



# HUPS Newsletter

**April 6, 7- 9 pm**



**with CARES**

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# CARES

Collective Approach to Restoring Our Eco-System



## Restoring Reefs • Empowering Communities

TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF OCEAN ADVOCATES

Founder & Executive Director:

*Kramer Wimberley*

### THE \$100 MILLION VISION

Transforming the Caribbean & Florida into a Living Laboratory for Coral Reef Restoration & Discovery

### WHY IT MATTERS

MEDICAL IMPACT

50% of Drugs from Reefs

TOURISM & ECONOMY

Reviving Dive Destinations

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Training Local Leaders

### THE FOUR PILLARS OF CARES

#### EDUCATION



- 3D Learning & Community Programs

#### CLEANUP



- Trash & Debris Removal

#### MONITORING



- Biodiversity & Rugosity Tracking

#### RESTORATION



- Coral Outplanting & Ocean Healing

### A Call to the ARTISTIC LENS

- Document Reef Recovery
- Capture Human Stories
- Inspire Global Action

### IMPACT AREAS



Caribbean • Florida • Regional Partnerships



Science • Community • Conservation

### JOIN THE MOVEMENT

*Together, We Can Save Our Oceans*

Contact: Kramer Wimberley  
Founder & Executive Director

[DivingWithAPurpose.org/CARES](http://DivingWithAPurpose.org/CARES)



[Link to the Zoom Meeting ID: 822 2562 5836 Password:](#)

# CARES: Collective Approach to Restoring our Eco-System

*Restoring Reefs. Empowering Communities. Training the Next Generation.*

Founder & Executive Director: Kramer Wimberley

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## The \$100 Million Vision: The Caribbean as a Global Laboratory

The CARES endowment is not just about conservation; it is an economic and scientific imperative. We are transforming the Caribbean Basin and Florida into a healthy, high-yield coral reef ecosystem—a "living incubator" for the next generation of ocean scientists from within the communities most impacted by climate change.

## Strategic Objectives: Why a Healthy Reef is Good Business

- **The Pharmaceutical Frontier:** Over **50% of cutting-edge medical discoveries**—including treatments for Leukemia (**Ara-C**) and HIV (**AZT**)—originate from coral reef organisms. Preserving this "21st Century Medicine Cabinet" is a vital interest for global health and pharmaceutical industries.
  - **Restoring the Destination:** We are restoring the Caribbean as a premier global destination to inspire the travel industry to reinvest locally. Our goal is to keep divers and researchers in our own hemisphere rather than sending them to the other side of the world to see reefs "before they're gone."
  - **Academic & Community Synergy:** CARES creates the infrastructure for local Island Nations to serve as incubators for scientific study, partnering with colleges and universities to train local youth as the primary stewards of their own ecological sovereignty.
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## The Four Pillars of CARES

1. **Community Education** Using high-tech tools like 3D printing with **thermochromic filaments** to visually demonstrate coral bleaching, making the invisible shifts of climate change tangible in classrooms.
2. **Trash and Debris Removal** Active remediation to eliminate the physical stressors that stifle coral growth and threaten the biodiversity of the Caribbean Basin.

3. **Coral Ecosystem Monitoring** Identifying key health indicators by assessing the presence or absence of critical fish, invertebrates, and hard coral species.
    - **The Metric of Rugosity:** We focus on the structural complexity (the "wrinkling") of the reef; higher rugosity directly correlates with greater biodiversity, more surface area for growth, and a healthier ecosystem.
  4. **Ocean Healing** The holistic restoration of the marine environment through active outplanting and the cultivation of a professional workforce of **Ocean Advocates**.
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### **A Call to the Artistic Lens: Document the Journey**

We need photographers to do more than capture beauty; we need you to reach the greater public and inspire other artists to take up the banner.

- **Visual Data:** Use your lens to catalog **rugosity** and document the presence of indicator species.
  - **The Human Story:** Capture the journey of CARES from debris removal to the graduation of our "Zero to Hero" students.
  - **Advocacy in Action:** Your artistic lens is the bridge that translates scientific urgency into public inspiration, driving the reinvestment needed to save the coral reef ecosystem.
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**Contact: Kramer Wimberley, Founder & Executive Director**

*Collective Approach to Restoring our Eco-System*

**[Link to the Zoom](#)**  
**[Meeting ID: 822](#)**  
**[2562 5836](#)**  
**[Password:](#)**  
**[079944](#)**

# President's Message

by Craig Beasley

The Houston Underwater Film Festival (HUFF) reached an important milestone last year – it has survived beyond age 5 and is going on to present its 6th annual show. I think that is quite an achievement and I would like to thank everyone who has volunteered to help make this happen. It would not have happened without the dedication of HUPS members as well as all of those who join us from around the Houston area. And we can't forget the impact of businesses and individuals that have supported the HUFF by generously donating valuable items to our raffle. Sometimes I wonder how many would show up if we didn't show films at all, but just held a giant raffle with great prizes. It might be a surprise, but I know people really come for the great shows. I know because they tell us and everybody has their favorites.

We are in the middle of preparations that increase in intensity until it's showtime. Our judges have been working since the beginning of the year on getting all the films watched and scored, and then, they transition to their other HUFF activities as the day approaches.

You know we are getting close when the dress rehearsal is imminent, and we are there because it is just a week away. The first few dress rehearsals were nail biters as we were making it all up as we went along. To avoid making it up on the day of the show – yes, I am a veteran procrastinator, and I can recognize them a mile away – we began the practice of having a dress rehearsal and it was difficult for most of us. We are used to winging it in conversation and some of us may have even tried it on an English exam or two, but certainly not math or physics. Right? Ha! But this is a timed event and with 7 or 8 category introductions given by 7 or 8 different people, it doesn't take much to get seriously behind the schedule.

