



Color Digital HM,
by Susan Poston,
See more HMs
starting on p.14

In Focus

September Program—Swamps to Smokies

Presented by—Caleb McKinney

September 14, 2026 GigaParts Classroom, 6:30 p.m.

In this presentation, we'll explore how to intuitively compose your photos. We'll breakdown composition and planning of various images during different times of the day and seasons.

My name is Caleb McKenney, I'm a graphic designer and landscape photographer based in Nashville, TN.

I love exploring nature far and wide, photographing anything that catches my eye, and constantly learning how to see the world a little differently through my lens.

When I'm not out photographing, you'll find me hanging out with my little family, playing hockey, or one of the many other things I enjoy.

For me, a successful photograph is one that's both intentional and emotionally engaging. I strive to guide the viewer through the frame with thoughtful composition,



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strong technical execution, and a sensitivity to the conditions that make a scene truly shine.

Familiarity with a location opens the door to experimentation — new angles, new light, new stories. At the end of the day, I believe the most important thing is to create images that you personally connect with. That connection is what keeps me coming back.

Free Photography Classes

Submitted By Chris Baker

GigaParts is offering free photography classes taught by HPS President, Chris Baker. Chris has a series of classes designed with beginner's in mind that cover the basics of the exposure triangle, composition, camera bodies, lenses, and post-processing. All classes are in the store's classroom beginning at 6pm. A schedule for the September classes and links to register are as follows:

September 2 - Photography 201 - <https://events.gigaparts.com/events/gigapartshuntsville/2301641>

September 23 - Post-processing - <https://events.gigaparts.com/events/gigapartshuntsville/2301636>

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: Tim McCorry

Assistant Webmaster:

Bill Farnsworth

Upcoming Photo Contest Deadlines

- September 10 - 2026 Outdoor Photographer Magazine American Landscape Contest - <https://www.outdoorphotographer.com/contest/?v=0b3b97fa6688>
- November 15 - 2026 Nature Photography Contest - <https://thenaturephotocontest.com/>
- January 5 - 2027 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.

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

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

Outings and Workshops

Submitted By Paul Hauser

On Saturday, September 12 we will meet at Pryor Field Regional Airport in Tanner, AL for the North Alabama Airfest. Tickets are required so please review the link below for your ticket options. <https://www.northalairfest.com>

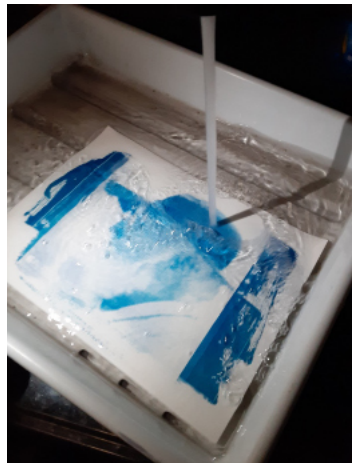
For Oct 3 we are concentrating on street photography with a tentative morning program presented by Patrick Oden. We will start at GigaParts at 9am for a couple hours learning about street photography. From there we will meet in downtown Huntsville to practice what we learned from Patrick.

More details as we get closer to Oct 3.

Cyanotype Workshop Highlights

Submitted By Chris Baker

Here are a few behind the scenes photos courtesy of Allen Gary of our August 15th Cyanotype Workshop. Thanks to all those that participated, as well as to José Betancourt for hosting the event, Paul Hauser for planning, and Steven Butler for supplies and setup.



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

Here are the rules:

- Your randomly chosen Dollar Tree object will be ready for you to pick up at the Sept 28 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 before **Nov 7** 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 9.
 - You are welcome to submit more photos if you're feeling extra creative
 - Most important rule: HAVE FUN!!!

Hear to Be Seen 3: Connect, Collaborate, Create

Submitted By Xavier Adams

HPS members Casey Johnson and Xavier Adams will have pieces featured in “Hear to Be Seen 3: Connect, Collaborate, Create” on September 2nd from 5-8 PM. Hear to Be Seen is a celebration of what can happen when artists, photographers, cultural organizations and public partners come together to invest in Huntsville’s creative community.

