



Digital Color, HM, by Eric Deylius. See more HMs starting on p.11.

# In Focus

## May Program—Travel Photography: Planning, Preparing, and Executing

*By Cecil Holmes*

*May 9, 2022 Downtown Huntsville Madison County Library, 6:00 p.m.*

We are privileged to have our friend Cecil Holmes presenting again to HPS. Cecil is an excellent photographer and very experienced in travel photography. He described his presentation to us as such:

“From the planning stages to the final product, you will learn how to prepare for a successful travel photo outing. You will learn the best tools for planning, how to choose the proper gear, the best times to be on location, and more all before you leave for your trip.”



As spring and summer time is upon us, many are planning on traveling and photography is probably a large part of your plans. If so, then you don't want to miss this important program with tips that will certainly be useful for all.

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## Have a Photographic Problem or Question?

The Huntsville Photographic Society has 23 members that have reached the prestigious “Master” level up so far. That means that they all have years of experience in tackling and resolving photographic issues and more importantly they are willing to provide guidance to other members who have questions or are struggling with a specific approach such as: why should I get my camera off the “Auto” mode?, Or what ISO should I use?, Or how do I manage my depth of field?, Or what should I do to make my compositions more interesting?

Education is part of the role of the Masters and they are willing to sit down face-to-face with you listen and provide guidance. If you have any such questions or issues, feel free to get in touch with me, Henry Smith ([henrysmith44@gmail.com](mailto:henrysmith44@gmail.com)) HPS Member/Novice Program Officer. Let me know what you would like to discuss, and we can schedule a meeting.

## Skills—Capturing

Of the four skills I have mentioned, capturing seems to get the most attention among photographers. Perhaps processing would come in a close second, but seldom is seeing and presenting given much space in any course about photography. Yet, of all the skills capturing is the one most dependent upon the other three. Admittedly, capturing is the central focus of the photograph, but it is extremely dependent upon what is seen and how or whether the photographer plans to process the image and how the image is to be presented. Thus, capturing has its tentacles deeply imbedded in seeing, processing, and presenting.

What the photographer sees is what the photographer wants to capture and ultimately convey to the viewer. Let me dare say that what is attempted to be captured is not necessarily what is there, but rather what the photographer sees there. Monte Zucker said, "I don't photograph the world as it is. I photograph the world as I see it." That means that the photographer is ultimately a communicator and what is communicated is both personal and unique to the photographer.

The first thing to consider when trying to capture what one envisions is that any camera sees the scene differently from how the photographer sees it. You may have often heard, "the pictures really don't do justice to the scene." The camera is merely a small object with a shutter that opens long enough to capture whatever tone and color is before it. It doesn't necessarily capture what we see, even as advanced as our modern cameras are. It can't convey the richness of the colors we see because the color palate of our amazing eyes is much too broad. It can't capture the depth of field that we view since it has only one lens and not two, 3D cameras notwithstanding. Neither can it capture the range of tones what we can see since its natural tonal range is much smaller than that of our eyes.

All that means capturing what we see and want to present to another is seldom a 'tap and snap, to be on our way' endeavor. For one thing, what we really see in a scene must often be searched out or studied rather than grasped instantly. Kathleen Clemons, who is known for what she says are "flower portraits," says that she seldom takes less than forty to fifty shots of a flower from many different perspectives before she is satisfied that she has what she wants." Scott Kelby talks about "working a scene" until you are sure you have what is interesting to you. I am sure there are individuals who see immediately what is fascinating to them and can capture it in two or three shots. Perhaps these are the individuals we speak of who "just have the eye." I am afraid that I'm certainly not among them, for it seems that I must work extremely hard taking picture after picture to truly "see" what I have "seen" in a setting. I am much encouraged by my inability, however, to realize that many of the great "masters" of art made different sketches of pieces of their master works before starting to paint.