Everyone has done their homework each year and we all seem OK with writing our short talks and giving the introduction to the group. Betsy and I were both determined to get as many of our volunteers to speak as possible – it's something that we believe sets us apart. It's all part of the chemistry that makes it all work. We have an egalitarian club and above all, we want the HUFF to be the same. No special people, no special filmmakers, no special treatment. Just special films which make for a very special event. Our dress rehearsal has progressed from something very stressful to a fun afternoon capped by margaritas and Mexican food afterwards, of course. As long as we continue in that vein, the HUFF will go on as long as we continue it.

Thanks again for all the hard work!



HOUSTON UNDERWATER FILM FESTIVAL  
APRIL 11-12, 2026

# THE EVENTS

at Midtown Arts and Theater Center Houston (MATCH)

3400 Main Street, Houston, Texas 77002

Saturday, April 11, 3:00 PM - Screening of entries for the Animation, Shorts, Art House Flicks and Feature Length categories. Matchbox 2 Theater

Saturday, April 11, 5:30 PM - Meet the Filmmakers around the corner at Wooster's Garden

Sunday, April 12, 3:00 PM - Screening of entries for the Environmental, Dance & Free Diving, Macro and Feature Length categories. Matchbox 4 Theater

Sunday, April 13, 5:30 pm - Awards Reception in the Gallery at MATCH

## INDIVIDUAL TICKETS\*

Saturday, April 11, 3 PM - \$15

Sunday, April 12, 3 PM - \$15

Sunday, April 12, 5:30 PM - Admission is free, Mexican Buffet \$10

## TICKET PACKAGES\*

**\$25 Stargazer Package** includes **1 ticket** to the **Saturday screenings** and access to the **buffet** at the Sunday reception.

**\$25 Octopus Package** includes **1 ticket** to the **Sunday screenings** and access to the **buffet** at the Sunday reception.

**\$38 Manta Ray Package** includes **1 ticket** to **both screenings** and access to the **buffet** at the Sunday reception.

**\$75 – Whale Shark Package – HUFF SPONSOR PACKAGE** includes **1 ticket** to **both screenings** and access to the **buffet** at the Sunday reception plus **praise for supporting HUFF!** You will be acknowledged at the festival for your donation.

\*Please note that there is a \$5 per ticket handling fee.

**Buy tickets and see HUFF info:**

HUFF website <http://huff.hups.org>

MATCH website [here](#)



# Houston Underwater Film Festival 2026

Saturday, April 11, 3 pm Show

## Animation

1. Echoes of Dugong
2. J'ai Pêché un Requin
3. Awaken
4. Special
5. Aracniel
6. Breath
7. Wave
8. The Garbage Island
9. High Tide
10. Single Use

## Short Videos

1. A Moment With Scallops
2. Karen in Her Anemone
3. Childhood Dreams
4. Dancing With a Dolphin: A Magic Milonga
5. Coral Gardens
6. Toys
7. Banda Sea: The Ring of Fire
8. Diving With the Giants of Komodo

## Feature Length

1. Glad To Meet You
2. Ocean's Whisper
3. Get Lost
4. Mare Nostrum
5. Indonesia Biodiversity
6. Epic Run: A Ritual in the Abyss

## Art House Flicks

1. -10.994
2. Dague Ship Wreck
3. Ophelia
4. Oldies of the Coast
5. El Pirquinero
6. Fantasia
7. Submerged City
8. Tides

# Sunday, April 12, 3 pm Show

## Environmental

1. When the Ocean Holds Its Breath
2. Climate Solutions!
3. Kaalindi: An Urban Legend
4. Counter Climate Crisis
5. Bingo
6. White Nights
7. Aqua: The Origin of Life
8. Shark Sanctuary

## Dance & Free Diving

1. The Blue Hour
2. Gentle Giants
3. Confessional
4. Sott' Acqua
5. Polynesian Sea Creatures
6. Somatic Ocean 
7. UnWRECKed

## Macro

1. The Tiny Wonders of Anilao
2. Hidden
3. Diving at Blue Heron Bridge
4. Lost in the Tiny Kingdom
5. Goby
6. Magic Moments

## Made in Texas

1. Creepy Crawlers
2. Mucking It Up in Alor
3. Where the Current Takes You - Raja Ampat
4. Subduction: Below the Fireline
5. The Sinking
6. Return to Treasure Bay

# HUFF Virtual Tickets

**Available at the HUFF website  
for all previous festivals**

**(2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)**

**[huff.hups.org/shop](https://huff.hups.org/shop)**

**Virtual Tickets for HUFF 2026 will be  
available starting April 14.**

**Continue to check the website for  
upcoming HUFF 2026 and 2027 news.**

**Enter HUFF 2027 at**

**<https://filmfreeway.com/HoustonUnderwaterFilmFestival>**

**Entries will open following HUFF 2026**

# March 2026 Photo Contest

## Diagonal Composition



Kurt Bollman - Novice 1st



Kurt Bollman - Novice 2nd



Aaron Crumbley - Novice 3rd



Lynn Zechiedrich - Intermediate 1st



Alex Kendig - Intermediate 2nd



Tiffanie Crumbley - Intermediate 3rd



John VanAtta - Advanced 2nd



Barry Cline - Advanced 3rd



Justin Wallace - Advanced 3rd



Justin Wallace - Advanced 1st

# 2026 POTY STANDINGS

	<b>Novice</b>	
<b>1ST</b>	<b>Aaron Crumbley</b>	<b>181</b>
<b>2ND</b>	<b>Kurt Bollman</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>3RD</b>	<b>-----</b>	
	<b>Intermediate</b>	
<b>1ST</b>	<b>Tiffanie Crumbley</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>2ND</b>	<b>Lynn Zechiedrich</b>	<b>186</b>
<b>3RD</b>	<b>Alex Kendig</b>	<b>130</b>
	<b>Advanced</b>	
<b>1ST</b>	<b>John Van Atta</b>	<b>223</b>
<b>2ND</b>	<b>Justin Wallace</b>	<b>208</b>
<b>3RD</b>	<b>Scott Singleton</b>	<b>194</b>
<b>4TH</b>	<b>Barry Cline</b>	<b>191</b>

