

Autumn at Great Smoky Mountains National Park

with John Gerlach and Dixie Calderone

October 23 – 28, 2020

October 29 – Nov. 4, 2020



Figure 1 The typical autumn stream in the Smokies.

We have enjoyed photographing the autumn colors during the first two weeks of October in northern Michigan over three decades. For years, I wanted to extend my time amid incredible autumn colors

and now I am doing that at Great Smoky Mountains National Park where the colors peak ten days later than in northern Michigan. Please join us for an incredible intensive photo workshop that will be tremendous fun while you learn to be a far more accomplished landscape photographer.



Figure 2 Bud Ogle Cabin at dawn revealing the inner glow of the cabin.

Many of you know me already through the hundreds of photo magazine articles I have written and the best-selling instructional nature photography books I have written that include: Digital Landscape Photography, Digital Nature Photography, Close Up Photography in Nature, Digital Wildlife Photography, and Outdoor Flash Photography.

I have been teaching photo workshops, leading international tours, and conducting seminars on

nature photography since 1982. I believe in producing high-quality images, and I know you feel the same. We are enthusiastic instructors who encourage you to master your camera. Dixie is especially good with the Nikon gear she uses. I am good with all camera systems, and especially the Canon cameras I use. Indeed, I have written articles for Canon USA as I continually discover new ways to use cameras to produce better images. Please visit us at:

www.gerlachnaturephoto.com

My Facebook page is all nature photos that includes photo tips.

<https://www.facebook.com/gerlachnaturephotography>

Topics covered in this workshop:

- The best focusing techniques
- How to shoot razor-sharp images
- Creative compositions with emphasis on autumn color
- Compositions with panning and zooming
- Flash to enhance the autumn image – fill, main, and balanced with wireless controls
- Focus stacking for the ultimate in overall sharpness or selective focus
- How to shoot ideal exposures fast and easy
- The ultimate in close-up photo techniques
- HDR to handle extreme contrast

- Manual metering strategies
- The ultimate auto exposure method: manual A & S, auto ISO, and EC
- The best ways to photograph waterfalls
- The benefits of polarizing filters with fall color

In this workshop we lead you to exciting locations where you are sure to find magnificent subjects to photograph. We show you how to select prime photo prospects from the chaos of nature. Then we demonstrate how to shoot superb images with high-quality techniques that anyone can learn and master. In the field we spend 100% of our time helping you take pictures with your equipment. We demonstrate certain equipment and techniques like focus stacking, fill-flash, main flash, and live view shooting strategies.



Figure 3 Aspen leaves swirling about a rock in Big Creek.

To ensure that instruction is complete, informative, and helpful, the group size is **limited to only twelve (12) participants**. That's a helpful 1:6 instructor/client ratio!

John presents four detailed instructional programs on **exposure, close-up photography, wildlife photography, and flash** that he carefully designed to maximize learning. The materials contained in the programs are suitable for beginners through professionals. We kindly critique your images during the week and present a spirited showing of each participant's best images made during the week.



Figure 4 Mingus Mill focus stacked

John and Dixie also present a program featuring images they have taken during the past year. This popular portion of the workshop is an excellent way to show you the new photo tricks we have discovered about nature photography and the new images produced. Lately, we are shooting many focus-stacked sets of images to achieve unlimited depth of field with the sharpest aperture on the lens for both landscape and close-ups, floating blind images of ducks and shorebirds that puts us eye-to-eye with these beautiful creatures of nature, hummingbirds with multiple flash, wildlife images from their Africa photo tours to Kenya using a super-fast all new exposure technique, landscape photography at the Grand Tetons in winter, and macro images from Michigan.



Figure 5 Sun rays at dawn from Clingman's Dome

We ask each of you to bring some digital images or prints from home to share with the group. Although this is optional, it's an effective way for us to see where you have been. If you would like a critique of your images, just ask, and we will gladly do this for you. We eat, breathe, and sleep nature photography at each workshop, but that doesn't mean it's all work and no play. We take our field trips at a leisurely pace, so there is time to relax and enjoy the beautiful Smoky Mountains. We may even get a little silly at times, but then laughter and humor enhance the workshop experience.



Figure 6 Thousand Springs littered with leaves.

Participating in this nature photography workshop is not only a super way to improve your nature photography and to learn about nature, it is also a wonderful "learning vacation." It's always a pleasure to share experiences and knowledge with like-minded nature photographers. We believe in taking our field trips at the times that we would be out capturing our own images. Therefore, we take field trips every morning, generally beginning at least an hour before sunrise, and stay out until 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. Getting up for our early morning field trips isn't going to be as tough as it sounds after you see the first magnificent sunrise from Clingmans Dome.



Figure 7 Bull Elk

Evening field trips begin in late afternoon, depending on the day's destination, and we always stay out for the sunset, weather permitting. We'll conduct most of our instructional programs – that cover exposure, close-ups, wildlife, and advanced flash techniques – during the middle of the day when photo conditions are less favorable. All mornings and evenings are reserved for field trips.

