

January 2021



HUPS NEWSLETTER

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Anything Goes Video Night January 4

January's meeting will be the 3rd annual "Anything Goes" night. We have some great videos submitted by HUPSters and guests to be played on the big Zoom screen. Grab some popcorn and enjoy the show!



ZOOM MEETING INFO

Martin Daniels will host the January 4 meeting from 7 - 9 pm.

Link to the Zoom broadcast

Meeting ID: 899 2566 6545

Password: 478903

Tom Collier's Anything Goes Video Show

HUPS Online Zoom Program – 7-9 pm January 4th

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89925666545?pwd=Zk5kM1VaQTE5cDNkVzZFRDg2NmRHZz09>

**Meeting ID: 899 2566 6545
Passcode: 478903**

by Dennis Deavenport

The program for January is a fun one that will be the 3rd one of it's kind. Tom takes video clips from many members and edits them into some really fun and creative mini-films. I really enjoy them because he tells simple little stories with the clips and does an amazing job of editing them into something very pleasing. His show is something similar to a Forest Gump saying: "It's like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're going to get." So if you've sent Tom clips to use, be prepared to be amazed and amused.

Tom and I have been good friends and dive buddies since around 2006 when we dove the Flower Gardens. Since then, we've been on a bucket load of trips together and when Kay doesn't go, we usually buddy up. Our diving philosophy is similar. We enter together and get back on the boat together. In between, well, we're probably not quite sure what's going on. There's not enough space in this article to say all of the things I'd like to tell you about Tom. He's talented, dedicated, sharing, complex, and very efficient with lots of other nice adjectives I could choose from. Just about any dive trip with Tom is a good one because he's along. But let's let him tell you something about himself.

----- Tom by Tom -----

I was first certified way back in 1979 when you wore jeans and a T-shirt for a dive skin. Kay and I dove with the Houston crowd for several years until we became under-funded parents and gave up the sport for more pressing matters. In 2001 Ken K gave a HUC presentation on the Olympus digital camera for u/w use. That presentation supercharged my passion for diving and I became re-engaged in the sport. In my quest to learn more about u/w photography I joined HUPS in 2003. I was totally amazed by the commitment of the HUPS members to share their knowledge of photography. I had never been involved with photography of any kind until that first Olympus digital camera so the wealth of experience offered up by HUPS was an invitation that I could not resist.

My most favorite dive location will always be the next one but the most fun dive trip I remember is the HUPS-2008 BALI trip. Today, Truk Lagoon and the Philippines are the two places where I constantly think about returning for another trip. And even though I have been on dive trips all over the world, the best ones have always been with other HUPS members. My passion these days is video and currently I shoot with a Panasonic GH5 with two video lights.

A Glimpse of Tom



President's Message

by David Lenderman

As we head into 2021...

I look back on 2020 and remember all that HUPS was able to do. We had several well received in-person meetings early in the year. We only missed one meeting before transitioning to Zoom meetings. I am proud that we were able to continue bringing our members quality programs and even a couple workshops during these trying times. Zoom actually allowed us to reel in some out of town presenters that would not have been able to speak at our in person meetings. We also had a number of out of town meeting attendees log onto our Zoom meetings. It is always nice to see fresh faces and speak with others that share our interests.

Our film festival, HUFF, was rescheduled twice. HUFF 2020 is now scheduled for April 17-18, 2021. In addition to the 2021 event we have already scheduled dates for 2022. The HUFF committee keeps moving forward. I am sure both will be fabulous events.

We had another successful year for our monthly photo contests and our semi annual video contests. Our new, Facebook based judging on the video contests seems to be working well. Congrats to all the winners and especially to those who won the coveted Photographer of the Year awards. I was very pleased to see so many entries in the December Creative contest. Some of the entries were artsy, some were funny. I guess people had more time this year to do some extensive photo editing. I hope we have even more entries in all of our contests for 2021.

Don't be shy, show off your work! Put together that video you have been thinking about. Look at the 2021 Monthly contest topics and start selecting your images. If you don't have images to fit every month that is ok, no one said you had to enter every month. Just start entering what you can.

Many of our monthly programs, workshops and video contest entries are posted on the HUPS YouTube channel – HUPSdotORG. If you missed something, go take a look, it may be available online.