All that said, it means that there is so much to consider in the skill set of capturing. Can my camera capture the tonal range that I see, or do I have to take several images and merge them together? What depth of field do I need here to emphasize the subject I



want to emphasize? Is the light that is present illuminating what I think is important, or do I have to come back at another time, or shoot the scene in such a way that I can change the lighting in post? Do I want to print out this image, include it in a book of photos, or post it on the internet and how does that affect the way I am going to capture it—portrait, landscape, or square--overexpose for highlights or for shadows—worry about excessive noise in the subject or not? All these questions relate to what we normally think of as the technical aspects of capturing—ISO, aperture, and shutter speed. How we dial in the settings for these and balance them out to form a good exposure depends on these considerations about all these other aspects of the image.

Above all of this in the skill of capturing is the composition. How do we set up the image? Do we need to consider aspect ratio? Where is the subject placed in the photo—rule of thirds, golden ratio, golden spiral, etc.? Should the subject completely dominate? Is there anything in the scene that takes away from the subject? How does the background set up the subject and what does it help communicate about the subject? Does the background or anything else in the image overwhelm the subject? What about negative space and positive space? Is the image balanced? Does the subject take up the proper amount of space in the image? Are there things around the border that pull the viewer out of the image and if so, can I remove them in the capture or do I have to do that in post? Are their leading lines or lines of light both actual and implied that lead the viewer to the subject?

All these questions come up in the arena of capturing, but not as a checklist that the photographer runs through, but just as a matter of working the scene. They are in fact a part of what is learned in this skill and along with the use of the camera and the understanding of that instrument, become almost intuitive for the photographer. That is why practice in shooting and working the scene is so important as the photographer learns how to share his/her vision of a scene with others.

There is so much more in the skill of capturing that I have failed to mention or indeed don't yet understand myself. I do encourage your own input and suggestions in this area. Please comment and share in the discussion by clicking [here](#) and going to my blog to comment.

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## Digital Photography Course

HPS member Jim Solomon, a PPA Certified Professional Photographer, will teach a six-session basic digital photography course at Lowe Mill Arts and Entertainment on Saturday mornings beginning June 18th. The course will cover manual exposure, custom white balance, how to see light, lens selection and basic composition. Classes will meet from 11 to 1 each Saturday in Studio 120. Cost is \$189. For more information contact Jim at [jim@photographybyjimandfrieda.com](mailto:jim@photographybyjimandfrieda.com)

## May Judge—Cara Fuller Subject—Urban Jungle

May 23, Trinity United Methodist Church, 6:00 p.m.



Cara Fuller is our Judge for the May Competition, “Urban Jungle.” Cara is no stranger to the Huntsville Photographic Society, as she has been with us as a judge for *the last 12 years*. She always has helpful comments and our members continuously 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. Nature versus man is always a theme of her work. As a fine art photographer, she has lately been documenting the cars of a single abandoned junkyard—Old Car City.

Some of her most identifiable works focus on Old Car City, where 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\\_Phography/CARA\\_FULLER/CARA\\_FULLER.html](https://www.etsy.com/shop/CaraFullerPhotos?ref=hdrCara_Fuller_Phography/CARA_FULLER/CARA_FULLER.html)

## April Competition Results Subject—Signs Judge—Monica Martin

	Color Digital (48)	Monochrome Digital (48)	Color Print (15)	Monochrome Print (14)
1st	Julia Gary	Ed Townsend	Henry Smith	Barbara Staggs
2nd	John Shriver	Emily Saile	Don Wolfe	Henry Smith
3rd	Mat Bevill		Earl Todd	Don Wolfe
HM	Ed Townsend	Jim Spinoso	Barbara Staggs	Eddie Sewall
HM	Sam Tumminello	Jack Eidson		
HM	John Shriver	Chris Baker		
HM	Eric Deylius	Bob Gathany		
HM	Emily Saile	Alice Searcy		