Field Trips

Field trips are 3-4 hours long, allowing you to shoot many outstanding nature images. We'll visit scenic overlooks, leaf-covered forests, moss-covered streams, gorgeous waterfalls in the autumn woods, and much more of the incredible Smoky Mountains where subjects abound. We'll carpool on each field trip. We'll take you to many exciting places that are known to only a few.



Figure 8 View from the Foothills Parkway.

Physical Abilities

This is a nature photography workshop, so participants must be physically able to participate with the group. While there isn't any "extensive" hiking, there will be some moderate hiking. Most sessions will not require more than normal physical exertion for this type workshop, but we wish to show participants some of the most beautiful areas of the wilderness. You must be able to navigate down stream banks, hike slightly-elevated trails and carry your equipment. Please know your abilities and if you have any questions about the physical nature of these workshops do not hesitate to ask.



Figure 9 Fog in the valley

Digital Photography

We use a computer and large screen television for viewing your images. Give us a copy of your images on a jump drive to let us view them. Our presentation software only lets us view JPEGs, so submit only JPEGs please. Bringing your own laptop computer is highly encouraged to allow you to review your images during the week!

Meals

We eat many meals as a group, but mealtimes are highly variable. The weather dictates our field trips. Meals are worked in around photography. We'll attempt to eat breakfast as a group after the morning field trip. All other meals depend on our schedule. Since predicting the weather is not our specialty, we'll just react to what happens on site. In all cases, when we go to restaurants, everyone orders off the menu and pays for their meal then. Nobody has ever gone hungry, nor lost weight during our workshops. But we do work our meals around taking beautiful images, not the other way around!



Figure 10 Autumn cascades.

Non-participating Spouses

As we are being headquartered in Gatlinburg, non-participating spouses are encouraged to attend. While participants are in the field, nonparticipating spouses have ample time to explore Gatlinburg. We encourage you to visit www.gatlinburg.com to learn about all that this gateway to the Smokies offers. Non-participating spouses are allowed to attend all of the meetings at the hotel. Although, due to limited parking at many locations, non-participating spouses cannot join field trips with their spouse. **We must keep the number of vehicles following us to as few as possible.**



Figure 11 The view from Clingman's Dome

Workshop Dates:

October 23 – 29, 2020

This workshop begins on October 23 (Friday) and ends after breakfast on Oct. 29 (Thurs). The first meeting on Friday evening begins in the meeting room at the Greystone Inn at 5 pm.

October 29 – Nov. 4, 2020

This workshop begins on October 29 (Thursday) and ends after breakfast on Nov. 4 (Wed).

The first meeting on Thursday evening begins in the meeting room at the Greystone Inn at 5 pm.

Tuition

Tuition for the workshop is \$1250. A \$300 deposit is required now to hold your space in the workshop. The deposit is refundable, less a \$50 service fee, until June 1, 2020. After June 1, the \$300 deposit is nonrefundable, unless we can refill your space on such short notice (minus the \$50 service fee). Tuition includes all classroom and field instruction and detailed notes. Meals, lodging, transportation, and items of a personal nature are not included.

Lodging

Our workshops are based at the Greystone Lodge, but participants may stay at other locations of their choice. Staying near, or at the Greystone Lodge, will be advantageous for early morning meetings before traveling to our sunrise spot and other locations. You must make your own hotel reservations. Lodging is not included in the tuition. Please call (800) 451-9202 to make your room reservation at the hotel. Mention you are attending the Gerlach Photography Workshop to get a lower rate. We have reserved a block of rooms to accommodate the group, but they will be released in mid-September, so don't wait to book the hotel for the six nights needed to attend our workshop.

Travel and Equipment Information

After making a reservation, we'll send you pre-departure information describing photographic

equipment and clothing that is most suitable for the workshop.

How to Get to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Since most of our workshop participants drive to the Smokies, we rely on carpooling. For those participants flying in, you should choose either the Knoxville McGhee Tyson Airport (TYS), which is only about 45 miles from Gatlinburg or the Asheville (North Carolina) Regional Airport (AVL) which is about 54 miles driving distance. There are car rental companies at both airports. We recommend renting a car because it's convenient to have your own wheels. If you wish to rely on carpooling, you can get a taxi at the airport. The fee for a taxi ride to Gatlinburg from the Knoxville Airport is about \$85 one-way. If you would like to share a rented car with another participant, let us know, and we'll connect all interested parties. Many of our guests do this!

Please join us for a solid week of being fully immersed in nature and photography. To register, simply send an email to:

johngerlachphotography@gmail.com

To Enroll:

Please contact us first to make sure space remains available in the

workshop. The group size is limited to twelve providing a super experience for everyone.

Contact:

Dixie Calderone

812-350-0799

John Gerlach

johngerlachphotography@gmail.com

208-320-0951

We can take a credit card over the phone or you can send a check to:

John Gerlach

2632 N. Marr Road

Columbus, IN 47203

*Make the check payable to: Gerlach
Nature Photography*