



Color Digital, HM, by Dorinda Tyler. See more winners, p. 7-10.

In Focus

July Program- Drone Photography *with Beth Cowan Drake*

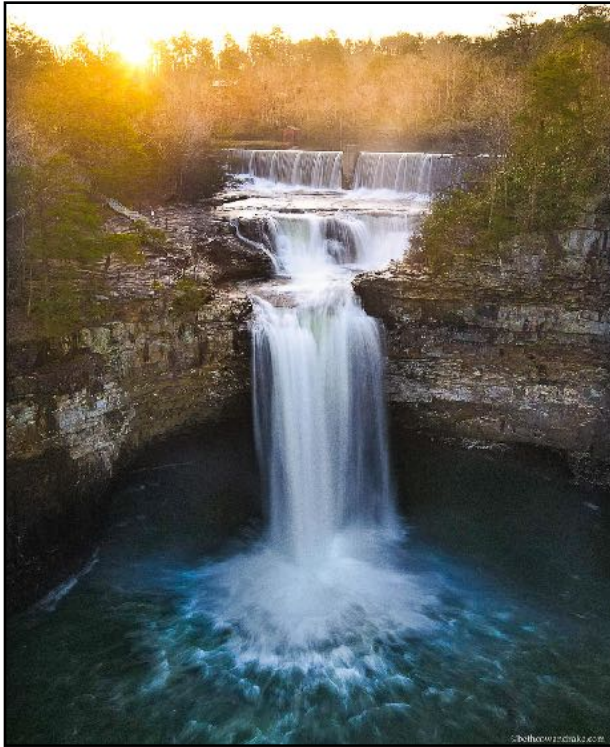
Note: The Program meeting time has been moved from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. due to Library closing time of 8:00.

You know that Dr. Seuss book, “Oh, The Places You’ll Go?” Let’s talk about a new tool for your photography toolkit that will take you places you could have never imagined. High, low, over water, open fields, or city lights. Drones are changing photography.



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Beth Cowan Drake is a Huntsville native, a former software product manager for Oracle, and an award-winning Alabama photographer. She recently left her corporate job to form a new business, ATB Media, LLC, in which she will be launching Alabama The Beautiful™ Magazine. Beth has also partnered with Alabama State Parks to create an exciting new nonprofit venture called Capture Alabama, an educational weekend photography workshop coming to our state parks



starting in 2022. She also serves as a board member on Alabama Visual Arts Network. She enjoys many genres in photography, including: landscape, nature, wildlife, cityscape, historical, night sky, and drone photography. Beth created the popular Facebook group Alabama The Beautiful™ (ATB) and has grown the group to nearly 150k members in just over three years, and continues to increase at over 2.5k new members per week, with 1.2M reactions a month.

ATB has ignited an interest across the state in both photography and Alabama tourism, as well as being a catalyst for the Alabama photography community. Beth speaks and teaches regularly at photography events around Alabama, has served as a judge at state level photography competitions, and is widely known in photography circles

around the state. Her work is featured often on al.com's This is Alabama, in print advertising, on multiple business websites, and on the walls of her followers, including many commercial and government clients, including the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Beth is also a Part 107 certified drone pilot. She and her family live in the Big Cove community of Huntsville.



Competition: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

By Charles Gattis

“Competition and art don’t work well together.” That was the attitude of a high school choral teacher I knew once. He was an excellent musician, educator, and conductor, but he felt that competition had only a minor place in the art world. He did take his choirs to competitive events and they usually received very high marks, but he never really felt like the competition was that helpful for the advancement of the true nature of art. It could help improve skills, but the nature of the music and the art itself was something deeper, something subjective and unique to each performer.

So then, what is the advantage of competition? Why do we keep encouraging new members of HPS to present their images for competition? Perhaps it is because competition is helpful in improving the skill of photography if not the photography itself. I hope that makes some sense to you. Every form of art is about expression--trying to share as best we can what we see, hear, or feel about a particular situation. Sometimes the experience we are trying to share is slippery, not something we are completely aware of ourselves, and so our attempt to express it becomes also for us a way of exploring it to understand better what we are experiencing.

