December Newsletter

Houston Underwater Photographic Society

www.hups.org December 2019

HUPS Christmas Party & Potluck Dinner

Please plan to attend this month's December Meeting as it is the final meeting for 2019. We will have our annual CHRISTMAS PARTY AND POT LUCK DINNER at which time the Member of the Year will be announced and the BEST OF HUPS will showcase the first place winners for each month in the Novice, Intermediate and Advanced divisions. The monthly winners will be automatically entered for judging in BEST OF HUPS for each category. In addition the Creative Category allows you to enter anything you want as long as you took the photo and did the editing. Judging will be done by everyone attending the December Meeting using paper ballots. Each person participating as a judge will award 3 points for the best photo, 2 points for their 2nd choice and 1 point for their 3rd choice in each of the 4 categories.

The HUPS PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR AWARD is recognized in each of the Photo Contest categories and each winner is determined from points accumulated from the January through November contests. The Photographers of the Year will be announced at the TGCC Banquet in January.

For the POT LUCK DINNER, please bring whatever dish you can. The meat dishes will be supplied by the Club. While Mary Daniels is in charge of this event, she can use your help in setting up and decorating. Please come early and enjoy the camaraderie of your HUPS members.

Top Ten Reasons Hurricane Season is Like Christmas

10. Decorating the house (boarding up windows)
9. Dragging out boxes that haven't been used since last season (camping gear, flashlights)
8. Last minute shopping in crowded stores
7. Regular TV shows pre-empted for "specials"
6. Family coming to stay with you
5. Family and friends from out-of-state calling
4. Buying food you don't normally buy ... and in large quantities
3. Days off from work
2. Candles

And the number one reason Hurricane Season is like Christmas...

1. At some point you know you are going to have a tree in your house!

President's Message

Lorna is heading off to her new job in Trinidad and I will be serving as HUPS President for 2020. I first want to thank Lorna for her time serving HUPS as President. Her leadership and enthusiasm will be missed. Let's all hope she gets settled in quickly and that her work schedule allows her some free time to go diving. I am counting on her to give us the inside scoop regarding diving in that part of the Caribbean.

For those without a long history in HUPS, or maybe those that choose to forget, I want to let you know that this is not my first time serving as President of HUPS. I was HUPS President for the years of 2002 and 2003. That is a long time ago. It is really hard to believe that I was shooting film back then.

2003 was an exciting time for HUPS. We were right in the middle of the digital underwater photography wave. People were going from Nikonos and housed film cameras to compact digitals like the Olympus 5050. If you had more money to spend in 2002 or 2003 maybe you purchased a Nikon D100, Canon D60 or Fuji S2 DSLR. Whatever digital rig you were shooting everyone was dealing with a steep learning curve trying to figure out the new toys. I remember the new found freedom of being able to shoot more than 36 photos on a single dive. Even better was the instant feedback provided by that little (and I do mean little) screen on the back of the camera. The year 2003 was also the first year HUPS began offering a digital category in the monthly photo contests. Most of us really didn't know how quickly digital would displace film.

Similar to my previous stint as president, this is also an exciting time for HUPS. With a film festival and a new Moody Gardens print gallery, the club has a lot going on for 2020. HUPS continues to incorporate more video into monthly programs and workshops. Weather you are using a GoPro, compact digital or DSLR, shooting quality video underwater is becoming easier and easier. Underwater video lights and editing software have vastly improved and have become much less expensive. It will be interesting to see how far underwater video goes in displacing still images over the next several years.

To fully demonstrate our deepening involvement with video we have the Houston Underwater Film Festival (HUFF) coming up April 18-19, 2020. This event is the biggest thing HUPS has ever attempted. If those dates are not on your calendar add them now. You will not want to miss it!

We are in the beginning stages of putting together another fantastic gallery of images at Moody Gardens Aquarium in Galveston. These galleries are always a great way for our members to showcase their amazing images. Stay tuned for more details on when and how to submit your favorite images.

These big events and the month to month activities of HUPS would not be possible without our awesome members who volunteer to help. Volunteering is a great way to become further involved in the club, meet new people and learn something new. We are always looking for additional members to work on various projects. HUPS is your club. The more you put into to HUPS the more you will get in return.

Happy Holidays!!! ---David Lenderman

HUPS Member of the Year Nominations

HUPS has been fortunate over the years to have members that have been willing to step up and contribute their skills, knowledge, and enthusiasm to help us be successful. This is essential to the health of the organization and the fun it is to be a member.

One of our newer members embodies all of these attributes and for that reason, I want to nominate **Lorna Carpenter as HUP's Member of the Year for 2019**. She has run trips to Bonaire, prepared presentations, worked hard to improve her photographic skills, and served as our President for the past two years during interesting times requiring skill, patience, and stubborn dedication to making things work like they should.

I particularly appreciate how she has gone out of her way to make being a member fun, particularly at our periodic Board of Director's meetings. However, that only touches on some of her contributions.

