



Monochrome Print, HM, by Joy Henderson. See more HMs starting on p.12

# In Focus

## September Program—Macro Photography

*Presented By Cecil Holmes*

*September 8, 2025 GigaParts (Old Burlington Coat Factory Building), 6:30 p.m.*

Step into the fascinating world of macro photography, where the smallest details reveal the biggest wonders. In this class, we'll explore the techniques and creative approaches that bring tiny subjects, like flowers, textures, and everyday object. We'll discuss working with natural and artificial lighting. We will touch on depth of field, and the use of different lenses and accessories to capture sharp, detailed close-ups. We'll also discuss composition and storytelling in macro, helping you move beyond simple documentation to create truly compelling images.



Cecil Holmes is a professional outdoor and nature photographer that lives in Huntsville, Alabama. Cecil spends a lot of his time traveling and photographing. He has a love for nature, wildlife, and travel and that is expressed in his images. Cecil's images have appeared in articles and advertorials in publications such as Nature Photographer, Outdoor Photographer, Shutterbug, and many local publications.

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## Upcoming Programs

*Submitted By Paul Hauser*

- 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.

## Upcoming Photography Classes

*Submitted By Chris Baker*

Upcoming free classes at GigaParts. Register at the link provided.

- September 17 - Photography 201 by Chris Baker - <https://events.gigaparts.com/events/gigapartshuntsville/1729624>
- October 1 - Post-processing Fundamentals by Chris Baker - <https://events.gigaparts.com/events/gigapartshuntsville/1729626>

## Upcoming Photo Contest Deadlines

- September 19 - 2025 National Wildlife Federation Garden For Wildlife Contest - [https://gfwphotocontest.nwf.org/menu-home.aspx?comp\\_id=32F6A80A-B2C4-4260-824C-611FB64141CE](https://gfwphotocontest.nwf.org/menu-home.aspx?comp_id=32F6A80A-B2C4-4260-824C-611FB64141CE)
- September 20 - Fall 2025 Northwest Tennessee Photo Club - [http://nwtncphotoclub.com/?page\\_id=134](http://nwtncphotoclub.com/?page_id=134)
- October 31 - 2026 Outdoor Alabama Photo Contest - <https://www.outdooralabama.com/photocontest>
- 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)

<p><b>Officers of HPS</b></p> <p><b>President:</b> Chris Baker</p> <p><b>Primary Competition Officer:</b> Steven Butler</p> <p><b>Digital Competition Officer:</b> Chris Baker, acting</p> <p><b>Competition Records Officer:</b> Eddie Sewall</p> <p><b>Program Officer:</b> Paul Hauser</p> <p><b>Activities &amp; Workshops Officer:</b> Vacant</p> <p><b>Publicity Officer:</b> Xavier Adams</p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b> Bob Schmiedeskamp</p> <p><b>Communications Officer:</b> Jay Bain</p> <p><b>Historian:</b> Tom Bryant</p> <p><b>Exhibition Officer:</b> Connor McLeod</p> <p><b>PSA Representative:</b> Lee Pratt</p> <p><b>Non Board Positions</b></p> <p><b>Webmaster:</b> John Shriver</p> <p><b>Assistant Webmaster:</b> Bill Farnsworth</p> <p><b>Membership Officer:</b> Vacant</p> <p><b>Mentor/Novice Program Officer:</b> Conner Hill</p>
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## HPS Board Membership

*Submitted By Chris Baker*

We have one opening 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 is the position where we need help:

- 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
- 

## Upcoming Photo Activities/Events

*Submitted By Chris Baker*

- September 12-13 - Southeastern Ultimate Bull Riding and Barrel Racing Competition - <https://www.southeasternultimatebulls.com/>
- Mid-to-late September - Fall Flower Festival at Hubert Family Farms - <https://www.hubertfamilyfarms.com/>
- October 1-4 - Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention - <https://athensfiddlers.org/>
- **October 4 - \*\*HPS Sponsored Activity\*\* - Scott Kelby Worldwide Photo Walk - Downtown Huntsville - More details to come**
- October 19 - Maple Hill Cemetery Stroll

## Creative Crud

*Submitted By Chris Baker*

For those participating in this year's Creative Crud activity, most of the items were distributed at last week's Competition Meeting. The remaining items will be available to pick up at the next meeting on September 8. As a reminder, here are the rules and important dates:

Here are the rules:

- 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!!!

