

Huntsville B botanical Gardens Photo Shoot June 5, 2021

We had a fun photo walk Saturday with Brenda Barnes organizing it and Chris Baker teaching for those newer to photography. It was a great day with soft morning light and mild temperature. About 20 people attended and all had a good time.

Chris started at the butterfly house with macro lessons. That area is small for a group this size so we divided up and I went to shoot the main garden in the soft light. I got several questions about what settings I was using so I decided to put this together. Usually I plan to finish my images at the desktop computer so just check to be sure the histogram indicates nothing blown out and the focus is sharp. Then I move on looking for the next shot. So sometimes I don't know exactly what I'm using as long as it is working. All of these shots were made with my Canon 90D DSLR with an 18-135 mm zoom lens and a few used a short extension tube. All of these were touched up in Lightroom with an occasional visit to Photoshop.

Wishing you good light. Tom



Tom Bryant



Tom Bryant

Here is Brenda Barnes and Chris Baker giving instructions to the group.
(phone photos)



The garden was full of beautiful blue hydrangea but this late bloomer caught my eye because it was different. It had soft pastel colors and yellow and violet are primary colors.
(1/5 second, f/11, ISO 100, 22 mm focal length on tripod)



Tom Bryant

This is an iconic garden piece. What is not to like – it has a heron, a catfish, a turtle, and water lilies. Normally it has water running from the heron's mouth, but that was not on today so made a great reflection opportunity.

(1/200 second, f/3.5, ISO 100, 20 mm focal length on tripod. Wide-open aperture won't blur background nearly as much as I would like at wide 20 mm focal length. This is a work in progress. I may crop to just the reflection and flip it. Or I can darken and blur the background easily to make the top half stand out more. Where will it go?)



Tom Bryant

What caught my eye here were the curving tree branches in the upper center that could frame something. Nothing there to frame and not a garden path to put someone there so I found these hostas with what looked like a path leading to the trees. Of course, a hosta only grows to about 18" tall so you know I was laying on the ground.

(1/6 second, f/11, ISO 200, 20 mm focal length on tripod. 3-shot focus stack, bright tops of hostas were brushed down a little in Lightroom to bring out their texture.)



Tom Bryant

Magnolia, a truly southern plant. Can you smell it's perfume?

(1/320 second, f/11, ISO 200, 22 mm focal length on tripod. Darkened a little to make the gray tones flow more smoothly. Could make a monochrome print.)



Tom Bryant

I liked the blue and yellow colors working together and a longer focal length was convenient to blur the background well. I added a vignette in post to hold back the bright yellow.

(1/250 second, f/5.6, ISO 200, 108 mm focal length on tripod.)



Tom Bryant

This color of daylily is powerful with the yellow and violet being complementary colors. It would be better with one or three blossoms so I may crop one off. It is a work in progress also. The sun had come out strongly by now with harsh light.

(1/80 second, f/10, ISO 100, 50 mm focal length on tripod.)



Tom Bryant

Something from the herb garden. If it were my garden I would have gotten in it and backlit the blossom for interest. Really harsh light by now.

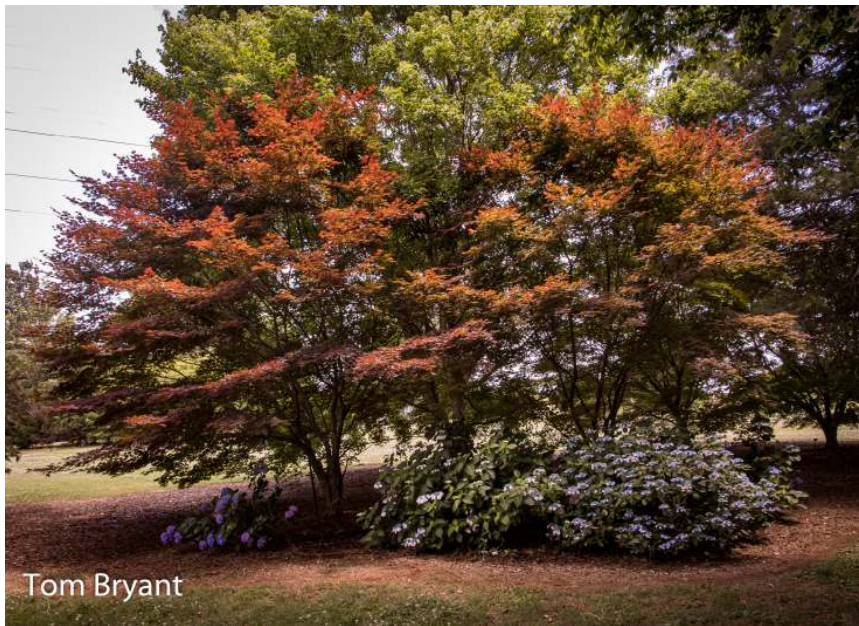
(1/800 second, f/5.0, ISO 100, 62 mm focal length on tripod. F/5 and 62 mm blurred the background nicely.)



Tom Bryant

Something from the vegetable garden. Decorative cabbage. The shape lends itself to a square crop, which I like. It gives an intimate look to the correct photograph. Really harsh light by now.

