

Color Digital, HM, by Allen Gary. See more HMs starting on p.13

# In Focus

## August Program—Historic Watermills as Fine-Art Photography Presented By Ken Boyd

August 11, 2025 GigaParts (Old Burlington Coat Factory Building), 6:30 p.m.

Ken will talk about watermills and their importance (because people are actually quite interested even though they may not know it), how I do and have done photography over the years and how I have managed to get so many costly books commercially published.

Ken Boyd has been a passionate, enthusiastic, and award-winning photographic artist, researcher and writer since the 1970s. His photographic work is often described as idealized, painterly and romanticized, and his approach to photography is simple—a clean, orderly and optimistic representation for every image. His research, work, techniques and reviews have been extensively published in books, magazines and journals over the years.



His latest book, entitled Historic Watermills of North America, was released by The University of Alabama Press in December 2020. A book with the working title of Historic Watermills of the South is currently in design and layout at the University of

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Georgia. He has also self-published a volume entitled *Ancient Watermills – The British Isles*.

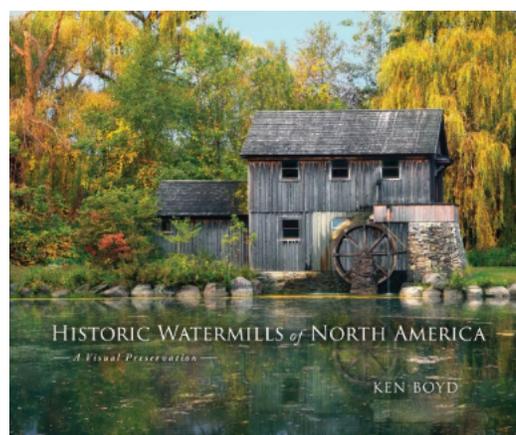
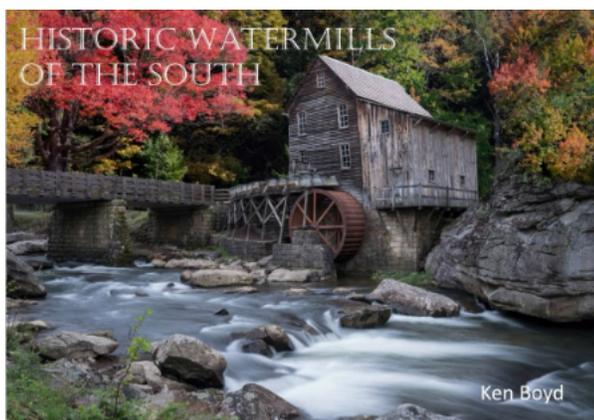
In addition, he has commercially released two very popular and internationally distributed books on historic locomotives entitled *The Art of the Locomotive* (Voyageur Press 2014) and *Historic North American Locomotives* (Kalmbach Media/Trains, 2018). Together, these two books have sold more than 50,000 copies.

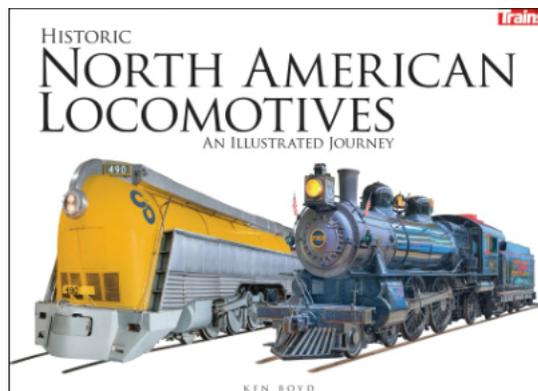
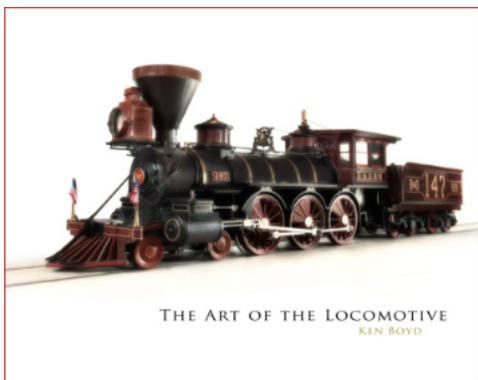
In recent years, Ken has published features *Alabama Heritage* on Alabama's vintage fire engines, the Industrial Revolution in Alabama and Kymulga Grist Mill, and his work has also been featured in photo essays with *Alabama Magazine*. His watermills were shared in the September 2022 issue of *Alabama the Beautiful*, a digital publication. He has stories about his original research and photos of The Old Red Mill on Sand Mountain scheduled for publication in upcoming issues of *Alabama Heritage* and *Old Mill News*.

