



Color Digital HM, by Ahmed Nassar, See more HMs starting on p.10

# In Focus

## June Program—Bird Photography

*Presented by—Chris Baker*

*June 8, 2026 GigaParts Classroom, 6:30 p.m.*

July's Program will be hosted by HPS President Chris Baker as he discusses the art of bird photography. Chris will cover topics including suggested camera bodies and lenses, settings, bird habitats and behavior, and general shooting tips. He'll share a variety of his favorite bird portraits and action shots and the stories behind them. Chris's images have been recognized in international competitions sponsored by Audubon, National Wildlife Federation, and Sony.



Chris's photography habit started over 16 years ago with a basic Panasonic point and shoot camera. He quickly outgrew its limitations and is now fully invested in a full frame mirrorless setup. Chris has been a member of HPS since 2018 and enjoys having an active role with the organization originally as the Digital Competition Chair and now as President. Chris loves to teach and share his knowledge with anyone interested in learning. Chris offers a series of free photography classes at GigaParts on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Samples of Chris's bird images can be found on his website:

<https://cscottphoto.smugmug.com/Artwork/Wildlife/Birds>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE		
June Program— Bird Photography..... 1	Photography Equipment for Sale ..... 3	Monica Martin ..... 4
Upcoming Photo Contest Deadlines ..... 2	May Competition Results ..... 4	Points for the Year to Date .... 5
Outings and Workshops ..... 2	2026 Competition Topics ..... 4	New Members ..... 5
New Webmaster Needed..... 3	June 2026 Judge— Patrick Oden ..... 4	May 2026 Images ..... 6
		Honorable Mention—Print ... 10
		Honorable Mention—Digital 11

## Outings and Workshops

*Submitted By Paul Hauser*

Our June outing will be at the Huntsville Botanical Gardens on Saturday, June 13 with an alternate weather day for June 20. We'll meet in the lobby at 9:30am before heading out into the gardens. All skill levels are welcome. Any camera and lens combination will work as the Gardens has a variety of subjects to photograph (e.g. landscapes, flowers, butterflies, birds, insects). An entrance fee will be required for those who are not members of the Gardens. <https://hsvbg.org>

August we are planning an interactive cyanotype workshop on Saturday, August 15 from 9:15 to 1pm at GigaParts. Details will be sent at a later date.

### Officers of HPS

**President:** Chris Baker

**Primary Competition Officer:**

Julie Lumpkins

**Digital Competition Officer:** OPEN

**Competition Records Officer:** Eddie Sewall

**Program Officer:** Steven Butler

**Activities & Workshops Officer:** Paul Hauser

**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:** OPEN

**Assistant Webmaster:** Bill Farnsworth

---

### Upcoming Photo Contest Deadlines

- June 30 - 2026 Audubon Community Nature Center Contest - <https://www.gogophotocontest.com/acncphotocontest2026>
- June 30 - 2026 Nikon Wildlife Comedy Awards - <https://www.comedywildlifephoto.com/>
- August 14 - 2026 Birds and Blooms National Nature Photography Awards - <https://www.birdsandblooms.com/nature-photography-awards-2026/>

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.

[hpsphoto.org](https://www.facebook.com/groups/399566463394251/)

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

## **New Webmaster Needed**

***Submitted By Chris Baker***

Unfortunately, due to personal conflicts, the two new Webmasters we had recently secured can no longer support, so we are re-initiating our search for someone to take over the Webmaster duties for John Shriver. Experience with website design and Wordpress is preferred with an ability to troubleshoot. Website maintenance is critical to the function of our competitions and coordination of membership dues, so we are looking to identify a candidate as soon as possible and get them working with John. For anyone willing and able to take on this key position, please contact me at [knc82099@me.com](mailto:knc82099@me.com). A list of duties include:

