



# In Focus

Volume 64, Issue 10

October 2019

## October Program- *My Alabama* by John Dersham

Our October Program features John Dersham and his book, *My Alabama John Dersham Photographs a State*. The book is a certified book for our Alabama Bicentennial which is going on this year. The book will be a consumer keepsake for all Alabamians, for visitors, business clients, and anyone who would enjoy a pretty coffee table book that consists of a visual journey across our state from Dauphin Island to the Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee borders.

John Dersham was the school yearbook photographer from 7<sup>th</sup> grade through college at Truman University and the University of Missouri. He worked in camera stores during and after college, and was asked to join Eastman Kodak as a sales representative in Nashville. At Kodak, he spent more than 30 years as a General and Regional Manager, ending up in Birmingham, AL. Through the years he taught photo workshops and had gallery exhibits throughout the United States and Europe. In recent years he has been in the tourism industry in Alabama, producing photography for travel guides and brochures. It was his work in tourism that the idea of the book came from. Talking to several leaders in the tourism and economic development industries about an ongoing misunderstanding of what AL looked like from a

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Chris Baker

Competition Records Officer:  
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Webmaster: John Shriver

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Membership Secretary:  
Margaret Todd

Mentor Coordinator:  
Earl Todd

**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

### Clarence John Laughlin

I used to think that each photograph rested on a continuum between documentation and expression. If I wanted to simply document something, like my granddaughter's fifth birthday party, then I just took pictures as best I could to help me remember the event. If I wanted to express something through the photograph, then I had to try to make the picture



say what I wanted it to say, both in camera and in post processing. I often discovered that to express something of depth through a photograph usually took a lot of work in post processing and often diverged significantly from what was actually present in the original scene.

Then I came across the work of Clarence John Laughlin. Laughlin would generally be found on the expressive side of my continuum, but as I have looked more at his work, he was also trying to document—not so much the scene itself, but rather the underlying truth found within it. As the Wall Street Journal article, where I first encountered him, said, “A starker contrast between the documentary aesthetic of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Modernism and the otherworldly ambitions of Laughlin (1905-1985) would be hard to find.” An exhibit of Laughlin’s work is currently on display at the High Museum Art in Atlanta through November 10. Since reading about him in the WSJ, I have become fascinated with his work and plan to see the exhibit later this month.

Laughlin felt that “uncanny forces might be at work in our world.” Some have called him “Edgar Allen Poe with a camera.” The poet, Johnathan Williams, once said of him appreciatively, “who needs LSD when you have CJL.”

Laughlin published, in 1948, *Ghosts Along the*

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## From The President

(Continued from page 2)

*Mississippi: An Essay in the Poetic Interpretation of Louisiana's Plantation Architecture.*" The book consists of a fascinating prologue explaining the essay along with 100 black and white prints with short explanations as to how each print fits into the narrative. The work is an interesting and helpful study of the ability of photography to document not only the scene, but also the expression, the feelings and the understandings that often lie hidden there, seen only through creative imagination.

At the very first of the prologue, Laughlin says, "This book will attempt to present the evolution of Louisiana plantation culture in terms of the contrast, and the adhesion, of two subtly related, yet unlike, elements—that which may roughly be called historico-architectural, and that which pulsates along poetic vision." By the "historico-architectural," he means the structure of the plantation itself—its buildings, materials, settings, and surrounding artifacts—along with how it evolved and represented the culture that made it possible.

"Poetic vision," as he sees it, consists of the symbols, memories and future mental projections of that culture. Again in the prologue, he says, "...those who feel, and know, something of the mystery and magic of the old ruined houses of Louisiana find in them more than the satisfaction of mere antiquarian curiosity: find, instead, unique stimulants to vision, and to memory; and, as well, what might be roughly be termed a metaphysical and poetic adventure."



