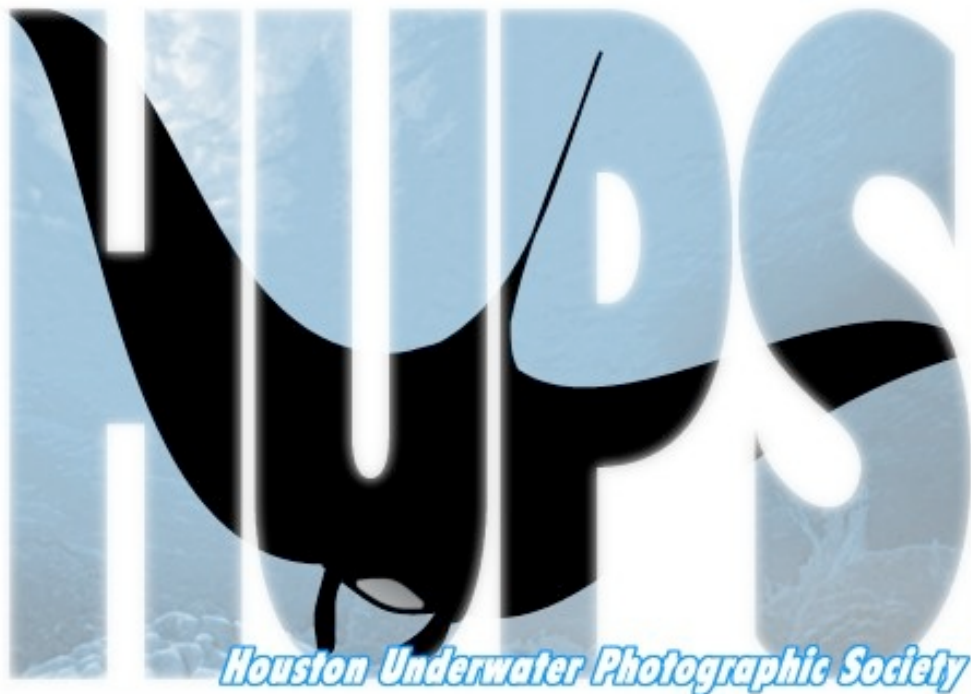


Underwater Images

DECEMBER 2009



Holiday Pot Luck Dinner December 7th Meeting - Food, Fun and Fotos

By Jim Mensay

Yes, this is a cut and paste from last years news letter, only the date has changed. Put everything else on hold for an evening and come share some food, fun, fotos, fellowship, and stories. This will be our annual HUPS Holiday Pot Luck Dinner. We will eat some good food, view the Best of HUPS photo contest and have an opportunity to visit with fellow HUPS members. HUPS will provide the meat and if you have not already signed up to bring a food dish please contact Mary McDonald - mmm5426@yahoo.com.

All present at the meeting will enjoy the Best of HUPS contest. This will be an audience judged contest. We will have the "regular" contest in Advanced, Novice and Compact Digital and we will also have the special "creative" contest. This is always a great meeting with many old friends turning out. It will be lots of fun. Be sure to come a little early to help set up. As usual our meeting will begin at 7 PM- Bayland Community Center - 6400 Bissonnet. A map can be found on the back of this newsletter.

Membership Renewals Due

The weather is getting cooler and our thoughts are moving toward the Holidays, family gatherings and end of year chores. One of those more pleasant chores should be your renewal for you and your family's membership of HUPS. This year's membership will be \$35.00 for individuals and \$45.00 for your entire family, which is quite a deal when that includes monthly meeting and presentations as well as specialized workshops, website forum and monthly newsletter. This year you have two ways to renew your membership; the first is, at the next few HUPS meetings the second is by printing the membership renewal form from the HUPS website at <http://hups.org/Members%20and%20Officers/Membership%20Application.html>. and mailing your check to P.O. Box 270056 Houston, TX 77277.

Superman

By Jim Mensay

This last month, as I was watching and listening to the presentation by Jessie Cancelmo, my mind drifted back to when I was a little kid watching the TV show Superman. It started off with "...and who, disguised as Clark Kent...".

Well, Jessie reminded me of "...and who, disguised as an open water diver, is now a very accomplished author, publisher, photographer, and all around good egg (I mean diver).

WOW, we learned that sometimes you don't have to compete against the staff writers and photographers of the really big media to have your own hard back book published. And since you have to get started somewhere, writing a simple article

that gets published may end up years later with your pic's in a dozen magazines seen by divers around the world. Not to mention a couple or three of your own hard back books on the shelves at Barnes & Noble.

