



Visit the HPS Web site at <http://www.huntsvillephotographicsociety.org>

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Happy Spring!

(Or should that be Summer?) We certainly have had some interesting weather this year! After our cold snap, we leaped immediately to hot, hot, hot. I hope everyone was able to get some good spring flower photographs. Everything bloomed pretty quick.

While you are out enjoying the warmer weather, challenge yourself to a few different techniques. Try limiting your depth of field on a flower close-up to soften the edges and pull the viewer to a specific point. How about double exposures (in the camera or in a photo imaging program)? These must be taken on a tripod so they line up perfectly. Take one in sharp focus and one out of focus. This gives a dream-like quality to the image, and can be quite impressive. If you do it on a windy day, you add the extra element of movement, which creates drama. Even just taking a single shot with a long exposure in the wind creates an interesting feel. How about zooming in or out while take the shot? Again, this adds momentum and creates a dynamic image. You are controlling where the viewer looks by leading them straight to the subject. Get a clear filter (fairly cheap) and put clear nail polish around the edges and create a pattern by wiggling the brush as you paint. Leave the center clear for the subject. This will blur the edges into patterns of color. You can also use petroleum jelly, which can be wiped off so the filter can be reused to create different patterns; but be careful not to get it all over the rest of your equipment! I know someone who also uses different colors of eye shadow on the jelly that complement the subject, which creates a unique effect.

It also is the time for thunderstorms and other severe weather conditions. Some may like to go storm chasing (or at least observe from a safe distance). Dramatic images can be made as storms approach the area. Scout around for good (and safe) observation points ahead of time and listen to the weather reports to see which direction the storms are coming from. Get together with other people who like to observe storms (these may or may not be photographers). They may have more experience and be able to take you to safe observation points and know the roads well for alternate routes in case of an emergency. Above all else: Be Safe! When warnings are put out to stay off roads and seek

Next Meeting: Apr 9, 2007

Speaker: Gina Hurst

Topic: Archival Mounting and Framing

Next Competition: Apr 23, 2007

Topic: Love

Scheduled Judge: Carla Swinney

The Huntsville Photographic Society meets at 7 pm on the second and fourth Mondays of each month in the Huntsville Public Library. Visitors are welcome.

Please contact Rick Kress with news, information, or announcements. (256) 890-0722, or by email at: rgkress@knology.net.

shelter...Do It! And, of course, don't stand in a thunderstorm next to your metal tripod holding an umbrella (ever heard of a "lightening rod"?!) There are plenty of great opportunities to get storm images safely.

Our March program "China and Iraq" presented by Dr. Bob Hurst was another auditorium-filling program. It's great to see a full house with many visitors and potential new members. Thanks go to Sam Tumminello for his excellent efforts in getting HPS publicized in many public event calendars and schedules. Dr. Hurst took us on an entertaining and very educational tour through China and a quick trip (due to time constraints) through Iraq. He has an obvious love of travel, history, and local culture, which was continuously conveyed in his program. Thank you, Dr. Hurst, for sharing your great adventures with us!

Join us in April for Gina Hurst's presentation "Archival Mounting and Framing." This is a must-see program for anyone interested in selling their prints, or just presenting or preserving your images at home. With all the talk these days about "acid-free" and "archival," this tutorial will help you understand the importance of these factors and how to use them when working with your images.

Our March competition was another huge event. The topic was "Open," so there was no restriction on subject matter. There were more slides than usual, which was good to see.

But it was exciting to see our new Projected Digital category take off with an impressive 54 entries. This is proving to be a great addition to our competition. Hopefully, it has encouraged members who may have been held back by the cost of printing to compete, as well as offered a cost-efficient alternative to long-time entrants. Thanks to Rick Kress, our Projected Digital Competition Secretary, for all of his efforts in creating the category and running it each month.

Remember to be shooting for the April competition topic "Love."

We are still looking for a new logo for HPS. We are extending the competition a little longer, so get your ideas in.

Happy Photographing!

