



Houston Underwater Photographic Society

June Newsletter

www.hups.org

Happy Father's Day!

June 2017

From Then to Now

by Monica Losey

THEN



This presentation is dedicated to all the newbies struggling with fish butts and no colors who may be a bit intimidated by the

NOW



spectacular photos of those who have had years of practice. When I first started underwater photography and HUPS in 2006, I remember how embarrassed I felt seeing my crappy photos compared to what I was seeing presented in the HUPS meetings. Instead of feeling defeated, though, I became driven and sucked all the knowledge I could out of HUPsters and other photographic avenues. I asked lots of questions, practiced, and experimented and improved over a relatively short amount of time. With this presentation, I'd like to provide hope to those who may find themselves where I did not so long ago.

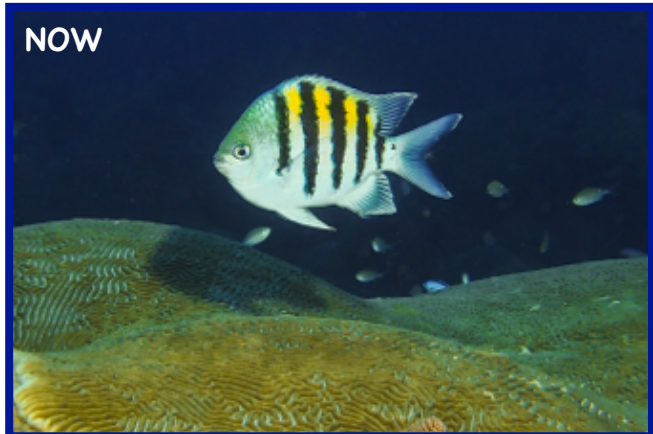
I'll be comparing photos from my first few dive trips to photos from some recent dive trips and talking through a handful of techniques that I learned and executed to improve a picture. For example, a photo of a turtle then looks a lot different compared to a photo of a turtle now just by applying proper lighting, getting close, and not looking down. Having always shot an Olympus mirror-less micro-4/3 camera, I'd like to encourage people who do not have or want to invest in DSLRs by showing them that it is not necessarily the camera that makes a good photo. What I have to share is not

THEN



rocket science or even highly technical; just a handful of techniques that anyone can apply with any camera at any level of experience to improve your photos.

NOW



President's Page

I want to thank all those who contributed their photographs and the judges who contributed their time as well as Beata's efforts in putting together the May program, **Reviewing Tips For Better Photography**. It was a fun and rewarding exercise in how to make your photographs better and how to make them "pop".

I encourage you to attend our June 2017 meeting as the program will be presented by Monica Losey entitled **"From Then to Now"** and will showcase the improvement in her photos from her first days of underwater photography to present day by applying a handful of simple photographic techniques. Monica moved from the Novice to Advanced Category in a few short years through determination, attending workshops and asking questions to better her photography skills. I am sure this is a program you want to attend to learn ways to improve your own photographic artistry.

Should One Wear a Snorkel While Scuba Diving

This month's **President's Page** will discuss **"Should One Wear A Snorkel While Scuba Diving"**. As a disclaimer you should know that I was trained to use a snorkel while taking my Basic, Advanced and Assistant Instructor Scuba diving courses and I regularly dive with one. Many in the club do not use a snorkel. So to paraphrase a Shakespearian phrase, and a blog from Tec Clark, "Ah, to wear a snorkel or not to wear a snorkel, that is the question".

There are pros and cons to the question and is a question that can raise heated debates among divers who use snorkels and those who do not. A snorkel has been considered a standard piece of diving safety equipment for decades and has been a part of teaching process in basic and advanced diving courses taught by most of the diving agencies. A snorkel has an optimum length of approximately 12 inches and a diameter of no more than one inch. If the tube is any longer, CO2 builds up in the tube resulting in breathlessness. In the last 10 years or so, there has been a tendency to relegate the snorkel to the antiquated items used in scuba diving such as the dive tables.

Let's look at the pros and cons in using a snorkel and then you decide what is best for you.