**Points for the Year to Date**

Name	2022 points	2022 Wins
CT Chi	23	6
Henry Smith	15	4
Emily Saile	13	4
Charles Gattis	13	3
Christopher Baker	12	5
Barbara Staggs	11	5
Ed Townsend	10	6
Charles Leverett	10	5
John Shriver	10	5
Carolyn Eidson	9	4
Don Wolfe	9	4
Julie Gary	8	4
Doris Leverett	8	3
Judy Kennamer-DeBlanc	7	5
Philip Flowers	7	3
Earl Todd	6	4
Tom Bryant	6	2
Allen Gary	5	3
Jack Eidson	5	2
Mat Bevill	4	2
Alice Searcy	4	2
Steve Mitchell	4	1
Jim Spinoso	3	3
Carolyn Shadden	3	1
Bob Gathany	2	2
Joy Henderson	2	2
Susan Chi	1	1
Jack DeBlanc	1	1
Eric Deylius	1	1
Eddie Sewall	1	1
Sam Tumminello	1	1

**New Members**

Phillip Kidd  
Bethanie Soto  
Emma Soto

**2022 Competition Topics**

5/23— URBAN JUNGLE	8/22— HSV/ MADISON CTY	10/24— OPEN
6/27— LANDSCAPES	9/26— NIGHT/ LOW LIGHT	11/28— TRUST
7/25— FAMILY		

## April 2022 Images



Color Print 1st place  
by Henry Smith

Color Print 2nd place  
by Don Wolfe



Color Print 3rd place  
by Earl Todd



Monochrome Print  
1st place  
by Barbara Staggs

Monochrome Print  
2nd place  
by Henry Smith



Monochrome Print  
3rd place  
by Don Wolfe

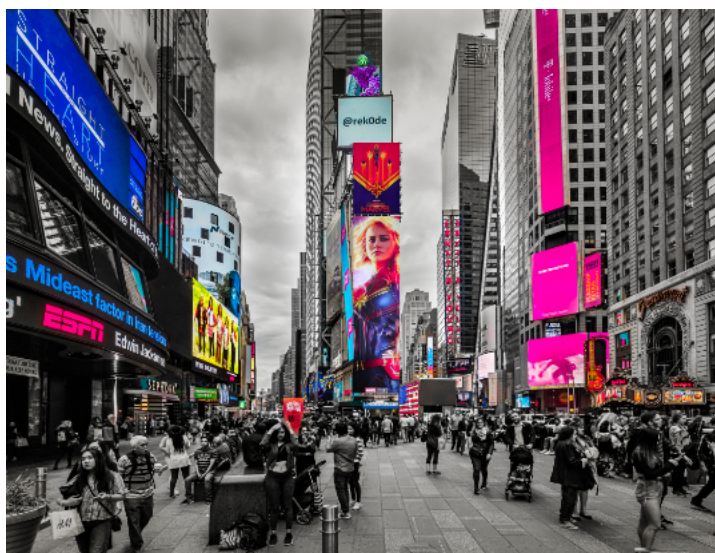






Color Digital 1st place  
by Julia Gary

Color Digital 2nd place  
by John Shriver



Color Digital 3rd place  
by Mat Bevill

Monochrome Digital  
1st place  
by Ed Townsend



Monochrome Digital  
2nd Place  
by Emily Saile

### Honorable Mention—Print



Barbara Staggs



Eddie Sewall

### Honorable Mention—Digital



Ed Townsend

Sam Tumminello





John Shriver



Eric Deylius



Emily Saile



Jim Spinoso



Jack Eidson



Chris Baker



Bob Gathany



Alice Searcy

## 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: Charlie Leverett

Publicity Officer: Rosemary Davidson

Treasurer: Emily Saile

Communications Officer: Jay Bain

Historian: Tom Bryant

Exhibition Officer: Bob Gower

PSA Representative: Lee Pratt

## Non Board Positions

Webmaster: John Shriver

Membership Officer: Alice Searcy

Mentor/Novice Program Officer: Henry Smith

HPS is meeting at the Huntsville Madison County Library on the second Monday of the month, 6-8 p.m., and Trinity United Methodist Church on the fourth Monday, 6-8 p.m.

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