Thanks Jessie for (as you described it) sharing the passion you have for the underwater world and the desire to share the images that you capture while down there.

So Hupsters, hopefully Jessie has inspired all of us to be creative with our pictures and our stories. So next year, let's all show him by sending in some of your stories to David Lenderman for the HUPS newsletters. I'm sure David will appreciate all the articles that will come flooding in from all our budding authors for the next newsletter! It's a great place to get started.

President's Message

HUPS Collection at Moody Gardens

By Tom Collier

Plan coming together

Don't you love it when a plan comes together? That is how I feel about our Moody Gardens Aquarium project – it is coming together. Maybe a little later than I expected but it is coming together never-the-less. Moody Gardens has agreed to host a collection of framed u/w photographs on loan from HUPS. The exhibit setting will be in the central rotunda of the aquarium building, which is extremely well lit and should be a first-class exhibit. The aquarium is painting two walls in a motif as requested by HUPS. They will mount our framed photographs on these walls and are also supplying the graphics to advertise our organization in addition to footing the bill for 50% of the cost of the frames. We are supplying the photographs on loan as an exhibit to be called "The HUPS Collection".

The exhibit will be semi-permanent with the photographs changed in six month intervals. This will give all of our club members the opportunity to display their best photographs. Each photograph will be labeled with the photographer's credit and an opportunity for purchase through the HUPS website. We have formed a committee to select the photographs for exhibit in the gallery. HUPSters have already started submitting photos and we hope to get up and running ASAP.

Great to be organized

I happen to be writing this article in a holiday unit located in Cape Jervis, Australia, while at the same time the wheels of progress toward a successful completion of this project are being skillfully handled by our MG committee chaired by Dennis Deavenport. Dennis, with the help of his committee group: Mary, Kandace, Greg, Alicia and Sandy are moving at lightning speed with the solicitation of photos, designing literature and formulating plans for items to sell at the Moody Gardens gift shop.

Most small organizations I have been involved with require you to "do it yourself" if you want something done. But with people like Dennis and his committee on your team, it is a whole lot less stressful because you know that the job will get done to the best possible outcome. This is the way a successful organization is supposed to work – it just usually doesn't. We are fortunate to have these folks in our club; they are working hard for the over-all benefit of HUPS and all of its members.

Tom Collier

Critter Workshop a Hit

By Greg Grimes, Director of Educational Activities (DEA)

The Marine Creature Workshop presented by Joyce Burek and assisted by Frank, took place on the 14th of November at the Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church. The workshop was attended by 18 HUPS members although many other had signed up. The presentation concentrated on marine identification, behavior, and how to approach the creatures while still obtaining the all important shot. The entire group that did attend was given some access to the vast array of the knowledge base of both of the Burek's as

well as their incredible travel stories and photographs. The entire group would like to express our thanks to the Burek's for their commitment to educating all of us and the countless hours that it took for this workshop.

In closing I do want to mention that as the workshop coordinator it is my job to keep up with those HUPS members who do sign up for a workshop. Please let me know as soon as possible if you have signed up and are unable to attend. You can do this at the club meeting or on the forum on the website. The reason for this is twofold. First of all it lets the presenters know how many will be attending for hand out purposes, etc. The second reason is for the room reservation. If we reserve a room for a group of 30 and only 18 show we are wasting club money. The smaller rooms cost the club less than the larger rooms. So again if something comes up and you are unable to attend it is in our best interest to let me know so we plan accordingly.

Advanced Lightroom Workshop

By Greg Grimes, Director of Educational Activities (DEA)

As a follow up to Tom's beginner class back last May and back by popular demand is an Advanced workshop using Adobe LightRoom2.5. Our very own James Wiseman plans on showing everyone some tricks he's picked up while using this software over the last few years its been out. He will step you into more of the technical techniques of the software. Be prepared to download the trial version of the software and bring along your photos for a hands on demo. As with the beginner's workshop in May, he will touch on the important reasons you should always shoot in RAW while still understanding the database structures of the software through its entire workflow process. As we get closer to the date there will be more information to share.