Presented through a collaboration between the Huntsville Music Office, WLRH, The Orion Amphitheater, the Huntsville Museum of Art, and BLAST Music, this event brings together music, photography and storytelling to highlight the people who make North Alabama’s music scene unique. The evening also serves as the official kickoff to Huntsville Music Month, celebrating the power of collaboration across our city’s creative ecosystem.

Following its opening at The Orion, the exhibition will travel to Huntsville City Hall and the Huntsville Museum of Art, making these stories accessible to residents and visitors throughout Huntsville Music Month.

Below is a picture of the event flyer alongside Casey’s exhibition photo (Sylvia Dean) and mine (Queen Keiani).



3CT Fall Photo Trek Oct 17, 2026

Submitted by Lee Pratt

On August 27, we had a Zoom meeting of the Camera Club Council of Tennessee (3CT), of which HPS is a member and I am the HPS representative to the 3CT activities. Each year the 3CT plans Fall Photo Treks and Spring Photo Treks. See below, which is one page of the August 3CT newsletter. The attachment describes the Fall Photo Trek on Saturday, October 17, 2026. Registrations are still being requested for attendees to receive a brochure, maps, and a free lunch ticket at the University of the South, Sewanee, TN. There have already been 60-70 pre-registrations, and they are planning for 100 people.

The University of the South — Sewanee, Tennessee. Saturday, October 17, 2026.

Nestled atop Tennessee's scenic Cumberland Plateau, Sewanee is home to the University of the South, commonly known simply as "Sewanee." Founded in 1857, the university is a nationally recognized liberal arts institution with a historic campus known for its Gothic architecture, stone buildings, and beautiful natural surroundings. It is affiliated with the Episcopal Church and serves as both a liberal arts college and a school of theology.

One of Sewanee's most distinctive features is "The Domain," a 13,000-acre campus and nature preserve that surrounds the university and village. The Domain encompasses forests, lakes, sandstone bluffs, caves, and more than 60 miles of trails, making it one of the largest and most scenic university campuses in the country.

For photographers, Sewanee offers an abundance of subjects, from the soaring architecture and stained-glass windows of All Saints' Chapel to sweeping overlooks, woodland trails, and seasonal fall colors. The combination of historic buildings, dramatic landscapes, and natural light makes the area a favorite destination for photographers, artists, and outdoor enthusiasts alike.

The charming village of Sewanee, with its small-town atmosphere and mountain setting, adds to the area's appeal, giving visitors a unique blend of history, culture, and natural beauty.



All Saints' Chapel, University of the South.

Presentation Location Update!

THE DAY — SATURDAY, OCT 17

Kickoff Meeting. St. Mark and St. Paul Church, Kennerly Hall, 216 University Avenue, Sewanee, TN 37375.

9:00 a.m. Registration — pick up brochure, maps, and lunch ticket.

9:30 a.m. Speaker — Jeffrey Wetherill.

12:30 p.m. Lunch at McClurg Dining Hall, 634 University Avenue, Sewanee — provided by 3CT with lunch ticket, available to first 60 to register.

The University sits five miles southeast of Monteagle on US 41A/416.

PRE-REGISTER BY OCTOBER 3

Early registrations receive a free lunch while available. If you plan an overnight stay, book early — hotels are already filling for fall foliage season. Register at tinyurl.com/3CTPhotoTrek2026 or scan the QR code on the flyer.



Black Lion Photography Workshops for 2027

Submitted by Brandon Black

I'm excited to announce a few new photography workshop opportunities for early 2027!

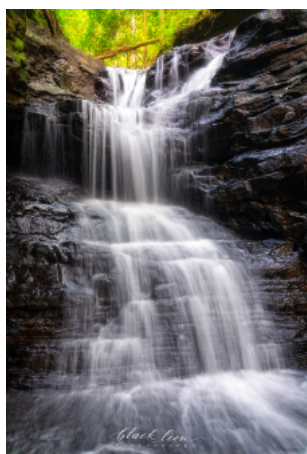
I'll be returning to Bankhead National Forest for two one-day waterfall photography workshops on January 23 and February 20, 2027. Known as the "Land of a Thousand Waterfalls," Bankhead offers some incredible opportunities to photograph waterfalls, cascades, and the surrounding forest. These are small, hands-on workshops designed for photographers of all skill levels, with an emphasis on composition, camera techniques, and creating compelling waterfall images.

