

Nature Photography Weekend 2026 Field Course Offerings

Field courses offered by the NPW speakers are special add-on opportunities for registered event attendees and participants. These courses are more hands-on workshops that allow event participants and attendees one-on-one instruction from a speaker. Group sizes are kept small. Field course spots are limited, and attendance is not included in your event registration. There will be an additional cost of \$10+tax per field course.

Registered attendees and participants should submit their field course preferences to media@grandfather.com by Wednesday, May 13.

Field course spots will then be randomly drawn, and “winners” will be able to purchase their “spot” before the actual event. Assignment emails with a link to purchase field course spots will go out on May 20. An effort will be made to get all interested folks into at least one of their preferred field courses. After receiving an email May 20 with an assignment, the window to purchase field course spots will be open until May 27.

Tony Sweet | “Sunrise at Half Moon” **Saturday, June 6 | 5:45 – 7:15 a.m.**

Tony will demonstrate how to set up the gear that he uses for sunrise photography and how to capture images from a unique location on the mountain. Most travel to the top of the mountain for sunrise but Tony shows that a midpoint on the mountain can provide a creative take on a stunning sunset image.

Location: Meet at Half Moon Overlook

Capacity: 10 people with carpooling encouraged

Jane Palmer | “Sunrise over the Blue Ridge Mountains” **Saturday, June 6 | 5:45 – 7:15 a.m.**

In this early morning field session with Jane, participants will welcome the day from the Mile High Swinging Bridge’s lofty vantage point that overlooks the famous Blue Ridge Mountains. Emphasis will be placed on learning to create a thoughtful composition that captures the waking mountains. Jane invites participants to explore the natural lines and layers of the mountains with intention. She will work to help develop the use of foreground

elements to anchor the composition, use the atmospheric conditions of dawn to add drama to the scene and more.

Location: *Meet at the entrance of the Top Shop at the top of the mountain. The group will walk together to the Mile High Swinging Bridge.*

Capacity: *15 people*

Jennifer King | “Visualize in Black & White”

Saturday, June 6 | 7:45 – 9:15 a.m.

Jennifer shares the pure magic behind black and white photography by deep-diving into the silver-like component that creates a sense of illusion, the dark tones that produce emotional responses and the light that brings each image to life. She walks participants through the creative process of capturing their vision behind the lens and teaches them to visualize, compose and photography by the light.

Location: *Meet at Cliffside Picnic area.*

Capacity: *15 people*

John Mauser | “Photographing Birds and Mammals”

Saturday, June 6 | 7:45 – 9:15 a.m.

John takes participants on an interactive walking tour to explore the technical and artistic aspects of wildlife photography by focusing on the animals that call Grandfather Mountain home. The course will lead in with a discussion on tips and techniques, followed by a longer walk to photograph the birds and mammals seen along the way.

Location: *Meet at the front entrance to the Wilson Center for Nature Discovery. The field course and it’s walking portion will take place around the Wilson Center, through the various garden areas and through the wildlife habitats.*

Capacity: *15 people*

Tony Sweet | “Creative In-camera Effects”

Saturday, June 6 | 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Tony will guide participants through creative techniques like multiple exposures, swipes, long exposures, panoramic photography and so much more. Questions or effects that

participants may want to know more about are encouraged to be discussed during the field course.

Location: *Cliffside Picnic Area*

Capacity: *15 people*

Jane Palmer | “Creative Flower Photography on Grandfather Mountain”

Saturday, June 6 | 10 – 11:30 a.m.

The early spring months on Grandfather Mountain bring an explosion of color – flame azaleas, rhododendron and delicate wildflowers tucked into rocky outcrops. Jane invites participants to slow down and work to create floral images that feel alive and unique. Exploration will take place while using and controlling light, using perspective and focus to manage backgrounds and craft photos that truly tell the story of the flowers. This is an opportunity to see beyond the obvious shot and explore creative expression with flower photography.

Location: *Participants will meet at the gravel lot across from MacRae Meadows at Highway 221.*

Capacity: *15 people*

John Mauser | “Small Photos on a Big Mountain”

Saturday, June 6 | 10 – 11:30 a.m.

In this unique course, John assists participants as they experiment with different macro photography techniques to capture images of small subjects like plants, fungi, insects and amphibians. This course is in partnership with Grandfather Mountain’s research team, who will accompany participants to reveal hidden salamander plots for the rare opportunity to photograph salamanders on the mountain.

Location: *Meet outside of the Woods Walk bathroom building.*

Capacity: *8 people*

Jennifer King | “Black & White Photo Processing in Adobe Lightroom”

Saturday, June 6 | 10 – 11:30 a.m.

From the field to the classroom, Jennifer walks participants through the steps of how to process a photograph into a work of fine art. Black and white photography begins with a concept that needs technical refining with some basic processing skills. Learn how to define your style from concept to completion. The first 30-minutes of this course will allow

for photo/content collection outside of the Wilson Center and then the group will meet in the Classroom in the Clouds to receive editing techniques from Jennifer.

Location: *Meet in the sunroom at Mildred's Grill.*

Capacity: *10 people*