



Color Digital, HM, by Emily Saile. See more HMs starting on p.12

# In Focus

## February Program—Lightroom Tips and Tricks By Philip Flowers

February 12, 2024 Trinity United Methodist Church, 7:00 p.m.

Philip will be doing a presentation on Lightroom tips and tricks using images from his trip to Glacier National Park & Seattle. Philip will also show how he creates an image from concept to final print.

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# January Outing - Wheeler Wildlife Refuge

*By Chris Baker*

After a few weather delays, we had a great outing to the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge to photograph the sandhill cranes. While it was a bit cooler and cloudier than we hoped, the cranes were very cooperative and hung out in the field just north of the parking lot, giving us a great view of their activities from the photo blinds. A majority of the cranes are still in town, so, make plans to get down there to see them before they migrate north within the next few weeks. A few tips for photographing them:

- Shutter speed is key for wildlife photos. Consider using shutter priority mode on your camera with ISO set to AUTO. This means you'll pick the shutter speed and the camera will pick aperture and ISO.
- For action shots of the cranes flying, dancing, or playing, set your shutter speed at 1/1250 minimum to freeze their wing movement.
- For quality portraits between the action shots, drop your shutter speed to the 1/100 - 1/200 range, which will keep the ISO low and allow for much more detail
- Focus on the eyes
- Turn on vibration reduction / image stabilization to minimize camera shake at lower shutter speeds
- Shoot in burst mode. Higher frame rates (10 frames/sec or more) will provide more shots within in an action sequence to choose from.

### Officers of HPS

**President:** Chris Baker

**Primary Competition Officer:**

Steve Mitchell

**Digital Competition**

**Officer:** Vacant—Chris Baker acting

**Competition Records**

**Officer:** Eddie Sewall

**Program Officer:**

Vacant

**Activities & Workshops**

**Officer:** Philip Flowers

**Publicity Officer:**

Xavier Adams

**Treasurer:**

Bob Schmiedeskamp

**Communications Officer:**

Jay Bain

**Historian:** Tom Bryant

**Exhibition Officer:**

Vacant

**PSA Representative:**

Lee Pratt

### Non Board Positions

**Webmaster:** John Shriver

**Membership Officer:**

Alice Searcy

**Mentor/Novice Program**

**Officer:** Conner Hill

## Upcoming Photo Contest Deadlines

- February 28 - 2024 Audubon Photography Awards - <https://photoawards.audubon.org/>
- March 1 - 2024 Big Picture Natural World Photography Competition - <https://www.bigpicturecompetition.org/>
- March 15 - 2024 Nature's Best Photography International Awards - <https://www.naturesbestphotography.org/>
- March 31 - 2024 National Wildlife Federation Photo Contest - [https://photocontest.nwf.org/menu-home.aspx?comp\\_id=B9F573E3-BBA8-4C24-A86B-A2DE460EC0E8](https://photocontest.nwf.org/menu-home.aspx?comp_id=B9F573E3-BBA8-4C24-A86B-A2DE460EC0E8)

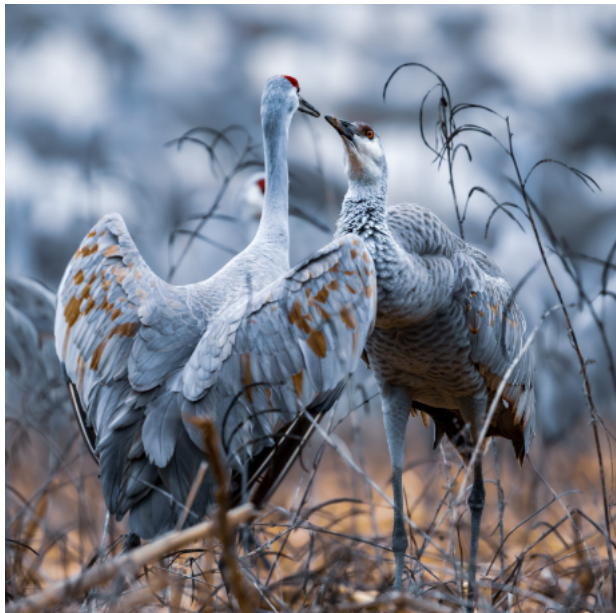
HPS is meeting at Trinity United Methodist Church on the second Monday of the month, 7-9 p.m., and on the fourth Monday, 7-9 p.m.