I want to say thank you to all the HUPS members whose efforts helped us through 2020. Without you HUPS would not exist. For 2021 we hope to continue moving right along. Dennis will be doing his best to line up interesting presenters for our monthly programs. I am expecting some great learning opportunities from Craig Beasley who has taken over as Workshop Coordinator. If you have ideas or requests for monthly programs or workshops please relay your thoughts to Dennis or Craig.

Betsy Beasley has taken over as newsletter editor. The newsletter is at its best when members submit items of interest. If you come across something that you think would be of interest to our members be sure to share it with Betsy for inclusion in the newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you all in 2021!

ART IN THE DETAILS

by David Lenderman



Art is everywhere underwater. It is in the way sun beams flitter about the blue water. It is in the patterned structure of a coral head. It is in the colorful design of an angelfish. It is in the peaks and valleys of white sand in the wave swept shallows. It is everywhere. Perhaps the greatest place to witness art underwater is in the smallest details.

As we dive we often get so distracted by big stuff that we miss the beautiful small things. A coral reef is made up of amazing colors, patterns and textures. As photographers, it is important to seek out these tiny features. Some of my favorite images are what I call texture shots. These are photos created with a macro lens. These photos are filled with small portions of larger subjects. These include things like a close up of a particularly colorful crinoid arm, a closeup of a fish's scales or fin, a closeup of fan coral polyps, a close shot down the oral siphon of a tunicate, the spiky texture of a sea star, or an unusual detail of an anemone.



If you attempt to shoot these tiny details I have a few tips.

1) Compose your shot to get most of the subject on the same focal plane. When shooting close macro images depth of field will be very limited, so it is important to shoot the subject so that it is parallel to the front of lens. Choosing to shoot a flatter portion of the subject will also help. 2) Shoot at a high f-stop. This will maximize depth of field which is important when shooting tiny macro subjects. 3) Pull your lights in close to your lens. Because you will be very close to the subject pulling the lights in will ensure the subject will not fall into the lightless area between your lights. This will also help you get more light on your subject allowing you to shoot at a higher f-stop (see tip 2 above). 4) Try to compose your shot so that the whole frame is filled with the pattern, color or texture you are trying to capture.



On your next dive trip look beyond the wide-angle scenes, beyond even macro subjects and seek out the tiny intricate details of the reef. These tiny structures that create the reef ecosystem can also create wonderful images.

Mark Your Calendar!

Zoom Workshop

photo Contest Roundtable

Saturday, February 13

2 - 4 pm

Do you want to understand our photo contest categories better and at the same time improve your photography in general?

Then join us for the first HUPS workshop of 2021. We are trying a new concept where we will have presentations on composition topics that relate to upcoming photo contest categories.

After presentations, we will have a photo roundtable where we all participate in critiquing photos that relate to contest categories. What do we like and what don't we like? Could the photo be improved in processing or with camera settings, lighting, etc. Roundtable photos will not be member photos and will be anonymous. By gaining an understanding of how others perceive photos in the contest category, we can all learn how better to prepare for the contests, both in the field and in processing. Join us on Feb. 13, 2-4 pm for the first workshop of the year and get ready to hit the water -- when we can!

More details to follow.....

Zoom Workshop Info

[Link to the Zoom broadcast](#)

