

Grandfather Mountain

Nature Photography Weekend

2026 Schedule

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

8 a.m. | Grandfather Mountain gates open for event attendees and participants. Timeframe for the weekend contest begins.

12 - 7 p.m. | Berrie Smith Camera Cleaning (*Outside the Classroom in the Clouds in the Wilson Center*) (additional cost)

2 - 5 p.m. | Check-in outside the Classroom in the Clouds in the Wilson Center for Nature Discovery.

3:15 p.m. | Classroom in the Clouds (*in the Wilson Center*) opens to event attendees and participants.

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. | Beginner's Guide Presentation - Kyle Cook and Melissa Southern (*Classroom in the Clouds*)

4:45 - 5:15 p.m. | Welcome, Weekend Overview, Naturalist Presentation (*Classroom in the Clouds*)

5:15 - 5:45 p.m. | Don Nelson Winner Announced, Contest Overview and Rules (*Classroom in the Clouds*)

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. | Social Time/Non-Alcohol Beverages/Light Bites (*Williams Outdoor Learning Space*)

7:30 p.m. | Access to the Wilson Center closes.

8:43 p.m. | Official sunset time.

12 a.m. | Event attendees/participants must be off the mountain if not camping.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

5 a.m. | Grandfather Mountain gates open for event attendees and participants.

5:45 - 7:15 a.m. | Field Courses (*for registered field course attendees only*)
Tony Sweet: "Sunrise at Half Moon Overlook"
Jane Palmer: "Sunrise over the Blue Ridge Mountains"

6:09 a.m. | Official sunrise time.

7:45 - 9:15 a.m. | Field Courses (*for registered field course attendees only*)
Jennifer King: "Visualize in Black & White"
John Mauser: "Photographing Birds and Mammals"

8 - 9 a.m. | Late check-in outside the Classroom in the Clouds in the Wilson Center for Nature Discovery.

8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Classroom opens to participants. TEAM members are on hand for contest submission questions.

9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Berrie Smith Camera Cleaning (*Outside the Classroom in the Clouds in the Wilson Center*) (*additional cost*)

10 - 11:30 a.m. | Field Courses (*for registered field course attendees only*)
Jane Palmer: "Creative Flower Photography on Grandfather Mountain"
Tony Sweet: "Creative In-camera Effects"
John Mauser: "Small Photos on a Big Mountain"
Jennifer King: "Black & White Photo Processing in Adobe Lightroom"

4 p.m. | Contest Turn-in Deadline (*outside the Classroom in the Clouds*)

4:15 p.m. | Saturday Welcome Presentation (*Classroom in the Clouds*)

4:30 - 5:30 p.m. | "Infrared in Nature" - Tony Sweet (*Classroom in the Clouds*)

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. | Saturday Night Dinner Buffet (*access will be staggered*)

6:40 - 7:40 p.m. | "Storytelling with Nature Photography" - Jane Palmer (*Classroom in the Clouds*)

8:43 p.m. | Official sunset time.

12 a.m. | Event attendees/participants must be off the mountain if not camping.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

5 a.m. | Grandfather Mountain gates open for event attendees and participants.

6:09 a.m. | Official sunrise time.

8 - 11 a.m. | Berrie Smith Camera Cleaning (*outside the Classroom in the Clouds*) (*additional cost*)

8 - 9 a.m. | Optional Buffet Breakfast (*Mildred's Grill*) (*additional cost*)

9:15 a.m. | Sunday Welcome Presentation (*Classroom in the Clouds*)

9:20 - 10:20 a.m. | "Creating Striking Wildlife Images" - John Mauser (*Classroom in the Clouds*)

10:20 - 11:20 a.m. | "Creative Composition: It's not what you photograph, it's how you photograph" - Jennifer King (*Classroom in the Clouds*)

11:30 a.m. | Contest award presentation (*Classroom in the Clouds*)

12 p.m. | Event programming for the weekend ends.

3 p.m. | All tents need to be out of the Woods Walk picnic area.



Grandfather
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