



Somesville Footbridge, HM, Panoramas category, 2021 Salon, *copyright Kendall Chiles.*

November Meeting—Tues, Nov 23: in-person meeting at Watershed Bldg, Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church, 7 pm, featuring Nye Simmons

Join us on November 23 for our monthly club meeting, which will be **in person only** at the Watershed Building. Read about why the SANP Board made that decision below.

Our presenter is SANP member Nye Simmons, who describes his program as “including a four-seasons slide show from my Blue Ridge Parkway book followed by a fall color slide show that can be punctuated by Q&A to be followed by any additional Q&A afterwards. In a somewhat unstructured fashion, we will discuss what to look for when planning a trip to the Blue Ridge Parkway, both weather and logistics.”

See Nye’s bio on p. 2. Be sure to mark your calendar for Nov. 23, which is **not** the last Tuesday in November.

Let's Try a Different Approach

In recent conversations among SANP leaders, the Board, and club members, a question has arisen -- would more people come to the in-person meetings if there were no virtual option? With that question in mind and noting that the current COVID case rate in our area is relatively low, the Board would like to see whether more members are now comfortable meeting in person.

The Board has also taken into consideration questions from new members about whether we ever have more people attending meetings. In addition, the casual chats that happen before and after meetings and engaging with presenters face-to-face are more difficult via Zoom.

After careful deliberation, the Board decided on a more traditional format for the November club meeting. If you are comfortable meeting in person, mark your calendars for November 23rd, and plan to join your fellow nature photography lovers for an in-person (only) meeting at the Watershed Building at Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church. The November meeting will NOT be broadcast over Zoom or recorded, so you'll need to attend in person to see Nye Simmons talk about the Blue Ridge Parkway.

The Board recognizes that some club members may not yet be ready to return to indoor gatherings, and we respect that choice, but many are anxious for the connecting experiences SANP is known for.

As a courtesy to other club members, please wear a mask and exercise the usual health precautions during the meeting. We want our gatherings to be as safe as possible for everyone attending, and your cooperation is necessary to make that happen. There is plenty of space in our meeting room for social distancing; all are welcome. We can't wait to see you!

Please note: The Board evaluates whether to meet in person on a month-by-month basis. Depending on what happens with COVID infections in the future, the Board may decide to return to hybrid or all virtual meetings.

BIO: Nye Simmons, November presenter

Nye Simmons has been photographing East Tennessee mountains even before moving to the area in 1986. As he transitioned out of whitewater boating after the death of two friends, photography quickly took its place. Safer too, per Nye, except for the occasional ornery wildlife and assorted road and traffic hazards.

Nye is a charter member of SANP. For many years he “free-lanced” and had some success second-guessing and predicting what photos and stories an editor might like, even getting published in some of the National Geographic publications (though he says “the big yellow one eluded me”). He turned to writing books, self-published the first one, and since then has almost exclusively pursued his own vision and projects. After retiring from his primary occupation as an Emergency Physician, he has turned full attention to photography. He conducted his first two workshops this year; more are planned.

Nye used 4x5 and 5x7 film cameras for many years until digital capture reached parity with 4x5 scanned film. At that point, he made the transition without looking back. Currently, he uses a Fuji medium format system as well as a Sony full frame 35mm format camera. Per Nye, technology marches on and we all wonder what comes next.

On Nye’s website, <https://nyesimmons.com/>, you’ll find a list of his books and information about upcoming workshops.



Nye Simmons, presenter for November.



Fantasy woods, Blue Ridge Parkway, *copyright Nye Simmons.*



Searchlights from Heaven, Cowee Overlook, Blue Ridge Parkway, *copyright Nye Simmons.*



Fluorescence of autumn, Blue Ridge Parkway, *copyright Nye Simmons.*

SANP Photo Challenges to begin in 2022

Beginning in January, SANP active members may participate in a new kind of event—a Photo Challenge, designed to provide opportunities for challenging creativity and interacting with other members. This is a way for us to enjoy the fellowship of getting together and to have fun in the process.

Participants can submit up to three images per Challenge for judging; and First, Second, and Third place winners will be selected. It's also fine to participate in the Challenge without submitting images for judging. A minimum of five participants is necessary for a Challenge to be judged.

