

Dear Smokies Regional Field Event Participants:

It won't be long until we all gather in Cherokee for the Smokies Regional Field Event. I'm sure that you are as excited about the event as Suzan and I are. We want you to know that the NANPA staff, all the professional guides, as well as Suzan and me (event co-coordinators) have been very busy working behind the scenes to make sure that we all have a good time and capture some memorable images. I'd like to take a minute to pass on additional information and instructions for the critique sessions.

Weather & Clothing: Who can predict it, but nature photographers don't care, do we? To get a good idea of what the weather will be while we are in Cherokee, go to www.noaa.org and enter Cherokee, NC and plan accordingly. Basically, it will probably be in the 40s in the morning and 70s to low 80s in the afternoon. Of course, as soon as we say that, it will snow. And don't forget your rain gear just in case.

Camera Gear: With any luck, there will be lots of possibilities for wildlife, scenic and macro photography. Bring everything from telephotos to wide-angles to macro equipment.

Additional Items: Tripod, rain protection for your equipment (plastic bags will work), extra batteries for everything. Digital shooters should bring something to download cards onto. We probably will not be walking far, but a pack for your gear is also a good idea. It's always a good idea to also bring a multiple socket extension cord in case the rooms don't have all the outlets you need.

Submitting images for the critiques (Please note submission date if e-mailing)

Everyone is encouraged, but not required, to submit images for critiquing by the pros and coordinators on Friday and Saturday afternoon. This is an excellent learning opportunity, and besides, everybody wants to see your work. So don't be shy. We all learn from these critiques!

It looks like we are going to have a full contingent of 60 photographers for this event. How many images we will be able to critique is dependent upon how many are submitted. In addition, if we can't venture outside, we will do additional critiques. Now we KNOW it isn't going to rain, but just in case it does, **you may submit up to four images.** We doubt that all four will be critiqued, but that depends largely on how many participate as well as the weather.

You have three options to submit your images:

1. On CD and present the CD at registration
2. On a thumb, jump, flash drive and present at registration
3. E-mail to Bruce at b.k.haley@verizon.net - **please - only 1 image per e-mail (send multiple e-mails).** Ideally, we'd like you to choose this method as it will speed up the registration process. Submit by Friday, April 23rd. Bruce will confirm that he's received your images.

Image Preparation for Critiques

It is **extremely important** that you prepare your images as follows:

1. Convert the image color space to sRGB IEC62966-2.1;
2. Resize the image to 72dpi and 1024 pixels on the longest side
4. Save the image as a jpeg with a quality level that results in a file no bigger than 1 Mbyte; and
5. Name the file as follows: image number_last name_first name - for example:
 - 01_bruce_haley
 - 02_bruce_haley
 - 03_bruce_haley
 - 04_bruce_haley

If you want to submit a printed photograph rather than a digital file, please bring the print with you to the registration desk on Thursday. The print should be printed as large as appropriate for the image and be matted for good presentation. The print will be returned to you after it is critiqued by the pros.

Carpooling: Each group, including the pro guide, will have 13 photographers. If everybody takes their own car, we will also have 13 cars in each group which, depending on where the group is going, could present parking problems. It is for that reason, we are going to ask each group to reduce the number of cars in the group by carpooling. Now we know that some of you will be reluctant to do that because you have all your gear spread out in your car and you don't want to go through the hassle of transferring it to another car. But PLEASE consider the possibility of doing so. It's a GREAT way to make new friends ! Not to mention, you will have our undying gratitude.

General: Please keep in mind that the Regional Field Events are photo tours, not workshops. That said, don't be shy about asking your tour guide for help if you need it. Having been to several of these events ourselves, We've found that the other participants are also great about sharing techniques, thoughts and ideas. So, while not an educational event, we can almost guarantee that you will learn a lot, but only if you ask!

Please know your camera before you arrive.

Bruce is planning on arriving to arrive on Monday the 26th. If you are there, please don't hesitate to contact me if you need anything. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, just e-mail me or Suzan (scbrand@aol.com).

We are all looking forward to meeting with you and doing what we love best. Thank you for participating and making this a great event!

Bruce Haley & Suzan Brand
Regional Field Event Co-Chairs
Smokies Event Coordinators