[Click here](#) to view the  
**HUPS Photo Contests**  
 on **HUPSdotORG.**

## 2026 Photo Contest Categories

<b>January</b>	<b>Banded/Stripes</b>	A fish or critter that has bands or stripes on their body. Detail: A pattern of parallel bands or lines on a contrasting background.
<b>February</b>	<b>Crustaceans (Shrimp, Lobsters, Crabs, etc.)</b>	Just like it says - look it up in the book (crabs, shrimp, lobsters, barnacles, etc.). When in doubt, Wikipedia can help you out.
<b>March</b>	<b>Diagonal Composition</b>	A diagonal composition is employed to arrange elements in an image based on a diagonal line.
<b>April</b>	<b>Gobies, Blennies, Jaw fish, Triple fins</b>	Tiny guys that like to hug the reef, hide out in holes, or build their nests in the sand. If you aren't sure, look it up in your fish ID book.
<b>May</b>	<b>Fish with Spots or Polka Dots</b>	A small round or roundish mark, differing in color or texture from the surface around it, such as boxfishes, coffer fishes, cowfishes and trunkfishes.
<b>June</b>	<b>Eels (morays, garden, etc.)</b>	There are lots of eels out there. They are pretty easy to spot. Think "snakes with gills".
<b>July</b>	<b>Natural light</b>	Use the sun for light (vs strobes), so lighting will be more even. Ideal for large subjects: large reefs, schools of fish, silhouettes, or large wrecks.
<b>August</b>	<b>Odd-shaped bottom dwellers</b>	If it's a bit odd looking and spends most of its life on or in the sand or reef, it probably qualifies. Infrequent-swimmers. Frogfish, crabs, flounder, scorpionfish, toadfish, batfish, lizardfish, crocodile fish...
<b>September</b>	<b>Camouflage</b>	Underwater camouflage is the set of methods of achieving crypsis—avoidance of observation—that allows otherwise visible aquatic organisms to remain unnoticed by other organisms such as predators or prey.
<b>October</b>	<b>Large swimmers (&gt; 4 feet) - not people</b>	A fish or critter that is "swimming" with a length > 4 feet, such as: grouper, tarpon, shark, sting ray, manta ray, dolphin, moray eel
<b>November</b>	<b>Hawkfish, Drums, Triggerfish</b>	This theme gives you up to 3 possible choices of fish families. If not sure, check your fish ID book.
<b>December</b>	<b>Best of HUPS</b>	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.

## 2027 Photo Contest Categories

<b>January</b>	<b>Angelfish &amp; Butterflyfish</b>	Pomacanthidae & Chaetodontidae are platter-flat, colorful, and pretty. If you aren't sure, look it up in your fish ID book.
<b>February</b>	<b>Man-Made/Wrecks</b>	Any large object (larger than a basketball) made by man that is on the bottom, such as: ships, planes, vehicles, etc. Avoid trash and debris.
<b>March</b>	<b>Turtles</b>	Sea Turtles, any variety – one or more. Your choice. Our air-breathing aquatic reptile buddies with the ancient pedigree.
<b>April</b>	<b>Black &amp; White (monochrome)</b>	Mono-color images (black & white, sepia, blue-tone, etc.). Only shades of one color are allowed. Can be taken as a mono-color image straight out of the camera or edited down from full color.
<b>May</b>	<b>Flat fish</b>	It needs to have a pronounced flat profile and be a FISH: flounder, angelfish, filefish, butterflyfish, sunfish, triggerfish, etc.
<b>June</b>	<b>Macro - Smaller than an orange</b>	The subject is smaller than an orange. Can be a portion of a larger subject (eyes, fins, etc.). Should be taken with a macro lens or one that focuses close. Don't just over-crop.
<b>July</b>	<b>Damselfish, Chromis, Hamlets, Basslets</b>	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.
<b>August</b>	<b>Cephalopods (octopi, squid, cuttlefish)</b>	Cephalopods are a sub-group of the phylum Mollusca (i. e., mollusks). Limit your entries to: squid, cuttlefish, octopi, and nautilus. (Not snails, slugs, clams, nudibranchs.)
<b>September</b>	<b>Hogfish, Wrasses, Parrotfish, Razor</b>	This theme gives you up to 4 possible choices of fish families. If not sure, check your fish ID book.
<b>October</b>	<b>Sharks &amp; Rays</b>	Chondrichthyes or cartilaginous fishes are jawed fish with paired fins, paired nares, scales, two-chambered hearts, and skeletons made of cartilage rather than bone. The class is divided into two subclasses: Elasmobranchii (sharks, rays and skates) and Holocephali (chimaeras, sometimes called ghost sharks).
<b>November</b>	<b>Anemones &amp; things that live in them</b>	Just like it says. To qualify, an anemone must be in the shot. The "things" (clownfish, crabs, etc.) are optional.
<b>December</b>	<b>Best of HUPS NOVICE, INTERMEDIATE, ADVANCED, and CREATIVE contests</b>	First place winners from each month's Novice, Intermediate and Advanced categories will be entered automatically for judging. The Creative category: Enter anything you want as long as you do the photography and any special editing.



# FIN FACTS

Welcome to Fin Facts, where we swim into the story behind a different HUPS member each month. Grab your mask and snorkel—we're exploring their favorite underwater adventure, creative inspirations, and the gear that keeps their fins kicking. Let's dive in with...

## Tiffanie Crumbley



### Fin-tastic Image

Sailfin Blenny, Stetson Bank, FGBNMS.