PROS

1. It is a safety piece of equipment
2. Makes it easier to breathe on the surface without lifting your head out of the water
3. Pre or post dive conserves tank air
4. Essential for surface swimming if tank has no air
5. Cannot see where you are going swimming on back

CONS

1. A snorkel creates drag
2. Entanglement issues especially wreck without lifting your head out of the water diving
3. Gets in the way during the dive
4. Can swim on your back with fully inflated BC w/o a snorkel
5. Mixing up snorkel mouthpiece for scuba mouthpiece

Ultimately the choice as to carry or use a snorkel is up to each individual. As Alert Diver noted in one of its articles, "It is convenient not to have one get in the way unnecessarily, but it is great to have it when you need it". If you do not want to wear a snorkel continuously, one option is to have a foldable snorkel you can place in your BC pocket. Such snorkels are manufactured by Aqualung, Cressi, Oceanic, Sherwood, TUSA and a few other companies. A second option is to carry a snorkel in a special pocket or strap attached to your wet suit.

Whatever decision you make, if you choose use a snorkel, try and select a snorkel that is a simple low profile J style snorkel without all the bells and whistles one now sees on the newfangled snorkels.

Hoping to see everyone at the June meeting. Let's try to dive often and safely.

----Russell Ramsey

Our **Board of Director's Meeting** has been moved to this month due to many Board members' conflicts. If you have a topic you wish the BOD to discuss, please contact any officer or director with your concerns. Remember any member may attend any BOD meeting.

The HUPS pictures dealing with life under an offshore oil rig which were selected for the Moody Gardens aquarium renovation are in the hands of the aquarium personnel. These photographs should be installed in the new photographic gallery located on the lower level where the new offshore rig exhibit is on display. I would like to personally thank all of you who contributed your photographs and the committee who selected the photographs used in the exhibit. Dennis Deavenport should be thanked for his tireless work in getting this exhibit coordinated and the pictures selected.

Our fifth workshop of 2017 is scheduled to take place June 17th, the 3rd Saturday of this month. The workshop will pertain to **Organizing Your Favorite Photographs With Collections** which will continue the HUPS **Photoshop Lightroom** video series to assist in organizing and processing photographs.

This month's photo contest topic centers around **Damselfish, Chromis, Hamlets and Basslets** which fish are detailed on the HUPS Website and in this Newsletter. If in doubt please refer to your Reef Fish ID books.

Announcements



Congratulations Jesse Cancelmo

Congratulations to Jesse Cancelmo for his publication on April 5, 2017 in [Scuba Diving Magazine](#) titled, "Scuba Diving the Flower Garden Banks: Coral reefs aren't just for the Caribbean — Texas has them too. See for yourself at the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary." A link to the article is provided or you can search his name on their website [scubadiving.com](#). We are very honored to have yet another published celebrity amongst us HUPSters and are grateful for all the work Jesse does to promote and protect the Flower Gardens.

BOD Meeting

Don't forget that the May BOD mtg was moved to June. It will begin at 5:30pm before the June HUPS mtg.



Jackie Reid
Advanced 1st

2017 Workshops

Date	Topic
Feb 18	Organizing and Importing
Mar 18	10 things you need to know about the interface and preferences
Apr 22	How to create a slide show
May 20	Viewing, sorting, and filtering your photos
Jun 17	Organizing your favorite photos with collections
Jul 15	Keywords, metadata, face tagging, and maps
Aug 19	The develop module part 1
Sep 16	The develop module part 2
Oct 21	Sharpening and noise reduction
Nov 18	Sharing and saving your photos