To keep the experience personal and allow plenty of individual instruction, each workshop is limited to just four photographers, so space is very limited.

I've also added a brand-new Milky Way workshop along Florida's Forgotten Coast, April 9–12, 2027. We'll spend our nights photographing the Milky Way along some of Florida's beautiful and relatively undeveloped coastline, combining dark skies with coastal landscapes for a completely different astrophotography experience.

If you've been wanting to improve your waterfall photography, spend some time shooting in Bankhead, or join me for a few nights beneath the stars along the Gulf Coast, I'd love to have you along.

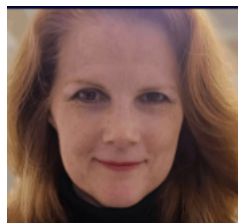
More information and registration can be found on my Black Lion Photography Workshops page. As always HPS Club members received 10% any registration with code HPSMEMBER.



September 2026 Judge—Mary Beth Johns

Subject—Still Life

September 28, GigaParts (Old Burlington Coat Factory Building), 6:30 p.m.



Dr. Mary Beth “Bee” Johns has been the Associate Professor of Art Education for Athens State University in Athens Alabama for 13 years – working through the Alabama Center for the Arts in partnership with Calhoun Community College in Decatur Alabama. Dr. Johns received her Master in Art Education from The University of Alabama,

Tuscaloosa and her Ph.D. from The Pennsylvania State University. However, it was at the University of North Alabama that she learned to paint with acrylics on a large scale when working towards a Bachelor degree.

Presently, Dr. Johns leads the Athens State art teacher education candidates through the Alabama State art certification program and teaches the cap stone classes at ASU associated with this degree. In addition to this she teaches a critique class where new artists learn about aesthetic philosophy and its implementation in studio practice.

Prior to accepting her position at ASU, Dr. Johns was the museum educator for The Delaware Center for Contemporary Art, Wilmington; now known as The Delaware Contemporary—an art space that infuses contemporary art and creativity into the community through exhibitions and educational experiences. Currently, working out of the Alabama Center for the Arts Lowe Mill studio 2018, she has had the opportunity to engage the community again by allowing the public to view a practicing artist at work.

August Competition Results

Subject—Street Photography

Judge—José Betancourt

	Color Digital (42)	Monochrome Digital (38)	Color Print (23)	Monochrome Print (22)
1st	Casey Johnson	Ahmed Nassar	Mike Cook	Tom Bryant
2nd	Tyrell Jemison	Ahmed Nassar	Kate Deal	Emily Saile
3rd	Christopher Baker	Christopher Baker	Doris Leverett	John Dillingham
HM	Susan Poston	William Farnsworth	Lara Deal	Henry Smith
HM	Casey Johnson	Casey Johnson	Barbara Staggs	John Dillingham
HM	Julia Gary	Christopher Baker		
HM	Emily Saile	C.T. Chi		

2026 Competition Topics

28 SEP—STILL LIFE

26 OCT—OPEN

23 NOV—ACTION

Points for the Year to Date

New Members

Benjamin O'Bryan

Name	2026 Points	2026 Wins
Mike Cook	46	15
Christopher Baker	44	15
Ahmed Nassar	43	14
Casey Johnson	25	12
John Shriver	23	9
Margaret Phillips	21	8
Barbara Staggs	21	7
Kate Deal	19	6
Allen Gary	18	10
Susan Poston	18	7
Tom Bryant	15	5
Doris Leverett	15	5
Paul Hauser	13	5
John Dillingham	12	6
Emily Saile	11	6
Susan Chi	10	4
Henry Smith	10	4
Bill Farnsworth	9	4
Jane Reneau	9	4
Joy Henderson	8	3
Raksha Ramdas	8	2
Charles Leverett	7	5
Lara Deal	7	4
Tyrell Jemison	7	4
Eric Deylius	6	4
Bethanie Soto	6	3
Ed Townsend	6	3
Bob Gathany	6	2
Mat Bevill	5	5
C.T. Chi	5	5
Carolyn Spinoso	5	2
Jim Spinoso	5	2
Jack Eidson	5	1
Julia Gary	4	4
Matthew Crowell	4	1
Karl Hagler	3	3
Kevin Burton	3	1
Adiva Onubedo	3	1
Ricky Pounders	2	2
Brandon Black	1	1
Evan Chaudhuri	1	1
Carolyn Eidson	1	1
Barry Freeman	1	1
Virginia Gilbert	1	1
Tom Johnson	1	1
Robert Kemper	1	1
Lee Pratt	1	1
John Stevens	1	1

