

Focus

Georgia Nature Photography Association

This month the *Journal's* occasional article entitled **Focus**, which features a member or member club turns to the Georgia Nature Photography Association (GNPA), which has been in existence for only 5 years, but during that time has grown to include 350 members. Its founders greatly admired the Carolina Nature Photographers Association (CNPA) and organized GNPA in almost an identical manner. Today it includes members in three states and is actively establishing new chapters. In 2008 they partnered with the *Chattahoochee Nature Center* (CNC), which wanted to hold more nature photography classes, and as GNPA needed a meeting location and a lot of help getting started, they decided to work together and more people were introduced to nature and CNC provided a great meeting location for the fledgling Association. In 2009

Elena McTighe,
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GNPA joined the Photographic Society of America (PSA).

The Association holds regular monthly meetings featuring great speakers (regional and national nature photographers who generously share insights and *how-to's*), educational workshops and plenty of field trips. Two or three contests are held every year to offer members recognition and prizes.

Annually, GNPA hosts a get-together called the Annual Expo, which is an event where members and participants meet for a weekend at a convenient venue, hold photo excursions and enjoy great food and meeting facilities. For this event, major nature photographers are invited as keynote speakers and they offer valuable insights; show new and better techniques and of course,

Print competition.
Photo © Tom Vadnais



2013 Annual Expo with Rob Knight Photo © Tom Vadnais

2011 Annual Expo
with David Middleton.
Photo © Tom Vadnais





Butterfly at Greyfield Gardens on Cumberland Island. Photo © Starr Camp

inspire all with great images. At the Annual Expo, there is an annual photo competition where the prizes presented to winners include sizable cash awards and equipment. For those who don't compete there is a raffle of hundreds of dollars worth of equipment and yes, even cash, to members. The expo is sponsored by Hunts Camera and Video®, Canon® and Nikon®. GNPA Treasurer, Starr Camp, states, "We are currently working on the 5th Annual Photo Expo that will be held on April 10- 13, 2014 at Unicoi State Park Conference Center with **George Lepp** as the keynote speaker."

GNPA also hosted the 2013 North Georgia

Camera Club Council Photo Shootout, an event where 300+ photographers compete in a photo shootout in one single day.

www.northgeorgiacameraclubcouncil.org

The Association states that their mission is to help nature photographers of all skill levels improve their photography, learn and grow, meet other outdoor photographers, participate in great trips and events, help others understand the value of the natural world and give focus to a special area of interest in photography.

The information for this article was taken from the GNPA website. To learn more visit <http://www.gnpa.org>. ■



Starr Camp
PSA Representative



2011 Annual Expo with our main sponsor "Showcase Photo & Video." Photo © Tom Vadnais

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