will be Saturday, April 28 at Long Hunter State Park. Cost of the picnic is \$5.00 per person. The club will furnish Whitts Barbecue and we are asking people to bring a desert or some type of covered dish to share. Also bring what you want to drink, no alcohol allowed on State Park property. We are collecting money for the event now. The money must be turned in no later than April 6th to reserve your spot at the picnic. Come enjoy Long Hunter State Park and the fellowship with your fellow club members.



Photo Manipulation Video 3.5 minutes of interesting photo changes

other magazines and

[Continued from Page 1](#)

was featured in the Georgia Outdoors Magazine Nature Photography Contest. She has photographed weddings, family, group and individual portraits. Her main interest is in Macro and Nature Photography.

This months Digital Focus Group

- 1 - creating a catalog and import photos*
- 2 - demo some of the development tools/options*
- 3 - convert a photo to black and white*

Meets

April 24th Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Fifty Forward Center, Donelson Pike



Element of Great Photographs

As a photographer, it's incredibly important to know what makes a great picture. Just having a nice camera and fancy tools isn't enough to really make it in this industry anymore. Knowing what to look for and honing in on those specific things can help you capture truly unique, personal, and in the moment images that will hopefully help to set you apart from your peers. Here's just a few things that I look for during a session.

Composition

I had a little bit of trouble deciding what was the most important aspect of an image. But finally after much thought – I came to the conclusion that composition should be the first thing you consider when taking a picture. Composition can actually make or break an image. There are some images that seem boring and mundane until you recompose them. Sometimes all it takes is looking at your subject from a different angle. Try getting above

them... like WAY above them and shooting down. Or maybe you should get below and shoot upwards. Sometimes changing up where the focus is in your image can make a difference too. Like focusing on a ring in the foreground with the couple out of focus in the background.

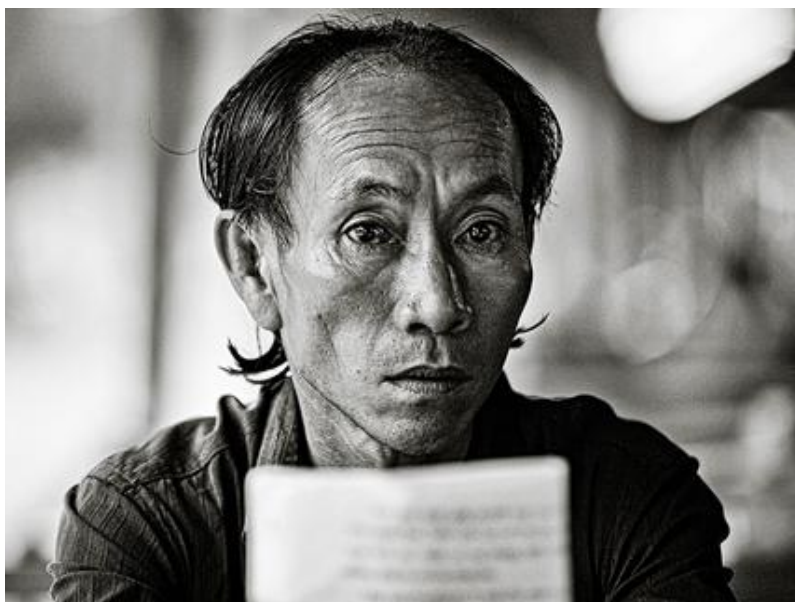


Story Telling

This is a trait I personally find important – although not everyone does. I think the best pictures tell the story of the people in it. Now this may be some kind of artistic creation which can be really cool like creating a fairytale image with the people in costumes. But I usually am looking for something more simple. Like a first time dad holding his son for the first time and that look of pure joy and elation on his face. Or the sweet little action of a little girl blowing flower petals out of her hands. Or maybe it's a picture of a close up of an elderly couple holding hands. Telling the story of the people in an image can add a whole new level to your pictures overall depth and meaning.

Emotion

We are often taking pictures of faces. Everyone's face is totally unique and different and so much emotion can be seen just in a person's face. So many, many, many pictures are of people's faces. So capturing a picture that shows the pure joy between two friends laughing over an inside joke or the love on a girl's face as her man literally sweeps her off her feet can create a much more dynamic image than just a photograph of their faces. Of course, happiness isn't the only emotion you can convey. Sometimes sorrow, loneliness, thoughtfulness, calm, peace, or relief can create an interesting different picture too. It's so rare to see images of people experience genuine emotion, and I find that people tend to crave this kind of imagery more because of it.



Detail

I find detail images to be fascinating and often some of my favorite images. We focus on people's faces so much that sometimes it's fun to mix things up and throw in some pictures of other little details to remind ourselves of the little things. Like a little baby's feet held in his mother's hands. Kids grow up so quickly capturing these fleeting moments when they are so small can be some of the most cherished memories a mother could hope for. They often aren't thinking about those kinds of images when they have you take



pictures, but they almost always fall in love with these baby detail shots. These kinds of images are being more and more appreciated in all forms of photography too including engagement sessions. Couples are loving pictures that don't include their faces. It adds a whole new twist to traditional photography and people are falling in love with it.



