



Nature Photography Retreat – Firefly Weekend

Friday, June 5 – Sunday, June 7, 2026
Earthshine Lodge, Lake Toxaway NC

“Fireflies are like small ounces of magic”
– Haleigh Kemmerly

Friday, June 5th

3:00pm	Check in begins. Enjoy the amazing 76 acres of mixed forest, open fields, lamas, historic cabins, and long distance views of the blue ridge mountains. Take time to settle into your room and enjoy a rocking chair in one of the many outdoor spaces.
5:00pm	Welcome and overview of the weekend. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hors d'oeuvres + beverages out by firepit/patio• Group Photo
5:45 - 6:45pm	Dinner service starts at 5:45 in the main lodge dining room. Feel free to eat in the indoor dining area or anywhere on the grounds you would like. We are BYOB this weekend so feel free to pack your favorite beverage.
7:00pm	Inspirational presentation with Photographer Nelson Stegall <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introducing how to photograph fireflies.• Discuss how to set up your camera, suggested settings for capturing images of fireflies, and what makes a good composition. We will discuss stacking multiple images, long exposure, and camera set up.• Nelson will be available for Q and A
8:30pm	Firefly photography - Night One <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will move the classroom outside to explore the private location for your firefly composition.• We will set up our cameras and start photographing the fireflies as you witness one of nature's best light shows..• Nelson will be available for Q and A



Saturday, June 6th

7:00 - 9:00am	Coffee starts at 7:00am and breakfast is available starting at 8:00am. There is a lot going on today so be sure to fill up!
9:00 - 9:45am	Review of Lightroom* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Basic import/export of images ● Basic tools/sliders ● Basic settings <p>* This is NOT for teaching you how to use the full Lightroom Suite. This is designed as a refresher.</p>
10:00 - 11:30am	A simple guide to editing your images. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Using Lightroom and Photoshop, Nelson will share his workflow and how to edit your images. He will edit one stacked image and one long exposure image. ● Bring your own computer (with all equipment needed) loaded with Lightroom and Photoshop if you would like to follow along with post processing of your images.
Noon - 1pm	Lunch - "stay and eat" or "grab and go"
1:00 - 6:00pm	Free time to enjoy the amazing 76 acres at Earthshine Lodge. There are several great hiking trails at the lodge with amazing photo opportunities. This is also a great opportunity to explore one of the local area waterfall trails. Nelson will be available to work with people one on one or in small groups on site.
6:00 - 7:00pm	Dinner starts at 6:00pm in the main lodge dining room. Feel free to eat in the indoor dining area or anywhere on the grounds you would like. We are BYOB this weekend so feel free to pack your favorite beverage.
7:00 - 8:30pm	After dinner free time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Come join us for some great conversation around the fire pit and enjoy the mountain summer evening. ● Nelson will be available for Q and A.
8:30pm	Firefly Photography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Photograph and enjoy the firefly show to your heart's content. ● Nelson will be available for instruction and Q and A.
Prep for morning	Begin editing your photos for inclusion in tomorrow morning's closing sideshow. Suggestion is 1 - 4 photos.



Sunday, June 7th

7:00 - 9:00am	Coffee starts at 7am and breakfast is available starting at 8:00am.
Morning	Finalize edits of your photos and get them to Nelson so he can create a closing slideshow.
9:30 - 11:00am	Morning Closing Conversation <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Recap of editing presentation● Q and A● Closing slide show of group's firefly images
11:00am	Check-out
11:00am & 1:30pm	Earthshine Lodge offers two llama hike experiences on Sunday after check-out. If you would like to add one on to your stay before leaving, just let Earthshine staff know!