The very first image in the book is called "Elegy for Moss Land." As represented here, the image is a cleverly done double exposure of an old plantation house set among moss and reflected in the stream among the marshes. Most prevalent is the eerie figure ascending from the marsh grass placed in perfect composition and providing a further sense of deep mystery. Indicating that this image represents the books whole intent, Laughlin interprets it this way, "In the evocative figure rising from the marsh—the earth which is unsubstantial and reflective; the inverted landscape like a

swampy mirage; the plantation house, sitting in the tree of dream—is presented an image of those who seek to completely summon the past; those who fall beneath the magic spell of memory." Does any of this call to mind some struggles we have today?

Of course, Laughlin was a master in the darkroom as the article in the WSJ says, and as the

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## From The President

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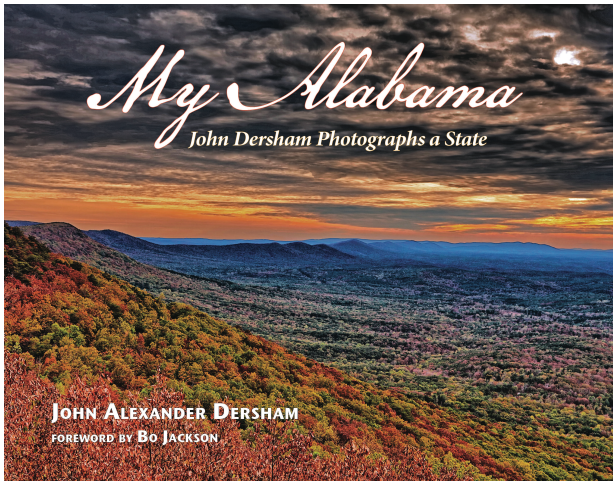
book itself so clearly reveals. It goes without saying that he was a master of the camera as well. He tells us his view of this creative tool, in other remarks in the prologue, “Since the camera is a machine only when it is used mechanically—it is possible to discover and present through it poetic and psychological reality as well as ‘record’ reality—when it is used imaginatively.”

Laughin’s attempt to document expressively has completely blown my little construct of a continuum but taught me a lot about the potential for creative expression within photography. I commend his work to you, and especially commend the exposition in Atlanta if you are able to see it.

*Charles Gattis*

## October Program

*(Continued from page 1)*



physical perspective. There was a misunderstanding by International visitors and potential Industrial clients that Alabama is a level cotton field north to south. Many have no idea we have mountains, lakes, and one of the premier river systems in the world.

Bo Jackson, legendary baseball and football player, as well as an avid cyclist, wrote the forward to the book. His writing for the book is from the perspective of seeing our beautiful state from sitting on a bicycle seat. Join us at the HPS meeting on October 14 to hear more about it.

### **New Members**

Wayne Cummins

Alice Searcy

David Willmarth



## **Brentwood Photography Group and Epson Present:**

### **The Power of Color - Lightroom and Photoshop Strategies with John Paul Caponigro**

On Tuesday, November 5, the Brentwood Photography Group welcomes area photographers to spend an evening with world-renowned photographer and instructor John Paul Caponigro, presented by Epson.

Caponigro's work has been exhibited internationally, and purchased for numerous private and public collections, including Princeton University, the Estee Lauder collection, and the Smithsonian. He is a member of the Photoshop Hall of Fame, one of Canon's Explorer's of Light, and an Epson Stylus Pro.

He inspires creativity with his exhibitions, writings, lectures, seminars, and digital photography workshops around the globe.

Caponigro will inspire you with new strategies for identifying and creating successful color palettes, showing you how to craft a unique palette to communicate your signature style. Come and learn techniques to put the unprecedented power and precision of digital color to work for your images.

**This is a ticketed event, but the tickets are free. Go to [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) and search for Caponigro in Tennessee to secure your free ticket today.**

Find more information at [www.brentwoodphotographygroup.org](http://www.brentwoodphotographygroup.org).