- On the first of each month, prepare the webpage for uploading digital images for monthly competitions.
  - On the third Monday of each month, prepare a webpage for judging of submitted digital images.
  - On the fourth Monday of each month, prepare a webpage for presentation of the winning photos for that month, and relay information to those responsible for records and newsletter. Update the Awards listing.
  - Work with the Treasurer to maintain records of membership and dues payment through PayPal.
  - Work with the Treasurer to ensure that all plugins and hosting bills are paid.
  - At the end of the year, assemble a webpage for End of Year judging, and then a webpage for presentation of EOY winners.
  - Prepare webpages as needed for programs and exhibitions.
  - Perform regular housekeeping of the website, ensure that all the webpages are up to date, and monitor the Calendar.
  - Monitor input from the Contacts page.
  - Maintain a regular backup of the website.
  - Work with Bluehost as needed to ensure that the website functions and it is secure.
- 

## **Photography Equipment for Sale**

***Submitted By Casey Johnson***

f-stop Guru 4 AIR backpack with Medium ICU (Cypress Green). Pocket for up to 16 inch Laptop, water bottle pocket, made from DuraDiamond Material. Nice pack, used twice, like new, retails for \$250. \$125.

Lowepro Fastpack BP 250 AW III. Fits a small DSLR and a lens or two. Pocket for 13 inch laptop. Excellent to like new condition, retails for \$125. \$60.

Leofoto MP-285C Carbon Fiber Monopod + LH-25 Mini Low Profile Ball Head Kit, like new. \$100.

Contact Casey - [dcjohnson50@gmail.com](mailto:dcjohnson50@gmail.com).

## June 2026 Judge—Patrick Oden Subject—Portraits of People

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

In his 15th year judging for HPS, our June judge Patrick Oden is excited to be judging the Portraits of People competition. Most of you will know Patrick as a photojournalist, but as an editorial photographer, one of his specialties is portraiture. Whether utilizing natural or artificial light, studio shot or environmental, literal or non-literal, it's always been a favorite of his and he's looking very forward to seeing what each of you have created. As always, Patrick will be looking for technical qualities along with creativity.



### Monica Martin

*Submitted by Chris Baker*



It is with great sadness that we report the passing of HPS friend and judge Monica Martin. Monica was tragically killed on May 1 in a motorcycle accident in California. A wonderful tribute to Monica is posted on her website. Please follow the link to read:

<https://monicamartin.com/>

## May Competition Results Subject—Architecture Judge—Tony Triolo

	Color Digital (41)	Monochrome Digital (38)	Color Print (24)	Monochrome Print (23)
1st	Chris Baker	Allen Gary		Mike Cook
2nd	Susan Poston	Ahmed Nassar	Henry Smith	Lara Deal
3rd	Chris Baker	William Farnsworth	Doris Leverett	John Shriver
HM	Margaret Phillips	Virginia Gilbert	Barbara Staggs	Mike Cook
HM	Casey Johnson	Julia Gary	Lara Deal	Charles Leverett
HM	Allen Gary	Eric Deylius		
HM	Ahmed Nassar	Allen Gary		

### 2026 Competition Topics

22 JUN—PORTRAITS OF PEOPLE  
27 JUL—OPEN (ONLY PHOTOS TAKEN AFTER 4/1/2026)

24 AUG—STREET PHOTOGRAPHY  
28 SEP—STILL LIFE  
26 OCT—OPEN

23 NOV—ACTION

## Points for the Year to Date

Name	2026 Points	2026 Wins
Mike Cook	27	10
Christopher Baker	26	7
Ahmed Nassar	24	9
Margaret Phillips	19	6
John Shriver	18	7
Allen Gary	16	8
Susan Poston	13	4
Casey Johnson	12	7
Kate Deal	12	4
Doris Leverett	11	3
Barbara Staggs	10	3
Tom Bryant	9	3
Henry Smith	9	3
Bill Farnsworth	8	3
Joy Henderson	8	3
Susan Chi	7	3
John Dillingham	7	3
Eric Deylius	6	4
Charles Leverett	6	4
Lara Deal	6	3
Mat Bevill	5	5
Jane Reneau	5	3
Emily Saile	5	3
Bethanie Soto	5	2
Bob Gathany	5	1
Matthew Crowell	4	1
Jim Spinoso	4	1
C.T. Chi	3	3
Julia Gary	3	3
Karl Hagler	3	3
Kevin Burton	3	1
Paul Hauser	2	2
Ricky Pounders	2	2
Brandon Black	1	1
Barry Freeman	1	1
Virginia Gilbert	1	1
Tyrell Jemison	1	1
Robert Kemper	1	1
Lee Pratt	1	1
John Stevens	1	1
Ed Townsend	1	1