Andrea L. Shetley, APSA
HPS President

OF INTEREST:

Mar Competition Results: Open

	B/W Prints	Color Prints
1st	Elsabe Webster	Barbara Hitt
2nd	Janet Schumacher	Judy Flemming
3rd	Pat Gardner	Sam Fara
HM	Rick Kress	Joy Henderson
HM	Don Bennett	Barbara Staggs
HM	Pat Gardner	Barbara Staggs
HM		David Blue
HM		Barbara Hitt
	27 entries	88 entries

	Slides	Digital
1st	Joe Boyd	Bill Snoddy
2nd	Barbara Staggs	Bill Snoddy
3rd	Virginia Gilbert	Robert Schuffert
HM	Jeanie Schultz	Carol Blue
HM	Don Bryant,	Jerry Green
HM	Joy Henderson	Don Wolfe
HM	Walt Schumacher	Jerry Green
HM		David Blue
	44 entries	54 entries

HPS Competition Standings

Rank	Name	Total	
		Points	Wins
1	Staggs, Barbara	24	8
2	Webster, Elsabe	14	4
3	Hitt, Barbara	12	4

4	Fara, Sam	10	4
4	Snoddy, Bill	10	3
6	Boyd, Joe	9	2
6	Callahan, Sharon	9	3
8	Schuffert, Robert	8	2
9	Gilbert, Virginia	7	3
9	Green, Jerry	7	3
9	Schumacher, Walt	7	3
12	Little, Daniel	6	2
12	Mangus, Sheila	6	3
14	Fleming, Judy	5	2
15	Gardner, Pat	5	3
15	Goodin, Melanie	5	5
15	Kress, Rick	5	3
15	Reddy, Gerri	5	2
15	Teal, Martha	5	1
20	Schumacher, Janet	4	1
20	Tumminello, Sam	4	2
22	Davidson, Diana Lyn	3	1
22	Henderson, Joy	3	3
22	McAllister, Guy	3	1
25	Blue, David	2	2
25	Bryant, Tom	2	2
27	Bennett, Don	1	1
27	Blue, Carol	1	1
27	Courtney, Bill	1	1
27	Hughes, Beverly	1	1
27	Prince, Anthony	1	1
27	Saile, Emily	1	1
27	Schultz, Jeannie	1	1
27	Smith, Keith	1	1
27	Werp, Rick	1	1
27	Wolfe, Don	1	1

Photography Basics – A Guide To Better Pictures.

This course is geared for beginner to intermediate level photographers, and is applicable to both film and digital photography. While today's cameras easily provide technically good photos – well exposed, color balanced, and in focus - they do not provide personal interpretation of a subject. The focus of this course is to give you knowledge and skills that will make your photos more meaningful, stronger, more to the point. You'll produce photos that act as a means of personal expression – no matter what your subject matter may be.

The first course is being offered in April. The cost is \$125.00. Due at Sign-Up.

- April 10 (Tuesday) 6:30 – 8:30
- April 12 (Thursday) 6:30 – 8:00
- April 17 (Tuesday) 6:30 – 8:00

Class 1 Introductions. Brief history of photography. Basic controls. Assignment due Class 3.

Class 2 Composition, Cropping, Seeing vs Looking, and the digital darkroom (i.e. Photoshop basics)

Class 3 Assignment Critiques, Q&A

About the instructor: Bernd Billmayer has been involved with photography for 40 years, working 20 years a full-time professional commercial photographer. A recipient of numerous awards, Bernd has exhibited his personal work in some 70 exhibits, including 3 one-man shows. His commercial work has been published worldwide. He is a certified photographer (New York Institute of Photography), and has a B.A. in Communication Graphics. He previously helped found and taught photography for 19 years under the UAH Photography Certificate Program.

Bernd Billmayer: bbillmay@yahoo.com

Gadsden Museum of Art Digital Workshop

I am coordinating the Art & Photography Contest for this year's Birding Festival in Decatur [Morgan County] on May 6, 2007. The contest is open to all, it has already been advertised in several magazines, and there will be cash prizes. The final date for submissions is April 15, 2007. You can get the information about the contest and the festival at the web site; www.Decaturcvb.org.