Meeting ID: 899 2566 6545

Password: 478903



2020 Winners

Photo Contest

Photographer of the Year

Advanced - Dennis Deavenport

Intermediate - Betsy Beasley

Novice - Justin Wallace

Best of HUPS

Advanced - Steven Anderson

Intermediate - Barry Cline

Novice - Laura Veariel

Creative

Catrin Pichler

Video Contests

SPRING

1st Place - Sand by Dennis Deavenport

Tie for 2nd - Weird, But True by Betsy Beasley

and Night Stalkers by Tom Collier

3rd Place - Diving Beneath the Volcano by Craig Beasley

FALL

1st Place - The Muck Chronicles by Dennis Deavenport

2nd Place - To A Fish and A Fish Answers by Betsy Beasley

3rd Place - Dive Fantasy at Christmas Rock by Craig Beasley

Best of HUPS - Advanced



Steven Anderson

Best of HUPS - Intermediate



Barry Cline

Best of HUPS - Novice



Laura Veariel

Creative



Catrin Pichler

2021 Photo Contest Categories

January	Flatfish (disk-shaped fish)	Flounder, angelfish, filefish, butterflyfish, sunfish, triggerfish, etc. It just needs to have a pronounced flat profile and be a FISH.
February	Fish Buddies (2 of the same)	2 Fish of the same species in the composition (Max number is 6)
March	Grouper	Groupers are teleost, typically having a stout body and a large mouth. They are not built for long-distance, fast swimming. They can be quite large.
April	Leading lines (natural lines that lead the eye)	An interesting topic and something that true artists use to point the viewer's eye to the primary "focus" of their work. Elements within the picture (straight lines, curves, spirals, etc.) should be obvious to the eye. You can even use interesting negative space effects if you serve the job of attracting the eye of the subject. Look at your stuff and you'll find plenty of examples. Learn to see and create like the masters.
May	Long and thin (fish or critters)	Anything that is characterized by long, thin lines. Can be fish, invertebrates, or even non-living.
June	Silhouettes	Silhouettes are interesting in that the outlines and shape of the subject are what is important. A good silhouette should have almost no detail observable in the primary subject. We're talking form and composition this month so see what you can come up with. If you don't have good examples, you've got plenty of time to go try shooting some. It'll be good for you.
July	Single Color Focus (Blue, Red, Green, Yellow)	Subject must be a single color or shade of color. Examples: green moray eel, green parrotfish, soap fish, sharks, sponge, coral
August	Fish Portraits	Side on, angled views, or face-to-the-camera shots are what we're looking for. You can have more than one fish in the shot, but be reasonable, keep it to 2 or less, please. And, of course, we're talking fish here.....not critters.
September	Echinoderms (starfish of all kinds, urchins, sea cucumbers, etc.)	All Starfish are Echinoderms, but not all Echinoderms are Starfish. So there's the dilemma. But for this month's contest all Echinoderms are acceptable. Asteroidea (Sea Stars), Ophiuroidea (Brittle Stars and Basket Stars), crinoids, sea urchins, sand dollars, or sea cucumbers which are Echinoderms.
October	Composition Through A Hole	A hole is a hollow place in a solid body or surface. This theme is looking for a creative use of a hole in the composition. Examples: subject in a porthole of a wreck, goby or eel in a hole, fish swimming in front of a cave entrance - be creative.
November	Animals in the Sand	Fish & critters that live in sand or muck.
December	Best of HUPS	NOVICE, INTERMEDIATE, ADVANCED, and CREATIVE contests: First place winners from each month's Novice, Intermediate and Advanced categories will be entered automatically for judging. The Creative category lets you enter anything you want as long as you do the photography and any special editing.



GROUPER MOON JEOPARDY GAME

JANUARY 20, 2021

7 PM CENTRAL TIME

Want to improve your fish ID skills? Join the free website Reef.org and take part their educational fishinars and jeopardy games. Go to reef.org to join. Register for the Grouper Moon Jeopardy Game [here](#). You can also see past fishinars in their archives directory.

About the Grouper Moon Project.....

The Grouper Moon Project is a conservation science partnership between Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) and the Cayman Islands Department of Environment (DoE) with scientists from Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego and Oregon State University, aimed at studying Nassau grouper (Epinephelus striatus) - a social and ecological corner stone of Caribbean's coral reefs.

Did You Know This About

Martin Daniels

- Martin and Mary have been married 30 years and have 5 daughters and 10 grandkids, between them.
- In 2009 he retired from Texas Instruments, where he was in chip design for 34 years.
- He has tutored high school and college math since retirement.
- He began scuba diving in 2004, and got his first DSLR in 2014.
- He has volunteered & coached Special Olympics since 2007.

 **He is also our 2020 Member of the Year. Congratulations, Martin!**

HUPSdotORG

YouTube Channel

Visit our YouTube channel to view past HUPS meetings, video contests, photo contests, programs, workshops, and presenter profiles.

[Go to HUPSdotORG](#)

SAVE THE DATE

Houston Underwater Film Festival

The HUFF has been rescheduled for
April 17-18, 2021 at 14 Pews Theater.

The HUFF 2022 is April 2-3, 2022 at MATCH.

TGCC UPDATE

The January 2021 Club Awards Luncheon has been postponed until the COVID -19 situation is stabilized.

SPRING 2021 VIDEO CONTEST

Entries are due by midnight May 1. Limit of 5 minutes and 2 GB. Voting will take place on the HUPS Video Contest Facebook page through May and winners will be announced at the June HUPS meeting. View the rules at hups.org.