He currently teaches photography courses at Samford University and taught at the University of Alabama at Birmingham from 1985 until 2003 on subjects ranging from traditional darkroom methods and vintage 19th century photographic processes to creative digital techniques.

Ken is a graduate of Jacksonville State University and The University of Alabama at Birmingham. He is retired from a career in environmental research with Southern Company. He and his wife, Dori, live in Hoover, Alabama, and enjoy travel, exploration and photography. Ken also leads tours to Alabama's watermills; please contact him for information.

Finally, his five decades of photography at Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark were featured in the first photography exhibit ever at the museum during the summer of 2023.





## Upcoming Programs

*Submitted By Paul Hauser*

- September will be Cecil Holmes presenting a program on Macro Photography
- October will be an interactive experience covering portraits and still life for all members. HPS will provide lights, backdrops, stands, props and lighting. For portraits, our members will be both photographer and subjects.
- November will let us review the results of our "Creative Crud" exercise.

### Officers of HPS

**President:** Chris Baker

**Primary Competition Officer:**

Steven Butler

**Digital Competition**

**Officer:** Chris Baker, acting

**Competition Records**

**Officer:** Eddie Sewall

**Program Officer:**

Paul Hauser

**Activities & Workshops**

**Officer:** Vacant

**Publicity Officer:**

Xavier Adams

**Treasurer:**

Bob Schmiedeskamp

**Communications Officer:**

Jay Bain

**Historian:** Tom Bryant

**Exhibition Officer:**

Connor McLeod

**PSA Representative:**

Lee Pratt

### Non Board Positions

**Webmaster:** John Shriver

**Assistant Webmaster:**

Bill Farnsworth

**Membership Officer:**

Vacant

**Mentor/Novice Program**

**Officer:** Conner Hill

## Upcoming Photography Classes at GigaParts

*Submitted By Chris Baker*

Here's a list of upcoming photography classes sponsored by GigaParts. All classes are free, just register at the link provided.

- August 6 - Photography 101 by Chris Baker - <https://events.gigaparts.com/events/gigapartshuntsville/1729620>
- August 20 - Photography 102 by Chris Baker - <https://events.gigaparts.com/events/gigapartshuntsville/1729622>

## Upcoming Photo Contest Deadlines

- November 15 - The Nature Photography Contest 2025 - <https://thenaturephotocontest.com/>
- January 6 - 2026 Sony World Photography Awards - <https://www.worldphoto.org/sony-world-photography-awards>

HPS is meeting at GigaParts on the second Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m., and on the fourth Monday, 6:30 p.m.

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

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

## **HPS Board Membership**

***Submitted By Chris Baker***

We have three openings on the HPS Board that we need to fill to continue making HPS a successful club. None of our positions are technically challenging or even require advanced photography skills, we simply need some members willing and able to support us and help shape the direction in which the club is headed. Whether your a veteran member or new to the club, please consider taking an active role in the club and donating your time. Here are the positions where we need help:

