



HM by Earl Todd. See more images on p. 7-9.

In Focus

February Program- Focus Stacking *with Matt Meisenheimer*

Focus stacking is an advanced landscape photography technique. It enables photographers to overcome the optical limitations of their camera and lens. It allows for maximum depth of field and sharpness, from just inches away from the front of a lens to the background miles away. It opens up new compositions and creative potential for many landscapes and scenes. Focus stacking is an advanced technique because it has two components - an in the field aspect and



processing aspect. To be done successfully, both aspects must be done correctly.

Matt Meisenheimer is a nature photographer, instructor & photo guide at Backcountry Journeys. Backcountry Journeys offers photo workshops, tours, and safaris to the greatest photography destinations on the planet. Matt strives to

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:			
February Program- Focus Stacking	1-2	January Competition Results	7
From The President	3-4	Winning Images	7-9
February Judge	5	Equipment For Sale, Photography Classes	9-10
Member news , New members	5-6	HPS 2021 Officers, website, FB group	11



capture those brief moments of dramatic light and weather, which make our grand landscapes so special. He loves the process of photography – from planning trips and scouting locations, taking the shot in-field, to post-processing the final image.

Here's the webinar registration link - <https://app.livestorm.co/backcountry-journeys/focus-stacking>.



I would advise all your members to register. Even if they cannot make the event, if they are registered, they will automatically be sent the recording after the webinar.



From The President “Slow Down”

Meril’s “pickiness” at our Vintage Competition this month got me thinking about a teacher I studied under last year. She was picky; really, really picky--not only about her own photography but also about mine. Her critiques weren’t brutal--she was most kind, unlike some of my professors in graduate school--but she saw everything. I kept saying,

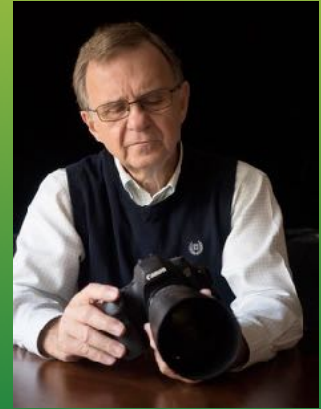
“Dang, I didn’t see that!” And then again, “Dang, I didn’t see that either!”

From what I can tell, every really great photographer was picky. I mentioned a while back that I have been reading The Daybooks of Edward Weston. Talk about picky. He mulled over his images before, during, and after he took them. I imagine him completely bald from pulling his hair out or with constant red spots across his forehead from banging his head against the wall. He was obsessive about his images--picky, picky, picky!

The teacher I came to admire last year was a flower photographer by the name of Kathleen Clemons. I think some of her most important advice came not so much from the critiques, but from the things she would say from time to time, half unaware of what she was saying. Having taught a little here and there myself, I realize also that she, like all good teachers, was talking to herself as much or more than to her students. I imagine these two phrases keep running through her mind as she makes her own images.

“Slow down,” was the one that keeps resounding with me. I know you are saying, “Well, that’s easy enough!” Only it’s really not that easy at all once you begin to unpack it. It means to stop shooting random photographs. Oh, you can still take shot after shot as a way of “sketching” out the subject and exploring it, but the phrase actually means to think carefully about what you are shooting. What is the subject that intrigues you? What about it is interesting to you? How best can you capture that? What perspective reveals its real nature? Which accessories surrounding it help to reveal that nature? How blurred or dark should those accessories be in order to emphasize the subject and not upstage it? What is the character and essence of this subject and have you revealed that in an unusual and exceptional way? To “slow down” means to get really, really picky about a photo.