### UNDERWATER RIG

I currently am shooting the Olympus OMD EM10 Mark IV with the AOI Octo housing. I have 2 Sea&Sea YSD1 strobes.

1

### DIVING

I started diving in 2016 in Jamaica on our honeymoon. I honestly didn't want to dive, Aaron pushed me try it!

2

### PROFESSION

I am a travel ER RN and take off my summers to work on the Flamingo. I am in charge of running the galley, stocking and preparing meals for up to 40 people on the boat.

3

### HUPS

2026 will be my third year to participate in HUPS. Andy Lewis encouraged me to join while we were editing photos on the boat.



### RECENT PURCHASE

Just upgraded my entire camera system during the 2025 dive season because I could capture a Sailfin blenny with my old one. 🤔

### More Fin Facts...

What is your favorite dive destination and what makes it special for you?

My favorite dive destination is The Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary. It is very special to me not only because I spend my summers there, but it's a hidden gem. It is a place that I get to enjoy and help protect by teaching the importance of reef protection. It is also very special because not very many people know it exist. Boy are they missing out

What underwater location is currently at the top of your wish list?

The Indo-Pacific has been high on my wishlist. We are finally visiting there in April 2026 to explore for 2 weeks. 😊

What critter are you currently obsessed with or hoping to shoot next?

Pygmy seahorse!!!! I cannot wait!

What are your dive plans for 2026?

Bali, Indonesia in April 2026. Flower Garden Banks from May-October. Then probably back to Cozumel, MX

Which do you prefer?



**“Photography for sure! I’ve tried editing videos and just can’t figure it out! I did explore a little with macro videography end of last season. Maybe I will practice more”**



Tiffanie, what a fin-tastic story! I have to ask - do you go diving on your anniversary? Talk about a dive buddy for life, by your side through thick and fin!

...and great job showing that Blenny who’s the boss!

Many Tanks! - Justin

**WANT TO BE  
FEATURED ON FIN  
FACTS?**

We’d be thrilled to hear your story, **scan** or **click** the code, fill out the form, and stay buoyant!



**SCAN OR CLICK**



# Shooting Underwater with a Single Strobe Flash



by Lorenzo Terraneo

**Like most every professional underwater photographer, I traditionally always shoot with two strobes attached to my camera housing. But Ikelite asked me...**

# Can you take good wide photos with just one flash?

After almost a year I finally managed to dive again, and this time in the splendid marine parks of Ras Mahammed and Tiran (Sharm El Sheikh) with the [Sinai Dive Club](#). Wide photography isn't usually my strong point as I specialize in super macro photography, but with the scenery of these backdrops it's almost a must.



**You're not going to capture a school of fish with a macro set-up. A single DS160 II strobe give the fish a perfect pop of color and also brings out the beautiful tones of the coral behind.**

I therefore decided to set as my goal the study of lighting in depth using a single flash, so I could concentrate better on both the position of the flash and the power adjustment. My task was made easier thanks to the extreme power and coverage angle of my Ikelite [DS160 strobe](#). This flash has a large battery and supported all of the 500 shots that I take on average in a day (three dives), without ever missing a beat.



**Many shots of animals swimming in open water can be easily lit by a single strobe. Anything more than 5-6 feet (1-2 meters) away is too far to be hit by a strobe anyway.**

Having only one flash to manage and not two gave me a lot more time to first visualize the effect I wanted to achieve. I must say that in some middle conditions between close-up wide angle and extreme panoramas, the results that I obtained with one flash were much superior to those I could have obtained with two.



**The fall-off of our DS160 II and DS230 strobes is so gentle that it provides a natural look that draws your attention to the subject and complements the overall framing of the photo.**

# Lighting Effects

The difference is created by the possibility of highlighting only the most important portion of the picture or even having the possibility of isolating a part of it and overshadowing the rest.



**A single strobe can be positioned in unique ways to isolate part of your frame. Here the strobe light is central and angled slightly upward to create a pleasing vignette. The purposeful lighting draws your attention to the middle of the frame and makes you feel like you're looking into a fishbowl.**

The next time I return to Sharm el Sheik I will surely test my new very powerful [DS230 Strobe](#), which is brighter than the DS160 with a wider angle of coverage. Putting into practice the experience I gained this time so I can continue creating new light patterns with more awareness.



**Intentional dark regions can add a sense of space to your image. Too much light in a swim-through can also increase backscatter.**

## **Advantages of Shooting a Single Strobe**

Shooting a single strobe can help to streamline your system, reducing the overall size and weight. It's necessary to adjust the position of your strobe(s) throughout a dive to adjustment throughout your dives as your distance to the subject changes. If you're still learning about camera settings and underwater photography techniques, it can be easier to manage the positioning of a single light source.