**New Members**

Shannon Mcelroy  
Calleigh Oldja  
Emily Van Valkenburgh

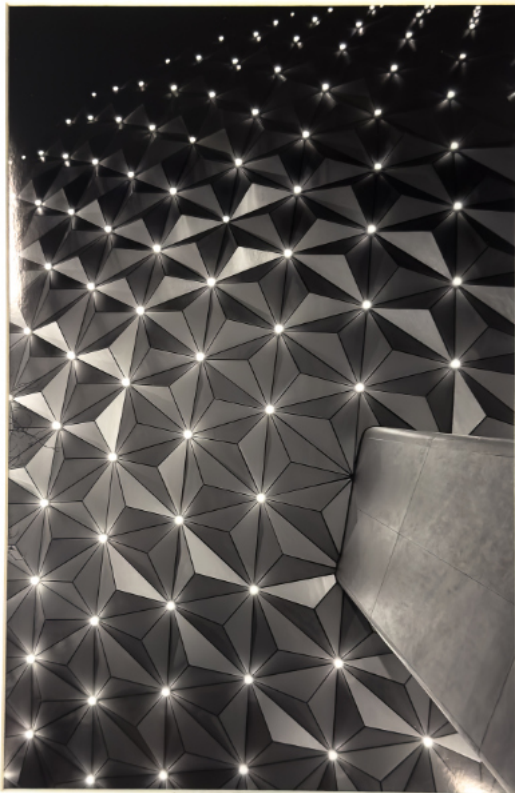
## May 2026 Images

Color Print 2nd place  
by Henry Smith



Color Print 3rd place  
by Doris Leverett

Monochrome Print  
1st place  
by Mike Cook



Monochrome Print  
2nd place  
by Lara Deal

Monochrome Print  
3rd place  
by John Shriver





Color Digital  
1st place  
by Chris Baker

Color Digital  
2nd place  
by Susan Poston



Color Digital  
3rd place  
by Chris Baker

Monochrome  
Digital 1st place  
by Allen Gary



Monochrome Digital  
2nd place  
by Ahmed Nassar

Monochrome Digital  
3rd place  
by William Farnsworth



### Honorable Mention—Print



Barbara Staggs



Lara Deal



Mike Cook



Charles Leverett

## Honorable Mention—Digital



Margaret Phillips



Casey Johnson



Allen Gary



Ahmed Nassar

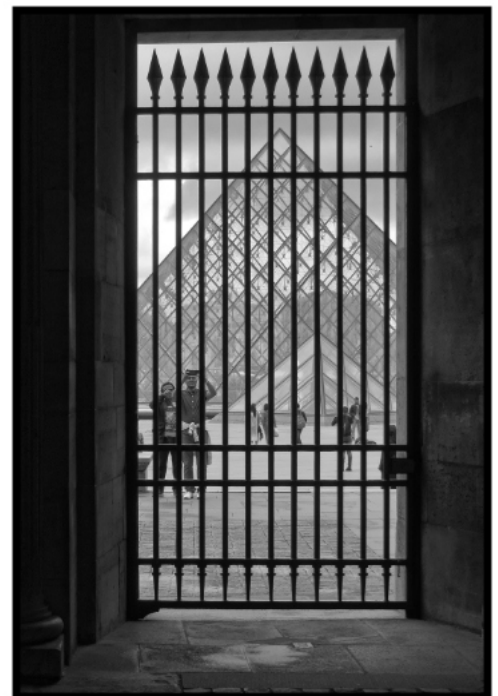
Julia Gary



Virginia Gilbert



Eric Deylius



Allen Gary