



In Focus

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 5

MAY 2013

May Program– Panoramas – Photoshop & More by Garth Fraser

I am a self taught photographer with a degree in mechanical engineering, and yet my first love was photography. I have been shooting since I was fourteen, starting with the hardest film of the time, Kodachrome II. I have since gravitated to digital cameras, finding the control found within the digital workflow to be intoxicating. I still, from time to time, when I am in a nostalgic mood, bring out the 4x5 and expose a few sheets of film. The smells of the darkroom are an old friend.



Photo by Kristen Butler

My love of the craft goes beyond the capture of imagery. I have been an instructor of photography for over 10 years. Hundreds of students have been either inspired or bored to tears by my rambling lectures on composition, lighting and exposure. I read, I study, I view thousands of images and I will never grow weary of the art of photography.

My program is going to focus on the use of photoshop to create panoramic images. Along the way we will visit layering, layer masks, work flow and my favorite; contract control. I will take the process of creating a panoramic image from the proper capture of the images, processing in RAW converter, through stitching the images together in Photoshop and final creative processing.



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Location Change for May 27 Meeting

Reminder! The May 27th competition will be held at:

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
786 Hughes Rd.
Madison, AL



“If you have a favorite photographic technique or process you would like to share . . . contact Bob Gower to get on the mini-class schedule.”

From The President

Well, the weather is FINALLY getting better. May brings many local festivals and opportunities for taking photographs, and the amount of rain we've had this winter should make for great waterfalls; so, hit the road and challenge your imagination. June's Name That Tune program is also not that far away, so start thinking about how you will take a photograph that will let us guess the song it represents.

Our program presenter last month was long-time HPS member, and past President, Andrea Shetley. Andrea's program was "What's in the Bag," and dealt with how to pack for a photographic trip, as well as some great tips for travelling with a camera. What a great program! A couple of my favorites were to go to the TSA and airline websites before you leave on your trip, and print out their rules on photographers, so that you know your rights ahead of time and can show an agent if you are questioned; also, create a business card, so if you're asked if you are a professional photographer, you can show it and maybe get in places you might not otherwise.

Patrick Oden was our judge for "Open" in March, and he had his work cut out for him – the variety of subjects can be overwhelming with "Open." Patrick provided extremely valuable comments, both in general, and specifically to many images. Though young, he is an old-school photographer, in that he wants you to get the image right in the camera first, and not rely heavily on post-processing. I especially liked his comments on having an intent to your image before you push the button; and, always remember that you are the tour guide to the viewer for your photo – guide them to your subject through your composition. Congratulations to our winners and check them out in the newsletter and on our Smug Mug site.

Cliff Whitmore presented a mini-class on Triptychs and Panoramas last month, and it was very well received. Check our HPS website for the pdf file of his presentation. If, like Cliff, you have a favorite photographic technique or process you would like to share with our members, contact Bob Gower to get on the mini-class schedule.

Our May competition topic is "Negative Space," so join me in figuring out how to make the subject of the photo not be the subject of the photo. If you can figure that out, then you have a good chance of placing.

As our photos came down from the Huntsville Museum of Art exhibition, Peter Baldaia told us that we will be able to exhibit in 2014, so stay tuned for more details. If you haven't picked up your photo yet, please contact Rick Kress.

Speaking of exhibiting photos, the Arts Council allows 2 exhibitors each month to show their work in the lobby of the Von Braun Center. Contact Charles Gattis at charlesgattis@comcast.net, for details, if you are interested in this.

Also, don't forget the Rick Sammon presentation on Saturday, May 11th at 1:00PM at UAH's Chan Auditorium. It's free, but we ask you to register on our website, so we know how many people to expect. Many kudos to Joy Henderson for making this happen!!

Eddie Sewall

Photo Opportunities for May

- ◆ May 3-4, 2013. Huntsville Depot. www.whistelstopweekend.com. A foot-stompin', pig-chompin' two-day festival on the grounds of the Huntsville Depot. Live entertainment, children's play zone, and professional and amateur BBQ cooking competitions. Proceeds support the EarlyWorks Museum Complex
- ◆ May 25-26, 2013, Point Mallard Park, Decatur, AL. One of the largest free hot air balloon festivals in the Southeast, featuring more than 60 balloons with races, key grab, tether rides and a glow. Enjoy arts & crafts, food vendors, antique car and tractor show, musical entertainment and children's activities.
- ◆ May 1-Sept 30, Huntsville. Green Things and Butterfly Wings. For more info call 256-830-4447 ext. 290, or go to www.hsvbg.org. Admission charged. Huntsville Botanical Garden-- The butterfly house is opening May 1. The Nature Center at Huntsville Botanical Garden is the nation's largest open-air butterfly house with more than 2,000 butterflies, fluttering freely among beautiful vegetation, a trickling creek and even a cascading waterfall. Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun., 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Member News

Don Wolfe will be the featured Limelight artist at the Huntsville Art League for the month of May. All are invited to the reception on Friday, 10 May from 5:30 - 8:00 pm. The Art League is at 3005 L&N Drive, just South of Drake Ave next to the railroad tracks. Don's photography exhibition will be open throughout May; Tue - Fri, 11am - 6pm, and Saturday, Noon - 6pm.