2018 Photo Contest Themes

Month	Themes	Description
Jan	Anemones & things that live in them	Just like it says. To qualify, an anemone must be in the shot. The "things" (clownfish, crabs, etc.) are optional.
Feb	Blennies and Gobies	Some of our favorite tiny guys. The ones that like to hug the reef, hide out in holes, or build their nests in the sand.
Mar	Eels	They are pretty easy to spot. Think "snakes with gills". Detail – Morays, snake, garden, etc.
Mar Video	General	1 to 3.59 minutes
Apr	Fish Buddies (two of the same)	Two fish of the same species in the composition (Max number is 6)
May	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.
Jun	Corals-Macro (hard or soft)	Coral: a tiny soft-bodied animal that typically lives within a stony skeleton grouped in large colonies. Not a reef composition theme but individual polys is more of the goal.
Jun Video	General	1 to 3.59 minutes
Jul	Butterflyfish	The common name references the brightly colored and strikingly patterned bodies of many species, bearing shades of black, white, blue, red, orange, and yellow. See the Critter Identification section in the April 2016 HUPS Newsletter edition for examples.
Aug	Large swimmers (>4 ft) – not people	A fish or critter that is swimming with a length > 4 feet. Examples: grouper, tarpon, sharks, stingray, manta ray, dolphin, and moray eel. <u>Big subjects is</u> what you are shooting for.
Sep	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 two or less, please. And, of course, we're talking fish here... not critters.
Oct	Polka Dots/Fish with spots	Fish that have noticeable spots. Spot: small round or roundish mark, differing in color or texture from the surface around it.
Oct Video	General	1 to 3.59 minutes
Nov	Nudibranchs & Worms	Again, this is pretty specific but you may need to check your critter ID book if you're not sure.
Dec	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.

TGCC Scholarships

The Texas Gulf Coast Council is offering four scholarships in 2017: 1 for \$2000, 1 for \$1000, and 2 for \$500. Deadline for submission is June 30th. The application can be found on the HUPS webpage under the "More" section. If you have further questions, please contact Alicia Grimes.

2017 POTY Standings through May

Novice

1	John VanAtta	305
2	Russell Ramsey	251
3	Lorna Carpenter	250
4	Kathy Long	222
5	Kevin Crofoot	186

Intermediate

1	Beata Lerman	456
2	Bess Bright	398
3	Paul McDonald	388
4	Lance Glowacki	309

Advanced

1	Jackie Reid	467
2	Craig Beasley	435
3	David Lenderman	418
4	Martin Daniels	207



2017 Meeting Topics

	Presentation	Presenter	Contest Topic
January 9	Sabang and Puerto Galera	Beata Lerman	Angelfish, Butterflyfish, Surgeonfish
February 6	Wide Angle Photo Tips & Tricks	Ken Knezick	Black Background
March 6	Forgotten Islands	Dennis Deavenport	Sand & Muck denizens
April 3	Sharks of French Polynesia	Cecilia Clementi & Frank Noe	Something Yellow
May 1	Reviewing Tips for Better Photography	HUPS	Close Focus Wide-Angle
June 5	From Then To Now	Monica Losey	Damselfish, Chromis, Hamlets, Basslets
July 3	Video II	Tom Collier	Diagonal composition
August 7	TBD	Mike Greuter??	Mollusks
September 11	Shooting for Impact & AV on Indonesia & Penguin Parade	Frank & Joyce Burek	Vertical composition
October 2	TBD		Weird & Spooky
November 6	Hidden Features of the dSLR	Jesse Cancelmo	Hawkfish, Drums, Triggerfish
December 4	Best of HUPS	Lance Glowacki	Creative

