



Color Digital, HM winner by Carolyn Eidson. See more images, p.7-8

# In Focus

## March Program- Let's Get Wild! Wildlife Photography Tips

*with Chris Baker*

Chris's wildlife images have won awards in the 2020 and 2021 Outdoor Alabama Photo Contest, been selected for the 2021 North Alabama Zoological Society Calendar, and been featured by Outdoor Photographer Magazine. Chris's photography habit started over 10 years ago with a simple Panasonic point and shoot camera. He quickly outgrew the limitations of the point and shoot and is now fully invested with Nikon mirrorless and DSLR camera bodies and lenses. Chris has been a member of HPS since 2018 and enjoys having an active role with the organization as the Digital Competition Chair. Chris loves to

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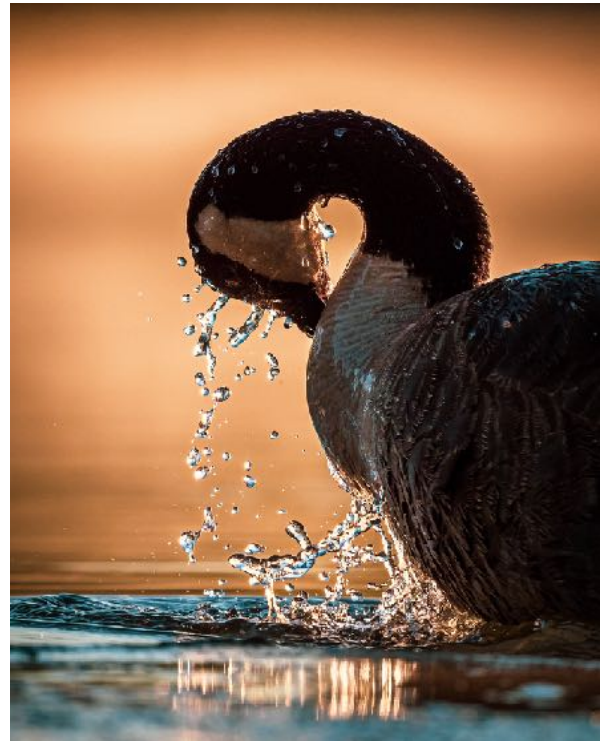


teach and share his knowledge with anyone interested in learning.

Chris's presentation will cover topics such as camera gear, settings, composition, behavior, and habitat.

He'll present sample images and discuss the background details behind each. He'll share lessons learned of years of field experience and the importance of adapting to the unpredictability of nature.

Samples of Chris's work can be found on his website: <https://cscottphoto.smugmug.com>



### *For sale*

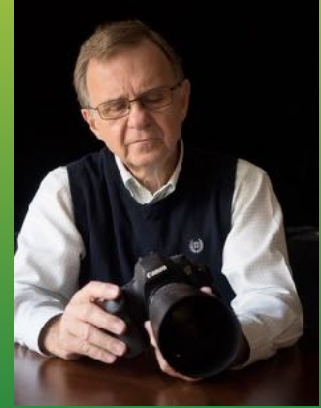
- CORRECTION from Feb Newsletter listing: Canon 5D Mark 4, excellent condition with all parts and extra batteries, price is \$1500, NOT \$2500. Also, Canon EF 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6L IS II USM Lens \$1400. Contact Tricia Hyde, [pthyde@bellsouth.net](mailto:pthyde@bellsouth.net) or cell #256-653-2548
- Nikon D5, \$3200. Contact Jerry Green at #256-723-9712

# From The President

## "The Language of Art"

I have been thinking about language recently--particularly how things, concepts, and ideas are communicated from one being to another. Language is universal. Humans have perhaps the most sophisticated methods of communication, at least we think we do. But animals communicate with each other in different ways, even as we communicate with them. I tell my son's dog to "sit" when she is pestering me while I visit him. She sits for about 30 seconds, then looks up at me and goes on pestering me again. We communicated--but it didn't last long. Maybe even trees and bushes have a way of communicating with each other--pushing one another out of the way as if saying, "move over a little so I can get to the light." Perhaps rocks communicate with each other as they roll down a hill bumping into each other. It's primitive, but in its own way, it says something to something else. Language in its broader definition is whatever we use to influence, inform, or express ourselves with something else in our world. You may think that is too broad, but such a definition helps me think about what art does to us.

In that sense, each form of art has its own language received by us through one of the five senses. Our most sophisticated art comes to us through sight and sound--music, painting, photography, drama, and literature to name a few. There is also a kind of art expressed through touch, taste, and smell--culinary art, massage, and aroma--even though we don't often think of these as art. Each has a kind of language of its own, even though that language is less specific and adapted more to common subjective experience. We hear a piece of music, instrumental or vocal, and it touches something within the common experience expressed by the composer, the musician, and the conductor and shared with the hearer. What the hearer receives may be different from one person to the other, but the fact that "something" is communicated, even though different is what makes it art. Furthermore, the more ambiguous and unclear the communication, the greater the art. The fact that it comes to us through different



Charles Gattis  
HPS President

experiences, but is shared by us at different levels of our consciousness is what makes it art. We say, "I can't really tell what it is about that painting that strikes me, but it moves me deeply." That's when the artist has spoken the real language of art--perhaps the artist himself/herself can't exactly put into words what he/she is trying to say with the piece of music, the painting, or the photograph.