I thought about that when looking at an image Beth Cowan Drake shared on “Alabama the Beautiful,” of the Strawberry Moon. She wanted a shot of the moon, but more than just a shot of the moon. She was looking to share the moon with a steeple silhouetted in front of it. That meant she had to drive around and search for the perfect view point that expressed her vision. She didn’t get it exactly as she wanted, with the cross itself placed inside the moon--you seldom get just what you want. What she found was, however, unique and expressive of what she had in mind.

The skill part of photography can be subjected to competition, but the expressive part cannot. The expression is unique, belonging only to one particular photographer--it’s trying to share as best you can what you are seeing and feeling with others--indeed, with the whole world. That experience is yours alone and you are simply trying to invite someone else to experience it as you did. That’s what is special about any form of art.



Charles Gattis
HPS President

Competition with others can hone our photographic skills and perhaps add to our vision, but the vision itself is our own. We can see how others were able to express what they were seeing a little more effectively. We can learn how to draw the viewer's eye to the part of the scene that interests us. We can learn how to affect the setting of the subject in such a way as it produces similar feelings in the viewer. All of those aspects of photography are skills--skills that help us share a vision, a feeling, or an understanding of life.

Of course, there is also the bad and the ugly side of competition. It can be intimidating. It can be disheartening. It can make the photographer feel that he or she never wants to compete again. It can lead to a photographically inferiority complex, if that is a recognizable condition.

That's how separating the art from the skill is important and helpful. The judge is not dealing with your vision, simply helping you share the vision more effectively. And of course, as most judges would admit, their suggestions are completely subjective, based on the current understandings of how to express things, and of course, the current understandings always give way to new ones as the years go by. I'm thinking of the wonderful impressionistic paintings that I enjoy so much, and the way the artists were criticized by their contemporaries. What if they had felt so intimidated and unappreciated that they stopped producing their art? Well, perhaps that is not possible. I think for the true artist, expressing what he or she is seeing and feeling is as necessary for that person's life as eating and breathing. Those people can't not produce their art--that terrible double negative is used for emphasis.

So once again, I am encouraging you to compete as often as you can. Don't give up if nothing is chosen for a while. The competition will improve your skills as a photographer. But while you are competing, continue to hone your own vision. That belongs to you alone and that vision is what will make your photographs into true art.

Member News-

We are sorry to report the passing of Brenda Kinnane and send our condolences to her family. Brenda was an avid photographer and an HPS Master. In 1987 she was elected the first lady president of HPS. Her husband Harry also an HPS master and past president predeceased her by a few months. She is survived by two daughters and son and grandchildren.

New Members

Carla Auchterlonie

Matthew Bajamundi

Photography 201- Going From Snap Shots to Great Shots

Class taught by HPS member Henry Smith via Learning Quest (LQ)

Weekly, Aug 3- Sep 17, 2021

Location: Downtown Library

This is a six-class series designed for those who are familiar with using their digital camera and desire to improve the quality of their photos. Participants should be comfortable adjusting shutter speed and aperture (no phone cameras). The functions of the camera and their impact on the image, photographic composition and different approaches to photography will be discussed. Students will be given weekly assignments and the instructor will provide positive critiques of the student's work the following week. No equipment is needed in the classroom and the class will be limited to the first 16 students to sign up. The class will be taught via Learning Quest (LQ) by Huntsville Photographic Society member Henry Smith. Classes will occur Aug 3, 10, 24, 31, Sept 7 & 17; 1:00 – 2:30; at the Downtown Huntsville Library 2nd Floor Meeting Room. The LQ fee for the class will be \$50,

Registration can be done online at the Learning Quest website LOUEST.org (Corse #40) starting July 1, or in person at LQ Rally Day July 13 starting at 10AM to 1PM at First Baptist Church on Governors' Drive, Entrance #7. Mr. Smith will be at LQ Rally Day to answer questions and with further information regarding the class. You may also contact him in advance at henrysmith44@gmail.com.

July Judge: Eric Schultz

Subject: Scenic North Alabama/South Tennessee

July 26, Trinity Methodist Church, time: 6:00 p.m.

Eric Schultz was a long-time photographer for the Huntsville Times. Recently, he has gone “freelance” and opened his own studio in Lowe Mill where he teaches, works with other photographers, and displays his own works. He will be our competition judge on July 26th, for the topic “Scenic North Alabama/South Tennessee.” Eric has judged our competitions eight times since 2010, and has always provided helpful suggestions for us as we work to improve our photographic skills. To find out more about him, check out his official web site and blog at <http://watchforfallingthoughts.blogspot.com/>.



