

Swamps, Marsh and Shore Workshop

March 21-26, 2010

The coastal area of Georgia and northern Florida provides a unique and diverse environment for nature photography. This workshop includes three venues to explore the diversity of photographic opportunities - the Saint Augustine Alligator Farm, the Okefenokee, and Jekyll Island. The focus of this workshop is nature photography with an emphasis on birds and landscapes. Along the way we have some great opportunities to see and photograph beachscapes, coastal marshes, and mysterious swamps. We'll visit several locations to photograph shorebirds and wading birds, so you are sure to walk away with a wide range of avian images.

Arrival – Sunday, March 21

We arrive at Jekyll Island by 5:00 PM to get acquainted and head to an early dinner. Over dinner we'll review the plan for the week and have a short workshop with tips and suggestions to help get the most from your experience.

Day 1 – Monday, March 22

The workshop begins on Jekyll Island, a barrier island that is primarily owned and operated by the State of Georgia as a state park. On the eastern side of the island are wide beaches providing wonderful opportunities to photograph the rising sun and early morning light warming ancient driftwood. The beach provides a resting area where we will photograph the hundreds of resident shorebirds and migrants at their best. Moving to the interior of the island, we'll photograph the Jekyll Island Club with its majestic oaks and historic buildings from the early 20th century. After lunch we head to Jekyll Point for several hours of shorebird photography at one of the top locations on the East Coast. We'll close the day with a sunset shoot of the famous marshes of Glynn.

Day 2 – Tuesday, March 23

On Day 2 we'll travel to the Okefenokee for the day. We'll get an early start for a full day at the Okefenokee Swamp. We'll start with a boat trip into the swamp and watch the early morning mist clear to reveal the mysteries of the swamp. We expect to see alligators and a wide range of birds including waders and the brightly colored Prothonotary Warbler. In the afternoon we'll visit take a closer look at what it was like for the early settlers who lived and worked in the swamp. We'll close the day with a sunset cruise deep into the swamp – a unique opportunity and an experience you will not forget.

Day 3 – Wednesday, March 24

We'll start the day with a return to the beach for sunrise. The weathered driftwood, tiny shells, and patterns in the sand make wonderful subjects for close-ups and abstracts. After a hearty breakfast, we check out of our hotels and head south to Saint Augustine and the St. Augustine Alligator Farm. The Alligator Farm provides a unique opportunity to photograph hundreds of wading birds. The captive alligators provide protection from predators and humans making this

a prime location for birds that come to roost and nest. Wood storks, great egrets, snowy egrets, cattle egrets, roseate spoonbills, great blue herons, little blue herons, and night herons are typical residents of this unique habitat. You'll have a chance to photograph these wonderful birds up close in prime breeding plumage as they court, nest, and raise their young.

Day 4 – Thursday, March 25

Now that you know what to expect, we'll return to the Alligator Farm for more bird photography. We'll be there when the gate opens for special access to the birds as they start the day. We'll explore different techniques used to create exceptional bird photos including birds in flight, backlighting, and controlling backgrounds. During the middle of the day, we'll take a break from shooting and review some of your best images. We'll conclude the day with a closing dinner at a local landmark.

Day 5 – Friday, March 26

This is the last day of the workshop, so we'll just have a morning shoot. We'll be back to the Alligator Farm for one last outing that puts together all you have learned over the week. We'll be there early – in time for early morning light and plan to shoot for a couple of hours. Then we'll conclude the workshop and depart with lots of images, new knowledge and skills, and new friends.

Hotels

Jekyll Island - 3 nights

- Suggestion - Hampton Inn
- Check In Sunday 3/21
- Check Out Wednesday 3/24

St. Augustine - 2 nights

- Suggestion - Hampton Inn
- Check In Wednesday 3/24
- Check out Friday 3/26

Price \$700 plus entrance fees - \$600 if reserved by January 15, 2010.
Fees estimated at \$60

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