#### **Event Details**

**Date:** November 5, 2019

**Time:** 6:30 - 8:00 pm CST

**Location:** Otter Creek Church - 409 Franklin Road, Brentwood, TN37027

**Tickets (FREE):** [www.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

September 2019  
 Subject- Cityscapes  
 Judge – Joe Fikes

	Color Digital (48)	Monochrome Digital (39)	Color Print (24)	Monochrome Print (21)
1st	C.T. Chi	John Shriver	Charles Leverett	Eddie Sewall
2nd	Walt Tyszka	Ed Townsend	Eddie Sewall	Doris Leverett
3rd	Chris Baker	Joe Matus	Jeanne McDowell	Doris Leverett
HM	John Shriver	C.T. Chi	Barbara Staggs	Charles Leverett
HM	Eddie Sewall	Earl Todd	Tom Bryant	Charles Leverett
HM	Jeanne McDowell	John Shriver		
HM	Julia Gary	Virginia Gilbert		
HM	Margaret Todd			
HM	Margaret Todd			
HM				



Color Digital 1<sup>st</sup> place by  
 C. T. Chi

Color Digital 2<sup>nd</sup> place  
 by Walt Tyszka







Color Digital 3rd place  
by Chris Baker

Monochrome Digital 1<sup>st</sup>  
place by John Shriver



Monochrome Digital 2nd  
place by Ed Townsend



Monochrome Digital 3rd place by Joe Matus



Color Print 1st place by Charles Leverett



Color Print 2nd place by Eddie Sewall



Color Print 3rd place by Jeanne McDowell



Monochrome Print 1st  
place by Eddie Sewall



Monochrome Print 2nd place  
by Doris Leverett

Monochrome Print 3rd  
place by Doris Leverett



Name	2019 points	2019 wins
John Shriver	37	15
Henry Norton	31	9
Barbara Staggs	31	15
Doris Leverett	29	11
Earl Todd	25	9
Margaret Todd	25	10
Charles Leverett	23	9
Jeanne McDowell	23	13
Emily Saile	20	8
Sam Alexander	19	7
Christopher Baker	16	12
Tom Bryant	16	7
Blanca Eyre	16	5
Alan Forney	15	6
Julie Gary	14	7
Charles Gattis	14	5
Margaret Phillips	14	6
Richard Bumgardner	12	4
Martha Teal	12	5
Eddie Sewall	11	4
Judy Kennamer	10	4
Barbara Montgomery	10	4
Joy Henderson	9	4
Joe Matus	9	5
Hank Miller	9	4
Ed Townsend	8	3
CT Chi	7	3
Virginia Gilbert	7	3
Henry Smith	7	3
Ron Atchley	6	2
Dave Edens	6	4

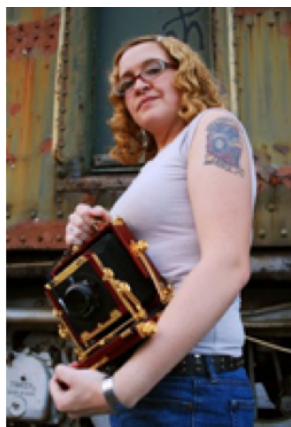
Name	2019 points	2019 wins
Allen Gary	6	4
Pete Banholzer	6	2
Ernie High	5	3
Liz High	5	3
John Kirwin	5	2
Larry Sanders	5	1
Carol Boardman	4	1
Bill Snoddy	4	2
Jim Spinosa	4	2
Susi Stroud	4	1
Walt Tyzka	4	1
Bess Wills	4	1
Ashley Lindley	3	3
Steve Mitchell	3	1
Alan Montgomery	3	1
Bob Schmiedeskamp	3	1
Liz Smith	3	3
Pete Van Hoff	3	3
Gail Patton	2	2
Don Wolfe	2	2
Pete Banholzer	1	1
David Blue	1	1
Rosemary Davidson	1	1
Bart Fay	1	1
David Johnson	1	1
Thomas Johnson	1	1
Zachary Johnson	1	1
Marian Lewis	1	1
Richard Modlin	1	1
Glen Romanczuk	1	1
Amy Stitt	1	1

