



In Focus

January Program- See Through A New Paradigm *with April Milani*



"Unexpected beauty is everywhere.

Let me show you how to take the ordinary, and make it "Extraordinary!"

"I spent 20 years as a military wife and 3 years ago settled in Alabama starting life as a civilian family.

Homeschooling mom of two wild boys, taking one move at a time, saved by grace, I am perfectly imperfect. I am

human, I make mistakes. I am not afraid to go out and try something new even if I feel I have failed. I've still won because I didn't let fear stop me." My saying this year is,

"Don't feed the fears".

My love for photography started in my grandmother's kitchen with her Polaroid camera. She made me really think about the shot before I took it. She would always tell me "you only get one shot, so make it count". Although I went to college for black and white film after high school, my

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journey wasn't that straightforward, and as a young adult, photography and I went our separate ways. Being a mom caused our paths to cross again, and I began to fall back in love with taking pictures because it allowed me to see my kids through the lens which inspired me in a number of new and different ways. Like most everything else that touches my life, I am rarely satisfied just taking on hobbies and doing things 'for fun'. I can't just learn the basics of something and move on – I believe in fully immersing myself. I wanted to



know the art-form inside and out. So after that spark was reignited, I studied and completed the photography course offered at New York Institute of Photography (NYIP). Since then, I have gone off on so many rabbit trails, I never know what path I will take next.

All of the trails I go down have their own sets of artistic challenges, some more than others. It is all about my journey and lessons learned along the way that draws me in. It is the not knowing of what there is to see that takes me down the next trail.

I am hosting a 365/52 Community Project through the end of March 2021.

<https://www.gatheracademy.org/365-community-project>



From the President “Perspective”

Perspective has been on my mind recently. 2020 was a disastrous year, and 2021 isn't looking much better. Consequently, I need a different perspective--a better point of view. Vision perspective is just as critical in life as it is in photography.

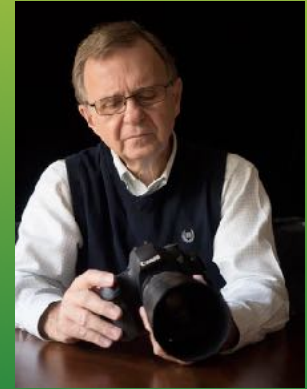
I learned to be careful about perspective in photography several years ago when I took the picture below. In Ireland, while traveling through the Burren, we stopped for some shots of this Dolmen. As usual, I took several photographs from a lot of different perspectives. Deciding to be somewhat creative, I knelt at a distance from the Dolmen to take this shot, not realizing that I had a wide-angle lens on the camera. Well, you can see what I got. The foreground rock is not a bolder, but just a rather large rock that



came almost up to my knee. But notice how the lens's perspective changes the size of the stone. From the wide-angle view, the rock dwarfs both the Dolmen and the man walking through the scene.

I learned an important lesson. We know that a wide-angle lens makes objects nearby appear much more prominent, and items further away appear smaller and at a much greater distance than they are. It's a part of the distortion. Consequently, a telescopic lens draws distant objects closer to us, making them appear larger while making something nearby appear smaller. Either point of view is a distortion of reality-- knowing that is important in photography and life.

Perhaps we have a similar distortion in our personal view of history from different ages in our lives. The young have a wide-angle view of significant events in life. I can remember when I was just entering high school in 1961, World War II seemed ancient history, even though it was only fourteen or fifteen years before. It was so small from my perspective



Charles Gattis
HPS President

that I thought of it as having little effect on me. That was not true for my parents, who had lived through it and seen it as one of the most influential events in their lives. It still loomed large for them in their telescopic point of view affecting their lives significantly in their decisions and the hopes they had for the future.

Consider these understandings on perspective as we view the events of this past year. 2020 and the threats of Covid 19 will loom large in the eyes of those who are young today because of their wide-angle view of life. It's the biggest thing they have faced, and as they age into a telescopic view of events, it will continue to loom large for them even as it passes into history. As we age, other events in our past affect our outlook as much, perhaps more. At the age of sixteen, fifteen years seemed a lifetime to me, but now in my seventies, the events of fifteen years ago must take their place in my perspective with all the other events in my life and fight with them for attention and influence.

I hear coaches say that football teaches you a lot about life. Well, so does photography. At this age, it's somewhat comforting to know that both perspectives, the wide and the telescopic, are distortions of reality. There is a middle ground that is more real than either. What looms large today is small compared to other events in the past, and what looms large is the past is also a distortion of reality. The shadow on the wall that frightens the five-year-old is not as big or as real as it appears. In like manner, someone's foolish actions in his/her teens shouldn't continue to overly influence the adult's actions. As photographers, we can judge more appropriately, especially in difficult times. We understand perspective and can deal more appropriately with distortion. Isn't it nice to be so wise and experienced! Have a great new year.



January Judge- Muril Robertson

Subject: Vintage

Muril Robertson will return as our judge for Competition Night on January 25, 2021. The topic is "Vintage." We are fortunate to have Muril Robertson as our judge for that night. We look forward to learn from Muril's comments and critique of our members' pictures.

Muril lives in Huntsville and has judged at least one competition per year for the past eight years. He is a past President of HPS and an honorary member of the society. Muril has photographed widely across the United States, and has won numerous awards both in our local community and in national and international competitions. His work has appeared in art museums, magazines, books, corporate reports, advertising, etc. Currently, he has over 100,000 film images in stock and a few hundred thousand digital images.