Lighting

Lighting is the last element and probably one of the most important because you need light just to create a picture or to set a mood. Silhouetted or backlit pictures are really popular these days as they are different from standard portraiture. There's a variety of different takes on the backlit pictures and there are some pretty exciting and fun examples to look through. There's also the fun dramatic, single light source lighting. This type of photography is fun for creating super moody dramatic shots. with high contrast. You really need to know what you're doing and what you are wanting to achieve for this style of lighting to work well with your subject matter.

Pic

Well there you have it. You now know the five elements that help in creating stunning imagery. Composition can help you take a standard pose and give it a new twist. Story telling can help you relay more about a person or couple in an image. Emotion is often one of the most important elements to a picture especially when conveying joy or happiness. Detail shots can make for a great re-



minder of the little things we love in others. And of course, lighting will always make a break a picture since light is what actually enables us to take a picture. I hope you've found this at least a little insightful and perhaps have taken some things away from it that you may try in your next photo shoot! *Author: Stephanie Gagnon*

Controlling Color, Exposure and Blurriness in Photography

With spring just around the corner, soon your family vacation time will be here. During your trip, wouldn't you like your digital photos to look just like the scenes did with your eyes?

The good news is they can! There are several things you can do to improve your vacation photos. Even with today's auto-everything cameras, you must still control the camera to get perfect photos.

Most problems with photos can be tied back to three things:

poor color;

over or under exposure.

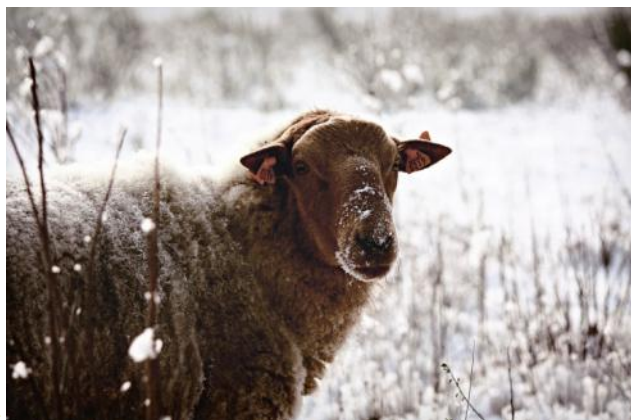
blurriness.

Color

One technical flaw seen quite often is images with either washed-out color or a color cast to them. There are a couple of things you can do to control both. First, if your subject is outdoors, such as a landscape, use a polarizer filter.

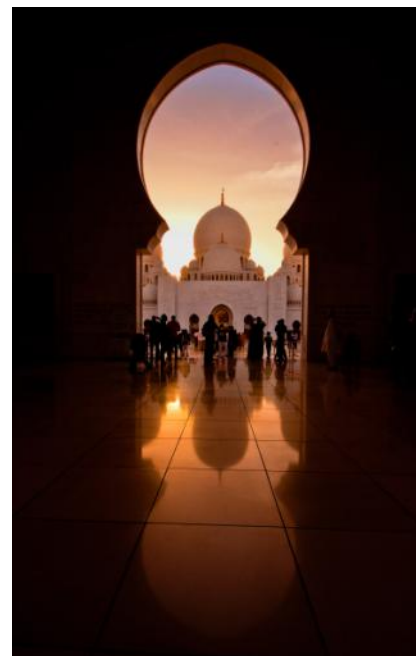
It will "punch" up colors, darken the blue sky, remove reflections and lighten haze – all things that will improve your photos.

If you are experiencing a color cast, then you need to match your camera white balance setting to the ambient light color. Many times the Automatic White Balance (AWB) setting on your camera will render colors accurately, but during those times when it doesn't, know how to change your white balance.



Exposure

Your camera strives to make the perfect exposure, but it does so thinking everything is middle-tone or 18% gray – which everything isn't. When faced with an overly bright scene, such as white snow or a white sand beach on a sunny day, your camera will over compensate and your whites will be a light gray. To correct this, you have to add exposure. You can do this by either slowing down the shutter speed one stop or using the next smaller number f-stop. Both will add the same amount of





light.

For extremely dark subjects, such as the black coat of a dog, your black color will be more of a dark gray. In this case, you have to take light out to make the black color look black. To do this, either adjust your shutter speed to one stop faster or change your f-stop to the next larger number. Either will take out the same amount of light, thereby darkening your black color. A great tool that most DSLR cameras have for checking exposure is a histogram. It is nothing more than your exposure shown as a graph, but many photographers do not understand how to use it.

Your aim on the graph is to not “clip” off the falling slope line on the right and left side of the graph. Each slope line at the ends of the graph should meet the left and right bottom corner of the graph at the horizontal line. If either slope is cut off part way up either vertical line, then you have clipping and are losing exposure data. If your clipping is on the left side, then add exposure. If clipping occurs on the right side, remove exposure. Keep adjusting until the clipping is gone.

Blurriness

Blurriness is caused by one of two things improper focusing or using too slow a shutter speed. If the whole scene is blurry, then the culprit was camera shake meaning you tried to handhold the camera using too slow of a shutter speed. Correct this next time by either mounting your camera on a tripod or shooting at a faster shutter speed.

