

The Magic and Art of Creative Post Processing and Editing

April 5th Meeting with Kandace Heimer and Dennis Deavenport

April

By Jim Mensay

At the HUPS April 5th meeting, our presentation will be feature the talents of the winners of the December Creative Photo Category. That would be none other than Kandace Heimer and Dennis Deavenport.

When we see their work, it's hard to tell if it's MAGIC or MASTERPIECE, or a little of both.

Kandace will explore the visionary possibilities one might have with the use of photo editing software and third-party plugins. She will show us how to take an ordinary underwater photograph, and use it to produce creative art work. She will walk us through how she created the December

2009 Best of HUPS contest winner in the Creative category, "Space Manta."

Dennis will be using a variety of the clubs images and those presented by the club in the Best of HUPS contests over the years. He will do a similar show using PowerPoint, and then will give the group a short slide show complete with music.

Come see a mix of Merlin and Picasso, and don't forget that it is still a FREE show.

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.

Recap of Mary & Kay's Great Pics Using Simpler Gear Presentation

By Jim Mensay

HUPS wants to give its big THANK YOU this time to Mary McDonald and Kay Collier for their presentation last month. They have both won the Digital Photographer of The Year Awards, and they showed us how they did it.

Their main message was to HAVE FUN with the GREAT FRIENDS we all have in this club.

When it comes to taking the pics, Kay reminded us to (1) Set up the Shot, (2) Shoot in Raw, (3) Take the time to post process all the images. Mary stressed (1) Know and accept the limits of yourself and your camera, (2) Find the SWEET spot of your camera, (3) Go for the quick fix in your post processing.

Sounds easy now that they said it, so let's follow them around on the next dive trip for some more tips and great pics. Don't forget that they will also be spending some of their spare time picking up the souvenirs, since they have more room in their luggage with those small rigs they carry around.

President's Message

After the Dive Trip

By Tom Collier

Pay me now or Pay me later. That is a common phrase and no truer a statement can be made regarding maintenance of your u/w gear. If you neglect your gear – it will surely cost you dearly in the future. Fortunately, the 'pay me now' maintenance aspect is a low cost alternative to the more costly 'pay me later' part of the deal.

I consider my u/w camera housing to be the most crucial and potentially the most problem prone segment of my photo gear. I know that many of us have had problems with our strobes, sync cords, etc. but those items are pretty much self contained instruments and there is not much maintenance you can do to these items other than the normal clean and grease procedures. Your camera housing, on the other hand, has many moving parts, different metals, springs, levers, fasteners, plastics, rubber compounds, glass and acrylics all assembled into a contraption designed to safely protect your expensive camera in the harsh environment that we love to dive into.

Most of our diving is done in salt water – the evil enemy to most man made products, salty sea water can reap havoc on your equipment. Not many materials are impervious to corrosion and all of our u/w housings contain some materials that are subject to corrosion. Even the acrylic housings contain metal buttons, shafts and fasteners that can corrode. A big deal is made in the advertising of stainless steel components but that too is subject to corrosion, albeit at a slower rate. However, all major brand housings are constructed well enough to withstand corrosion for a length of time. The best we can do is to reduce the corrosion process until we get back to the safety of our homes.

While on our dive trip, the best maintenance process we can do is to rinse off our gear with fresh (not salt) water as soon as practical after diving. The object is to rinse off the salt crystals contained in the sea water. If you can rinse your gear before the sea water completely dries, then a quick dip or rinse is all that is necessary. If you must wait until the end of the day before rinsing your gear, then a short soaking would probably be best. In any event, short frequent gear rinsing is all that is necessary during your trip. If you like, use an absorbent cloth to remove most of the rinse water off your housing; I know that process makes me feel like I am doing some good. (Caution: Do not leave your camera and housing soaking in the rinse tank while you go take a shower and expect to come back and find that all is well with your gear – worse things can happen than a little corrosion.)