***New Board Member- Brenda Barnes,
Outreach & Activities Officer***

Welcome to the HPS Board, Brenda!

Brenda is a retired Lockheed Martin Program Manager. She has two children, two grandchildren, a dog and a cat. Additional interests include photography, traveling, gardening, hiking, reading, quilting, painting, & cooking.



2020 Awards/Achievements

President’s Award- Chris Baker

Top 10 Points for the Year:

- Chris Baker
- Barbara Staggs
- Mat Bevill
- Eddie Sewall
- John Shriver
- Earl Todd
- Susan Chi
- Diana Davidson
- C.T. Chi
- Julie Gary

Gold Star Fellow

John Shriver

Silver Star Fellow

Eddie Sewall

Bronze Star Fellow

Gayle Biggs, Chris Baker

Fellow

Chris Baker, Earl Todd

Best of 2020		
	Color Digital ()	Monochrome Digital ()
1st	Ernie High	Chris Baker
2nd	Susan Chi	Chris Baker
3rd	Susan Chi	Diana Davidson
HM	Barb Montgomery	Alice Searcy
HM	David Blue	Charles Leverett
HM	CT Chi	Diana Davidson
HM	John Shriver	C.T. Chi
HM	Gayle Biggs	Diana Davidson
HM	Diana Davidson	Doris Leverett
HM	Margaret Phillips	Jim Smothers
HM	Chris Baker	John Shriver
HM	Joy Henderson	Gayle Biggs
HM	Tom Bryant	C.T. Chi
HM	Margaret Todd	



Color Digital 1st place by Ernie High



Color Digital 2nd place by Susan Chi



Color Digital 3rd place by Susan Chi



Monochrome Digital 1st Place by
Chris Baker

Monochrome Digital 2nd Place
by Chris Baker





Monochrome Digital 3rd Place
by Diana Davidson

Honorable Mention



Margaret Phillips



Gayle Biggs



CT Chi



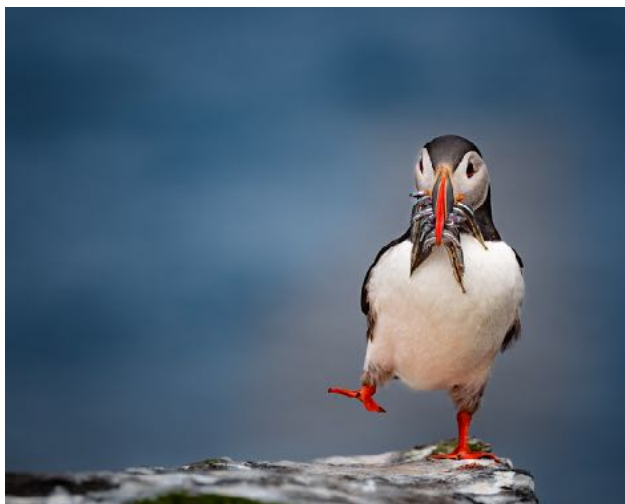
Chris Baker



Joy Henderson



Margaret Todd



Diana Davidson



Tom Bryant



David Blue



John Shriver

Barb Montgomery



Honorable Mention continued



Diana Davidson



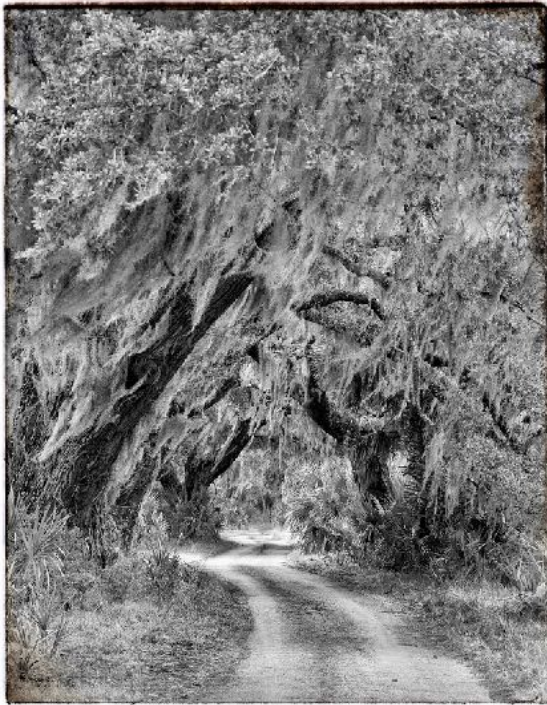
Diana Davidson



John Shriver



C.T. Chi



Charles Leverett



Doris Leverett



Alice Searcy



Gayle Biggs



Jim Smothers



C.T. Chi

Officers of HPS

President: Charles Gattis

Primary Competition Officer: Steve Mitchell

Digital Competition Officer: Chris Baker

Competition Records Officer: Eddie Sewall

Program Officer: Roger Hunter

Outreach & Activities Officer: Brenda Barnes

Workshop Chairman: Jeanne McDowell

Publicity Officer: Rosemary Davidson

Treasurer: Emily Saile

Communications Officer: Geri Reddy

Historian: Tom Bryant

Exhibition Officer: Bob Gower

PSA Representative: Lee Pratt

Non Board Positions

Webmaster: John Shriver

Membership Officer: Bess Wills

Mentor/Novice Program Officer: Vacant

HPS is currently meeting through Zoom the second and fourth Mondays of the month, 7:00 p.m.

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