If your subject is blurry, but there are parts of the scene in focus, then your point focus was not on your subject. This can easily happen when using the Rule of



Thirds. You have your subject off to the side, but your camera takes the point of focus from the middle of your scene.

To remedy this, put your subject in the middle of your viewfinder and press your shutter button half-way down. With your shutter button still halfway down, swing the camera putting your subject back in the proper position. Now press the shutter button all the way taking the picture.

Many DSLRs have multiple focus points. In this case, select the focus point on the side where your subject is located. Move the camera until the focus point is on your subject. Now press the shutter button. *Author: Ronald Kness*



Video explaining why and how to use a flash in bright sunlight - 10 minutes long

What Makes for a Good SLR Lens?

I went to visit an old friend yesterday who was my main inspiration to get into photography. It seems that he has been taking beautiful photos forever and went on to show me his newest gift – a brand new Canon lens – Ultra-Wide 16-35mm f/2.8.

I went on to try it and realize how good the lens was. But WHY was the lens so good? After all – what makes a good lens good? People spend thousands of dollars on a good lens. Here are a few reasons why it's so important.

1) Distortion

All lenses have some kind of distortion. This tends to be manifested most in ultra wide angle lenses, particularly at very





wides angles. A good example of this is **one picture that I took in Venice**. I had walked back as far as possible to fit the entire frame into the photograph and had to use the widest lens angle possible (14mm). You can see the tower on the left hand side appears to be leaning. Clearly, it is not like this (and you're going to have to believe me that it's straight), but illustrates the lens distortion that exists.

Better quality lenses have less distortion through the use of a greater number of lens elements. Nikon has just released an excellent 14-24mm ultra wide angle lens with very little distortion. The lens has 11 lens elements and weighs a full 1kg. Clearly not a lens to take lightly.

While photo manipulation software exists today that can correct lens distortion, it is always better to capture the image as it is.



2) Speed

The camera lens is responsible for capturing and focusing light onto the camera sensor. Better quality lenses tend to have a larger aperture, allowing more light to pass through to the sensor. The aperture size is measured as an f-stop. Confusingly, the larger the maximum aperture of the lens, the smaller the f-stop.

Faster lenses are key to capturing sporting events and wildlife. They are also very handy to have for low light photographs and allow the photographer to rely less on the ISO ability of the camera.

3) Vignetting

Vignetting manifests at the edge of a photograph as darker areas. This is because more light enters the center of the lens than the edges due to poor lens glass or construction quality.

4) Aberration

There is chromatic aberration and spherical aberration. Chromatic aberration is a type of distortion in which the lens fails to focus all colors to the same convergence point. This shows up as a discolored edge to objects in a picture. Wiki has a great photographic example of Chromatic aberration and can be found [here on Wikipedia](#).

Spherical aberration is distortion caused by the spherical lens shape and occurs when light hits near the edge of the lens instead of the center resulting in some resolution and clarity issues. This occurs more when the aperture of the lens is completely open.

In reality, most high quality lenses have a plethora of technologies built into them to reduce aberration through a number of means including lens coatings, advanced construction methods and floating elements.

Continued from page 1

.....

5) Vibration Reduction

Many lenses have vibration reduction built into the lens. Vibration reduction helps to stabilize the lens through a hand held photograph allowing the photographer to take a clear picture at a slower shutter speed than they normally would have been able to. Ironically, vibration reduction on lenses must be turned off for use on a long exposure tripod photograph.

Lenses are to cameras as tires are to cars. It's great to buy a Ferrari, but put shoddy tires on it and the humble Chevy will drive circles around it. In reality, most lenses that you can purchase today (even basic ones) are consistently very good, but many times some extra investment into lenses will yield even better results. *Author: James Lam*

.....

The Keeton Theatre

posted 194 pictures from our 2012-04-04 team shoot of their

Smokey Joe's Cafe production. After you click on the link, click on photos then click on Smokey Joe's Cafe folder, click on a pictures and scroll through their gallery of our work: <http://www.facebook.com/TheKeetonTheatre>

.....

3CT

Camera Club Council of Tennessee

Interclub Competition

“National and State Parks of Tennessee ”

Instructions, Entry Form, Payment at www.3ct.org

Entries due: Monday, April 30th , 2012

Four entries for \$10.00

.....

Blue Ridge Mountain National Juried Nature and Fine Art Exhibit

The Blue Ridge Mountain Photographers would like the N.P.C. members to enter our 2012 National Juried Nature and Fine Art Photography Exhibit.

Last year more than 150 photographs were selected for display in The Art Center, an historic courthouse in Blue Ridge, Georgia. Our judge this year will be Professor Paul Dunlap of North Georgia College and State University.

A total of \$2000 in prize money will be awarded. Early deadline is June 1, 2010. Final deadline is July 2, 2012. Detailed information and entry form can be found at www.blueridgemountainphotographers.com

or www.blueridgearts.net/BRMPNationalShow.aspx

If you have any comments, complaints, suggestions email at

rodshean@bellsouth.com

If you want something included in the newsletter please email no later than the second Tuesday of the month.