The big deal comes when you get home. It is standard practice to soak your gear in the bath tub overnight. Push all the buttons, turn all the knobs and flip all the switches; do all you can to dilute the salt that has collected in the nooks and crannies of your housing. This simple practice will go a long way to extending the life of your gear. But, I have found that even with a thorough soaking, a couple of months of storage in the closet will tell the real tale. It has been become apparent to me that I can not completely remove all the residual corrosive matter without a more comprehensive cleaning program.

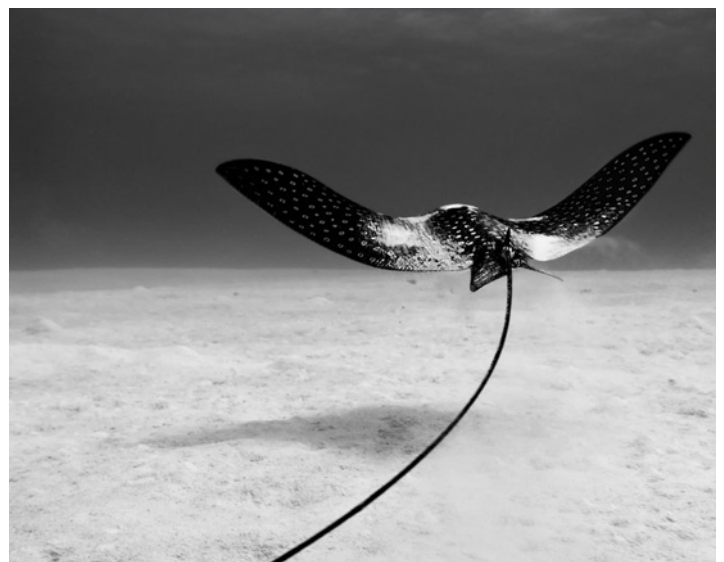
Thus, I have started my ritual of possible cleaning over-kill in my pursuit of maintaining my housing in top operating condi-

tion. After each dive trip, if I do not have another dive trip planned for a couple of months, I will completely disassemble my housing and thoroughly clean each part. If you think that stainless will not rust, just remove one of the control knobs off a control shaft and inspect this area where a normal cleaning does not reach. Several years ago, I attempted to remove a control knob in order to remove the shaft and replace the o-ring. The corrosion was so severe; I could not physically remove the knob. I ended up cutting off the shaft and replacing it with a new one, just to get to an o-ring. This revelation was what prompted me to start my current maintenance practice. I have found that my wife's sonic jewelry cleaner is a good tool to thoroughly clean the loose parts. I use a mild solution of distilled water and ammonia that I think is giving me a good cleaning. The only problem with this procedure is the verbal attacks I receive from my wife. If you are one with the jewelry, then you won't have the same dilemma as I have. (Some day, I must buy my own sonic cleaner.)

All my o-rings get cleaned in the same solution and greased before re-assembly. The shafts and buttons get a coat of grease as well. I remove the main o-ring from the housing and store that o-ring in a zip-lock bag. I store my re-assembled housing closed but without the main o-ring installed. Once a year, I replace all the o-rings with new ones purchased from the local hardware store, as I have found that the o-rings in my housing are all common sizes.

Bottom line: IMHO, the best maintenance is preventive maintenance that starts at the end of the dive trip. At any given time, my housing is in the best possible operating condition that I can manage. I realize that many people would not feel comfortable disassembling their housing (tip: take lots of before photos) or want to even bother with it. In that case, I would recommend that you send your housing to the manufacturer for an annual servicing, after your dive trip. Then your gear can be safely stored for an extended period of time without the diabolical corrosion damaging your equipment in places that you cannot see until it is too late and the 'pay me later' comes into play.