(1/1000 second, f/4.0, ISO 100, 29 mm focal length hand held. I wanted higher shutter speed to keep sharpness when hand holding. It would have been smarter to raise ISO. Fried brain? Sweet spot for this lens is f/8.)



Tom Bryant



Tom Bryant

Japanese maple tree. One of the many bright blue hydrangea bushes is on the left under the tree. A detail shot is always good to add. Backlighting the detail is a good thing to shoot in bright harsh light because it glows.

Wide shot (1/10 second, f/10, ISO 100, 18 mm focal length on tripod.)

Detail shot (1/200 second, f/5.0, ISO 100, 56 mm focal length hand held. I wanted higher shutter speed to keep sharpness when hand holding. It would have been smarter to raise ISO. Fried



Tom Bryant

Some of this tree's branches overhang the path and make an excellent frame for an image. No one was around so I moved under it and shot these branches. The left side keeps the eye in the frame. I like the ferns that bring you into the image. The remaining branches take you out but that is the way it is.

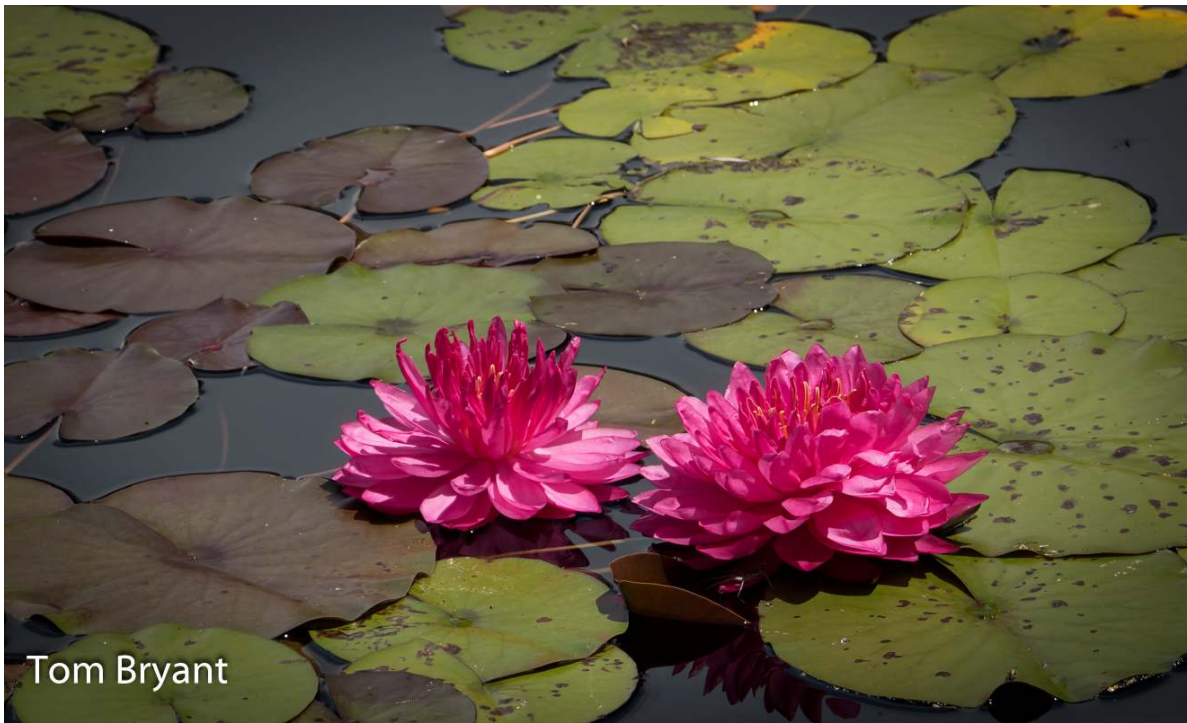
(1/13 second, f/10, ISO 200, 24 mm focal length on tripod.)



Tom Bryant

I like moving water at a waterfall or at a seashore with a very long exposure.

(4 second, f/22, ISO 100, 18 mm focal length on tripod.)



Tom Bryant



Tom Bryant

The water lilies are always very pretty. These shots could be cropped more.
(1/40 second, f/11, ISO 100, 135 mm focal length on tripod.)



Tom Bryant

The turtles in the butterfly house are always a reliable shot. I didn't change setting for shooting butterflies, and these turtles are very slow. I did brush the backs of the turtles down a little in exposure so the shell texture would come out more.

(1/1600 second, f/8, ISO AUTO, 62 mm focal length hand held.)

For the following butterfly photos I used a typical wildlife/sports setting of manual aperture and shutter and automatic ISO. I picked a shutter speed of 1/1600 second and that seemed plenty fast enough looking at the shots. I was later in the day than anyone else and the sun had come out so light was quite good. I picked an aperture of f/8 simply because that is my lens sweet spot. The camera metering system picked the ISO setting because it was set on AUTO. Focal length was 135 mm for all my butterfly shots and they were all cropped some. My camera has a 33 Mp sensor so there is some room for cropping and the APS-C sensor size gives me a 1.5 crop factor.



Tom Bryant



Tom Bryant



Tom Bryant



Tom Bryant