[www.huntsvillephotographicsociety.org](http://www.huntsvillephotographicsociety.org)

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

- When shooting large flocks of birds, look for opportunities to isolate a single bird or a small group to simplify your photo and give it a clear subject.

Here are a few photos I captured during our outing on Sunday afternoon.





## Workshops and Outings

### *By Philip Flowers – Workshop Chairman*

A new year and new challenges. Our year began with a cold outing to Wheeler Wildlife Refuge to capture the Cranes and other waterfowl. A good start to the year.

On March 9th we will have a Workshop on Waterfall photography led by Keith Bozeman, Keith has presented to our group previously. You can check out some of his work here: <https://www.keithbozemanphotography.com/>. Space is limited to 10 people. There will be a \$20/person fee payable on the day of the workshop. A sign-up sheet will be posted on our Facebook page soon along with more details.

We still have more workshops and outings in the planning stages and will update as they are finalized. Happy shooting.

## October 2024 Judge—Joe Fikes

### Subject—Water’s Edge

*February 26, Trinity United Methodist Church, 7:00 p.m.*

Joe Fikes is certainly no stranger to the Huntsville Photographic Society. He has judged for the Huntsville Photographic Society every year since 2012. A distinguished scientist in the field of laser research, he has also created a successful business as a photographer. Joe’s art excels in attention to detail, creativity in composition, and rich color palettes. You will find pieces of his art in homes throughout North Alabama and southern Tennessee. If you are not familiar with his work, you can visit his site at [www.joefikes.com/](http://www.joefikes.com/).



## January Competition Results

### Subject—Vehicles

### Judge—Muril Robertson

	Color Digital (54)	Monochrome Digital (48)	Color Print (14)	Monochrome Print (11)
1st	Allen Gary	Allen Gary	Tom Bryant	Charles Leverett
2nd	Don Wolfe	C.T. Chi	Henry Smith	Barbara Staggs
3rd	Susan Chi	Eric Deylius	Charles Leverett	Barbara Staggs
HM	Bob Gathany	Virginia Gilbert	Emily Saile	Emily Saile
HM	Don Wolfe	Susan Poston		
HM	Philip Flowers	Sam Tuminello		
HM	C.T. Chi	Jim Spinoso		
HM	C.T. Chi	Jack Eidson		

## 2024 Competition Topics

More topics to come

2/26— WATERS EDGE

3/25— OPEN

### Art Exhibit—Transformations

The Venue at Oak Place—March 1 & 2, 2024

By Dennis Keim

An Artist Exhibit Celebrating Art & Beauty -

"One Vision - One Artist - One Night"

To purchase your ticket(s) for the GALA on Friday night - scan the QR Code or go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/.../a-celebration-of-art-and..>

Inquire about Art Patron Sponsorships

Tickets for Saturday event will go on sale soon. The show has been designated for Mature Audiences +21 due to it being my Figurative Art

#### A CELEBRATION OF ART AND BEAUTY



DENNIS KEIM  
ONE VISION - ONE ARTIST -  
ONE NIGHT

COLLABORATIONS OF  
FIGURATIVE FINE ART AND  
SECRET SPACES

MATURE AUDIENCES 21+

BENEFITTING



PURCHASE  
TICKETS



MARCH 1st, 2024 - 6 P.M. TO 9 P.M.  
THE VENUE AT OAK PLACE - 808 MAYSVILLE ROAD

Benefitting Thrive Alabama @thrive\_alabama and their Capital Campaign - <https://thrivealabama.org/capital-campaign/aboutthecampaign>

The Art Exhibit will take place at The Venue at Oak Place - <https://www.facebook.com/TheVenueatOakPlace>

Church Street Family will cater the event - [@churchstreetwineshoppe](https://www.instagram.com/churchstreetwineshoppe)

### Points for the Year to Date

Name	2024 Points	2024 Wins
Allen Gary	10	2
Charles Leverett	8	2
Barbara Staggs	7	2
CT Chi	6	3
Don Wolfe	5	2
Tom Bryant	5	1
Henry Smith	4	1
Susan Chi	3	1
Eric Deylius	3	1
Emily Saile	2	2
Jack Eidson	1	1
Philip Flowers	1	1
Bob Gathany	1	1
Virginia Gilbert	1	1
Susan Poston	1	1
Jim Spinoso	1	1
Sam Tumminello	1	1