Here's how it works

Prior to the first part of January, April, July, and October, the Photo Challenge Administrator (Ron McConathy for 2022) will post a Challenge Event on the website, which will include

- details for the Challenge (most will be scheduled for a location close to Knoxville and for a 4- to 6-hour time period on a particular day, usually a weekend)
- details on the equipment to be used and conditions to be followed (type of camera and lens, post-processing instructions, etc.)
- the schedule for submitting images (up to 3 images emailed to Ron by Saturday following the challenge)
- the schedule for judges (judging occurs by second Saturday after challenge)

Participants can sign up for a Challenge the same way we sign up for Field Events (on the SANP website). As long as there are at least five people participating, images submitted from a Challenge will be posted in a Challenge Gallery on SANP's Zenfolio website. Judges (minimum of three per Challenge) will score the images and submit the scores to Ron. Winners will be announced on the SANP website, the SANP Facebook site, and in the next newsletter.

During the other months

For February, March, May, June, August, September, November, and December, any SANP member may offer to be a Challenge Sponsor by contacting Ron with the idea and specifications for the Challenge. Ron will work with Sponsors to set up one Challenge Event per month, with details posted on the website and members notified by email.

A Sponsor's responsibilities include

- describing the Challenge, including choosing the location and time of day
- determining what equipment and post-processing tools can be used
- being present at the Challenge (or finding another member to fill in) to field questions by participants

Participants send images for judging to Ron, who will ensure judges are assigned and winners announced.

Judges

Photo Challenges will be judged by a team of up to 12 judges, made up of volunteers from the membership, with each judge serving for a year. Yes, judges can participate in Challenges but only in those he/she does not judge. If you are interested in being a Judge or being a Sponsor, email [Ron](#).

More information

The Photo Challenge Program is explained in much more detail in these documents posted on the website: Photo Challenge Description ([summary](#) and [detailed](#)); [Photo Challenge Judges Instructions](#).

During December, we will add a Challenges page to the website under the Members heading with all the appropriate information, so stay tuned. The first challenge, scheduled for the second weekend in January 2022, will be announced in the December newsletter. *Questions? contact [Ron McConathy](#).*

“Fellowship through Photography” is more than a tagline to SANP Director Charles Samuels *by Sharon McConathy*

When we scheduled Charles Samuels to be interviewed for the November newsletter, we didn't realize that Charles served in the Army for 23 years, including an assignment to the 82nd Airborne Division. He retired in 1987. Two days after the interview was Veteran's Day, a day we honor men and women, like LTC Charles Samuels, for their service to our country.

A Tennessean from the start

Born and raised in Nashville, Charles speaks frankly about his loving and empathetic mother (“a ‘difficult woman’”) and father (“better lawyer than businessman”). His mother, an early feminist, completed requirements for a masters in divinity at Vanderbilt, only to be told that women weren't awarded degrees. When the dean of the school contacted her to say they had reconsidered, she—impolitely—told him where he could put the degree and started again on a masters in history. His father, with help from others, wrote the charter for the metropolitan government of Nashville and Davidson County. Charles remembers important visitors in their home such as Isaac Stern, Andres Segovia, and Tex Ritter, all friends and/or clients of his parents. And he adds that his mother was responsible for changing that Vanderbilt rule about women receiving degrees. That's quite a role model!

It's no wonder that when Charles retired from the Army, he and wife Roseanne, whom he met while in the 82nd Airborne Division, returned to Tennessee. “I wanted my children to know their grandparents. We've been happy here and made a good life. It's a good community and a good part of the country,” says Charles.

Captured from boyhood

As an 8- or 9-year-old, Charles invested some hard-earned money, all \$5 of it, on a Kodak Brownie Hawkeye, bought on sale at Burke's Department Store around 1950. He says he took photos of everything. “You point the camera, take that picture, and take the film down to Melrose Camera Center. Mr. Fred Pizer sends it off, and magically the prints come back. You show them to the family, and for one out of every 250, my parents would say, “That's a good photo!” As early as 1952, Charles created a photo scrapbook, and even today he is working on journals for his children, complete with photographs.