May Competition Judge-

Kyle Zeringue
www.zeringuephoto.com

STOLENCAMERAFINDER.com

stolencamerafinder is an open source project that can locate a missing camera by searching for photos on the web that have been taken by that camera. Every photo you take with your digital camera contains hidden information about both the image and the camera such as the make, model and date. This information, called **exif** data, can also include a unique serial number which identifies your camera. stolencamerafinder crawls the internet searching for photos, collecting the serial numbers of the cameras that took them. When you use the drag & drop feature, stolencamerafinder reads the unique serial number from the exif data of your photo and uses it to match against serial numbers it has stored.

Costco Sponsorship

Thank you, Costco, for sponsoring HPS monthly competitions! Prizes are awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each category. **Prizes must be redeemed within 30 days or before the next month's competition (whichever comes first).** Members should come to Costco photo lab to claim the prize.

April Competition Results			
Subject - Open			
Judge - Peter Oden			
	Digital (66)	Color Prints (69)	Monochromes Prints (42)
1st	Sam Alexander	Charles Leverett	Emily Saile
2nd	Charlie Leverett	Dave Edens	Virginia Gilbert
3rd	Emily Saile	Charles Leverett	Rick Kress
HM	Diana Davidson	Delores Burns	Barbara Montgomery
HM	Cliff Loehr	Veronica Beaudry	John Kirwin
HM		Alan Montgomery	Sam Fara
HM		Walt Tyska	Geri Reddy
HM		Virginia Gilbert	
HM		Wayne James	
HM		Barbara Staggs	

First Place Winners



Digital by Sam Alexander

Color Print by Charles Leverett



Monochrome Print by Emily Saile



Name	2013 points	2013 wins
Charles Leverett	18	6
Kathryn Seeds	15	4
Emily Saile	12	4
Virginia Gilbert	10	3
Charles Gattis	9	3
Rick Kress	9	4
Keith Berg	8	2
Carol Blue	8	3
Geri Reddy	8	5
Veronica Beaudry	7	4
Wayne James	7	3
Martha Teal	7	3
Peter Van Hoff	7	3
David Blue	6	3
Sam Alexander	5	1
Barb Staggs	5	3
Don Wolfe	5	3
Don Bennett	4	1
Tom Bryant	4	1
Dave Edens	4	1
William Gates	4	1
Jackie Rudolph	4	2
Cliff Loehr	3	3
Barb Montgomery	3	3
Glen Romanczuk	3	1
Tim Solomon	3	3
Susi Stroud	3	1
Diana Davidson	2	2
Garth Fraser	2	2
Liz High	2	2
Margaret Phillips	2	2
Henry Smith	2	2
Brian Boardman	1	1
Dolores Burns	1	1
Leigh Butgereit	1	1

Name	2013 points	2013 wins
Sam Fara	1	1
Bart Fay	1	1
Joy Henderson	1	1
John Kirwin	1	1
Alan Montgomery	1	1
David Rudolph	1	1
Randy Stephens	1	1
Walt Tyszka	1	1
Ann Weis	1	1

2013 HPS Meeting Info
May 13 – Photoshop & More by Garth Fraser
May 27– Negative Space Competition
June 10 - Name That Tune by Roger Hunter
June 24 - Broken Competition
July 8 – Birds of a Feather by John Kirwin
July 22– Simplicity Competition
July 29- Members Forum
Aug 12– Ansel Adam’s Footsteps by HPS Members Joy, Tom & Henry
Aug 26— Subject TBD at July 22 Competition
Sep 9 – Below the Surface by Nathan Williams
Sep 23 – Things That Make You Go Hmmm Competition
Sep 30—Members Forum
Oct 14 – Program TBD
Oct 28 – Open Competition
Nov 11– 3D Photography by Lee Pratt
Nov 25 - Repetition Competition
Dec 9– Best Of Year Dinner
Jan 27, 2014 - Color or Noir Competition

Photo Tour of Reelfoot Lake State Park

by Geri Reddy



Red -Tailed Hawk

“The planned tours included sunrise, sunset . . . scouting eagle nests . . . and photographing rehabilitated birds.”

Reelfoot Lake State Park is located in the northwest corner of Tennessee in the city of Tiptonville. It contains 280 acres broken into 10 segments along 22 miles of Reelfoot Lake shoreline. It is Tennessee’s largest natural lake, created by severe earthquakes during the winter of 1811 and 1812. It is one of the greatest hunting and fishing preserves in the nation, attracting fishermen, photographers, botanists and wildlife experts due to its wildlife diversity including a variety of shore and wading birds, as well as golden and bald eagles. Cypress trees dominate the margins of the lake and in the summer the lake is filled with lotus plants. The park offers guided canoe tours of the lake in April and May and pontoon boat rides in the summer depending on water levels.