Sabrina Lyle

Art & Photography Contest Organizer

2007 North Alabama Birding Festival

256-773-5856 (H)

256-642-0083 (C)

treehugger01@charter.net

Huntsville Sidewalk Arts Stroll

The popular "Sidewalk Arts Stroll" event will occur again this year in downtown Huntsville - starting around the courthouse square. Artists and groups may apply for exhibition space (no - charge currently) by contacting Ms. Donna Castellano via the Arts Council office (256) 519-2787. They'll be five events and there's a three event per artist limitation [e.g. HPS could participate in 3 of the 5]. The planned dates (no rain dates) are: May 17, June 21st, July 19th, August 16th and September 20th, all third Thursdays..

Monrovia Artfest

Saturday, May 12th 10am-6pm

At the Artistic Minds gallery (corner of Jeff & Old Monrovia)

We are currently looking for Artists and Vendors:

Jewelry, Paintings, Wood, Pottery, Mixed Media, Photography, Glass, Sculpture, Printmaking, Clothing, Musicians, and Actors; We are seeking food vendors too!

FAQ:

1. How are you marketing the event?

Billboards, printed material, e-mail campaigns, and MORE! Every vendor will receive postcards to mail to past customers.

2. How many booths are available?

We have a total of 60 10x10 outside booths... and going FAST!

3. Do you have a rain date? Rain or shine!

4. Do we need to bring our own tent and/or table?

Yes, please bring a tent if you wish (no color restrictions), table if needed, chairs, and everything you will need to display your work.

Please Call Vonda Bobo or Diana Henry for more info/questions at the Artistic Minds Gallery: 256-489-0335 or artinprogress@knology.net

Vista Update

There are a few advantages for digital photographers to upgrade to Vista. Most of us will probably get it as we get newer computers. If you decide to do it on your present computer, here is what I have learned.

While the CPU requirements aren't that great, and the memory requirements aren't either (1 Gig), a major requirement to get into even the most "Basic" version of Vista is a fairly robust video/graphics card. For those of you with the new PCI-Express slot in your computer, you have no worries. However, most of us with computers a couple of years old will only have the "old style" PCI slots. (If you have an AGP slot, you'll have to research that on your own... I don't have one!)

If you have a PCI slot, there are only 3 cards on the market ... all with the same video chip from NVIDIA: the XFX GeForce FX5200 256MB PCI, the 3D Fuzion GeForce FX5500 256MB PCI, and the PNY GeForce FX5200 256MB PCI. This will get you to "Vista Home Basic" status.

These cards are pretty similar. I picked the XFX because it was the only one to have DVI output... that's a digital connection to your monitor. If you have an LCD monitor it will probably accept that. CRT monitors will take an analog SVGA connection. The XFX has both. The others have minor differences, but with only 3 to choose from, it will be easy for you to figure out which is best for you!! BTW, the last 2 are available locally at CompUSA; I got the XFX online at Buy.com. They are all \$70 or so.

I don't have immediate plans to go to Vista, but presently have an "integrated" video chip on my motherboard. I have discovered that by getting a "GPU" (graphics processor) that should relieve the burden from my CPU, and speed everything up...! One can only hope!

To test how well suited your PC and software are for Vista, Google "Windows Vista Upgrade Advisor".

Info on Arthur Morris

If you don't know about Arthur Morris, a Florida photographer, you should! He shoots "to die for"

photographs of birds(and other things)... and leads photo expeditions all over the world. But a picture is worth 1000 words. Go to his website <http://www.birdsasart.com/>

His On-Line Bulletins are great... filled with awesome photographs and lots of useful information. He regularly includes not only f-stops and metering information, but also how to get close to subjects, etc. To sign up for the free bulletins, go to the website... it's 6 lines down. Enjoy!

