

This might take a minute . . .

A SoFoBoMo Project in Words and Pictures
by Gary Filkins



Artist's Statement:

Hi, my name is Gary.

I appreciate you taking the time to look at my pictures.

I hope you find something to enjoy while you're at it.

Thank You.

This is what I understand to be "Front Matter."

My understanding is based on having seen the term in something approaching a context I understood and seeing that I've decided to put it in the front, it should qualify. I'll happily entertain corrections but I don't know that I'll go all sleepless over it.

© 2008 Gary Filkins

All Rights Reserved

Produced, Photographed, Processed, Written and Pondered
in United States

No Part of this book may be reproduced without the express written consent of Gary Filkins except in the context of generally understood fair use applications such as review, adulation, fawning and/or non-threatening fan related exuberance.

This Might Take a Minute . . .

Photographs and Text by
Gary Filkins

Long-Suffering Inspiration by
The Finest of All Weezes
(above appellation stolen shamelessly from Corey Harbaugh)

SoFoBoMo -- Solo Photo Book (in a Month

The original idea was put forth by Paul Butzi as a photographic exercise in project completion similar to projects undertaken by writers, musicians or other artists wherein a single body of work is conceived, executed, edited and completed in the span of a month. Call it 30 days; call it 31 -- it's a month. You can read more about it than I can pretend to know by visiting:

[SoFoBoMo at Photo Musings](#)

You may choose to read more or you may not but the gist is to make a book of 35 (or more) photos in one month.

And so I have.

Another photographer, Gordon McGregor,

posted a profoundly encouraging call to arms here:

[SoFoBoMo at Photo Expressions](#)

It's well worth the read. Hell, I'd recommend it over what you're looking at right now if I weren't shallow and greedy.

No -- that's not right. Go and read it. I'll wait.

Git !

Okay ... so now you either understand or have decided to let that wait. Your choice and I respect it. Let's move on.

Weez and I went on vacation for 8 days from April 5 through April 12, 2008. We hopped in her Jeep Liberty on Saturday morning, the 5th and headed south. We drove for two days, staying the night in Bowling Green, Kentucky and finally arriving at her sister's house between Kingston and Rome, Georgia late Sunday afternoon. We stayed with Linda and her husband, Charlie for 4 days before setting out for home early on Friday, the 11th. Friday, we drove till we got to Elizabethtown, Kentucky. The final stretch was covered on Saturday and we arrived home sometime between 6 and 7 p.m.

While we were guests of Linda and

Charlie, they introduced us to the campus of Berry College in Rome and we took a day trip to Pine Mountain where we had the chance to enjoy the beauty of Callaway Gardens. Berry College is noted for having the world's largest campus at 28,000 acres and Callaway Gardens in a sprawling attraction, resort, country club and all around natural wonder.

In the span of these 8 days I took a little more than 1,200 photos. All of those were taken with a Nikon D70 and either a Tamron 17-35mm or Nikon 70-300mm Zoom using natural light and more often than not, a tripod. I didn't set out to make a vacation photo-log as much as to take as many photos as I could that might be worthy of consideration for this project.

The project became a chronology of things I saw along the way and each of the selected shots made the final cut either because I felt it was stronger than those beside it or because it filled what seemed like an explanatory gap in the narrative, however loose that might be.

One of the biggest lessons I learned in this exercise is how difficult editing can be. Sometimes, there are too many pictures to choose from. Sometimes too few. And sometimes, the ones most in need of inclusion feel weaker than those that add too little to merit further consideration. Learning is always good -- tough learning so much the better.

Excepting the covers, the photos presented here will be displayed in the order taken. I'll toss a few words on the pages opposite the photos here and

there for the sake of location, background or simple illumination. If you should see any pictures that just don't make sense to you, they're likely some of my favorites. That's how it works sometimes and I'm good with that.

And the title? There have been more times than either of us can count in the last few years when we've been somewhere or were headed somewhere and I've told Weez I need to take a picture and, "This might take a minute ..."

So this is for Weez -- without whose patient understanding many of the pictures I love the most might never have been made.

This shot embodies a certain serendipity for me. I didn't see it and decide or somehow know it would be first. Yet it is. And it isn't merely the first "inside" photo - it's also the first photo I deliberately stopped to take on the first day of our drive. First, first, first.

