In Focus

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April 2019

April Program- Snapseed *by HPS member*
Charles Leverett

In the past, photo editing meant hours in a darkroom surrounded by chemicals. Currently for most of us its minutes or hours spent on our computers. The way of the future, currently here now, may be photo editing on our everyday camera-our cell phones.

For the April Program, HPS member, Charles Leverett, will present a discussion on Snapseed, a Google processing program that was designed specifically for processing photographs on a cell phone or tablet (either iPhone or Android). It is considered an intermediate program by some but it is a lot of fun and can be very useful. And, the very best thing about it......it is Free. To get the most our of this presentation, download the App before the program.

PSA
Photographic Society of America

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

Novice Program

I am most excited about our new Novice Program at HPS. Earl Todd has done our group a great service in providing the best idea I have heard to help new members with little experience in photography begin to learn the art. I get the idea that Margaret may have also contributed to the original idea.

Basically, the plan is to spend about 30 minutes prior to each meeting teaching the basics. One class will provide a brief lecture on a limited subject such as aperture priority, shutter priority, rule of thirds, fill the frame, or some other aspect of photography. Students will then take the theory learned and do some shooting on their own before the next meeting. At the next meeting, members of the club a little further along will meet one-on-one with each novice to talk about the images they bring. It is one of those simple ideas that has the potential to do so much good.

Earl is developing a curriculum to move through the year that includes camera skills, composition and post-processing. Someone joining the club can begin the program at any point. Instructors will be volunteer club members who want to share their knowledge. If you would like to either enter the program as a novice or share your knowledge as an instructor or to volunteer your time to discuss images with a novice, please contact Earl at lovetofish@comcast.net.

The initial/information/get acquainted meeting was held last Monday night and we had several people who came and showed an interest. Our next meeting will be on Monday night, April 8 at 6:15. This will be an informational meeting, and I believe Earl is starting with Camera skills. Bring your camera, bring a friend, and join us as we begin this great new program.

HPS 2019 Huntsville Museum of Art Exhibit

25 Mar - Open Website for Submissions
22 Apr - Close Website. HMA starts Judging Process
13 May - HMA Announces winners
27 May - Start handing out mats (Exhibitors have 7 weeks to pick up mats, get them cut and return them.)
24 Jun - Start collecting matted images.
22 Jul - Last day for winners to submit their matted images.
06 Aug - HPS frames Images at the Museum
25 Aug - Exhibition Opens

Name	2019 points	2019 wins	Name	2019 points	2019 wins
John Shriver	19	7	Steve Mitchell	3	1
Henry Norton	19	5	Bob Schmiedeskamp	3	1
Earl Todd	15	5	Alan Montgomery	3	1
Barbara Staggs	12	7	Ashley Lindley	2	2
Margaret Todd	11	4	Pete Van Hoff	2	2
Judy Kennamer	10	4	Liz Smith	2	2
Charles Leverett	9	2	Rosemary Davidson	1	1
Tom Bryant	6	3	Dave Edens	1	1
Doris Leverett	6	4	Bart Fay	1	1
Richard Bumgardner	6	2	Joy Henderson	1	1
Ron Atchley	5	1	Liz High	1	1
Charles Gattis	5	1	Thomas Johnson	1	1
Jeanne McDowell	5	2	Barbara Montgomery	1	1
Emily Saile	5	3	Gail Patton	1	1
Larry Sanders	5	1	Eddie Sewall	1	1
Christopher Baker	4	4	Henry Smith	1	1
Carol Boardman	4	1	Martha Teal	1	1
John Kirwin	4	1	David Johnson	1	1
Margaret Phillips	4	2	Zachary Johnson	1	1
Bill Snoddy	4	2	Amy Stitt	1	1
Jim Spinosa	4	2			
Susi Stroud	4	1			
John Shriver	19	7			
Henry Norton	19	5			

March 2019
Subject- Open
Judge – Patrick Oden

	Color Digital (68)	Monochrome Digital (57)	Color Print (36)	Monochrome Print (26)
1st	John Shriver	Ron Atchely	John Shriver	Richard Bumgardner
2nd	Barbara Staggs	Jeanne McDowell	Henry Norton	Charles Leverett
3rd	Jim Spinoso	Alan Montgomery	Henry Norton	Henry Norton
HM	Ashley Lindley	Margaret Phillips	Barbara Staggs	Doris Leverett
HM	Bart Fay	Amy Stitt	Richard Bumgardner	Liz Smith
HM	Ashley Lindley	Dave Edens	Liz Smith	Earl Todd
HM	David Johnson	Margaret Todd	Barbara Staggs	
HM	Gail Patton	Zachary Johnson		
HM	Jim Spinoso	Christopher Baker		
HM	Liz High			