The workshop will be February 6 from 1 - 4 p.m. at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church. All the details can be found here: http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/10Feb06_AdvLightRoom.htm The workshop sign up sheet is on teh forum here: <http://www.hups.org/forum/index.php?topic=190.0>

Any other questions please let me know.
greg@theworldinaflash.com

These Workshops are for you and I would really like to hear from anyone with any future Workshop ideas by [Clicking Here](#)



Advanced 1st Place - Dennis Deavenport, © 2009

SITUATION REPORT 11/23/2009

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

By Frank Burek

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary is working with the SERPENT program <http://www.serpentproject.com> to initiate a lionfish early warning program in collaboration with the oil and gas industry. SERPENT is a program that partners with the oil and gas industry to survey marine life in the oceans and report significant biological observations encountered during the course of their daily operations. Mark Benfield from LSU is the Gulf of Mexico SERPENT program coordinator.

Lionfish are an invasive Indo-Pacific fish that pose a considerable threat to natural populations in Caribbean and Western Atlantic marine habitats due to their voracious feeding habits, prolific breeding, and lack of natural predators. They have established populations throughout the region and are threatening the Gulf of Mexico. This collaboration through the SERPENT program hopes to give managers a warning of impending impacts as the species moves across the Gulf.

The lionfish situation was announced to the oil and gas industry through their November newsletter which is posted at: http://www.serpentproject.com/assets/pdf/gulf_serpent_newsletter_nov_2009.pdf. USGS is acting as point of contact for reports of the species through this website, which is updated on a daily basis:

<http://nas.er.usgs.gov/taxgroup/fish/lionfishdistribution.asp>.

More information about the species can be found at:

<http://www.reef.org/programs/exotic/lionfish>. For more information contact Emma.Hickerson@noaa.gov

Significance: Early detection and response is the best defense we have for protecting the sanctuary from invasive lionfish. Collaboration with the oil and gas industry and the previously established SERPENT program makes this possible.

HUPS Now on Facebook and YouTube

By Alicia Grimes

I would like to let everyone know that we recently set up a HUPS Group on Facebook that all HUPS members should be able to join and keep up with your diving and underwater photo needs. We hope to see everyone there. If you are on Facebook you can access this group using the following link: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=174168478778>

We started a HUPS YouTube Channel as well. We thought it would be a nice avenue to showcase some of our talented

member's work. If you have some slideshows that you want to post please let Jim Hiemer or Greg Grimes know and they will get your slideshow published on the HUPS YouTube channel. You can access this HUPS channel by clicking the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/HUPSdotORG>

Publish Your Photos

By James Heimer

Again this year, HUPS will undertake to publish a Photobook of members' work. Volume 1, published in 2008, was a pretty good-looking product showcasing nine HUPS photographers.

Participation is easy- submit between three and six of your best underwater photographs as 10x8 or 8x10 (approx) jpg or tiff formatted files at 300dpi, a short biographical sketch, and a photo of yourself at the same resolution and format (but it doesn't have to be as big). Your biographical information should contain things like when you started diving, taking underwater photographs, your favorite dive locations and subjects, what "turns you on" about underwater photography, and similar information.

Once again, it is planned to have Mpix publish this book for us using their template pages, and the cost will be about \$55 including postage.

We will also need a cover photograph, which must be at least 22 inches long and 8 1/2 inches high at 300 dpi to wrap around the book cover.

An image of last year's book is on the web toward the bottom of the page at

<http://hups.org/Gallery%20Pages/Photographer%20Gallery%20Pages.html>



Novice 2nd Place - Leonard Cichowski, © 2009

Important Dates

Put them on your calendar

December 7

HUPS Meeting - Holiday Potluck Dinner

February 1

HUPS Meeting -TBA

March 1

HUPS Meeting -TBA

January 11

HUPS Meeting - Ken Knezick - South Africa's Sardine Run

February 6

HUPS Workshop - Advanced Lightroom with James Wiseman

April 5

HUPS Meeting -TBA

Upcoming Monthly Photo Contests

Each month we will have Advanced, Novice and Compact Digital Contests. For complete contest rules checkout: <http://www.hups.org>

December - Best of HUPS contest

March - Flat fish

January - Face the Camera

April - Crustacea

February - Juveniles

May - Odd Shaped Bottom-dwellers

PHOTO CONTEST FINAL RESULTS – 2009

By Dennis Deavenport - Photo Contest Chairperson

The November Cephalopod contest is finalized and the results have been tabulated giving us this year's Photographers of the Year. Kay Collier was the run-away winner in Compact Digital, totally more points than any other competitor regardless of division. The Novice and Advanced contests were tightly contested all year with the winners still undetermined up to the final month. Paul McDonald won in the Novice division, barely holding off a hard-charging Kandace Heimer. In the Advanced group, Tom Collier made a 2nd-half stretch run that had him overtaking Mary Lou Reid in October and holding on for a real nail biter that wasn't decided until the final numbers were crunched.