Address questions to betsybeasley@swbell.net.

Please transfer files to Betsy Beasley via the free service - [WeTransfer.com](https://www.wetransfer.com).

Monthly Photo Contest

Photo contest entries are due on the Wednesday before the upcoming monthly meeting.
Please send them to Martin Daniels at

HUPS_Photo_Contest@googlegroups.com

Address questions to Martin at

martin.daniels3@gmail.com

FGBNMS UPDATE

Last week NOAA published the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the proposed expansion of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary and the EPA published a notice of availability for the FEIS in the Federal Register. Two steps remain. In no more than 30 days from now, NOAA will publish the final rule to expand our sanctuary. Once that happens Congress will have 45 days to review the rule. After that period expires, the rule becomes law. Fourteen new banks will be added to the sanctuary, three of which are within recreational dive depths: Sonnier Bank, Geyer Bank and Bright Bank. For more information on the expansion, go to

<http://www.flowergarden.noaa.gov/management/expansiondeis.html>

If you missed the
December HUPS Zoom meeting,
click [here](#)
to view it on our
YouTube Channel
HUPSdotORG.

MEMBERSHIP

Our 2020 Membership Stats

- **80 active members**
- **8 new members in 2020**
- **22 members from 2019 who did not pay dues in 2020**
- **31 Lifetime Achievement Award members**
- **49 dues-paying members (including LAA who chose to pay dues)**

Info for Dues Payments

- **\$35 single person membership**
- **\$45 family membership**
- **Payable via PayPal on-line through HUPS webpage or cash/check. If choosing to pay via cash/check, please let us know so we can provide to you a mailing address since we are still meeting virtually and unable to collect payments in person during our monthly meetings. Contact Monica Losey at monica_losey@yahoo.com**



Betsy Beasley



Catrin Pichler



Cheryl White



Kathy Long



Russell Ramsey



Click [here](#) to view the
2020 Creative Contest Entries
on HUPSdotORG.

2021 Meeting Presentations

Who	When	Topic	Expanded Topic
Tom Collier & Others	January 4	"Anything Goes Night" - Video clips from everyone	Discussion during presentation - what, where, how
Mike Bartick	February 1	"Macro Photography"	Sidebar into Black Water Diving at Anilao
Marty Snyderman	March 1	"Diving in the Philippines"	Focus on Atlantis Resorts
Barry Cline	April 5	TBD	
Betsy Beasley	May 3	HUFF Winners	
Several	June 7	Short Shows: "Off the Beaten Track"	Open to films or slide shows from anyone who wants to send Dennis Deavenport 3-6 minutes of content
	July 12		
	August 2		
	September 13		
	October 4		
	November 1		
	December 6		

From the Editor.....



Send program ideas to Dennis Deavenport
at ddeavenport@comcast.net

Send workshop ideas to Craig Beasley
at cb_as@hotmail.com


Send newsletter entries to Betsy Beasley
at betsybeasley@swbell.net

MEETING SCHEDULE



JANUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	
		16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MARCH 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	15	16		18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



Monthly Meeting



Workshop

**The Houston Underwater Photographic Society
meets at the Bayland Community Center from
7 pm - 9 pm, the first Monday of each month
(except Monday holidays).
6400 Bissonnet, Houston, Tx. 77074**

Visitors are always welcome!
(All meetings will be via Zoom for now)

2021 HUPS Officers

President: David Lenderman

Vice President: Dennis Deavenport

Secretary: Tammy Allyn

Treasurer: Tom Collier

Membership: Monica Losey

Photo Contest: Martin Daniels

Video Contest/ HUFF Coordinator/ Newsletter: Betsy Beasley

Workshop Coordinator: Craig Beasley

TGCC Reps: Frank Burek and Mark Leiserowitz

Webmaster: Joe Holden

Trip Coordinator: Joe Haws

Historian: Frank Burek

Special Events: Mary Daniels

Merchandizing Coordinator: Sandy Bryan

Moody Gardens Coordinator: David Lenderman

2021 HUPS Board of Directors

Frank Burek

Henry Ragland

Craig Beasley

Mary Daniels

Debbie Mensay

Betsy Beasley

Martin Daniels

Jim Mensay

Mike Greuter

Joe Haws

Monica Losey

Russell Ramsey



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You Tube

youtube/user/HUPSdotORG

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