

Grandfather Mountain Nature Photography Weekend 2025 Featured Speakers

VINNY COLUCCI



vinnycolucci.com
escapetonaturephotography.com

Presenter and award-winning photographer Vinny Colucci has been an active photographer since 1979 and a shooting professional since 1995. He has photographed N.C. to the West Coast and north to the Canadian Rockies. Along with his wife, Annette, Vinny conducts nature and wildlife photography workshops throughout the year.

Vinny is an active outdoorsman and a member of Nikon's Professional Services and Wimberley Professional Services. He is also a Singh-Ray Filter Ambassador and Technical Advisor, as well as a Gura Gear Affiliate. Vinny is represented by Picture Stock. His images have appeared in multiple publications, including Nature Photographer Magazine, New Bern Travel Magazine, Microwave Journal and various other publications. He has also authored and coauthored multiple books.

His speaking engagements have included Popular Photography Magazine, as well as the Grandfather Mountain Nature Photography Weekend and Camera Clinic events, Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI), St. Augustine Photo and Birding Festival, Orlando Wetlands Festival, Crane Festival and multiple universities around the country.

Bill Fortney is a photographer, writer, pilot and highly sought-after presenter with over 55 years of experience in the field. Bill has done professional work as a newspaper and magazine photojournalist, sports photographer (once an official photographer for the Washington Redskins), medical photographer and nature photographer. Bill's bestselling books include "The Nature of America" (with David Middleton), "American Vision" (with David Middleton, John Shaw and Wayne Lynch), "America from 500 Feet" (with Wesley Fortney), "Bill Fortney's Great Photography Workshop" and "America from 500 Feet II" (with Mark Kettenhofen). Bill's books have sold well over 150,000 copies, placing him on the list of best-selling photographers/authors in America. Bill has been named a Fellow by the North American Nature Photographers Association.

Bill currently teaches for KelbyOne and appears at Photoshop World as a speaker/teacher. Bill teaches His Light Workshops, a Christian-based workshop company.

BILL FORTNEY



billfortney.com

CHRISSEY DONADI



chrissydonadi.com

Chrissy Donadi is a renowned nature and landscape photographer, educator and Adobe Lightroom Classic expert with a passion for capturing the wild beauty of our natural world. A former engineer turned fine art photographer and Master Naturalist, Chrissy uniquely blends technical precision with an inspired artistic vision. With deep roots in the Appalachian region — from her formative years in Pennsylvania’s Pocono Mountains to her ongoing exploration of eastern landscapes — she brings an authentic connection to nature that resonates in every image she creates.

Known for her engaging, hands-on teaching style, Chrissy has empowered countless photographers to streamline their digital workflow, master post-processing techniques and confidently harness their creativity both behind and beyond the camera. At this Nature Photography Weekend, she will share her expert insights on capturing dynamic landscapes and transforming everyday scenes into extraordinary works of art.

Kevin Adams is a naturalist, writer, teacher and photographer who has had a lifelong love affair with nature and the outdoors. In addition to photo credits in all manner of publications, Kevin is the author and photographer of ten books. An accomplished photography instructor, he leads photo tours and teaches numerous workshops and seminars throughout the year. Often called the “MacGyver of Photography,” he designed and sells several unique products for night photographers.

Kevin lives in Waynesville, N.C. with his wife, Patricia, their elderly cat Lucy, two hellion cats that he personally rescued from Puerto Rico and three more cats that showed up one day and decided to move in. Oh, and the raccoons, skunks and opossums that show up every night to steal the cat’s food.

KEVIN ADAMS



kadamsphoto.com

GEORGIA WALTERS



georgiawalters.com

Georgia Walters is the wife of a lawyer, mother of four and grandmother of two. Georgia began her fixation with photos in elementary school each month when the National Geographic hit the library. Her obsession with photography began in 2012 when her mother-in-law gave Georgia the gift of her first camera. She is fully self-taught and still learning to this day. Georgia is not a technical photographer and employs a learn-as-you-do way of teaching. She loves to watch people grow and getting to be a part of the process of them finding their creative style.

Georgia is **severely hearing impaired** and wears two hearing aids. Although she can’t hear Mother Earth properly, she fully appreciates the natural beauty of life. Georgia uses social media to describe her experiences through stories and prose that she writes while in the field. She has been published on the covers of books and magazines, and she has won many awards.