Panoply Arts Festival Photography Contest

Greetings! The Arts Council will once again be hosting our photography competition for the Panoply Arts Festival this year. We are encouraging all local photographers (both amateur and professional) to participate in capturing the many sights and celebrations of Panoply. We would very much appreciate any information or contacts you could provide and also any deadlines you may have in order to submit a possible blurb for your newsletter as well. We look forward to hearing from you!

Thanks and we appreciate your support!

Karessa Acosta
Media & Public Relations Intern
The Arts Council, Inc.

April Judge: Carla Swinney

Carla Swinney is an enthusiastic artist and photographer with an education in business and graphic design from the University of Alabama. She resides in Decatur, Alabama. She has been supporting herself in the field of postsecondary education administration for over 15 years,

but some time ago; returned to her love of art and photography. In 2001, she began studying art and photography again; which led to the start of her own business in this field. Carla's philosophy revolves around the fact that she's always believed she could see the beauty in people, and to be able to capture that beauty in a photo brings her great joy. Her portfolio predominantly consists of wedding images, as well fine art portraiture.

New Competition Rules:

Starting in April new rules will be used for the monthly contests. Printed images will be limited to 5x7 (including mat) to help judging proceed more quickly. The smaller size will assist the handlers in moving the photographs more quickly. The slide category will be completely removed since it is such out of date technology. Also, a small fee will be collected from all members to pay the handlers a small amount to show appreciation for their hard work. Consider it a "Handling" fee! Of course the real question is just how many people actually read the newsletter close enough to find these new rules!! Drop me a line if you read this rgkress@knology.net And lastly, Happy April Fools.

MEMBER INFO:

Sam Fara will have an exhibition of his photographs along with those of Fred McBride, Christy Rhodes, and Mark Teague at The Heritage Club (111 Washington St, Huntsville) during the months of April and May. He would like to invite all the members of HPS to a reception on Tuesday, April 10, 4:30-6:30 PM at The Heritage Club to share some wine and cheese and to enjoy the art. (Dress is Business casual attire - no jeans or shorts, etc.)

COMPETITION TOPICS 2007

<u>Month</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Jan '07	Festivals	June '07	What is it?	Nov '07	Trees
Feb '07	Cemeteries	Jul '07	Macro/Close-up	Dec '07	Best of the Year
Mar '07	Open	Aug '07	Animal faces	Jan '08	White
Apr '07	Love	Sep '07	Open		
May '07	Silhouettes	Oct '07	Selective Focus		

2007 OFFICERS

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2007 Calendar of Photographic Events

April

Mon. 9
HPS Program: Archival Mounting and Framing
Presenter: Gina Hurst

Mon. 16
NPS Members Show and Tell

Mon. 23
HPS Competition: Love

Mon. 30
HPS Open Forum

July

Mon. 9
HPS Program:
Presenter:

Mon. 16.
NPS Program

Mon. 23
HPS Competition: Macro/Close-up

Mon. 30
HPS Open Forum

October

Mon. 8
HPS Program: PSA 3D Program
Presenter: Lee Pratt

Mon. 15
NPS Members Show and Tell

Mon.22
HPS Competition: Selective Focus

Mon. 29
HPS Open Forum

May

Mon. 14
HPS Program: Patagonia
Presenter: Barbara Staggs

Mon. 21.
NPS Program

Mon. 28
HPS Competition: Silhouettes

August

Mon. 13
HPS Program:
Presenter:

Mon. 20
NPS Members Show and Tell

Mon. 27
HPS Competition: Animal Faces

November

Mon. 12
HPS Program:
Presenter: Tom and Pat Corey

Mon. 19.
NPS Program

Mon. 26
HPS Competition: Trees

June

Mon. 11
HPS Program: The Art of Seeing
Presenter: Walt Schumacher

Mon. 18
NPS Members Show and Tell

Mon. 25
HPS Competition: What is it?

September

Mon. 10
HPS Program:
Presenter:

Mon. 17.
NPS Program

Mon. 24
HPS Competition: Open

December

Mon. 10
HPS Annual Dinner and Year End Awards

Mon. 17
NPS Members Show and Tell

HPS - Huntsville Photographic Society

NPS - Nature Photographic Society