



# In Focus

Volume 64, Issue 2

February 2019

## February Program- Photo Books by HPS member Earl Todd



With the advent of digital photography, our pictures went from being stored in albums and tucked in a closet, to living on our

phones and computers. We still print some but we run out of wall space for them. The old photo album has also come into the new century in the form of photo books. This month's topic will be building a photo book using the Lightroom book module. Earl Todd is still learning better techniques for book building but after four he is ready to show us how the book module works so that we have a jump start for our book making. Even if you don't use Lightroom, you might want to take a look because the book module is connected to Blurb that also has free software you can download to start making books.

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**2019 Officers of HPS**

President: Charles Gattis

Primary Competition Officer:  
Steve Mitchell

Digital Competition Officer:  
Jeanne McDowell

Competition Records Officer:  
Eddie Sewall

Program Officer: Henry Norton

Outreach & Activities Officer:  
Rosemary Davidson

Publicity Officer: Sam Tumminello

Treasurer: Sam Alexander

Communications Officer:  
Geri Reddy

Historian: Tom Bryant

Exhibition Officer: Bob Gower

PSA Representative: Lee Pratt

Webmaster: John Shriver

**Non Board Positions**

Membership Secretary:  
Margaret Todd

Mentor Coordinator:  
Jim Solomon

**Meeting Information:** HPS meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the Huntsville/Madison County Library - Main Branch, 915 Monroe St.



## From The President

### A Little Help, Please!

A brief conversation following a recent competition night made a lasting impression on me. One of our most seasoned Master Photographers came up to the judge and asked, “What can I do to make this better?” Now this photographer really is one of our best. She wins almost every time she enters. If a judge didn’t show up for the evening, she might be the person to draft as judge that night. She is a terrific photographer, yet she wants to learn—and most important, she wants to learn from anyone she can. In desperate moments, she has even asked my advice.

I learned many years ago that students who are afraid to ask questions have trouble learning. At HPS, we learn from each other. We learn from the seasoned photographers. We learn from our judges. We learn from those who teach our courses. And most important, we learn from those who are just beginning. In fact, sometimes we learn the most from them because they help us relearn what we have forgotten.

I’ll admit, I’m not the best at asking someone to tell me how to improve my images. When I’ve presented an image and it goes out quickly, I sometimes want to just slink on home. It takes a lot of courage to pick up your image, walk to the front, and ask the judge, “Tell me how I could make this better?” And yet, I have discovered it is one of the best ways to learn. You learn how the judge thinks. You learn how to improve your photo, and sometimes you learn how to feel better about the photo you chose that didn’t win.

I entered a photo for competition last year of which I was really proud. I took forty or fifty shots on scene and thought I had chosen the best shot in the series. Then I spent a lot of time in post to present the subject as best I could. I printed several versions just to get it perfect. I was proud of the image, but it went out with the first pass. That old defeatist line ran through my mind, “Maybe you don’t even know what a winning image looks like!”

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## From The President

(Continued from page 2)

Several months later, Sam Tumminello and I went to visit a long-time member of HSP who had suffered a stroke. Barry Jackson had been for many years one of our outstanding photographers and leaders in HPS. He'd won the President's award for several years and served in many leadership positions. When we called to say we were coming, he said, "Bring some pictures for us to talk about. I need something to do!"

Well, I mustered my courage and brought the image that had lost on that previous occasion. Barry and Sam both looked at it. They said it looked pretty good but had some rather glaring distractions that took away from it. As they talked, I began to see those things I hadn't noticed them before.

I fixed the image just as they recommended and had the opportunity to present it again in competition a few months later. This time, to my delight and amazement, it took first place. From nowhere to first place with just a few minor adjustments that took about five minutes. There was more to that image than I could see, but with a little help from friends I was able to see and learn. I suppose we just have to keep competing, asking, and by all means, keep shooting.

