

Houston Underwater Photographic Society

[www.hups.org](http://www.hups.org)



November 2019



## Diving Virgin Gorda after Hurricanes Irma and Maria



Last year I approached Russell Ramsey and Jim & Sudi Babcock about doing a presentation on their upcoming BVI trip. Knowing that the entire island was under siege by hurricanes in 2017 and that resort and dive operations had to be rebuilt and repaired afterward, it seemed natural to think about focusing on this for a HUPS show. Thankfully, Sudi and Jim stepped into the gap and have prepared a compelling and compassionate show about the events before, during, and after Irma and Maria made unscheduled visits.

In Sudi's words:

The destructive  
Hurricanes Irma and

then Maria interrupted HUPS' yearly trip to British Virgin Islands in 2017. Most of the islands, including Virgin Gorda, were almost destroyed. It took two years for the residents to rebuild with the help of many contributors and benefactors.



In 2019 we were able to resume our trip to the BVI hosted by the incomparable Dive BVI who have been tremendous dive operators for HUPS for years. We stayed at the newly rebuilt Guavaberry Estates and had a week of incredible diving and dining. The trip leader, Russell Ramsey, and his lovely wife, Ann, guided us through a well-planned and unforgettable experience.

The program offered during the November 2019 meeting will be a 7 minute video of this trip edited by Jim and Sudi Babcock. Members of HUPS who were on this trip provided the video footage and stills.

Please attend starting 7pm Monday, November 4th at Bayland Community Center. Also, plan to go out with the group afterward to Jax Grill for burgers and adult refreshments afterward.



If time permits, we will show Craig and Betsy Beasley's October show on diving Cabilao and Dumaguete, which has been updated and deserves a 2nd showing for those who missed it due to HUPS' Bonaire trip.



# President's Corner

Howdy Hupsters. I'm writing my final presidents corner while I'm flying to work at the BP site near Fahud, Oman. While I am here, I will be doing some diving. I have already gone diving to the Diamanyet Island near Muscat. It was amazing and I hope to share my pictures soon. Never have I seen such large eels. I'll be finished with the work I came to do on October 31, and then I am taking a week of vacation to board the Oman Agressor. This is why I'll be missing you at the November meeting. I'll be sure to share a trip report the next time I see you. As you may already know, I will not be able to be your President next year, but I am assured that you will choose a perfect replacement - there is an awesome choice already on the ballot - David Lenderman.

Right now there is a great deal of activity in our group:

- Publication of THIS newsletter
- HUPS Website
- HUFF in April 2020
- Bay Area Community Center Gallery
- Video Contest
- Photo Contest
- Quarterly Workshops
- Dive trip planning
- AND, my favorite, the Holiday Party

So, there is a lot of hard work going on behind the scenes. We encourage you to get involved in an activity. It's a great chance to get to know the team and develop comraderies. The HUPSters are a great bunch of folks to work with and you get to learn a lot about photography along the way. Having the opportunity to be the HUPS President for the last two years was a real honor and I will surely miss everyone.



## "Underwater photos through Education, Participation and Entertainment"

I sincerely believe that our photography brings the oceans to life for the public. And through our website and social media our work is being shared more widely than ever before.

Enjoy JAX's (6510 Rice Ave., Bellaire) after the meeting.

---Lorna Carpenter



### Calling for 2020 Presentations

We are looking for volunteers to give presentations to HUPS in 2020. If you have a program you'd like us to consider, please contact Dennis Deavenport at [ddeavenport@comcast.net](mailto:ddeavenport@comcast.net).

# Announcements

## HUPS Member of the Year

In 1991 the Executive Committee established the Member of the Year Award (MOTY) to recognize those HUPS members who tirelessly work to provide services and utility to HUPS' members. Nomination for this award must be in writing including emails and must be sent to the President before the November General Meeting. Please forward your nominations to [lornas.lens@outlook.com](mailto:lornas.lens@outlook.com) to allow us to vote on your choice of nominees. The details pertaining to the award and the nominating process are found on the HUPS Website.

## January Meeting - Anything Goes

The second annual "Anything Goes" January meeting is fast approaching. "Anything Goes" video from any one and every one. See your videos on the big screen. Send Tom Collier your short video clips so they can be included in the presentation. Please only send video clips 30 seconds or shorter. No formal programs or music allowed, just raw, random footage of any interesting underwater clips.