- Competition Officer (currently Steven Butler)
  - Coordinate judges for the monthly competitions
  - Develop competition topics/themes
  - Run monthly print competitions
  - Help procure awards for year end banquet
  - Steven will be staying on for the rest of the year, so anyone willing to step in now can shadow him and get some on-the-job training
- Activities/Workshop Chair (Vacant)
  - Develop monthly meet ups or group activities
  - Organize an annual or semi-annual workshop
- Digital Competition Chair (currently Chris Baker)
  - Coordinate with judges for the monthly digital competitions and year-end banquet
  - Assemble digital slide show to present at monthly competitions and year-end banquet
  - Must have access to a laptop and a working knowledge of Excel

## Creative Crud

*Submitted By Chris Baker*

Crud is back!!!! Here's a fun way to get your creative juices flowing. This activity challenges you to improve your creative "in camera" skills by using a Dollar Tree object as your subject. Barbara Staggs will be coordinating the event, so please contact her with any questions: [staggwh@gmail.com](mailto:staggwh@gmail.com)

Here are the rules:

- If you would like to participate, please send an email to Barbara at [staggwh@gmail.com](mailto:staggwh@gmail.com) by Aug 22, listing your name and email address
- Your randomly chosen Dollar Tree object will be ready for you to pick up at the Sept 22nd HPS meeting. The club is buying the objects, so no need to bring money.
- Each participant will submit (1) one regular/straight photo to show and define the object.
- Each participant will also submit (3) three additional photos that show your creativity with the object.
- These photos must include the object but you may use the whole object or a part of the object.
- It does not even have to be recognizable nor does it have to be the main subject of the photo.
- The photo does not have to show the object's intended use.
- Your creativity must take place in the camera, not in Photoshop or any other such program. You may use these programs for basic corrections such as cropping, levels, etc. but you may not use digital filters, cloning, major color alternations, AI, etc.
- Your (4) photos must be submitted via e-mail to Chris Baker at [knc82099@me.com](mailto:knc82099@me.com) before Nov 8 using the same submission standards as you use for the monthly competitions.
  - JPEG images , maximum width 2800 pixels, maximum height 1600 pixels.
  - File name must be: first and last name with no spaces, a dash and then entry number.
    - Example: JohnDoe-1.jpg
  - All participants' images will be shown as part of the program on Nov 10.
- Most important rule: HAVE FUN!!!

# Hear to be Seen

**Submitted by: Xavier Adams**

On August 21st, the Orion Amphitheater is partnering with the Huntsville-Madison County Library Foundation to present Hear to Be Seen, an evening gallery preview that brings North Alabama’s music scene into focus through powerful portraits and live performance.

Originated by Alabama native photojournalist Shedrick Pelt, Hear to Be Seen began as a way to illuminate the artists of the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library’s BLAST Music platform through intimate portraiture and personal storytelling. Now in its second year, the project has grown into a collaborative gallery showcasing work by multiple photographers with roots in the region—including not just Pelt, but local visionaries behind the lens Bud Gambrell, frequent HPS judge Dennis Keim, and HPS member/Publicity Chairman Xavier Adams.

Join them on Thursday, August 21 at The Orion for an opening night filled with live performances from featured BLAST artists, an artist talk moderated by WLRH’s Katy Ganaway, and an exclusive first look at the gallery before it travels to Huntsville City Hall. Thanks to support from the Huntsville Music Office, the full exhibit will remain on display in City Hall throughout September in celebration of Huntsville Music Month.



## 2025/6 Competition Topics

25-AUG-FORMATIONS	24-NOV-HUMOR	23-MAR-OPEN
22-SEP-MOUNTAINS & VALLEYS	2026	
27-OCT-OPEN	26-JAN-LEAVES & PETALS	
	23-FEB-PATTERNS	

## August 2025 Judge—Muril Robertson

### Subject—Formations

*August 25, GigaParts (Old Burlington Coat Factory Building), 6:30 p.m.*

Currently an honorary member of the society, he is one of our past presidents. He has helped judge one of our competitions each year since 2014.

Still living and working in Huntsville, he has freelanced as a photographer since 1985. Muril is retired from and professional photo work, but is now working in the defense industry. He has a Ph.D. in pure mathematics, with particular interests in mathematical analysis and geometry. That combined with his natural love of truth and beauty provides a sound basis for his work in photography.