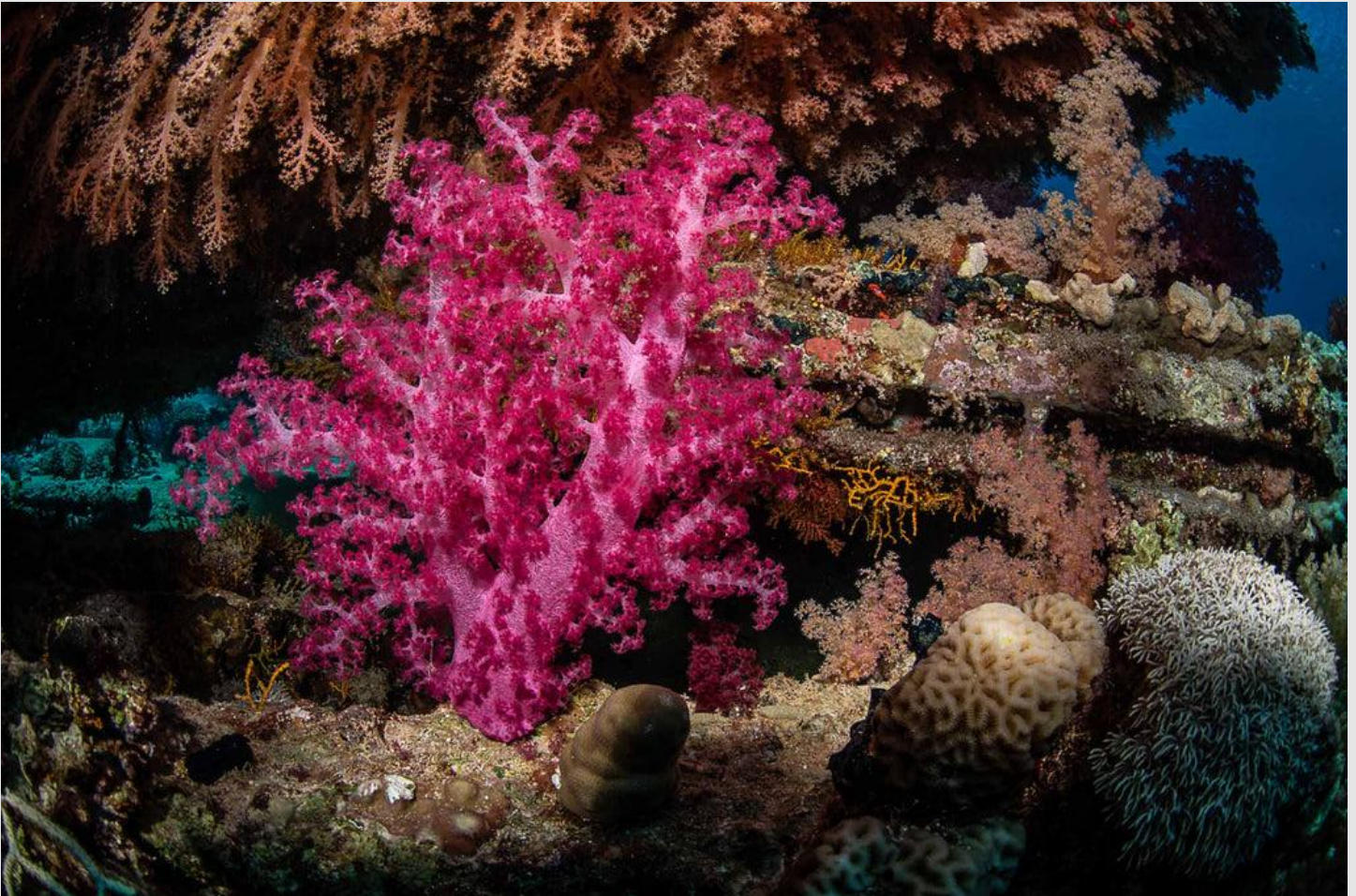
It's also more affordable to shoot with a single strobe.



**A sandy bottom reflects your strobe light which in a way increases the effective output.**

# Using a Dual Cord with a Single Strobe

Do not take a [dual sync cord](#) underwater with a cap on one end to shoot a single strobe. The dust cap provided with Ikelite sync cords is not waterproof. Use a single sync cord when shooting only one strobe.



**Most colors other than blue and green are "invisible" once you go beyond about 40 feet (12 meters). You'll want at least one strobe to bring out the reds, pinks, and oranges that will otherwise be missing from your underwater photos.**

## Advantages of Dual Strobes

The addition of light using a strobe [adds color back to your underwater photos](#). In many situations underwater, more light means more color and greater clarity. The beam patterns of two strobes put together will cover a wider field of view.

Traveling with two strobes is also a good idea because you'll have a back-up if something unexpected goes wrong.



**Close focus wide angle (CFWA) is no problem with a single strobe if you get the right angle on your subject.**

## **One Large Strobe vs Two Small Strobes**

You can often purchase two compact strobes for the price of a single professional grade strobe.

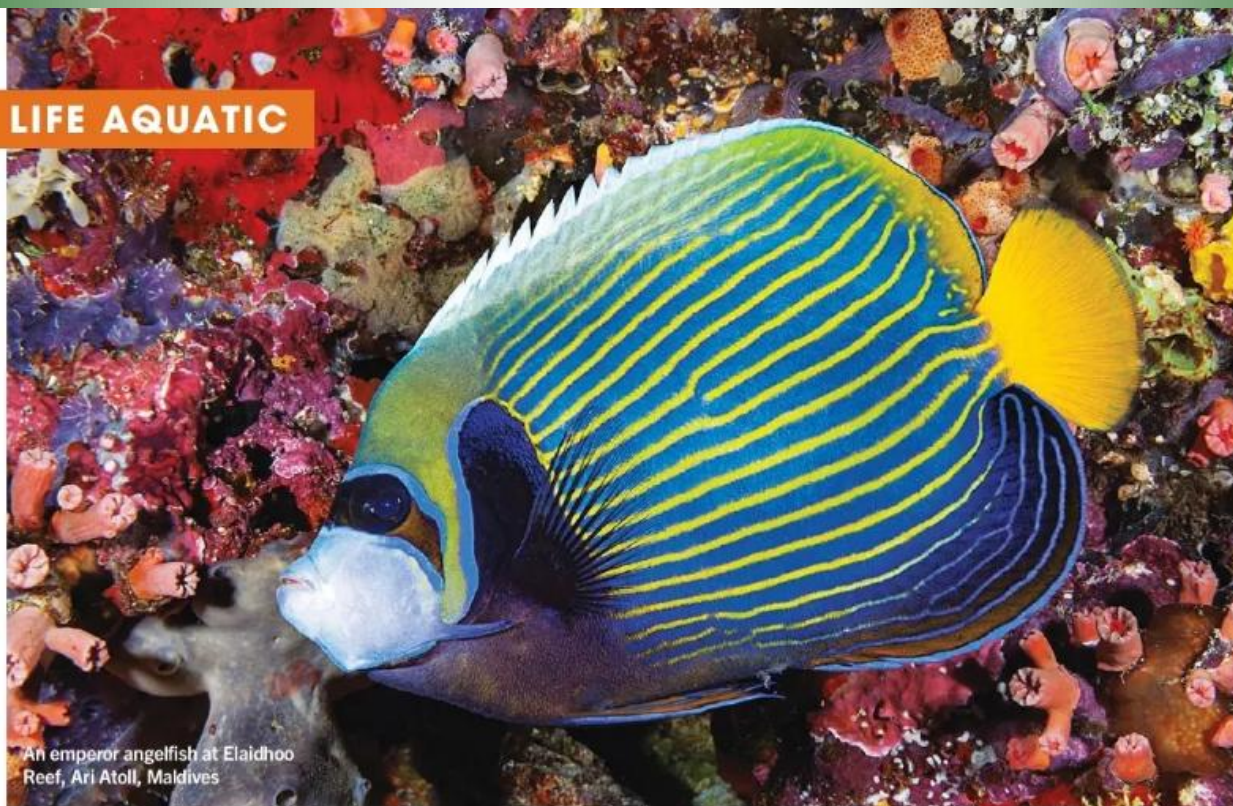
Which is better?