## TGCC Banquet

The Texas Gulf Coast Council of Diving Clubs will hold its annual banquet on Saturday, January 25, 2020. It will be held at Bayland Community Center from 11am - 2pm. Please consider attending so HUPS has good representation.

## HUPS Video Contest

Winners of the October video contest will be announced & shown at the Nov meeting.

## HUPS Christmas Party

Anyone who would like to donate something for the Christmas party raffle, please contact Mary Daniels at [marydaniels19@hotmail.com](mailto:marydaniels19@hotmail.com). Right now we have two gift cards and a pillow. Also, help setting up and taking down would be greatly appreciated.

## December Creative

Put your creative thinking caps on now and get a head start on submitting a creative photo for December's meeting. Even if you haven't been submitting throughout the year, give it shot. Anything is allowed so long as you took the photo and do the post processing. The more we have the more we are entertained during our meal as they are usually quite comical or interesting!



Dennis Deaverport  
Creative 2018 Winner

## HUPS and HUFF attends SDUFEX

Earlier in October, Craig and Betsy Beasley, Tom Collier, and Dennis Deaverport flew out to San Diego to attend the San Diego Undersea Film Exhibition. We flew out the day before the first night and had the full day on Friday to drive north along the coast to view the surf and have a nice meal above the water.

The film festival celebrated its 20th anniversary over two nights and we were entertained by some outstanding and sometimes stunning underwater films. (Several of these same films have also been submitted to the HUFF.) We were treated to a superb film by 5-time Emmy winners Howard and Michelle Hall prior to the contest and they stayed on to introduce the films over the two nights.

We had quite a bit of contact with filmmakers and the organizers of SDUFEX. Our objective of spreading the news about next year's Houston Underwater Film Festival and promoting involvement was well received by the people we met. We also took lots of notes on how the festival was organized and conducted. We plan to incorporate some of their practices into the HUFF and feel we can improve on a few of those.

All in all, it was an enjoyable and enlightening experience.

# 2019 POTY Standings thru September

## Novice

1 <sup>st</sup>	Betsy Beasley	742
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Justin Wallace	275
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Lorna Carpenter	227
4 <sup>th</sup>	Jim Babcock	72

## Intermediate

1 <sup>st</sup>	Bess Bright	658
2 <sup>nd</sup>	John Van Atta	623
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Russell Ramsey	566

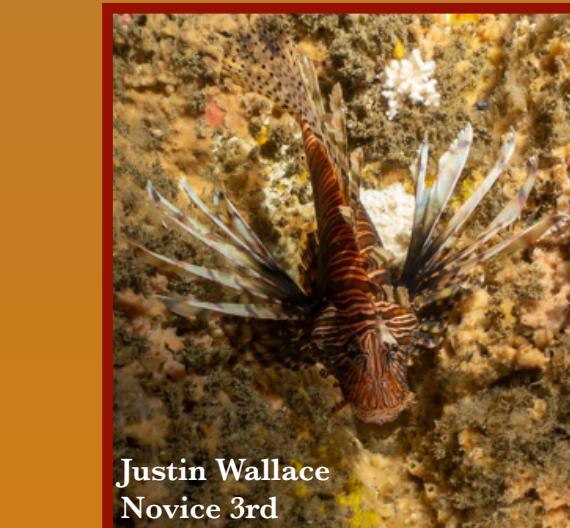
## Advance

1 <sup>st</sup>	David Lenderman	724
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Dennis Deavenport	692
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Craig Beasley	649
4 <sup>th</sup>	Steven Anderson	467
5 <sup>th</sup>	Joseph Holden	184

## Video

1 <sup>st</sup>	Craig Beasley	162
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Dennis Deavenport	141
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Betsy Beasley	139
4 <sup>th</sup>	Tom Collier	122
5 <sup>th</sup>	JaVan Pruett	50

Dennis Deavenport

Advanced 1<sup>st</sup>Justin Wallace  
Novice 3<sup>rd</sup>David Lenderman  
Advanced 2<sup>nd</sup>Betsy Beasley  
Novice 1<sup>st</sup>

## 2019 Photo Contest Topics

Month	Themes	Description
Nov	Damsel fish, 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 are not sure look in your fish id book.
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.