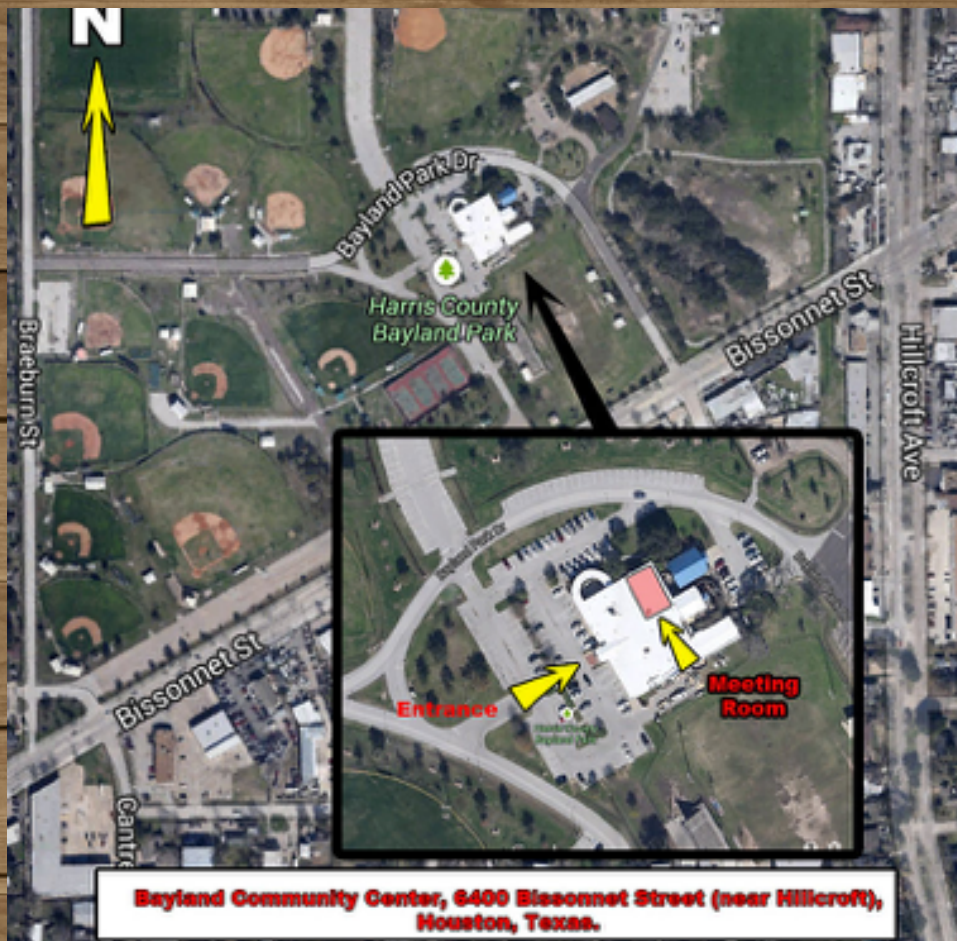
2017 Photo Contest Themes

Month	Themes	Description
Jun	Damselfish, Chromis, Hamlets, Basslets	"A group of small fish generally 3 to 6 inches in length that have a perch like or oval profile" If you aren't sure, look it in your fish ID book.
Jul	Diagonal Composition	"Diagonal lines generally work well to draw the eye of an image's viewer through the photograph. They create points of interest as they intersect with other lines and often give images depth by suggesting perspective." This 1 maybe tough or easy depending on your POV.
Aug	Mollusks (Shells, Nudibranchs, Chitons)	"An invertebrate of a large phylum that includes snails, slugs, mussels, and octopuses. They have a soft, unsegmented body and live in aquatic habitats, and most kinds have an external calcareous shell."
Sep	Vertical Compositions	A photograph with a subject in the vertical plane so the eye is drawn up and down the when viewing the picture.
Oct	Weird & Spooky	A subject that appears especially in being eerie or disturbing. Or seems to be strikingly odd or unusual, especially in an unsettling way.
Oct Video	General	1 to 3 minutes
Nov	Hawkfish, Drums, Triggerfish	A group of fish that can be found in the odd-shaped swimmers. Note we are looking triggerfish not filefish subjects ask if you are not sure.
Dec	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.

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

6400 Bissonnet (near Hillcroft), Houston, TX 77074

Visitors are always welcome!



Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet Street (near Hillcroft), Houston, Texas.

HUPS on the Internet



www.hups.org



www.youtube.com/user/HUPSdotORG



Find us on:
facebook

www.facebook.com/groups/174168478778/

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Russell Ramsey

Vice President:

Beata Lerman

Secretary:

Tammy Allyn

Treasurer:

Debbie Mensay

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Monica Losey

Photo Contest:

Lance Glowacki

TGCC Reps:

Alicia Grimes

Frank Burek

Debbie Mensay

WebMaster:

Joe Holden

Workshops:

Lance Glowacki

Trip Coordinator:

Jim Mensay

Historian:

Frank Burek

Special Events:

Jan Baughman

Moody Gardens

Coordinator:

Bess Bright

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Bess Bright

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Martin Daniels

Lance Glowacki

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Monica Losey

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