Muril has photographed widely across the United States, and has won numerous awards both in our local community and in national and international competitions. His work has appeared in art museums, magazines, books, corporate reports, advertising, etc. Currently, he has over 100,000 film images in stock and a few hundred thousand digital images.

If you would like some ideas of what Muril might be expecting in the images he sees, he has posted this paragraph on his website [murilrobertson.com](http://murilrobertson.com):

"My goal is to make beautiful and interesting photographs of the world around us. My work varies from pristine landscapes to the whimsical. Forever searching for compositions and subjects that interest me, I strive to create images that are new to me. yet, I must give credit to God almighty, because it is his work that I simply record and manipulate on film and pixels. "

## July Competition Results

### Subject—Open

### Judge—Patrick Oden

	Color Digital (57)	Monochrome Digital (52)	Color Print (22)	Monochrome Print (20)
1st	CT Chi	Jane Reneau	Barbara Staggs	Joy Henderson
2nd	Jim Spinoso	Allen Gary	Joy Henderson	Joy Henderson
3rd	Susan Poston	Mike Cook	Casey Johnson	Doris Leverett
HM	Mike Cook	Chris Baker	Christy Ashby	Charles Leverett
HM	Tom Johnson	William Farnsworth	Doris Leverett	Emily Saile
HM	Susan Chi	Virginia Gilbert		
HM	Phillip Hallmark	Jack Eidson		
HM	Emily Saile	Allen Gary		
HM	Allen Gary			

## Points for the Year to Date

Name	2025 Points	2025 Wins
Doris Leverett	43	13
Joy Henderson	33	11
Chris Baker	30	16
Allen Gary	26	9
Barbara Staggs	24	9
Emily Saile	20	9
Jack Eidson	19	7
Casey Johnson	18	8
John Dillingham	16	5
Charles Leverett	15	6
Philip Flowers	15	5
Mike Cook	14	5
Mat Bevill	10	5
Michael Cox	10	4
Carolyn Eidson	10	4
Julie Gary	10	4
Thomas Johnson	9	5
Susan Chi	8	6
Alice Searcy	8	6
Jim Spinoso	8	5
Trevor Hall	8	4
Susan Poston	8	4
Carolyn Spinoso	8	3
Henry Smith	8	2
Bill Farnsworth	7	4
Kate Deal	7	3
Tom Bryant	6	3
CT Chi	6	2
Philip Hallmark	5	3
John Shriver	5	2
Jane Reneau	5	1
Kevin Burton	3	1
Cecilia Yarborough	3	1
Shannon Leszcynski	2	2
Eddie Sewall	2	2
Christy Ashby	1	1
Eric Deylius	1	1
Riley Garrett	1	1
Bob Gathany	1	1
Virginia Gilbert	1	1
Brad Lackey	1	1
Ricky Pounders	1	1
Don Wolfe	1	1