# How I Judge Photographs

**Submitted by: Joe Fikes – [joe@joefikes.com](mailto:joe@joefikes.com) - 256.701.3111**

## Question 1: Is the photo interesting?

- Does the picture tell a story? (Could you tell me the same or a similar story in words)?
- Does it show me something unexpected (a pleasant surprise)?
- Does it present a (possibly) familiar subject in a new way?
- Does it present good composition (balance, subject placement, lines, curves, repetition, textures, etc.)?
- Is the shot too busy? Distractions? Confusing?
- How many times have I seen this exact same picture?

## Question 2: Is the photo a finished product?

- Are there obvious things that should have been done that would have improved the image?
  1. Better Cropping
  2. Eliminate distracting elements (pick up the trash)
  3. Lighten/darken parts of the shot to draw the eye
  4. General tonality

## Question 3: How good is the image, technically?

- Is it properly exposed?
  - Blown-out highlights or blocked-up shadows?
  - Good (appropriate) tonal range?
  - Good (appropriate) color balance?
- Is it well focused?
  - Something is in sharp focus. Is it the right thing?
  - Did the depth-of-field achieve the best result?
- Was subject motion handled in an appropriate way?
- Was camera motion well controlled?
- Post-processing... Was Photoshop used in a skillful way?

4... (This ain't a question. It's a STATEMENT).

**If it's tricky, cutesy, hoked-up in Photoshop, etc.** It had better be really (**REALLY**) well-done. And it had better be really compelling.

5... I don't like snakes. And I don't like bugs. Just saying...

## 2025/6 Competition Topics

27-OCT-OPEN	2026	23-FEB-PATTERNS
24-NOV-HUMOR	26-JAN-LEAVES & PETALS	23-MAR-OPEN

## September 2025 Judge—Joe Fikes

### Subject—Mountains and Valleys

*September 22, GigaParts (Old Burlington Coat Factory Building), 6:30 p.m.*

Joe Fikes is no stranger to the Huntsville Photographic Society. He has judged for HPS 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).

Look back a page to see how Joe Judges Photographs

## August Competition Results

### Subject—Formations

#### Judge—Muril Robertson

	Color Digital (54)	Monochrome Digital (47)	Color Print (21)	Monochrome Print (20)
1st	Susan Chi	Mat Bevill	Eric Deylius	Charles Leverett
2nd	Casey Johnson	Chris Baker	Emily Saile	Casey Johnson
3rd	John Shriver	Emily Saile	Henry Smith	Lara Deal
HM	Casey Johnson	Tyrell Jemison	Tom Bryant	Doris Leverett
HM	Mike Cook	Susan Poston	Charles Leverett	Joy Henderson
HM	Eric Deylius	Jack Eidson		
HM	CT Chi	CT Chi		
HM	Susan Poston	Allen Gary		

## Points for the Year to Date

Name	2025 Points	2025 Wins
Doris Leverett	44	14
Chris Baker	34	17
Joy Henderson	34	12
Casey Johnson	27	11
Emily Saile	27	11
Allen Gary	27	10
Barbara Staggs	24	9
Charles Leverett	21	8
Jack Eidson	20	8
John Dillingham	16	5
Mat Bevill	15	6
Mike Cook	15	6
Philip Flowers	15	5
Susan Chi	13	7
Henry Smith	11	3
Susan Poston	10	6
Michael Cox	10	4
Carolyn Eidson	10	4
Julie Gary	10	4
Thomas Johnson	9	5
Alice Searcy	8	6
Jim Spinoso	8	5
CT Chi	8	4
Trevor Hall	8	4
John Shriver	8	3
Carolyn Spinoso	8	3
Tom Bryant	7	4
Bill Farnsworth	7	4
Kate Deal	7	3
Eric Deylius	7	3
Philip Hallmark	5	3
Jane Reneau	5	1
Kevin Burton	3	1
Laura Deal	3	1
Cecilia Yarborough	3	1
Shannon Leszcynski	2	2
Eddie Sewall	2	2
Christy Ashby	1	1
Riley Garrett	1	1
Bob Gathany	1	1
Virginia Gilbert	1	1
Tyrell Jemison	1	1
Brad Lackey	1	1
Ricky Ponders	1	1
Don Wolfe	1	1