Definitely not afraid of heights

After high school, Charles was introduced to the world of sky diving. It's a long story that involves flight instructors, clubs, and chickens. Dead chickens. Ask him about it some time, and keep in mind this quote from Charles: “I have a whole bunch of stories, and some of them are true.” This one, I believe, is.

This love of sky diving contributed to his choice of the 82nd Airborne Division for his first Army assignment. Even in the sky, Charles carried a camera along. “Remember the 8mm Minox camera--the little spy camera in the James Bond movies? I bought one of those so I could stick it into my rigging, pinned to my uniform under the quick release of my parachute webbing, and take pictures after my chute deployed,” shared Charles, and then he described a jump in the Dominican Republic where he felt a tug and noticed that his camera was falling from about 800 ft. Once on the ground, he says, “I grabbed a guy who looked fairly old and told him in Spanish that I had dropped a camera out there, and whoever finds it will get a reward.” About an hour later, the camera was returned; Charles exchanged it for \$20, which was equal to about a month's pay for the camera's rescuer.

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Charles Samuels, photographed by Joe Henderson on a hike to Conasauga Falls.



Monarch on Mexican sunflower (Oct 2006). Canon 30D, 80-135mm lens at 125mm, 1/125 sec, f8.0, ISO 800. Copyright Charles Samuels.

Interview with Charles Samuels (con't from previous page)

Always a hobby

While in high school, Charles took a picture of a stuffed crane in a case at the Tennessee State Museum with his Yashica-Mat RP, a 120-size film twin lens reflex. He sent a copy of this low-light photo to his older brother, a student at Virginia Military Institute. His brother entered the picture in a contest, and Charles received an honorable mention. What a motivator! Charles added, smiling, "I could actually take pictures about which other people, not your parents, would say 'good job.'"

In the 1960s in Milford, Connecticut, Charles joined the Milford Camera Club, his first, but far from last, camera club. "I was a beginner. I took some classes. I was using an Olympus Pen FT half-frame 35mm camera, mainly because of the small size."

Today Charles says that photography has always been a hobby, one that has been a window into a lot of adventures and relationships over the years. Now that he is retired, he has no trouble filling his days with photography-related activities, including volunteering for the National Park Service at both the Manhattan Project National Historical Park and the Obed Wild and Scenic River, where he says his "most unusual assignment was photographing glow-worms last May and June."

When asked why he chooses to volunteer, Charles says, "it's fun, you meet some really interesting and wonderful folks, and you do fulfilling work." Sounds a lot like "Fellowship through Photography," doesn't it?

Friends in unexpected places

While Charles and Roseanne were stationed near Izmir, Turkey, in the early 70s, Charles may have found the beginnings of his heartfelt "Fellowship through Photography."

At the Alsancak Market one day, Charles noticed an older gentleman in a turban across the way. "I had a 100mm lens on the camera. I took several shots, bracketing. Hand-held, soft light, no harsh shadows." The film had to be sent back to the States for processing. Once it was returned, Charles chose one image and sent it back to the States for prints. Of the seven made, Charles gave one to his parents, kept one, and put the rest in an envelope.

The next time he and Roseanne were at the market, Charles carried the envelope over to the gentleman he had photographed. Through gestures, he presented the envelope to the man and turned to walk away. After a short time, on hearing quite a commotion, he turned and found he was being tackled by four big guys. At first defensive, Charles then noticed that they weren't trying to hurt him but instead led him back to the man to whom he had given the photographs. With the help of a person who spoke a little English, Charles met Mehmet-Bey, who asked what he owed for the pictures. Charles said, "Nothing. They are a gift. Thank you is enough."

Charles shared what had happened with Roseanne. After they finished their shopping and were ready to head home, there was Mehmet-Bey, waiting with an arm load of produce for them. Mehmet-Bey accompanied them home that day, and through a neighbor who interpreted thanked them again for the photographs, saying as he prepared to return home, "Now my sons can remember me after I die."

On camera equipment

"I shot Nikon for a number of years, but on realizing that lots of my photos were out of focus, I switched to Canon when they introduced auto-focus." A few years ago, Charles changed to a micro four-thirds Olympus system, including two Olympus EM-1s and a selection of lenses, returning to his love for small cameras.



