

# Presentation Descriptions

## David FitzSimmons

### Curious Critters (presentation)



#### **“Curious Critters: From Portraits to Picture Book”**

Join Sigma Pro photographer David FitzSimmons for a fun-filled presentation of beautiful and bizarre Curious Critters. Learn how David turned his mesmerizing animal portrait series into four traveling exhibits, numerous magazine articles, and a children’s picture book series that has won a dozen national book awards and sold over 200,000 copies. After explaining the history of the project, David will talk about the techniques, challenges, and purposes for photographing creatures against white backgrounds. Hear stories of animal antics and see amazing images, including sea life from his “Curious Critters Marine.”

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### Birds (presentation)



#### **“How to Photograph Birds: Professional Tips and Techniques”**

Sigma Pro photographer David FitzSimmons will share the secrets of producing prize-winning, eye-catching images of birds. Learn principles of composition, best bird photography equipment, and software to make your images shine. Get ideas for partnering with zoos, nature centers, and local rehabilitation clinics.

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### Macro (presentation)



#### **“Macro Photography: Little Worlds, Lots of Wonder!”**

Learn how to produce extraordinary close-up images of plants, animals, and other small subjects. Understand how to choose the best subjects, select equipment, and create award-winning compositions. Sigma Pro photographer David FitzSimmons will share his time-proven macro field techniques and talk about best lenses, accessories, and software for making your macro images. See plenty of examples, from wildflowers to wildlife. David will then narrate how he uses his macro magic to inspire photographers to connect with nature through digital photography.

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### Waterfall Photography (presentation)



#### **“Wild, Wonderful Waterfalls”**

Join Sigma Pro David FitzSimmons for beautifully-illustrated journey to some of North America’s most spectacular cascades. Along the way, learn about composition, exposure, lighting, filters, and post-processing software. See example after example of approaches to depicting these popular landscape features. David will conclude by sharing how to turn your images into paid publications in magazines, books, and other media.

## Landscapes (presentation)



### **“Landscape Photography: Producing and Publishing Nature Images”**

Join award-winning photographer David FitzSimmons for a landscapes primer, covering everything from shooting stunning sunrises and sunsets to post-production software. Learn about connections between composition and natural history. Watch demonstrations of software techniques. And learn ways share your stunning images with the widest possible audiences.

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## Painting and Photography (presentation)



### **“Landscapes: From the Beautiful to the Sublime”**

Explore the connections between landscape photography and the work of great painters over the past centuries. Learn the history behind the aesthetic terms “beauty,” “picturesque,” and “sublime,” ranging from the philosophical to the visual, from Longinus to Asher Durand, from Emmanuel Kant to Ansel Adams. Let past thinkers and artists help you hone your photographic vision.

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## Self-Publishing (presentation)



### **“Grabbing the Brass Ring of Self-Publishing”**

Join award-winning children’s book publisher David FitzSimmons for an engaging, educational, and jam-packed seminar covering not only the writing, revising, designing, printing, distributing, marketing, and selling of your masterpiece, but also how to turn your creative dream into a profitable reality! Hear how David leveraged a series of animal portraits into children’s books that have won nine national book awards, sold over 100,000 copies, and is licensed to Scholastic. Learn proven strategies for producing, promoting, and profiting from self-publishing. Come with questions; leave with strategies, tools for success, and the confidence to start publishing now.

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## Business (presentation)



### **“Building a Successful and Profitable Photography Business”**

“Entrepreneur” and “Photographer”—two words that in today’s business world must go together to be successful in the photographic world. Learn from Sigma Pro photographer David FitzSimmons what it means to build a successful, goal-oriented, and inspired business that highlights entrepreneurship and creative photography. Hear stories of what works and what doesn’t as David narrates his twenty-year journey in the visual field. See examples of projects that succeed, resources to take you to the next level, and ways to leverage one success to another.