### New Members

Karl Hagler  
 Drew Moulder  
 Eric Tapp

## August 2025 Images



Color Print  
1st place  
by Eric  
Deylius



Color Print  
2nd place  
by Emily  
Saile



Color Print 3rd place  
by Henry Smith

Monochrome Print  
1st place  
by Charles Leverett



Monochrome Print  
2nd place  
by Casey Johnson



Monochrome Print  
3rd place  
by Lara Deal



Color Digital  
1st place  
by Susan Chi

Color Digital  
2nd place  
by Casey Johnson



Color Digital 3rd  
place  
by John Shriver

Monochrome  
Digital 1st place  
by Mat Bevill



Monochrome Digital  
2nd place  
by Chris Baker

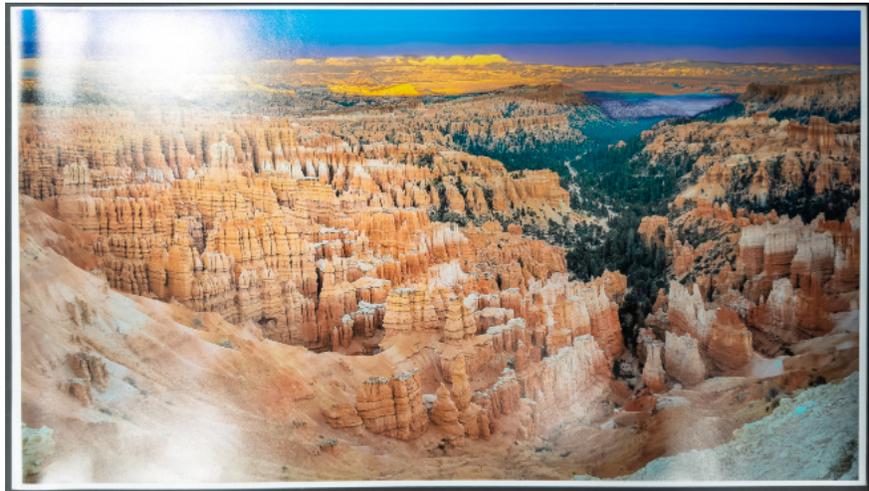
Monochrome Digital  
3rd place  
by Emily Saile



# Honorable Mention—Print



Charles  
Leverett



Tom Bryant



Doris Leverett



Joy Henderson

## Honorable Mention—Digital



Mike Cook



Casey Johnson



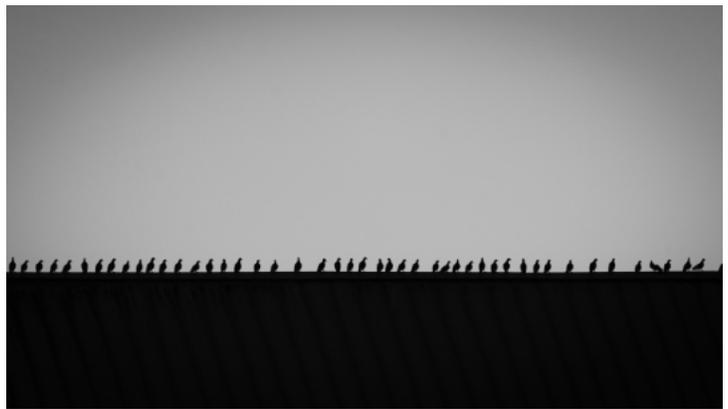
Eric Deylius



C.T. Chi



Susan Poston



Tyrell Jemison



Susan Poston



Jack Eidson



C.T. Chi



Allen Gary