I had that happen to me with three of our friends in the Huntsville Photographic Society in just the past week. In her presentation last week for Armchair Traveler at LearningQUEST, Emily Saile shared a picture of a tree in a snowy field. That's all it was, but as soon as it came on the screen, it struck me as if we had entered a deeper plane of reality or moved into some higher sphere of art. And then Emily said, this is my favorite of them all. And then later, my wife said, "I loved the picture of the tree in the snowy field." I can't really tell you what was different, and all three of us would probably describe it differently, but the point is that the shared experience was found in a deeper, more ambiguous level by all three of us--the language of art.

It happened again as Don Wolfe made a similar presentation in the same class just yesterday. He came to a landscape scene in Ireland, in many ways not unlike the other landscape scenes he had been showing throughout the program, but it stuck me in the same way--lifting me to a different level of beauty and meaning. I experienced it before Don said, "this is my favorite of all the images." I felt the same way when I saw Susan Chi's image that took first place at competition last month, and many of our other members expressed the same in the comments.

I say all of this to remind myself and perhaps you as well of what we are doing and enjoying in HPS. We are not just snapping pictures, but creating great art--using the language of art to convey beautiful and meaningful aspects of life that touch the deeper levels of human experience. We are making life better for others and that is something so very important to do in difficult times like these. Perhaps what I am really just trying to say is "Thank you all!"

## March Judge- Patrick Oden

### Subject: Open

Patrick Oden will be our judge for the upcoming competition on March 22, 2021 for the subject, "Open."

In his 8th year as a judge for HPS, Patrick Oden is a seasoned and award winning photojournalist who currently lives in Guntersville, AL. As of January 2018, Patrick has been publishing his own local lifestyle magazine, Lake City Magazine, which allows him the opportunity to photograph just about anything and everything. Street photography remains his favorite genre and he's always got an eye peeled for great light and a great moment.

We want to thank Patrick for returning, and once again serving as a competition judge for HPS. You can find examples of his work at <http://patrickodenphotography.com>

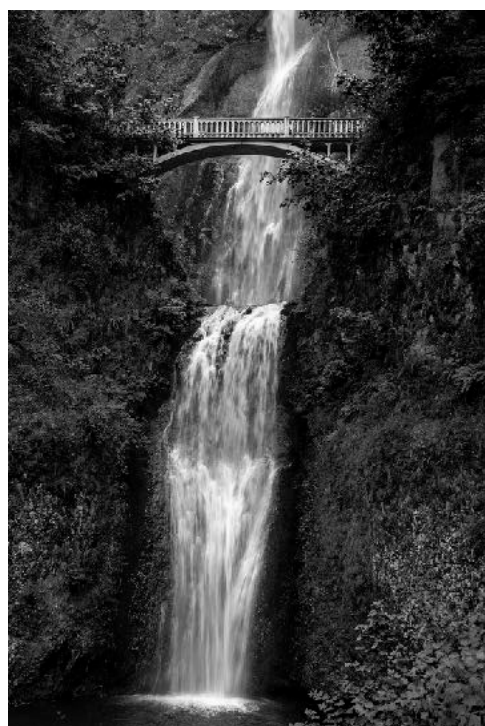


### **New Member**

Jennifer Laverty

February Competition Results Subject- Bridges Judge- Jose Betancourt		
	Color Digital (94)	Monochrome Digital (87)
1st	Susan Chi	C.T. Chi
2nd	Chris Baker	Barbara Staggs
3rd	C.T. Chi	Earl Todd
HM	Bob Gathany	Alice Searcy
HM	Bob Gathany	Charles Leverett
HM	Carolyn Eidson	Chris Baker
HM	Chris Baker	Emily Saile
HM	Jack Eidson	Ernie High
HM	John Shriver	Joy Henderson
HM	M. Blanca Eyre	Lee Pratt
HM	Rosemary Davidson	Rosemary Davidson
HM	Virginia Gilbert	Susan Chi

Name	2021 Points	2021 Wins
Christopher Baker	8	5
CT Chi	8	2
Susan Chi	6	2
Eddie Sewall	6	2
Earl Todd	5	3
Emily Saile	5	2
Alice Searcy	5	2
Julie Gary	5	1
Barbara Staggs	4	1
Sam Alexander	3	1
Doris Leverett	3	1
Rosemary Davidson	2	2
Bob Gathany	2	2
Ernie High	2	2
Jim Spinoso	2	2
Mat Bevill	1	1
Tom Bryant	1	1
Diana Davidson	1	1
Carolyn Eidson	1	1
Jack Eidson	1	1
Blanca Eyre	1	1
Alan Forney	1	1
Allen Gary	1	1
Virginia Gilbert	1	1
Joy Henderson	1	1
Judy Kennamer	1	1
Charles Leverett	1	1
Lee Pratt	1	1
Danny Pugh	1	1
John Shriver	1	1



Monochrome Digital 1st Place  
by CT Chi

Color Digital 1st Place by  
Susan Chi



Color Digital 2nd Place by  
Chris Baker



Monochrome Digital 3rd  
Place by Earl Todd



Monochrome Digital 2nd Place  
by Barb Staggs



Color Digital 3rd place by CT 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](http://www.huntsvillephotographicsociety.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/399566463394251/> (closed group)