Participation in the contest was strong all year with 34 members entering in the three divisions. The overall quality of the entries continues to be high and it is obvious that the skill level of those entering the monthly contests continues to improve.

Congratulations to this year's winners and thanks to everyone who entered and made the contests special, interesting, and educational.

Contest Results			
2009 FINAL STANDINGS			
NOVICE			
1st	Paul McDonald		643
2nd	Kandace Heimer		628
3rd	Leonard Cichowski		610
4th	Jan Baughman		515
5th	Mike Greuter		448
COMPACT DIGITAL			
1st	Kay Collier		733
2nd	Mary McDonald		444
3rd	Mike Fernandez		383
4th	Monica Losey		318
5th	Mike Brower		309
ADVANCED			
1st	Tom Collier		729
2nd	Mary Lou Reid		712
3rd	Dennis Deavenport		629
4th	Ken Bean		545
5th	Ken Knezick		542

Dive Trip News

By Tom Collier

The Philippines in 2010

April 17-30, 2010. El Galleon Resort – Philippines Islands. These dates are smack in the middle of prime time weather conditions. The trip consists of 10 nights at the El Galleon Resort featuring all meals and up to 4 boat dives per day. Costs start at \$1,520.00 per person (does not include airfare to Manila). Download a trip brochure from the HUPS Forum / Dive Trips board for more information. Trip leader is Tom Collier -tom@tpixs.com - Trip full, wait list started.

Best of HUPS Contest

By Dennis Deavenport - Photo Contest Chairperson

December will be the world famous Best of HUPS contest. We will have 4 categories. You can submit 3 pictures in each contest that you enter.

COMPACT DIGITAL
NOVICE
ADVANCED
ANYTHING GOES (CREATIVE)

Normally edited images are acceptable for "Compact Digital", "Novice", and "Advanced". You can enter pictures that won or placed during the monthly contests.

The "Anything Goes - CREATIVE" category is open to all members. This is where you can give your imagination full rein. Edit your entries anyway you want. Creativity is what you make of it. The only rules are that the pictures must have an Underwater Theme and the images must have been taken (or created) by the submitter. Topside elements are acceptable as long as the Underwater Theme is a primary element. You can't win if you don't enter!

Descriptions of all 2010 & 2011 contest topics can be found on hups.org.

Entries for the monthly contest should be emailed to photocontest@hups.org at least **48 hours prior** to the meeting. This mailbox is reserved for entries only. If you have a question regarding the digital contest send your email to ddeavenport@comcast.net or underh2o@mac.com. Complete contest rules can be found at <http://www.hups.org>. If you do not follow all the rules for digital entries your images will not be judged.

Contest Results

November Contest - Cephalopods

Advanced:

1st Dennis Deavenport
2nd Tom Collier, Dennis Deavenport (2-way tie)
3rd Ken Knezick

Novice:

1st Kandace Heimer
2nd Leonard Cichowski
3rd Greg Grimes

Compact Digital:

1st Greg Grimes
2nd Mike Greuter, Kay Collier, Jan Baughman (3-way tie)
3rd Kay Collier

HUPS 2010 Contest Page Now on HUPS.org

By Greg Grimes

Here is a link to the new 2010 Photo Contest Page:

<http://www.hups.org/Photo%20Contest/Photo%20Contest%20Current.htm>

At the top of the page you can download the 2010 and 2011 topics list to print and put on your refrigerator for quick reference.

The page has a new look and feel. Each month you will be able to watch the slideshows for all three categories as we had set up last year. However we will be keeping track of the POTY standings for all subsequent months as the year progresses in all categories. Also there is a button to keep up to date with the discussions for each month here on the forum. Now you have no excuses to send in your images. Good Luck!

2009 Member of the Year Nominations

The new By-Laws state that the nomination letters for Member of the Year should be published in the December newsletter. We will vote on the Member of the Year at the December meeting. The nominations are kept anonymous. Below are the nomination letters.

Nomination 1 -

Every year it is our privilege to recognize one of our members for their outstanding achievements and contributions to HUPS. This year is like many others in that we have a number of individuals who have given their time and talents to make us a better organization.

This year, I would like to nominate one such individual who has demonstrated all of the necessary qualities that make them deserving of being honored as HUPS' Member of the Year. Greg Grimes is the person that I nominate.