## Vernal Pools (presentation)



### **“If You Build It, They Will Come: Vernal Pools, Fauna, & Fun!”**

Award-winning author and photographer David FitzSimmons will share his experiences studying, photographing, and writing about vernal pools. Learn about the ecology of these ephemeral wetlands, as well as the natural history of their inhabitants. David will explain how you can build your own environmentally responsible vernal pool and read pages from his new children's picture book *Salamander Dance*. Enjoy underwater photos and watch videos documenting the annual spring migration of amphibians.

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## Workshop Descriptions David FitzSimmons

### Curious Critters (workshop)



### **“Curious Critters How-To: Producing Your Own Animal Portraits”**

Learn the secrets of producing high key animal portraits just like the award-winning Curious Critters photo series. Understand the techniques, challenges, and purposes for photographing creatures against white backgrounds, and participate in a Curious Critters animal photo session with LIVE animals. Everyone will get a chance to photograph critters such as turtles, lizards, rabbits, or other Curious Critters, learning lighting, posing, and post-processing. Animal subjects based on local availability.

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### Nature (workshop)



### **“Waterfalls and Wildflowers”**

Learn how to photograph one of the most spectacular features of the natural world—waterfalls. Learn what lenses to use, how to control exposure times to create smooth and silky cascades, and what angles and compositions work best for every kind of waterfall. In addition, practice macro photography on a variety of spring ephemeral wildflowers. Workshop includes classroom sessions and field shoots.

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### Landscape (workshop)



### **“Fall Landscapes”**

Photograph fall foliage with Sigma Pro David FitzSimmons. Learn the secrets to great landscape compositions, enjoy macro photography of fall leaves, mushrooms and autumnal blooms, and photograph autumn wildlife, including migrating birds. Workshop includes classroom and field sessions.

## Birds (workshop)



### “Photographing Birds Like a Pro”

Join Sigma Pro photographer David FitzSimmons for a bird photography extravaganza, learning professional secrets for creating stunning avian images. Learn how light and the landscape enhance bird photography, and practice tracking techniques and creative compositions. Try out a variety of Sigma loaner lenses, including Sigma’s legendary long telephoto zooms. Plus ~\$1,000 in door prizes!

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## Wildlife (workshop)



### “Photographing Wildlife Like a Pro”

Learn the secrets to creating professional wildlife images. Understand the best equipment, from cameras and lenses to tripods and specialized heads. Explore how light and the landscape enhance animal photography. Practice tracking techniques. And survey creative post-processing software. Try out a variety of Sigma loaner lenses, including Sigma’s legendary long telephoto zooms. Plus ~\$1,000 in door prizes!

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**David FitzSimmons**, an award-winning free-lancer, photographs and writes for various magazines, including *Outdoor Photographer*, *Popular Photography*, *Professional Photographer*, and *Shutterbug*. David’s 100+ calendar credits include numerous titles by BrownTrout, Barnes & Noble, and TF Publishing. David’s publications include *Curious Critters*, *Curious Critter Volume Two*, *Curious Critters Marine*, as well as more than a dozen *Curious Critters* state-specific board books. His other books include *Salamander Dance*, *Animals of*

*Ohio’s Ponds and Vernal Pools*, and *Wakem the Rooster: Up All Night*. David’s books have won 14 national book awards and sold over 200,000 copies.

One of six Sigma Pro photographers in North America, David presents seminars and workshops to a wide variety of audiences, from public school, college, and university classes to photography groups, civic organizations, and nature groups. His works have been exhibited at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute, the National Center for Nature Photography, The Palm Beach Photographic Centre, and the Telluride Photo Festival.

Before becoming a freelance photographer and author, David taught for over twenty years—first high school English and then as a university professor, having instructed at Cornell, Ohio State, and Ashland Universities. He holds a Ph.D. in English from Ohio State University, with a specialty in narrative theory—investigating the components of storytelling—something that influences his photography and writing. David visits schools across North America sharing his Children & Nature message and promoting verbal and visual literacy.

### **David FitzSimmons**

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