Tom Collier



Novice 1st Place - Kandace Heimer; © 2010

HUPS a Winner Again in Photo Competition - Jackie Reid Takes BEST IN SHOW

By Jim Heimer

Last Fall, HUPS received an invitation to participate in the George W. Glennie Nature Interclub Exhibition conducted by the Merrimack Valley Camera Club of North Andover, Massachusetts. Last year, our first year of participation, HUPS placed 5th out of 95 participating clubs from across the United States and several foreign countries. Two members, Tom Collier and Deavenport, won individual awards. Photos for this year were selected from those submitted for the Moody Gardens Collection display.

Now, the results are in, and HUPS has placed third in the Photo Exhibition, improving over our fifth place finish last year. Over 1100 entries were received from 110 clubs in 7 foreign countries and 23 States. HUPS had 240 out of 300 points, 6 points behind the Cape Cod Viewfinders Camera Club and two behind the Krugersdorp Camera Club (South Africa). Additionally, two members received individual awards. Jackie Reid won Best of Show with "Squid with Attitude" and a top score of 27 out of 30. James Wiseman won a Merit Award in the Marine Category with 26 points for his shark picture, "Nowhere to Hide," and he also received a judges award for his photo "Blowing Bubbles."

The club results can be found at <http://www.mvcameraclub.org/pdf/2010-Glennie-Club-Scores.pdf> and the individual awards are listed at <http://www.mvcameraclub.org/pdf/2010-Glennie-Awards.pdf>. All entries in the competition will be available soon at a link from the Merrimack Valley Camera Club website, <http://www.mvcameraclub.org/comp-interclub/comp-interclub-01-glennie.htm>. You can view the HUPS entries at http://hups.org/Gallery%20Pages/Images/Glennie%20Exhibition/photo_exhibition/index.htm.

Congratulations to all photographers who had entries selected from among all those submitted for the Moody Gardens Collection - Jesse Cancelmo, Tom Collier, Dennis Deavenport, Mike Greuter, Kandace Heimer, Jackie Reid, Mary Lou Reid, Ned Shimizu, and James Wiseman. Special congratulations to Jackie and James Wiseman for their individual awards.

HUPS Member Galleries

By James Heimer - Webmaster

The gallery page on the website has been revised to link to individual photographer's websites. As a starting point, those member sites identified on the news and links page have been used to populate the gallery page. If you have an individual gallery of your underwater photographic images (or a general photographic website that contains your underwater images), let the webmaster know what the link is, and he will add you to the gallery links. Here is the current gallery page: <http://www.hups.org/Gallery%20Pages/Photographer%20Gallery%20Pages.html>.

HUPS Now on Facebook and YouTube

By Alicia Grimes

If you are on Facebook you can access the HUPS 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 Heimer 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>



Advanced 1st Place - Ken Knezick, © 2010

Important Dates

Put them on your calendar

April 3

HUPS Workshop - Underwater Photography 101 with Dennis Deavenport & Tom Collier [Link](#)

April 5

HUPS Meeting -Dennis Deavenport & Kandace Heimer - Creative Editing

May 9

HUPS Photo Session - Topside Macro Practice session at Enchanted Forest see [link](#)

May 10

HUPS Meeting -Tom Thurman & Maria Chapman - topic TBA

June 7

HUPS Meeting - TBA

June 12

HUPS Workshop - Judging Photos with Kandace Heimer and Dennis Deavenport [Link](#)

Member Spotlight- Joyce Burek

By Alicia Grimes

For those of you who are frequent readers of the HUPS newsletter I am sure you are aware that I have started a series of articles about our HUPS lifetime members. Last month, we gave Frank Burek the spotlight this month his wife Joyce is in the hot seat.

Joyce was born and raised in her home state of New Jersey but soon found life in Texas as well as the mild winters to fit her lifestyle. Photography has played a significant part in both Frank and Joyce's life, and she began her photographic career using a Ricoh which she later traded in for a manual Pentax. Joyce has always enjoyed photography but it took a trip to the Virgin Island with her Pentax in a EWA plastic bag that she soon discovered that in order to get the good shots you have got to get below the surface so diving instruction was next on her to do list. She has now been diving for 30 years and has Frank along to help carry the gear.