I saw the barn as we approached and noticed the standing water in the field in front of it but there was an uninteresting house in the reflection and I was doing the driving right then so I almost shrugged it off. It wasn't until we were just about past it that I glanced that way again and saw the barn reflected and my foot more or less automatically started pressing on the brake.

Also -- friends and family who remember my very early pictures will remember my daily barns.

I do love old barns.



Signs and ads painted on the sides of buildings are one of those charming (in my view, at least) things that seemed to have faded out of style (and view) but are showing up more and more now. Or maybe they've been returning for a while and I need to get out more. I like them either way. And I like seeing old pictures that show what buildings used to say.

Someday I'll show my grandkids what some of today's buildings were talking about.







Flintstone, Georgia 30725

This is for friends Corey and Loriann - Weez calls Corey "Fred" so when I saw Flintstone on the map, I knew it was right on our way - even if "our way" needed a small adjustment.

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

FLINTSTONE,
GEORGIA
30725



From the [Berry College Website](#)

"Berry was founded in 1902 by Martha Berry (1866-1942) as a school for enterprising rural boys when few public schools existed in Georgia. A girls' school was added in 1909. Berry became one of the nation's most successful educational experiments, combining academic study, student work and interdenominational Christian religious emphasis. Berry has an excellent record of sound growth. A junior college was established in 1926 and a four-year college in 1930; graduate programs were added in 1972."

I've put this here, a page turn away from the beginning of the Berry College photos as a way of providing a bit of information up front while wanting to leave the photos as photos. I'm no historian and my exposure was superficial -- details about Berry are abundant and fascinating at their site ... what follows are my personal responses to its visual presence.

The Old Mill
Berry College
Rome, GA



Frost Chapel

[Info at Berry's site](#)









Oak Hill

([Info at Berry's site](#))

Martha Berry's home

Featured in the movie Sweet Home Alabama











Ford Hall,
[Info at Berry's site](#)

One of 9 buildings in the Ford Complex,
Donated to Berry by Mr and Mrs Henry Ford.
This building served as the set for the
cafeteria in the movie Remember The Titans





Callaway Gardens

[Callaway at Wikipedia](#)

A quick peek at the Wikipedia entry linked above:
"Callaway Gardens is a 13,000 acre (53 km²)
resort complex located in Pine Mountain, Georgia.
The resort draws over 750,000 visitors
annually.[1]

Callaway Gardens was founded in 1952 by Cason
J. and Virginia Hand Callaway to promote and
protect native azalea species."

Callway today has much to offer beyond azaleas
but the facts and details are probably best left to
the linked source above.

That said, I'll leave the photos to hum their own
tune.











Here's our covergirl (or boy).

A little camera shy at first but then I
mentioned the book . . .





From inside the Day Butterfly Pavilion at Callaway Gardens.

This one almost didn't make the cut due to the blurry area in the foreground caused by my use of the 70-300mm telephoto while shooting through the cage bars. But Charlie, our host, is a serious Tennessee fan, and since Tennessee had won the Women's NCAA tournament the night before our visit to Callaway, it seems only courteous to both include and acknowledge this proud bird.

Here you go, Charlie -- if you squint just so and use your imagination to put a railroad engineer's hat on him, he might almost look like Scrappy, the Lady Mocs' mascot.



From the vegetable garden at Callaway.

If you remember the PBS series Victory Garden, this area may look familiar. The vegetable garden at Callaway is where the series was produced.



We went back to Berry one last time before wrapping up so I could get a shot of Memory Lane.

Memory Lane is leading from what is now Highway 27 (Martha Berry Highway) to the Hoge Building. (As this shot was taken looking toward Hwy 27, the Hoge was behind me.)

Once Martha Berry's office, it's now home to Faculty and Institutional Research as well as Campus Security.

The story of how this drive came to be is a testament to Martha Berry's vision and leadership. She had the drive cleared and lined with elms over the objections of many friends and advisors. She told them there would be a beautiful building at the end of the drive one day and personally saw to it that her vision was carried to fruition.

No longer in regular use as a road or drive, the lane is now lined with quotes from donors, friends and dignitaries. You can see that building and read the story in context here:

[Hoge Building at Berry's site](#)