My husband and I attended a photography tour in March sponsored by the Camera Club Council of Tennessee. The event was hosted by the West Tennessee Photographer’s Guild and there were approximately 60 attendees from various camera clubs, including Memphis, Dyersburg, Cookeville, and Jackson Camera Clubs. The weekend started with a dinner Friday evening to meet other attendees and schedule smaller tour groups for various locations. The planned tours included sunrise and sunset at several locations around the lake, guided bus tours for scouting eagle nests, and photographing rehabilitated birds in natural settings. The weather didn’t cooperate for sunrise or sunset, so Saturday morning we concentrated on cypress tree knees, slowing shutter speeds for various water effects along the boardwalk and in other areas of the marsh. We then joined a Ranger on the tour bus for a guided tour of the Mississippi levee, and located several nests. After returning from lunch, the Rangers and assistants provided a special opportunity to photograph captive raptors (eastern screech owl, great horned owl, red tailed hawk, and bald eagle) as they placed them in nearby trees. We visited two duck blinds on Sunday morning, which are also handicapped accessible. Due to rain and high winds on Sunday, David Haggard, a Regional State Parks Interpretive Specialist (and himself, an accomplished photographer) gave a naturalist program covering the State of Tennessee as well as the many photographic opportunities at Reelfoot during each season of the year. The weekend ended with lunch on Sunday afternoon.



American Bald Eagle

After our return I immediately planned on a return trip this summer to photograph the lotus, frogs, and hopefully a sunrise or sunset. The opportunity for boat rides definitely sounds interesting. If you are interested in a future HPS field trip, please see my article on p. 7 . There are limited accommodations so reservations will need to be made early and I need to have an idea of the number people who are interested.

Upcoming HPS Field Trips

- 1) **June 2013– Date TBD.** Bluewater Creek Polo Club near Florence, AL, www.bluewatercreekpolo.com, to photograph the matches. The Club was founded in 1980 by Edward S. Robbins, III, a businessman, and entrepreneur with businesses located in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. Located just minutes east of Florence, Alabama, the club is situated on over 200 acres of manicured fields surrounded by flexible Centaur fence. Paddocks, regulation 1.5 mile racetrack, polo practice arena and two world-class regulation polo fields complete the facility. There are 2 day Tournaments held each weekend in June. Trip leader: Geri Reddy
- 2) **July 19-21, 2013.** Weekend trip to Reelfoot Lake State Park, TN. Possible photography subjects include sunrise/sunset, blooming Lotus plants, frogs, osprey, swamps and cypress trees. Pontoon boat rides are offered on weekends for the public, however, we could have our own group reservation for photographers (minimum # required) if water levels permit. Please email Geri Reddy at hpseditor@bellsouth.net if you are interested in this trip. She will send specific info regarding lodging and pricing to those who are interested. If there is not enough interest from HPS members by the end of May, offer will be extended to TN camera clubs. Being interested does not commit you.

**Boardwalk, Reelfoot
Lake State Park**



For Sale

Sheila Mangus is selling this SET for a friend you can reach her at 256-508-3214

SP4200 Professional Series Studio Light Kit by Square Perfect

- A) Qty 3 SP200 Professional Studio Digital Strobes (200 watt-seconds) 75 watt modeling light
- B) Qty 1 Boom and counter weight bag with carrying case
- C) Qty 3 Light Stands (extends 39" to 8' 1/2")
- D) Qty 3 Soft box (24"x24")
- E) Qty 1 Umbrella (39" silver reflection umbrella)
- F) Qty 1 Strobe Case (carries 3 strobes and accessories)
- G) Qty 1 Carry Bag (carries 3 light stands a umbrella)
- H) Qty 1 Backdrop stand with carry bag
- I) Qty 1 10'x20' Backdrop (marbled grey)
- J) Qty 2 10'x13' One black and one white backdrop

ACCESSORIES:

- K) Qty 1 Collapsible Reflector (22" dbl sided- Silver/White)
- L) Qty 1 Four Leaf Barn Door
- M) Qty 1 Set of 4 Color Gels
- N) Qty 1 Honeycomb Diffusion Filter
- Q) Qty 1 Narrow Snoot

**Huntsville Photographic Society
 Von Braun Civic Center
 700 Monroe St
 Huntsville AL 35801**



HPS website:
www.huntsvillephotographicsociety.org



2013 Officers of Huntsville Photographic Society

President	Eddie Sewall	(256) 880-7714	cesewall@comcast.net
Primary Competition Officer	Ernie High	(256) 772-5864	ernhigh@knology.net
Digital Competition Officer	Cliff Loehr	(256) 746-8436	cliff@brighterhost.com
Competition Records Officer	Diana Davidson	(256)564-7570	lyn@davidson.net
Program Officer	Roger Hunter	(256)755-1057	rogerhunter01@bellsouth.net
Activities Officer	Bob Gower		bgoing2@yahoo.com
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PSA Representative	Lee Pratt	(256) 325-1854	leepratt@knology.net
Webmaster	Margaret Phillips		phillipsqh@bellsouth.net

Website for Digital Competition results: www.HPSPhotos.smugmug.com

Meeting Information:

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

Annual Membership Dues: \$20.00 due Jan 1st (\$18.00 if renewal paid before start of the Calendar year).

Membership required to submit entries in monthly competitions.



Bald Eagles nest, Reelfoot Lake State Park, see p. 6