# 2019 Presentations

	<b>Presentation</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
<b>November 4</b>	BVI - After the Hurricanes	Jim & Sudi Babcock
<b>December 2</b>	Best of HUPS	Martin Daniels

# 2020 Presentations

	<b>Presentation</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
<b>January</b>	Anything Goes - Short Film Clips	Tom Collier
<b>February</b>	To be determined	STILL NEEDED
<b>March</b>	To be determined	STILL NEEDED
<b>April</b>	To be determined	STILL NEEDED
<b>May</b>	HUFF Winners & HUPS Video Contest	Betsy Beasley & Tom Collier
<b>June</b>	Around the World Private Jet NatGeo Trip	Monica Losey

## HUPS New Home at Moody Gardens

As we mentioned in the August newsletter, Moody Gardens has offered HUPS a new location to display member photos. On October 11, Russell and Ann Ramsey and I visited Moody Gardens to take more measurements & test different layouts. Armed with several 16x20 cutouts and Ann's creative eye, we came up with an arrangement that will allow us to showcase 25 member photos.

While we were there, we met with Greg Whittaker, Moody Garden's animal husbandry manager and longtime HUPS photo exhibit supporter. We chose coral reefs as the theme in keeping with Moody Gardens current coral conservation work. This topic can be global, like wide angle shots of coral reefs, or it can be local, showing how a single coral specimen provides food or shelter for small critters. Or it might be a parrotfish feeding on coral that it later "deposits" as beautiful coral sand. Greg would love to be able to feature a pair of shots of the same reef taken at different times, to illustrate the degradation (or recovery!) over time. As we've done in past exhibits, we will also feature some general interest photos, but the emphasis will definitely be on the coral theme. Greg mentioned they will install on one of the walls a plaque/poster acknowledging HUPS as the source of the photos.

Start scouring your photos for shots that showcase the beauty & importance of coral reefs. Keep this in mind as you start putting together your submission: 1) Submit up to 10 photos, horizontal or vertical orientation. 2) They can be a mix of coral and/or general themes, but the coral shots will be given preference by the judges. 3) The monthly HUPS photo contest rules do not apply here. You are much freer to edit your photos to really make them shine! 4) The photos selected for display will be printed 16x20, so crop to that ratio. You can downsize for mailing or uploading, but just make sure your shots have enough pixel to support printing 16x20. 5) Make sure you are a HUPS member in good standing.

As in the past, we will get the winning submissions printed, but the winners will be responsible for paying for the print(s). Of course the print will be yours to keep when the exhibit ends. Rather than foam-mounted prints in traditional frames, which didn't seem to hold up well and sometimes fell off the wall, we will be doing metal prints. They are a bit more expensive, but many of our members say the colors really pop, and they're more durable and easier to install. We will once again try to work out a volume discount, since we'll be printing 25 photos (we'll work hard to keep it under \$50/photo).

While you start gathering your photos, we'll set up a place for you to send them and get back with those details. In the meantime, if you happen to visit Moody Gardens, be sure to check out our new spot on the main level, near the entrance, adjacent to the Conservation Lab. It's the teal green wall with benches across from the Lab, as well as the two long walls on the hallway from the Lab to the washrooms. Try to imagine how great one of your photos will look on the wall!

---Bess Bright

# 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.
Mar Video	General	1 to 3.59 minutes
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?
Jun Video	General	1 to 3.59 minutes
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.
Oct Video	General	1 to 3.59 minutes
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.

## Clint Moore's Passing

Past HUPS member Clint Moore (9/9/56 – 10/1/19) has passed away from an apparent heart attack. Known as the "Manta Man", he was a HUPS member for 26 yrs and a member of the TGCC for the last 3 yrs. While a member of the FGNMS SAC as an Oil & Gas rep for 14yrs, he also looked after the interest of his diving friends. He held numerous leadership positions on the SAC & was the 2018 recipient of TGCC's Lifetime Achievement Award. Clint also "built a legacy as a geologist, a Republican Party leader, a conservationist, and a genealogical expert."



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](http://www.hups.org)



[www.youtube.com/user/HUPSDotORG](https://www.youtube.com/user/HUPSDotORG)



[www.facebook.com/groups/174168478778/](https://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**

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 Tom Collier

**Workshop Coordinator:**

Dennis Deavenport

**TGCC Reps:**

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 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