Compact strobes have an advantage of being smaller and lighter. And it's good to carry two strobes to have a backup on hand.

However, a professional grade strobe has the advantages of better light quality, a softer beam pattern, and faster recycle time. A fast recycle time is critical when shooting quick moving subjects like sharks, turtles, and dolphin.

Ultimately it depends on the subject and what camera system you're shooting. A macro shot can easily be covered by almost any underwater strobe. But the widest fisheye lenses on a full frame sensor may require two professional grade strobes to adequately light the scene.

## LIFE AQUATIC



An emperor angelfish at Elaidhoo Reef, Ari Atoll, Maldives

# The Evolutionary Puzzle of Fish Colors

Text and photos by Doug Perrine

**THE WILD, PSYCHEDELIC COLORS OF REEF FISH** are often what first enraptures divers. Is there an evolutionary explanation for why small, tasty animals adorn themselves in vivid colors instead of camouflaging themselves from hungry predators?

Color-vision specialist Justin Marshall, PhD, noted about coral reef habitats that it “is almost inconceivable for only one evolutionary force to be behind the colors of such a diverse assemblage.”

Alfred Russel Wallace, a 19th-century evolutionary thinker, proposed that reef fish are colorful because they camouflage themselves against colorful reefs. Wallace, however, was not a diver and could not see that most coral reef fish constantly swim past highly variable backgrounds, which are often less colorful than the animals. Frogfish and seahorses are notable exceptions that are mostly sessile and often match their colors to the soft corals and sponges where they reside.

More recently, some ecologists have proposed that fish might adopt bright colors simply because they can. Most reef fish swim close to the safety of the structurally complex coral reef environment and can easily take shelter from approaching predators, so it might not matter how visible they are. Fish that swim well above the reef are usually less colorful, enabling them to blend into open water.

Another theory postulates that most reef fish don’t camouflage themselves because they can’t. In clear, brightly lit tropical waters with the highly varied background of a coral reef, there is virtually no camouflage pattern that would provide safety to a swimming fish.

Evidence for this theory is a comparison of fish on either side of the Isthmus of Panama that share a common ancestry but have diverged into different species. These fish evolved separately to adapt to different habitats. Fish in the vibrant, clear Caribbean waters are more brightly colored than their relatives in the more turbid and monochromatic Pacific environment.

Some features of a bold color pattern can impede predation. Predators often search for the eye of their prey to know which way it will swim when they strike and take a correct approach angle. Many brightly colored fish have dark markings that obscure their eyes. Some have false eyes, usually near the tail, to confuse a predator into striking in the wrong direction.

Bright colors may highlight defensive biology, such as the orange-spine unicornfish’s bright patch of orange around the sharp spines on its tail. Other fish may use bright colors like nudibranchs and poison dart frogs do to advertise their toxicity or unpalatability. Examples include small puffers and boxfish with their noxious

slime, fangblennies that can deliver a venomous bite, and lionfish with their venomous dorsal spines.

These warning colors comport with famed behavioralist Konrad Lorenz's explanation of fish colors as "advertising billboards." A fish might want to proclaim many things about itself, just as humans use clothing, hairstyle, and material goods to advertise wealth, social status, or group affiliation. Species identity is a key attribute for fish. Coral reefs are among the most biodiverse habitats on Earth, and fish need to be able to quickly distinguish their own species for mating and to drive off competitors for mates and food.

*Below, clockwise from upper left: A Commerson's frogfish hides in yellow sponges off Mabul Island, Sabah, Borneo, Malaysia. • A juvenile emperor angelfish and a white-eyed moray share a cleaning station near Bali, Indonesia. • The white-banded triggerfish, also called the Picasso triggerfish, is the state fish of Hawai'i. • A coral grouper explores near the Similan Islands, Thailand.*

Emperor angelfish are highly territorial and aggressively run off members of their own species that might compete for resources. Juveniles, like adults, are brightly colored but have a very different color pattern that enables them to share a reef with an adult without being attacked. Their color pattern advertises, "My diet is different from yours, so don't waste energy coming after me."

Many reef fish, notably wrasses and parrotfish, have differently colored sexes. Distinct color patterns can advise to a territorial male that one fish is a female he wants to keep inside his territory and another is a male that he must displace.

In addition to marking their species, sex, and age, color patterns can distinguish some fish as individuals. Researchers can learn to identify individual fish by variations in their color patterns, so it is likely that fish can do the same to recognize mates or aggressors.