The second aspect of photography that she kept emphasizing had a lot to do with its photographic character. She would often say, “this image is all about...” That one



Charles Gattis
HPS President

phrase encouraged me to “keep the main thing the main thing.” She would say, “This picture is all about shape.” Or, “This picture is all about color.” Seeing and recognizing what a subject is “all about” occurs, as I have discovered when I slow down and think analytically about a subject. I stop for a while and consider what is most important about this subject. Whatever a subject is “all about” is precisely what I need to work to emphasize and bring out. Contrasty subjects that are all about line, shape, and/or texture can work well as a black and white. If a subject is all about color, then the colors and their arrangement according to the relationships of the colors is most important. Slowing down helps me to do that. I may take several images as sketches, but then I need to recognize and consider which of the images is a sketch and which is the real picture. I read about photographers who often take a range of images trying to explore and understand a subject who, after analyzing those “sketches,” go back at a more appropriate time to take the real image.

My friend and excellent photographer, Emily Saile, introduced me to one of her teachers this past week. When I first saw the picture of David duChemin, I thought, this is an old, experienced looking guy--bald head and dappled grey beard--he must know something. Then later as I read about him, I learned he was just two years older than my oldest son. Oh well, my oldest son, as well as my youngest son, are teaching their old dad a thing or two these days.

When I signed up for David’s blog, he sent me a free eBook entitled, “20 Ways to Make Better Photographs, Without Buying More Gear.” In the introduction, he makes an argument for “slowing down,” when he discusses the essence of photography in this way:

I believe photography is a way of seeing the world. It’s a way of learning to be present in the few moments we have to really live them.

Photography considered in that way becomes a spiritual thing. It’s not just about creating an image, but rather a way of finding meaning and purpose in life. In that way, it goes much deeper into our being and makes us a better person, a more thoughtful, introspective person connecting the essence of who we are with the essence of the world around us. And that can only happen when we “slow down,” as Kathleen kept saying

to us. Oh, and by the way, the first chapter, or rather the first suggestion in David duCumin's 20 ways to make better pictures is--can you guess? "Get Pickier."

February Judge- José Betancourt

Subject: Bridges

José Betancourt will be our judge for the upcoming competition on February 22, 2021 for the subject, "Bridges."

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 Tusculumbia, the Asheville Museum of Art in North Carolina, and The Baldwin Photographic Gallery in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.



We want to thank Jose' for his continued support of the Huntsville Photographic Society, and for once again serving as a competition judge.

You can find examples of his work at josebetancourt.com.

Member News

We are sorry to learn of the passing of our member David Johnson and send our condolences to his brother Tom, also an HPS member.

Many will remember David as the gentleman that came to our meetings in recent years on his three-wheel electric cart, along with his brother Tom. He didn't compete but was always impressed with the inspiration of all the photographers.

David, spent two tours in Viet Nam and later worked himself up the ladder to District Manager for Radio Shack. He was also water colorist.

Later, after he suffered a heart attack and unable able to paint, his brother Tom introduced him to photography and they spent many, many hours out and about to capture anything they could.

David was later diagnosed with complications from Agent Orange but he never let his condition get him down. He was always there to try new things and kept on the positive side of life.

Tom says, "he was always there for me and my photography with both positive and sometimes truthful criticism. Now....David can add his imagination and talent to a place filled with the ultimate inspiration."