Next year in 2020, Lorna will be moving away from Houston and will no longer be around to participate on a regular basis. Hopefully, her job will return her to Houston in the near future where she can continue to contribute to our organization.

I am honored to nominate Lorna Carpenter as the 2019 HUPS member of the year. In 2019 Lorna has done an outstanding job performing the difficult task as president of our club. She is a great organizer who has kept HUPS focused on having a banner year. This last year Lorna was also instrumental with the effort to reconnect HUPS with Moody Gardens, which will be of benefit to HUPS for years to come. In 2019 Lorna participated in club trips, attended workshops, entered the photo contests and hosted director meetings at her house. Because of Lorna's enthusiasm for our organization many other members have been inspired to become more involved. This is a priceless quality for a leader and just one of the many reasons Lorna Carpenter should be chosen as the 2019 HUPS MEMBER OF THE YEAR.

Martin Daniels and Lance Glowacki were also nominated by name.

January Meeting - Calling All Video Clips

The January meeting will be the 2nd annual 'Anything Goes' video night. We will project random video clips from our members – good clips, bad clips, doesn't matter – it is anything goes. But we need clips. Please send to Tom Collier video clips that are 30 seconds or less (longer and he can clip), no music (he will mute), processed or not (he can enhance). He will gather the video clips, clean them up and combine into a montage with music to play at our meeting. Last year our program was a lot of fun. We had all kinds of clips and the show was a real hoot. So dust off those video clips you took with your GoPro, pocket camera, DSLR or video camera and send them in. Limit 5 per person please. Upload clips to: https://www.dropbox.com/request/U0ojoZuw9HJ4P3A46lug

TGCC Banquet

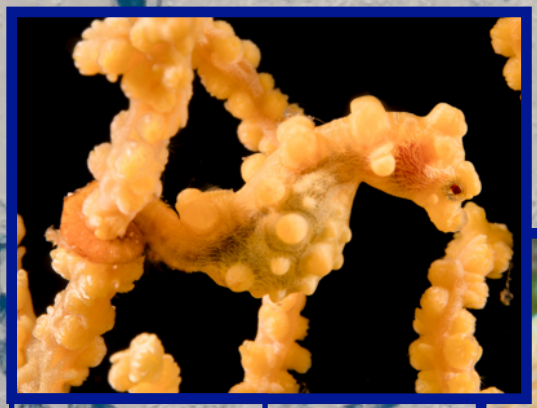
The Texas Gulf Coast Council of Diving Clubs (TGCC) will hold its annual "Club Awards Luncheon" on Saturday, January 25, 2020. Held at Bayland Community Center, the function begins with a social at 11:00AM, lunch about 11:35AM, and awards after that. Tickets are $20 and available from Frank Burek, Mark Leiserowitz, JaVan Pruett At the awards luncheon, HUPS will present its 2019 awards for **Photographer of the Year** and **Member-of-the-Year**. Other clubs will present their awards and the TGCC will present its **Member-of-the-Year and Neptune Awards to Dennis Deavenport**, its **Lifetime Achievement Award to Tom Collier**. Please join us in honoring all the clubs, and their significant 2019 contributors.

WANTED::: Social Media Coordinator

Are you looking for an excuse to spend more time on facebook or Instagram? If yes, I have an opportunity for you! A major goal for 2020 is to bring in new members. We need to get the word out to Houston area divers. A great way to do this is social media. We are looking for a HUPS member or members to take on the role of Social Media Coordinator(s). This member would post information regarding HUPS on social media. Of course that means posting onto the HUPS facebook page, but there are many other Houston area facebook groups that could be interested in HUPS activities. Are you into facebook and Instagram? Are you willing to spend a little time spreading the word about HUPS? If you answered yes to those questions we need to talk. Contact David or Dennis to discuss this further.

HUPS Video Contest

The winners of the third and final video contest were announced at the November meeting. Craig Beasley won first, Betsy Beasley came in second and Dennis Deavenport won third place. The 2019 Videographer of the Year award goes to Craig Beasley. Craig won all three contests and Betsy narrowly surpassed Dennis to take second overall for the year. Congratulations to all contestants for an excellent year. Next year will bring a few changes to our video contests, such as only two contests, allowing 5 minute videos and online voting by the entire club membership. Watch for updates and more details from Betsy Beasley – our new Video Contest Coordinator for 2020.



Craig Beasley
Advanced 2nd

Dennis Deavenport
Advanced 1st

John Van Atta
Intermediate 2nd

Bess Bright
Intermediate 3rd

Jim Babcock
Novice 3rd

Proposed HUPS 2020 Bonaire Trip

For many years HUPS has held an annual trip to Bonaire in October. Jim & Debbie Mensay have led this trip many times in the past and are willing to help get things started with the resort but will be unavailable to attend during the typical weeks for the trip, which would be the week of Oct 10 or Oct 17. Therefore, if there is still desire to hold this annual trip we will be looking for a trip leader. To get special DEMA pricing, we need to send in a deposit by Dec 7, 2019. Please let Jim or Debbie Mensay know if you are interested in going so we can gauge interest for the trip and then know if we need it seek a trip leader.