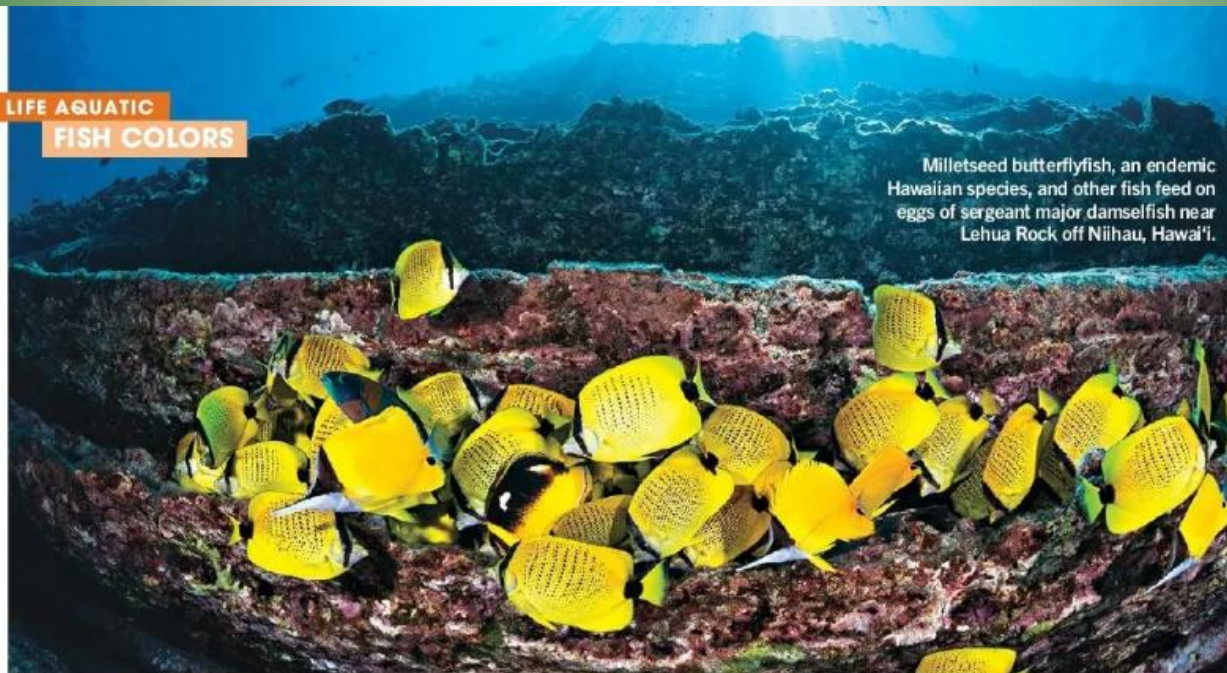
Some fish can change their color pattern or intensity almost instantaneously, often in concert with a display of aggression. Some fish display or intensify colors during courtship. Black triggerfish, for example, display lines of electric blue and yellow instead of their usual solid black during courtship and other social interactions. They also use neon patterns to entice cleaner fish to choose them among the many fish vying for attention at a cleaning station.

Cleaner fish use bright colors to advertise their services. This behavior leads to another reason that reef fish might have bright colors: mimicry. Several fang blennies sport colors that mimic the cleaner wrasses with which they associate. Innocent victims expecting a parasite removal service are instead subjected to a blenny's dine-and-dash attack. The fang-like incisors that do the dirty work can inject venom if a predator attacks.

Some other nonvenomous blennies mimic the fang blenny's



LIFE AQUATIC  
FISH COLORS



Milletseed butterflyfish, an endemic Hawaiian species, and other fish feed on eggs of sergeant major damselfish near Lehua Rock off Niihau, Hawai'i.

bright colors and benefit from reduced predation. Other fish may copy the bright colors of especially numerous species of reef fish to reduce their individual risk of predation. Juvenile orange-band surgeonfish, for example, are bright yellow and often school with yellow tangs.

A dynamic display is another way to discourage predation. This behavior could be suddenly revealing a bright color pattern that startles a predator just long enough for the fish to escape. Several types of scorpionfish have rainbow patterns hidden on their pectoral fins. The rest of the fish is a drab color that blends with the reef rubble, where the scorpionfish rests in ambush. If it has to flee a larger predator, it flashes the bright rainbows, which disappear as the fish comes to rest in a new location. Other fish have startle patterns on their dorsal fins that they can show off as needed.

Dynamic color patterns usually communicate something to nearby fish. It is not known, however, if the fish changing its color is intentionally sending a particular message or if it is an involuntary response to an emotional state.

Fish may evolve bright colors that don't offer any survival advantage as long as there is no disadvantage.

Many deep-sea fish and nocturnal fish that shelter under reef ledges by day — such as squirrelfishes, soldierfishes, and bigeyes — are deep red. Red is not visible at night or below about 60 feet (20 meters), so it could be functionally equivalent to black.

Fish do not necessarily see colors the way that we do. Many fish that live in deeper water cannot detect red light, but some fish in these environments are not only sensitive to red light but also can produce it (or other colors) by one of two mechanisms. Some fluoresce, absorbing the energy of blue to ultraviolet (UV) light that penetrates deep into the ocean and re-emitting it as red light. Others generate red light through a chemical reaction (bioluminescence). Either method gives these fish a private communication channel to signal members of their species without tipping off predators.

Some reef fish can detect at least four colors, including UV wavelengths, which we cannot see. The species that can control their UV reflectivity may use it for intraspecies communication undetectable to a predator. The two-bar damselfish, for example, has a highly UV-reflective patch on its dorsal fin, which it can raise and

lower like a signal flag. Some fish can mix UV with other pigments to produce additional colors, such as UV yellow, and some detect polarized light, potentially using it for navigation.