New Members

Todd Armstrong

Jack DeBlanc

Pat Dortch

Carolyn & Jack Eidson

Tom Lorson

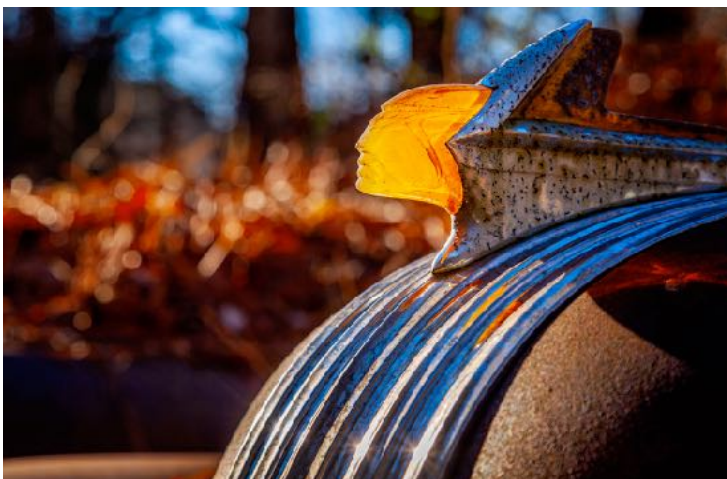
Kate Leonard

Pam & Jeff Emmerich

Michael Murrell

January Competition Results		
Subject- Vintage		
Judge- Muriel Robertson		
	Color Digital (76)	Monochrome Digital (74)
1st	Eddie Sewall	Julie Gary
2nd	Alice Searcy	Emily Saile
3rd	Sam Alexander	Doris Leverett
HM	Alan Forney	Diana Lyn Davidson
HM	Allen Gary	Eddie Sewall
HM	Chris Baker	Jim Spinoso
HM	Danny Pugh	Ernie High
HM	Jim Spinoso	Chris Baker
HM	Judy Kennamer	Earl Todd
HM	Mat Bevil	Earl Todd
HN	Tom Bryant	

Name	2021 Points	2021 Wins
Eddie Sewall	6	2
Julie Gary	5	1
Emily Saile	4	1
Alice Searcy	4	1
Sam Alexander	3	1
Doris Leverett	3	1
Chris Baker	2	2
Jim Spinoso	2	2
Earl Todd	2	2
Mat Bevill	1	1
Tom Bryant	1	1
Diana Davidson	1	1
Alan Forney	1	1
Allen Gary	1	1
Ernie High	1	1
Judy Kennamer	1	1
Danny Pugh	1	1



Color Digital 1st place by
Eddie Sewall



Color Digital 2nd place by Alice Searcy



Monochrome Digital 1st Place
by Julie Gary



Monochrome Digital 2nd Place
by Emily Saile



Monochrome Digital 3rd Place
by Doris Leverett



Color Digital 3rd place by Sam Alexander

For sale and Free Equipment

- Epson Stylus Photo 1400 Printer. Nozzles are clogged. Free to anyone that wants it. Contact Barb Staggs at staggwh@gmail.com
- Canon 5D Mark 4, excellent condition with all parts and extra batteries, \$2500. Also, Canon EF 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6L IS II USM Lens \$1400. Contact Tricia Hyde, pthyde@bellsouth.net or cell #256-653-2548

Upcoming Photography Classes

- HPS Member Tom Bryant is teaching a class on Wildlife Photography over six Mondays beginning March 22 and ending April 26 from 1:30 – 3:00 PM. This is the second part of a class taught in Spring 2019. It is actually a DVD series with a National Geographic Instructor, and Tom introducing the class and providing additional information. Tim Laman will introduce participants to the varied skills mastered by all great wildlife photographers. The class is like walking through a photo gallery with an excellent photographer and having him explain the photos. This DVD series will be valuable for both experienced photographers and those interested in understanding more about the art of photography. Each of the 6 class sessions will consist of an introduction of the speaker and a DVD viewing plus a short discussion followed by a suggested photo activity. Each session stands alone—attending the previous class is not required. Subjects for this term include a journey to the rainforests of Borneo in search of African hornbills and the Galapagos Islands for photographing crabs, iguanas, and sea lions. Key takeaways include anticipating an animal's peak moment of behavior, tapping into the power of the "golden hour" of light, and using bad weather to make photos more interesting. Although not required, the student will get the most from the class if they have knowledge of basic camera use. The class is being taught through Learning QUEST based at the public library so it does require a \$20 yearly membership and a \$30 term fee for any classes offered that term. (There are about 40 other classes.) This will be an in-person class taught following all the safety guidelines at Steady for Life across from the old Grissom High School.
- The second opportunity is through Osher Lifelong Learning Institute based at UAH. Barbara Staggs is teaching her composition class called "Composing Great Photos -- Beyond the Basics", over six Thursdays from January 28 through February 25 at 3 to 4:30 PM. This is an on-line class using Zoom. This class also requires a yearly membership fee and has a class term fee.

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: Vacant

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)