As we all know photographing topside makes you a better photographer underwater and for that Joyce recommends to visit National Park systems, wildlife refuges, Alaska for its diversity and South Africa for its varieties of animals. To practice your underwater photograph skills Joyce recommends in the Caribbean, Roatan, Honduras and Indonesia for the Pacific. Both locations have an abundance of diversity in life forms. She is always on the lookout both below and above the water for any new species as she is a lover of all creatures.

We can all learn from the Bureks in photography by taking the advice to simply Shoot! Shoot! Shoot! Critique your work and compare them with other photographers. Discover what appeals to you and makes a good shot, then try and duplicate it. Good photography is hard work and this is one reason the Bureks have stayed active in HUPS to share their experiences as well as their vast knowledge.

Dive stories are something we can all relate to and Joyce's has a lesson for all of us, After only diving for 2 years, she and Frank ventured off to Australia, Joyce was using her Pentax in a Ikelite housing with a Vivitar land strobe set up for macro when all of a sudden 2 Mantas came by one on either side of her as well as a large turtle and finally a wobbegong shark which she



Intermediate 1st Place - Paul McDonald, © 2010

has not seen another one for 23 years. She could only admire those amazing creatures since she did not have the right lens. Frank after that experience purchased a Nikonas for wide angle. The lesson for all us in this is always dive with who has a different set up so you both can capture whatever situation or creature comes your way.

I would like to thank both of the Bureks for their time in these interviews and hope all of us can learn from their lessons and hope you look forward to the installment of next month's HUPS lifetime member.

Membership Update

By Alicia Grimes, Membership Chairperson

Time is fast approaching for us to print our latest HUPS membership directory for this year. If for some reason it has slipped your mind to renew your membership you still have a small window of time to do so. You may renew your membership online at the HUPS website at HUPS.org or bring a check or cash to our next meeting.

For the amount of \$35.00 for individuals or \$45.00 for the family, HUPS has so much to offer from the monthly meetings, workshops, website, newsletter and more. This is the best deal around! Renew now to be included in this year's directory!

Damselfish Revised

By Christy Pattengill-Semmens, REEF Director of Science

Those pesky Caribbean damselfish! They have been confusing even the most experienced REEF surveyors for years! After consulting with the leading damselfish taxonomist experts, Paul Humann and Ned DeLoach revised the descriptions and updated pictures for four species - Cocoa Damselfish (*Stegastes variabilis*), Beaugregory (*Stegastes leucostictus*), Longfin Damselfish (*Stegastes diencaeus*), and Dusky Damselfish (*Stegastes adustus*). One of the most noticeable changes from what many of us learned - Cocoa Damselfish don't always have a spot at the base of the tale and Beaugregory often have a spot! A recent discussion thread on the REEF ID Central Discussion Board highlights the confusion around damselfish. Take a look at the thread (<http://www.reef.org/node/3853>) and see what you think!

Contest results through March 2010		
NOVICE		
1st	Kandace Heimer	203
2nd	Lance Glowacki	139
3rd	Mike Brower	137
4th	John VanAtta	100
5th	Jan Baughman	95
Intermediate		
1st	Paul McDonald	192
2nd	Debbie Mensay	179
3rd	Kay Collier	177
4th	Jim Mensay	174
5th	Mike Greuter	159
ADVANCED		
1st	Ken Knezick	219
2nd	Jackie Reid	213
3rd	Tom Collier	168
4th	Ken Bean	167
5th	Mary Lou Reid	165

Upcoming Monthly Photo Contests

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

April - Crustacea

July - Anemones and Things That Live in Them

May - Long & Narrow

August - Seafan City

June - Nudibranchs & Worms

September - Anything with Lungs

April Contest

The April contest topic is Crustacea. Just like it says... look it up in the book (crabs, shrimp, lobsters, barnacles, etc.). When in doubt... Wikipedia can help you out. You can't win if you don't enter!