Mehmet-Bey, a Turkish farmer. This candid image was taken with an Olympus Pen FT half-frame camera, 100mm lens (200mm equivalent) on Kodacolor film. Mehmet-Bey, who had been a prisoner of the British in WW I, became a friend. ("Bey," pronounced "bay," is a suffix signifying status, respect, and endearment.) *Copyright Charles Samuels.*

(Continued bottom of p. 6)

Want to share an interesting field experience or other information with fellow members? Email sanpinfo@sanp.net and include a short description and some photos.

From [Ron McConathy](#): I still have the Canon EF 17-35mm f/2.8 L USM lens for sale. Excellent condition. This is a lightweight, full-frame, f/2.8 professional ultrawide zoom for all Canon EOS digital and 35mm autofocus cameras. I have purchased a newer lens and no longer need this one. Sale includes the original box, unused Canon case, lens hood, lens caps, and the lens. See an excellent review of this lens at <https://www.kenrockwell.com/canon/lenses/17-35mm.htm>. This review lists the used selling price at ~\$800. My price is now: **\$639** (down \$50).



From **Dennis Sabo**: The November 2021 issue of Portfolio Magazine includes an article titled “The Tarn Collection,” which features my images made in Acadia National Park’s Tarn marshland. This coffee-table magazine has an [on-line version](#). My article begins on digital page 62. [Editor’s note: the D. Sabo photo on the right is one of several featured in the article.]



SANP BOARD UPDATES

Reminder: The addition to the SANP Bylaws, approved by the Board at the September Board meeting, will be voted on by the membership at the November meeting. Review the Bylaw change on p. 3 of the [September newsletter](#).

If you have a question or issue to bring before the Board, contact [Ed Stickle](#), President, 48 hours before the next meeting. An issue may be presented in person (via Zoom for now) if you wish, as long as the president knows that’s your preference. If you want to attend a Zoom Board of Directors meeting (even if you have no issues to bring forward), email [Sharon](#) to get the Zoom link. Read minutes from past [meetings](#). The November minutes will be posted after next month’s meeting. **Next meeting: December 14, 7pm, via zoom.**

Interview with Charles Samuels (con’t from p.5)

Making a Contribution

When asked why he joined the Board, Charles was quick to respond that he very much wanted to make a contribution to the club. He said, “My army service tells me that I may not be the strongest leader, but I do have a voice and I occasionally have good ideas. I enjoy making things better.”

He quickly added, “The club has been smart in how it’s staying viable in spite of COVID. ‘Fellowship through Photography’ is what I’d like to see. I want us to be a place where people can come to meet others with like interests, knowing that they will be accepted, brought into the group. We need to encourage our members to expand and mentor people who need it, recruit people to be mentors. Keep members involved and the club will grow.”

Fellowship through Photography

Charles had these closing words, “Fellowship first. If we like each other and respect each other, people will want to join us.”

What more needs to be said?



Conasauga Falls in the Cherokee National Forest near Tellico Plains, TN. *Copyright Charles Samuels.*

My Plan Was Perfect, Until... *by Frans DeRoos*

What I am about to share happened in the summer of 2017. I remember the day as if it were yesterday. Recalling that day, I can smile, but there was no laughing that day, which started as an adventure but ended up an eye-opener. It's Saturday and a perfect day for photography—cloudy with a possible rain front passing through later that evening. My plan was to explore an area with some nice woodlands and the potential for some great landscape images. With my new Nikon D5600 and kit lens (18-55mm Nikon DX) stored securely in my backpack, I drove to Maymont Park in Richmond, Virginia, where I was living at the time.

As I was driving, the clouds grew darker. A few moments later, rain started falling hard, taking me by surprise. When I arrived at the parking lot, I checked the weather app on my phone and noticed that I had looked at the forecast for Sunday rather than Saturday! I couldn't believe I had misread the weather forecast, but the fact was, I did misread it. I decided to make the best of the situation and experience photography in the rain!

Just past the trailhead was a bridge where pedestrians and cars could cross into another area of the park. I liked the gray and moody atmosphere of the bridge in the rain, so I got out my camera, in the rain, to make a few images.