Name	2019 points	2019 wins
Earl Todd	9	3
John Shriver	6	2
Tom Bryant	5	2
Charles Leverett	5	1
Doris Leverett	5	3
Henry Norton	5	1
Larry Sanders	5	1
Susi Stroud	4	1
Judy Kennamer	3	1
Bob Schmiedeskamp	3	1
Barbara Staggs	3	1
Christopher Baker	2	2
Emily Saile	2	2
Joy Henderson	1	1
Jeanne McDowell	1	1
Barbara Montgomery	1	1
Henry Smith	1	1
Bill Snoddy	1	1
Margaret Todd	1	1
Pete Van Hoff	1	1

### *HPS 2019 Huntsville Museum of Art Exhibit*

As announced earlier, the **theme for the HPA exhibit in 2019 is Chiaroscuro**. Rick Kress, who has guided our participation in this project for several years will give us leadership for this endeavor again. Due to another exhibition in that gallery, our exhibit will be later than usual—beginning on August 25 and ending on November 17. A date for the reception has already been set—Thursday, August 22, from 5:30-7 pm. Rick will keep us informed as to when our images have to be submitted, juried, and then framed as we get closer to the dates.

**January 2019**  
**Subject- Graffiti**  
**Judge – Muril Robertson**

	Color Digital (56)	Monochrome Digital (46)	Color Print (29)	Monochrome Print (20)
<b>1st</b>	Larry Sanders	John Shriver	Charles Leverett	Henry Norton
<b>2nd</b>	Susi Stroud	Tom Bryant	Earl Todd	Earl Todd
<b>3rd</b>	Judy Kennamer	Barbara Staggs	Bob Schmiedeskamp	Doris Leverett
<b>HM</b>	Emily Saile	Jeanne McDowell	Doris Leverett	Henry Smith
<b>HM</b>	Barbara Montgomery	Christopher Baker	Doris Leverett	Tom Bryant
<b>HM</b>	Emily Saile	Bill Snoddy	Earl Todd	
<b>HM</b>	John Shriver	Joy Henderson		
<b>HM</b>	Christopher Baker	Peter Van Hoff		
<b>HM</b>	Margaret Todd			
<b>HM</b>				



Color Digital 1<sup>st</sup> place by Larry Sanders



Color Digital 2<sup>nd</sup> Place by Susi Stroud



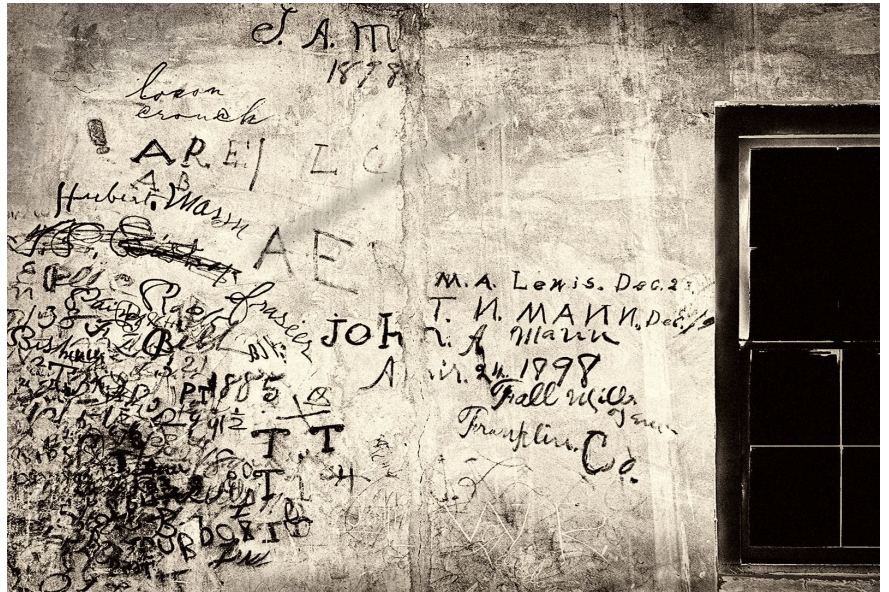
Color Digital 3rd Place  
by Judy Kennamer