Name	2021 Points	2021 Wins
Barbara Staggs	23	8
CT Chi	23	6
Judy Kennamer	21	7
Allen Gary	16	7
Christopher Baker	15	9
Susan Chi	12	4
Earl Todd	11	5
Eddie Sewall	11	3
Emily Saile	10	7
Henry Smith	10	5
Alan Forney	9	4
Carolyn Eidson	7	5
Julie Gary	7	3
Alice Searcy	6	3
Mat Bevill	5	3
Joy Henderson	5	3
Jim Spinoso	5	3
Jeanne McDowell	5	2
John Shriver	4	4
Sam Alexander	4	2
Jack DeBlanc	4	1

Name	2021 Points	2021 Wins
Margaret Phillips	4	1
Diana Davidson	3	3
Jack Eidson	3	3
Virginia Gilbert	3	3
Charles Leverett	3	3
Eric Deylius	3	1
Doris Leverett	3	1
Tom Bryant	2	2
Rosemary Davidson	2	2
Bob Gathany	2	2
Ernie High	2	2
Danny Pugh	2	2
Ed Townsend	2	2
John Dillingham	1	1
Pat Dortch	1	1
Blanca Eyre	1	1
Lee Pratt	1	1
Martha Teal	1	1
Kate Tully	1	1
Dorinda Tyler	1	1
Brent Atkinson	1	1

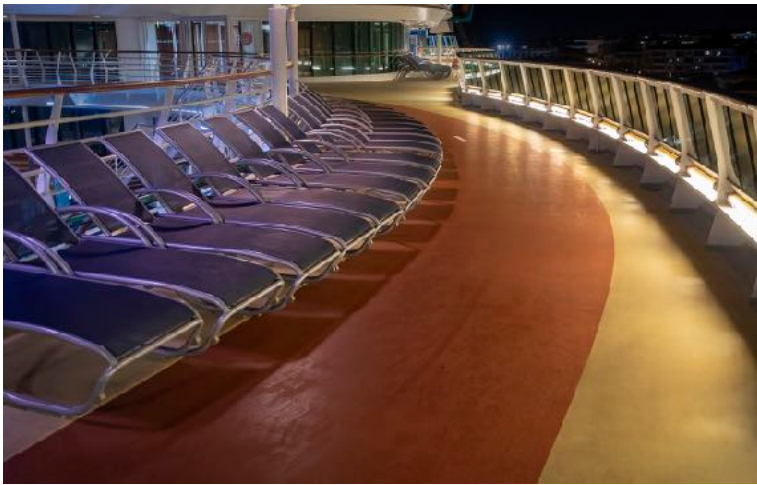
June Competition Results Subject- Empty Judge- Monica Martin				
	Color Digital (56)	Monochrome Digital (48)	Color Print (12)	Monochrome Print (11)
1st	Eddie Sewall	Earl Todd	Barbara Staggs	Barbara Staggs
2nd	C.T. Chi	Judy Kennamer	Alan Forney	Henry Smith
3rd	Jim Spinoso	Eric Deylius	Henry Smith	Alan Forney
HM	Martha Teal	Virginia Gilbert	Henry Smith	Henry Smith
HM	Julia Gary	John Shriver		
HM	Emily Saile	John Dillingham		
HM	Ed Townsend	Jeanne McDowell		
HM	Dorinda Tyler	Chris Baker		
HM	Alice Searcy			



Color Digital 1st place by Eddie Sewall



Monochrome Digital 1st place by Earl Todd



Color Digital 2nd place by
CT Chi

Monochrome Digital 2nd
Place by Judy Kennamer



Color Digital 3rd place by Jim
Spinosa



Monochrome Digital 3rd Place
by Eric Deylius

Color Print 1st place by
Barb Staggs



Monochrome Print 1st place
by Barb Staggs

Color Print 3rd place by Henry
Smith



Monochrome Print 2nd place
by Henry Smith



Color Print 2nd Place by
Alan Forney



Monochrome Print 3rd place by Alan
Forney

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)