As I began to explore, I placed my foot on a root and the next thing I knew I was at the bottom of the steep entrance to the trail, the root having caused me to slip and fall. I was not only soaking wet but muddy, too. I checked my camera, and nothing worked.

By now it occurred to me that I might have ruined my new camera. Giving up the so-called "adventure," I decided to go back home.

A few days later, I was thinking about that rainy day and decided that I needed to expect the unexpected and be better prepared. Here is what I learned that day and still practice today:

1. Check the weather forecast at least twice; when I worked as a carpenter, a rule always followed was "measure twice, cut once." This concept certainly applies to photography.
2. Check and double check batteries to be sure they are fully charged. One day, I drove 30 minutes to shoot a sunrise only to realize that my camera battery was dead, and I didn't bring a spare. Talk about being mad.
3. Make sure you dress appropriately for the weather. Landscape photography can be miserable when you don't have the proper clothing. Been there; done that.

The events resulting in the lessons learned above have all happened to me more than once. Fortunately, for me, both the good and bad contribute to making photography fun. Still a good idea to learn from the bad ones!

By the way, my Nikon camera dried out and worked just fine; nobody told me to let it air dry, and I almost threw it away. I often wish someone had shared events with me like these I'm sharing with you today. By sharing my experiences, I hope you don't make the same mistakes I did. They say, "A picture is worth a thousand words." I say "Photographic experiences reveal a lot about the photographer." We must respect nature, and we can either adjust to what nature presents or call it a day and try again another time.

Hello again. Today I'm sharing an adventure from the summer of 2017. If you haven't figured it out yet, I enjoy being out in nature. This day held more in store for me than I anticipated. Fortunately, I learned from the experience.

Until next time, be adventurous, be curious, and have fun shooting! Frans



The bridge at Maymont Park.
 Copyright Frans DeRoos.



Entrance to adventure. Copyright Frans DeRoos.

Future Club Meetings

Dec 2021 No meeting
 Jan 2022 TBD

SANP Officers

President: [Ed Stickle](#), 865-405-8143
 Vice President: Open
 Secretary: Charles Samuels
 Treasurer: Sharon Cottrell

Volunteer Managers

Community Outreach: [Ron Sentell](#)
 Field Events: [Dale Potter](#)
 Librarian: [Ann Barber](#)
 Membership: [Brad Cottrell](#)
 Newsletter: [Sharon McConathy](#)
 Photo Challenge Admin: [Ron McConathy](#)
 Programs: [Kendall Chiles](#)
 Salon: [Dale Potter](#)
 Social Media: [Chris Cannon](#)
 Website: [Shawn Grant](#)
 Workshops: Open

Board of Directors

The Board meets 2nd Monday each month.

2019-2021:	Sharon Cottrell Charles Samuels Ron McConathy
2020-2022:	David Boruff Kristina Plaas Dale Potter
2021-2023:	Chris Cannon Gretchen Kaplan Marcy Wielfaert

Camera Club Council of Tennessee (3CT)

SANP is a member club of 3CT, www.3ct.org, which is a network of photography clubs from across Tennessee and neighboring states. Their [monthly newsletter](#) (over 20 pages) includes information about meetings and events for member clubs. You can also visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CameraClubCouncilOfTennessee.

Welcome, New SANP Member!

Click on the names below to read more about our new members and send a message (available to members only.)

[Leigh Willard](#), White Pine, TN (interested in wildlife, plants, landscapes, macro, video, cell phone photography). Leigh says "I have fallen in love with East Tn and the ability to see so many different aspects of nature at every turn."

Questions about membership? Contact Brad Cottrell at sanpmembership@gmail.com.

Membership Renewal—

To renew your membership, go to your online [profile](#) on the SANP website and click the button labeled "Renew to mm/dd/yyyy." Follow the prompts to pay by credit card. If you want to pay by check, click the "Invoice me" button, and follow the instructions on the invoice. Questions? Contact Brad Cottrell at sanpmembership@gmail.com.

"Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep."

— Scott Adams



Crossing the Chobe, Abstract Nature category, 2021 Salon. Copyright Marcy Wielfaert.