August 2026 Images



Color Print 1st place
by Mike Cook

Color Print 2nd place
by Kate Deal



Color Print 3rd place
by Doris Leverett

Monochrome Print
1st place
by Tom Bryant



Monochrome Print
2nd place
by Emily Saile

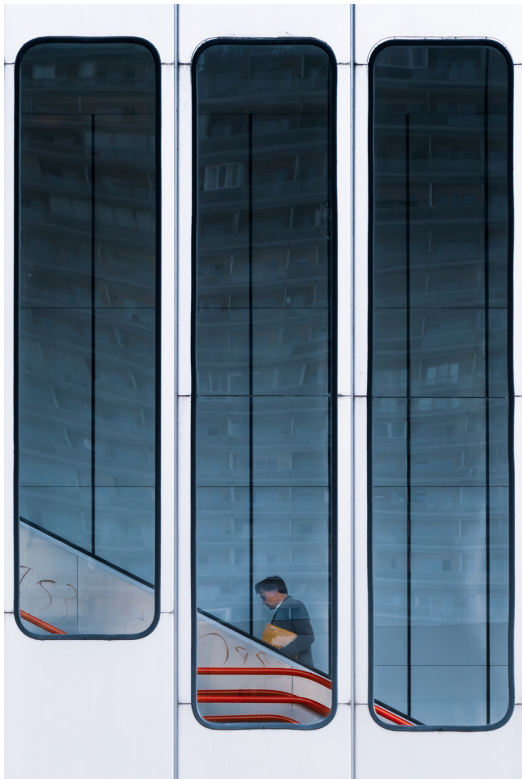
Monochrome Print
3rd place
by John Dillingham





Color Digital
1st place
by Casey Johnson

Color Digital
2nd place
by Tyrell Jemison



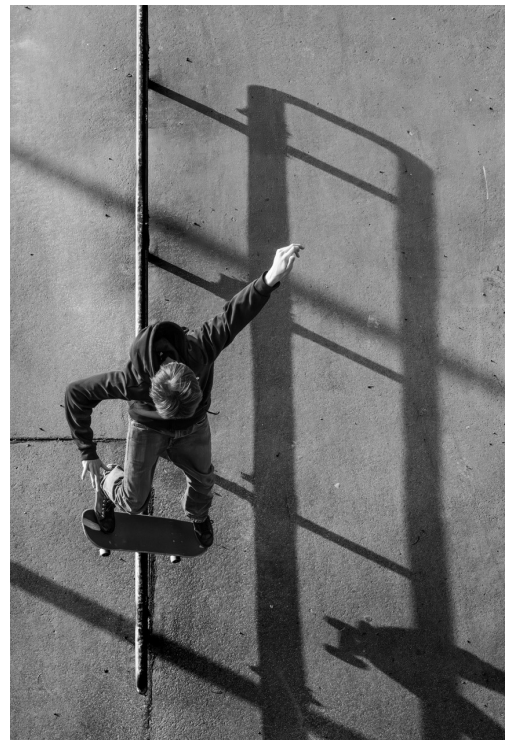
Color Digital
3rd place
by Christopher Baker

Monochrome
Digital 1st place
by Ahmed Nassar



Monochrome Digital
2nd place
by Ahmed Nassar

Monochrome Digital
3rd place
by Christopher Baker



Honorable Mention—Print



Barbara Staggs



Lara Deal



John Dillingham



Henry Smith

Honorable Mention—Digital

Julia Gary



Casey Johnson



Emily Saile



Susan Poston

C.T. Chi



Casey Johnson



William Farnsworth



Christopher Baker