#### New Members

William Farnsworth  
Max Freedman  
Katelyn Miller  
Tracy Taylor

## Upgrading the Digital Darkroom

*By Tom Bryant*

The digital darkroom has certainly made editing photos much easier than in the chemical days. And the recent rapid advances in capability have been wonderful. However, on the downside, these advances almost always require more computer horsepower to achieve results in a reasonable speed—if at all. Since I'm running a desktop PC built in 2010, I'm very aware of this. Computer hardware advances have been occurring exponentially for several decades and this rate of change is only slowing slightly. Software writers are taking advantage of the hardware capability and combining it with Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning so these older machines are “left in the dust.” I have upgraded mine over the years and I hope this history might help you improve your digital darkroom.

Unfortunately this will only apply to Windows desktop PCs and to a limited laptop group. I expect Apple products may be the same but I have no experience there. Desktop PCs are easily upgradeable (mine uses thumbscrews to open the case.) I have put new hard drives and memory upgrades in laptops, but they are difficult to work on and are best replaced with a new machine. Here is what my creaky old machine has received:

Item	Original Component	Upgrade	Remarks
Memory	8 Gbytes	to 16 Gbytes	Quick, easy, cheap. Limit of my motherboard.
C: drive	500 Gigabyte Hard Drive	500 Gb solid state drive and later 1 Tb SSD	Samsung brand with easy drive cloning software.
Storage	One slave drive -- 1 Tb HDD	Two slave drives -- 5 Tb each	Solid state external drives are the modern approach.
Video Card	500 Gigabyte video memory	2019 - 3 Gb video memory, 2023 - 12 Gb video memory	Very effective upgrade because modern software takes advantage of video memory. \$300 each.

Here is a note on local computer stores for small hardware. I Googled "computer parts store in Huntsville" and the first hit I got was Electronic Express, and it is less than a mile from my house. And the Google maps app showed photos of the interior with a line of about 20 cameras on display. Wow! I needed a 6-pin to 8-pin PCIExpress adapter for my newest video card power cable, and a video cable to the monitor that is DisplayPort to HDMI. I did not leave with either part and their cameras consisted of one low-end camera still in the box in a low display case. The photo must have been from another store in the chain. So I went to my old reliable GigaParts on University Drive. They had moved and again I got no parts but did get some bad advice. PCIExpress is a specification for PCs, but I was told that the 6-pin to 8-pin adapter was not stocked because these adapters were never wired the same and one never know what they would get and plugging it in might burn out my power supply. So I should buy a new power supply with an 8-pin output cable. Did I mention that PCIExpress is a specification? I had advised a friend on the same upgrade a couple of years ago and they still had one of these power adapters (two to a package from Amazon) so I got the other one and it is working just fine. I try to shop local but it seems more difficult than ever.

This upgrade story should be useful to photographers because of the rapidly increasing power of the digital darkroom. It saves money. And there is a considerable timesaving because no reinstallation of software is required. The darkroom comes up running exactly as before but faster and smoother.

# January 2024 Images



Color Print 1st place  
by Tom Bryant



Color Print 2nd place  
by Henry Smith



Color Print 3rd place  
by Charles Leverett





Monochrome Print  
1st place  
by Charles Leverett

Monochrome Print  
2nd place  
by Barbara Staggs



Monochrome Print  
3rd place  
by Barbara Staggs

Color Digital 1st place  
by Allen Gary



Color Digital  
2nd place  
by Don Wolfe

Color Digital 3rd place  
by Susan Chi





Monochrome Digital  
1st place  
by Allen Gary

Monochrome Digital  
2nd place  
by C. T. Chi



Monochrome Digital  
3rd Place  
by Eric Deylius

## Honorable Mention—Print



Emily Saile

Emily Saile



## Honorable Mention—Digital



C. T. Chi



C. T. Chi



Philip Flowers

Don Wolfe





Bob Gathany



Jack Eidson



Jim Spinoso

Sam Tumminello



Virginia Gilbert

Susan Poston