Descriptions of all 2010 & 2011 contest topics and rules 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>. **Please be sure to adhere to the file naming instructions.** If you do not follow all the rules for digital entries your images will not be judged.

Contest Results

March - Flatfish

Advanced:

- 1st Ken Knezick
- 2nd Tom Collier, Jackie Reid
- 3rd Jackie Reid, Ken Knezick (2)

Intermediate:

- 1st Paul McDonald
- 2nd Paul McDonald, Debbie Mensay
- 3rd Kay Collier, Leonard Cichowski

Novice:

- 1st Kandace Heimer
- 2nd Kandace Heimer
- 3rd Mike Brower

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!

Announcing Upcoming HUPS Workshops

There are several exciting new HUPS workshop planned for 2010. Here is a quick look at two that are scheduled:

April 3rd - **Underwater Photography 101** by Dennis Deavenport & Tom Collier. The whole scoop can be found here: http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/2010-UWPhoto_101.htm The link for HUPS Forum discussions of this workshop can be found here: <http://www.hups.org/forum/index.php?topic=376.0>

May 9th - **Smell the Flowers with a Macro Lens** A great opportunity to practice you macro skills on flowers, butterflies and other insects at Enchanted Forest. Read all about it here: <http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/2010-SmellTheFlowers.htm> Sign up sheet and other info on the forum here: <http://www.hups.org/forum/index.php?topic=394.0>

June 12th - **HUPS Photo Contest Judging** In this workshop, Kandace Heimer and Dennis Deavenport will explore the 3 critical elements that separate mundane images from great ones. Helping them will be a select panel of HUPS best to share their views on what they like in a set of images and why they choose one over another. **This workshop was recently moved to the 12th and moved to Bayland Community Center.** All the details can be found here:

Website: http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/2010-Photo_Judging.htm and here:

Forum: <http://www.hups.org/forum/index.php?topic=377.0>

September 11th - **Stop Taking Pictures and Start Creating Images** by David Lenderman. To read about this workshop check out this link:

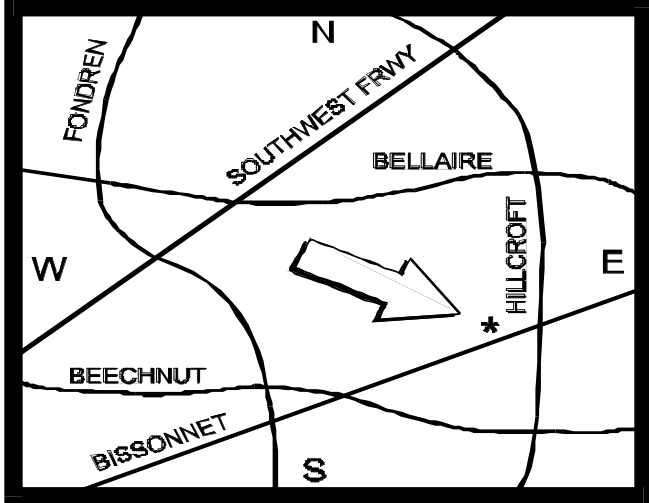
http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/2010-Start_Creating_Images.htm If you have questions or comments or want to sign up for this workshop you can do it on the HUPS Forum here: <http://www.hups.org/forum/index.php?topic=379.0>

October 16th - **Using ProShow Gold & Producer** - Oct. 16, 2010 (12 noon - 3pm) Have you ever wondered how to make those really cool videos that you see at the monthly meetings?

On Saturday October 16, 2010 HUPS will have a round table share and learn at the Bayland Community Center to discuss the software ProShow. This very dynamic and rich in content software is available in both Gold and the even more powerful version known as Producer.

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>

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**Underwater
Images**

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