Monochrome Digital 1st by  
John Shriver



Monochrome Digital 2nd  
place by Tom Bryant

Monochrome Digital 3rd place by Barb Staggs



Color Print 1st place by Charles Leverett

Color Print 2nd place by Earl Todd





Color Print 3rd place by  
Bob Schmeideskamp



Monochrome Print 1<sup>st</sup>  
place by Henry Norton



Monochrome Print 2nd  
place by Earl Todd



Monochrome Print 3rd  
place by Doris Leverett



Monochrome Print HM  
by Tom Bryant

### **2019 Meeting Calendar**

- Feb 11 – Photo Books Program by Earl Todd
- Feb 25 - “Memorials” Competition
- Mar 11 – Flash/Strobe Photography Program
- Mar 25 - “Open” Competition
- April 8 - Program Meeting
- April 22 – “Abstract” Competition
- April 29- Fifth Monday Casual Meeting
- May 13 - Program Meeting
- May 27 – “Botanicals” Competition
- June 10- Program Meeting
- June 24 – “Doors/Windows” Competition
- July 8 - Program Meeting
- July 22- “Lakeshore” Competition
- July 29- Fifth Monday Casual Meeting
- August 12 – Program Meeting
- August 26 – “Patterns” Competition Meeting
- September 9 - Program Meeting
- September 23 – “Cityscapes” Competition Meeting
- September 30 - Fifth Monday Casual Meeting
- October 14 - Program Meeting
- October 28 – “Open” Competition Meeting
- November 11 - Program Meeting
- November 25 - “Shadows” Competition Meeting
- December - End of Year Dinner & Awards



## Photography Classes

- A photography class opportunity is coming up this month through the local LearningQUEST organization. This group is partnered with the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library to offer an affordable variety of courses, activities, and travel opportunities. The classes are mostly offered during working hours so appeal to retirees. There is a \$20/year membership fee and a course fee of \$30/term for an unlimited number of courses. The catalog is available on-line at <http://lquest.org/>. Tom Bryant will be teaching a 6-week class beginning Feb 5 using a DVD series called national Geographic Masters of Photography. It is based on a DVD series with 12 master photographers describing the art in 24 lectures (2-term class). Tom will add supplemental material. It is structured like walking through a gallery of their photos with them describing their experiences in getting the shots. It is more of a photography appreciation class than a technical class on use of a camera. The student will get the most from the class if they have knowledge of basic camera use.
- In March and April, Henry Smith will be teaching Photography 201 through the Huntsville Botanical Garden. A fee to attend will be required by the garden.
- In the fall of 2019, Charles Gattis will be teaching an advanced class on iPhone photography. The class will focus primarily on the iPhone but should be adaptable to any smart phone. Lectures will be an hour to hour and fifteen minutes, with the opportunity for questions. There will also be a limited amount of photo critique. A private Facebook group will be available to the participants to share their own photography and receive comments and suggestions from other class members and the instructor. Watch for this in the fall.

### **3CT Spring Event**

The 3CT Spring Event schedule is now online and registration is open. Hosted by the LeConte Photographic Society, events will be around the Great Smokey Mountain area. The dates are Apr 26-28.

<https://3ct.org/2019-spring-event/>

## February 2019 Judge- Monica Martin



Monica Martin began her career as a professional photographer in 1988. With her studio located in Guntersville, she has supported clients across Northern Alabama. She has varied experiences and expertise in portrait, commercial, and architectural photography. Monica has been our judge on numerous occasions. Monica was our judge in 2010 on “Reflections,” 2012 on “Barns,” 2015 on “Faces in Objects,” 2016 on “Delicate,” 2017 on “Mystery,” and 2018 on Smart Phone Images.” The topic to be judged on February 25, 2019 by Monica will be “Memorials.” Examples of her own work can be found here, <http://www.monicamartin.com/?load=html>.

### Remaining Eagle Awareness Weekends for 2019

Lake Guntersville State Park:

- Feb. 8th-10th-(Reservation Code 7450) Eagles of Elk River with Photographer Rocky Baker; Birds of Prey with Wings to SOAR, Animals and Birds with Bob Tarter of NHECM; and Birds of Prey with the Alabama Wildlife Center .
- Feb 15th-17th-(Reservation Code 7451) Alabama Reptiles with George Cline; Birds of Prey with Wings to SOAR; Birds of Prey with RISE Raptor, Inc; and Birds of Prey with the Alabama Wildlife Center .

Included in these weekend activities are morning and evening Eagle Watches in the Park and Guided and Self-Guided field trips to local birding hotspots and scenery.

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**Website:** [www.huntsvillephotographicsociety.org](http://www.huntsvillephotographicsociety.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/399566463394251/> (closed group)