From the very beginning of becoming a HUPS member, he has been willing to help in any way he could. My first involvement with him actually came before he and Alicia became members when he contacted me and made suggestions on what we might do to improve our website. After an interesting exchange of messages, he agreed to come to one of our meetings, after which they became members.

Greg has been very active during his membership, especially in the areas of making improvements to HUPS.ORG and chairing the very important Workshop Program. He is the one that creates and maintains the photocontest section on the website. In addition, he is very active on the HUPS Forum and is the Moderator for the Workshop Section. He has served on the Board of Directors and along with Alicia, helped organize and sponsor a team at this year's Trashfest.

Greg is one of HUPS' few active videographers and on several occasions has put together short but impressive programs for our monthly meetings. Most recently, he and Alicia created a dynamic 5-minute show with video and still images taken on the HUPS Bonaire dive trip.

Two of Greg's best attributes are his willingness to volunteer and his ability to follow through on his commitments. I also enjoy the enthusiasm he brings to any endeavor. For all of these reasons and more that I've undoubtedly overlooked, I

nominate Greg Grimes for HUPS' Member of the Year for 2009.

Nomination 2 -

I am proud to nominate Jan Baughman as HUPS' 2009 Member of the Year.

Jan exemplifies the type of member HUPS needs, to continue to grow as the quality club we have. Her bubbly personality also helps our image at club meetings and events. She is above average in every way.

Some of her specific contributions to HUPS for 2009 include but are not limited to:

Active board member

Active trip participant

Supervised the HUPS booth and photo display at the Texas Dive Show

Represented HUPS at the Marine Mammal Stranding Network event in Galveston

Contributed to the October Bonaire program presentation

I am sure there are other things she has done for our club, but "halfheimers" prevents me from remembering them. I am just proud to be associated with her as a fellow club member.

Nomination 3 -

I nominate Jan Baughman for the 2009 Member of the Year because she has been actively involved since she first joined. She is a capable worker and is willing to take on any task that the club decides to tackle. She has served on the Board of Directors and brought innovative ideas to the table as well as supported the club 100% in the activities that were planned.

Jan's ability with her underwater equipment has allowed her to be involved in the presentations at monthly meetings as well as the monthly contests.

One of her most helpful moments to the club was when she managed the HUPS booth and display at the Texas Dive Show. Her skills were evident in the preparation of the show and her tireless efforts put HUPS in an excellent light at the show.

Jan has been an active and enjoyable dive buddy on most of the clubs trips since she joined HUPS! Her cheerful smile has been seen on numerous shows of the trips back at the monthly meetings.

Jan takes time to show new individuals at meetings the attention that makes them want to come back. She takes that another step further and shows care for members who have needs from time to time.

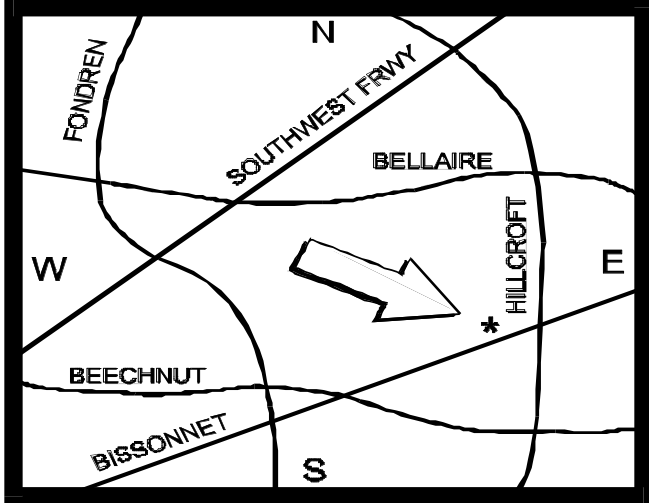
I can't think of a more deserving member of HUPS than Jan for the 2009 Member of the Year.



Compact Digital 1st Place - Greg Grimes, © 2009

The Houston Underwater Photographic Society meets the first Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, near Hillcroft. Social time begins at 6:45. Visitors are always welcome.

*** BAYLAND COMMUNITY CENTER**



<http://www.hups.org>

2009 HUPS Officers

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Vice President Jim Mensay

Secretary Tammy Allyn

Treasurer Henry Ragland

Membership Jean Himes

Photo Contest Deavenport

Newsletter David Lenderman

TGCC Rep John Ringrose / Frank Burek / Debbie Mensay

Web Master James Heimer

Workshops Greg Grimes

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Historian Frank Burek

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Kandace Heimer

Ken Knezick

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**Underwater
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