## **2019 Meeting Calendar**

October 14- Program Meeting  
 October 28- "Open" Competition Meeting  
 November 11- Program Meeting- "Creative Crud"  
 November 25- "Shadows" Competition Meeting  
 December- End of Year Dinner & Awards

## October 2019 Judge- Cara Fuller

### October 28, Subject: "Open"



Cara Fuller is our Judge for the October Competition, "Open." Cara is no stranger to the Huntsville Photographic Society, as she has been with us as a judge every year since 2011. She always has helpful comments and our members say that they "learn a lot when Cara is with us". Cara teaches photography at Alabama A&M University and Athens State University. She received her Masters in Fine Art Photography from Savannah College of Art and Design. Cara is originally from East Aurora, New York. As a fine art photographer, she has lately been focusing on documenting the cars of a single abandoned junkyard. Nature versus man is always a theme of her work, but in the latest incarnation, Old Car City, trees snake their way through the intricate grills of classic cars and muscle cars become imprisoned in the forest. You can see some of her work at

[https://www.etsy.com/shop/CaraFullerPhotos?ref=hdrCara\\_Fuller\\_Photos/CARA\\_FULLER/CARA\\_FULLER.html](https://www.etsy.com/shop/CaraFullerPhotos?ref=hdrCara_Fuller_Photos/CARA_FULLER/CARA_FULLER.html)

### ***HPS Photography Workshop, Saturday, November 23, 2019***

Location: Trinity United Methodist Church, 607 Airport Rd SW, Huntsville, AL

Time: 9am - 4 pm

Henry Norton, HPS Master photographer, will be teaching this course. Henry uses Photoshop daily in his work as a graphic artist for the Army, so he has some unique and excellent skills in both using Photoshop and teaching it. Since we can't cover all the many aspects of Photoshop in one day, Henry will focus on the parts of Photoshop most helpful and important for photographers. We will have —3 hours of instruction in the morning and 3 hours in the afternoon, with lunch in between. More information will be coming later as to different aspects of Photoshop that will be covered. Register by emailing Charles Gattis at [cfgattis@me.com](mailto:cfgattis@me.com)

## *2019 Scott Kelby Photo Walk*

There are two opportunities, one in Madison, AL and one nearby in Nolensville, TN. The event is happening October 5, 2019 in thousands of cities all over the world. The Scott Kelby Worldwide Photowalk, dubbed the world's largest global and social photography event, has grown immensely in size and popularity since the inaugural walk in 2007. Last year, more than 24,000 photographers of all walks of life and skill level converged to explore their corners of the world through photography and social community.

HPS member Rick Kress is leading a walk in Madison, AL, starting about a half mile from the festival. The festival time is 9 am-3 pm and is free. Additional items of interest along the walk are a cemetery, historical homes with interesting trees and fences, and a railroad crossing. Bands will be performing on 2 stages all day, along with local dance groups and martial arts demonstrations, as well as a car show. A late lunch is planned around 2:30 at the Cracker Barrel restaurant located on the other side of I-565. For more details and to register go to: <https://worldwidephotowalk.com/walk/madison-street-festival-walk/>

Dick Dougall is leading a walk around Nolensville, a town of about 6,000 (2010 census), located about 22 miles southeast of Nashville. It was established in 1797 by William Nolen, a veteran of the American Revolutionary War. The compact historic area includes a historic Methodist Church and Amish Feed Mill. Each photographer will submit one image for "Best of Nolensville" to be judged by renowned photographer Jerry Atnip. to be submitted for WorldWide judging by Scott Kelby. An additional 14 images will be selected by Jerry for a "court of honor" exhibit to be held in December at the Public Library in Franklin, along with other locations in Columbia and Nolensville in January & February. Dick also plans on compiling images for a book. To register go to:

<https://worldwidephotowalk.com/walk/historic-nolensville-tennessee/>

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