2019 POTY Standings thru Year End

Novice		
1st	Betsy Beasley	912
2nd	Justin Wallace	389
3rd	Lorna Carpenter	227
4th	Jim Babcock	141
Intermediate		
1st	John Van Atta	799
2nd	Bess Bright	785
3rd	Russell Ramsey	665
Advanced		
1st	David Lenderman	869
2nd	Dennis Deavenport	857
3rd	Craig Beasley	800
4th	Steven Anderson	585
5th	Joseph Holden	184
Video		
1st	Craig Beasley	243
2nd	Betsy Beasley	214
3rd	Dennis Deavenport	213
4th	Tom Collier	196
5th	JaVan Pruett	107

Betsy Beasley
Novice 1st

Dennis Deavenport
Advanced 2nd

John Van Atta
Intermediate 1st

Bess Bright
Intermediate 3rd

2020 Presentation and Contest Topics

	Presentation	Presenter
January	Anything Goes – Short Film Clips	Tom Collier
February	Volunteer Diver Program at Moody Gardens	Jake Emmert
March	Photographing Sea Lions in Baja	Ken Knezick
April	BVI after the Hurricanes	Jim & Sudi Babcock
May	HUFF Winners & HUPS Video Contest	Betsy Beasley & Tom Collier
June	Around the World Private Jet NatGeo Trip	Monica Losey

2020 Photo Contest Topics

Month	Themes	Description
Jan	Diagonal Composition	A diagonal composition is employed to arrange elements in an image based on a diagonal line.
Feb	Eels	There are lots of eels out there. They are pretty easy to spot; think, "snakes with gills".
Mar	Blue water	Any primary subject as long as the background has a nice blue color.
Apr	Large swimmers (> 4 feet) - not people	A fish or critter that is swimming with a length > 4 feet . Examples: grouper, tarpon, sharks, sting ray, manta ray, dolphin, moray eel, and big subjects are what you are shooting for.
May	Odd-shaped bottom dwellers	Infrequent-swimmers. Frogfish, crabs, flounder, scorpionfish, toadfish, batfish, lizardfish, crocodile fish. If it is a bit odd looking and spends most of its life on or in the sand or reef, it probably qualifies.
Jun	Nudibranchs & Worms	Again, this is pretty specific but you may need to check your critter ID book if you're not sure. Worms can fool you sometimes. Who would think that something that looks like a colorful Christmas tree ornament could be a worm?
Jul	Hawk fish, Drums, Triggerfish	A theme that gives you multiple choices of fish. This theme gives you up to 3 possible choices of fish families. So come on and submit a photograph or two to the contest. If not sure, check your fish id sources or ask the PC.
Aug	Crustacean	Just like it says... look it up in the book (crabs, shrimp, lobsters, barnacles, etc.). When in doubt... Wikipedia can help you out.
Sep	Natural light	Shooting ambient light means you are using the sun as your light source. Shooting with ambient light means less camera drag, as strobes can be left on the surface. The lighting of the photo will be more even, which is ideal for large subjects such as large reefs or schools of fish, silhouettes, or large wrecks.
Oct	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. If you aren't sure if your little guy (or guys) qualify, look it up in your critter ID book or ask the opinion of one or our ID experts.
Nov	Polka Dots/Fish with Spots	A spot, a small round or roundish mark differing in color or texture from the surface around it. The most common subjects underwater are known variously as boxfishes, coffer fishes, cowfishes and trunkfishes.
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!

HUPS on the Internet

www.hups.org

www.youtube.com/user/HUPSdotORG

www.facebook.com/groups/174168478778/

2019 HUPS Board of Directors

Mary Daniels
Frank Burek
Martin Daniels
Lance Glowacki
Mike Greuter
Monica Losey
Henry Ragland
Tom Collier
Joe Haws
Bess Bright
Jim Mensay
Russell Ramsey
Craig Beasley
Joe Holden

2019 HUPS Officers

President:
Lorna Carpenter

Co-Vice Presidents:
Bess Bright
Dennis Deavenport

Secretary:
Tammy Allyn

Treasurer:
Debbie Mensay

Membership/Newsletter:
Monica Losey

Photo Contest Coordinator:
Martin Daniels

Video Contest Coordinator:
Tom Collier

Workshop Coordinator:
Dennis Deavenport

TGCC Reps:
Frank Burek
Alicia Grimes
Ja Van Pruett
Mark Leiserowitz
Debbie Mensay

WebMaster:
Joe Holden

Trip Coordinator:
Jim Mensay

Historian:
Frank Burek

Special Events:
Mary Daniels

Moody Gardens Coordinator:
Bess Bright

Merchandising Coordinator:
Sandy Bryan

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