Color Digital 1st place by John Shriver

Color Digital 2nd place by Barb Staggs

Color Digital 3rd place by Jim Spinoso
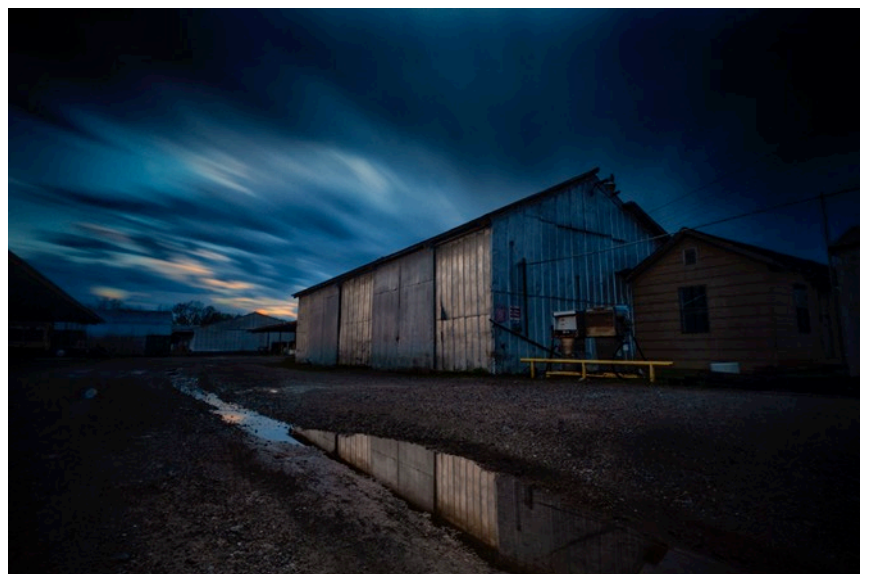

Monochrome Digital 1st by Ron Atchley

Monochrome Digital 2nd place by Jeanne McDowell

Monochrome Digital 3rd place by Alan Montgomery

Color Print 1st place by John Shriver

Color Print 2nd place by Henry Norton

Color Print 3rd place by
Henry Norton

Monochrome Print 1st place by
Richard Bumgardner

Monochrome Print 2nd place
by Charles Leverett

Monochrome Print 3rd place by Henry Norton

2019 Meeting Calendar

April 8 – Snapseed Phone App by Charles Leverett

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

Letter from HPS member Gary Stiger
(Article is in response to Charles Gattis "Photography as Art", March 2019 Newsletter)

  Like so many others in the club, I am a hobbyist, but I try to take the making of a photograph seriously. Like yourself, I am not an artist first and a photographer second – just the reverse. But after taking so many images of the moon, flowers, waterfalls, birds, clouds, insects, dogs, waves, relatives, street people, etc., etc. (the list can go on and on) I am trying desperately to put some "artistic intent" into it – not to just produce a photograph for the sake of documentation. I have poured over the thoughts of many of the great photographers of the past so let me give you a quote from one of my favorites:

  "Photography is a medium of formidable contradictions. It is both ridiculously easy and almost impossibly difficult. It is easy because its technical rudiments can readily be mastered by anyone with a few simple instructions. It is difficult because, while the artist working in any other medium

Letter from Gary Stiger

(Continued from page 8)

begins with a blank surface and gradually brings his conception into being, the photographer is the only imagemaker who begins with the picture completed. His emotions, his knowledge, and his native talent are brought into focus and fixed beyond recall the moment the shutter of his camera has closed." – Edward Steichen

   I love Steichen's work. To me he is the epitome of a photographer/artist of his time, but those words, "fixed beyond recall" bother me somewhat. In Steichen's day a photograph was "fixed" – it was hard to embellish or falsify beyond the image itself although many I'm sure tried. Steichen took the shot, developed the film and probably enhanced it to some degree, but the image was pretty much what he saw when he pressed the shutter release. And in my view all those photographers of that era truly were artists. Not so today says me – the digital revolution changed it. In fact today you don't even need a camera to make a photograph – just got an email from Adobe Create Magazine – "Free Images That Are Actually Worth Your Time – It's our annual round-up of high quality, copyright-free images! – We're talking hundreds of THOUSANDS of images" – so says my email, and the implication is that all I need to do is download these images, pull one or two up in Photoshop, cut, paste, crop, smudge, clone, burn and dodge, slice, dice …., and out comes a photographic work of art?? Wow, it is easy – easier than I thought. But then again is it really a photograph, and is it art? Admittedly, there are some amazing things to behold on the net, and by Webster's definition they are artistic - but artistic figments of the imagination? They do have beauty and emotional power, but then are they photographs? If you did not take an image yourself, but you assemble images from others somehow, can you claim it as your own photograph? Where then does photography end and graphic art begin? Which comes first, the photographer or the artist? Many questions … controversial answers.

   I love photography – it gives me an outlet for expression – it gives me a chance to share with others the photographic experience. My images may not always be pretty to look at, but they are what I saw for a fleeting moment in time and captured with my camera by me – whether on a piece of film or pixilated.   Let me end with one last quote:

"When I first became interested in photography, I thought it was the whole cheese. My idea was to have it recognized as one of the fine arts. Today I don't give a hoot in hell about it. The mission of photography is to explain man to man and each man to himself. And that is no mean function." – once again, Edward Steichen.

   By "man to man" I would guess Steichen meant "humanity to humanity and each human to himself/herself" My interpretation of Steichen's comment is to make honest photographs - to be true to your craft – be true to yourself. If I'm correct, I think this guy pretty much nailed what photography is about.

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/

April 2019 Judge- Jose Betancourt

José Betancourt will be our judge for the upcoming competition on April 22, 2019 for the subject, "Abstract. José is an Associate Professor of Art, who teaches photography at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. He holds a BA degree in Photography from the University of South Florida and an MFA in Photography from Hunter College, City University of New York City. Jose' currently teaches classes in Digital Photography, Experimental and Historical Photography, and Documentary Photography. His art has recently been exhibited at the Tinney Contemporary art gallery in Nashville, the Tennessee Valley Museum in Tuscumbia, the Asheville Museum of Art in North Carolina, and The Baldwin Photographic Gallery in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

We want to thank Jose' for returning, and once again serving as a competition judge for HPS.

Website: www.huntsvillephotographicsociety.org
https://www.facebook.com/groups/399566463394251/ (closed group)