**New Members**

Andrew Hardwick  
 Robert Kemper  
 Allison Meier  
 Raksha Ramdas

## July 2025 Images



Color Print  
1st place  
by Barbara  
Staggs



Color Print  
2nd place  
by Joy  
Henderson



Color Print 3rd place  
by Casey Johnson

Monochrome Print  
1st place  
by Joy Henderson



Monochrome Print  
2nd place  
by Joy Henderson

Monochrome Print  
3rd place  
by Doris Leverett





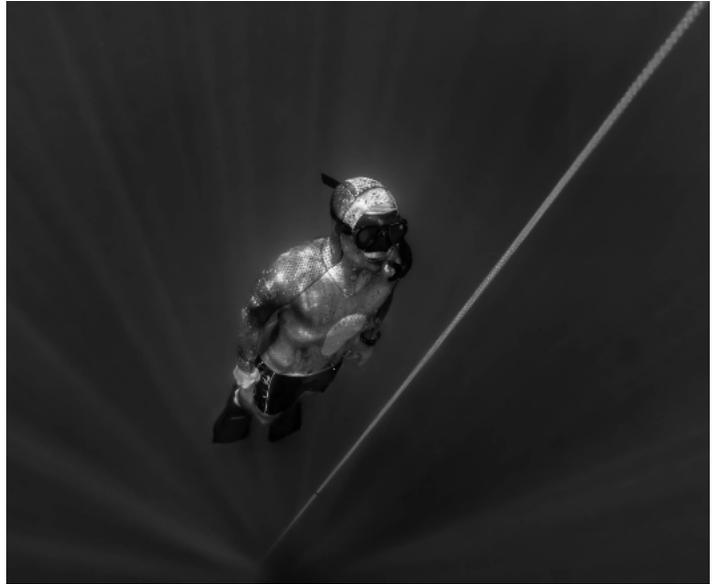
Color Digital  
1st place  
by C.T. Chi

Color Digital  
2nd place  
by Jim Spinoso



Color Digital 3rd  
place  
by Susan Poston

Monochrome  
Digital 1st place  
by Jane Reneau



Monochrome Digital  
2nd place  
by Allen Gary

Monochrome Digital  
3rd place  
by Mike Cook



# Honorable Mention—Print



Christy Ashby



Doris Leverett



Charles Leverett



Emily Saile

## Honorable Mention—Digital



Mike Cook



TOM JOHNSON



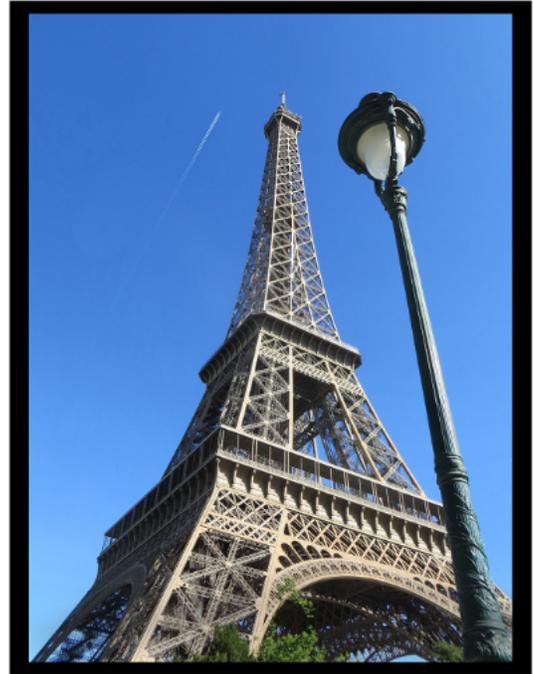
Susan Chi



Phillip Hallmark



Emily Saile



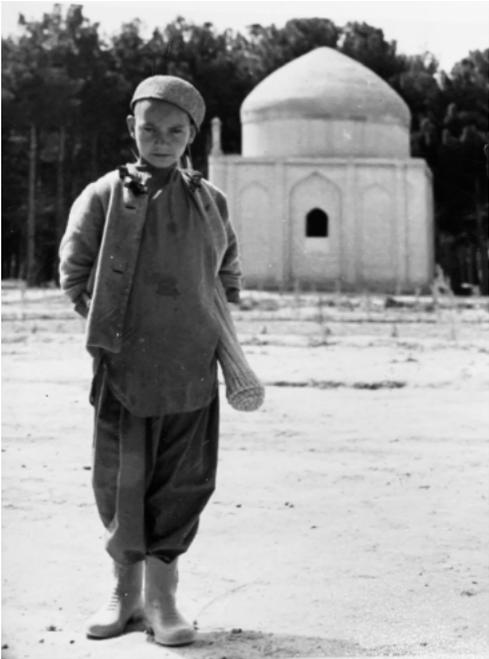
Allen Gary



Chris Baker



William Farnsworth



Virginia Gilbert



Jack Eidson



Allen Gary