Reef fish use their delightful colors in many ways, but how do the fish experience them? It's doubtful that any fish looks at another and thinks about how skin pigmentation indicates metabolic fitness for a more suitable mate. It is more plausible that appraising another fish's appearance prompts a noncognitive emotional response and perceptions of attractiveness or threat.

Carl Safina points out in his excellent book, *Becoming Wild*, that it's natural that animals view their own kind as beautiful, but the real question is why humans also find them beautiful. Safina concludes that nature has endowed all creatures with a perception of beauty that enables them to feel comfortable in the world to which they are adapted.

He further posits that humans inherited not only the capacity to appreciate beauty but also our visual aesthetic values from distant ancestors we share with fish and birds. While I cannot confirm or disprove this provocative idea, I have seen fish flee from approaching tourists in unflattering swimwear. AD

# Gadget of the Month<sup>30</sup>



**Bring your  
favorite gadget  
to the next  
meeting to  
share.**



## Price Quote

August 2025

HUPS Group Trip – May 2026

Package includes:

- 7 Nights accommodation (Double Occupancy in a room with A/C)
- 5 Days diving up to 3 times daily (includes 2 night dives)
- Scuba gear clean & complimentary storage
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch on dive days – served onboard or at an outer-island beach restaurant\*
- Nitrox at house mix (32%)
- Welcome cocktail party & dinner
- Welcome gift bag
- Taxes, national park fees, cruising permits fees & fuel surcharges
- Taxi transport from ferry dock/airport upon arrival and departure
- Taxi transportation on schedule to/from marina for breakfast and diving days

Package does not include:

- Gratuity for dive staff
- \*Breakfast includes 1 drink per person; any additional drinks are not included. Lunches at out island restaurants will be paid by each guest on day of trip.

### **Divers:**

\$2,300 per Diver (Double Occupancy)

\$700 for Single Person Supplement

### **Non-Divers\*\*:**

\$1,200 per Non-Diver (Double Occupancy)

Rooms are shared (double occupancy) in a 2-Bedroom or 3-Bedroom cottage with a shared kitchen/living/patio space.

\*\*Non-divers are included in breakfast, transport, lunches and welcome meals.

*Requirement for these rates:*

*Minimum 10 divers, Maximum 24 divers/snorkelers.*

*1 complimentary snorkeler space if 10 divers*

*1 complimentary diver space if 12 divers*

*Deposit of \$500 required upon booking; balance due 120 days before arrival*

For further assistance or questions, please contact Jeff McNutt, [jeff@divebvi.com](mailto:jeff@divebvi.com)

PO Box 1343, Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands

Phone (284) 541-9818

Email [info@divebvi.com](mailto:info@divebvi.com) • Website [www.divebvi.com](http://www.divebvi.com)

**Questions? Or to sign up contact Russell Ramsey at [rjrdived@gmail.com](mailto:rjrdived@gmail.com)**

# TEXAS

## Caribbean



**M-V Fling has been carrying divers out to the World-Class sites at the Flower Garden Banks NMS and beyond! It's by far the best diving in Texas. Come with us to dive in BLUE-WATER and see coral reefs and all the animals there!**

**726 West Brazos Boulevard, Freeport, TX,  
United States, Texas**

**(979) 233-4445**

**[info@TexasCaribbean.com](mailto:info@TexasCaribbean.com)**

**Go view this video to get a small view of the Flower Garden Banks:**

**<https://>**

**[www.facebook.com/100057303948082/videos/422927503937073](https://www.facebook.com/100057303948082/videos/422927503937073)**

**To book:**

**[texascaribbean.com](http://texascaribbean.com)**

The El Paso Texas Photography Club (PEEP) will host the 2026 Gulf States Camera Club Council Photography Convention.

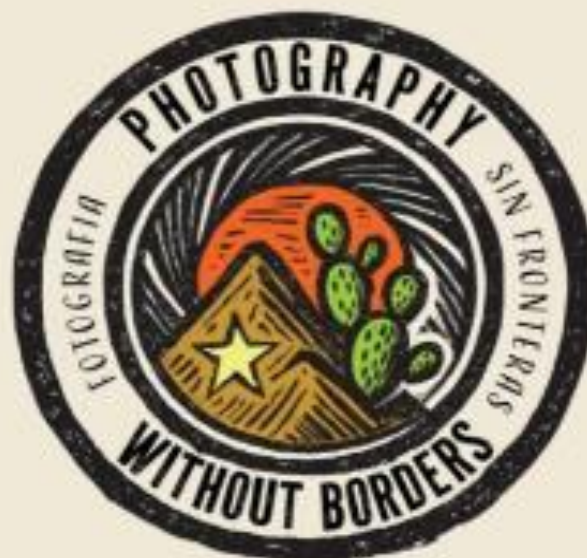
# GSCCC 2026 CONVENTION

To stay updated on the list of workshop speakers and events, regularly check our website.

We will be updating with new information as it becomes available.



**Keynote Speaker: Wayne Suggs**



**GSCCC '26 El Paso**  
May 28-30, 2026



**28-30 May 2026 - Wyndham El Paso Airport Hotel**



<http://tinyurl.com/gscgcc26>

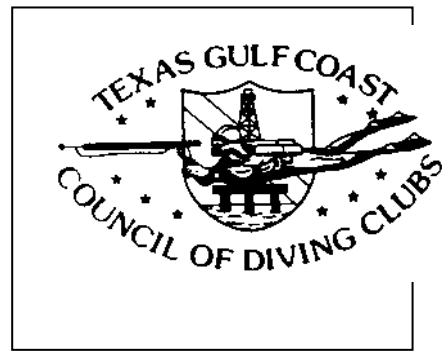




**Miss  
any recent  
HUPS  
Meetings?**

**Click [here](#)  
to view them  
on our YouTube channel**

# 2026 TGCC MEMORIAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP



The Texas Gulf Coast Council of Diving Clubs (TGCC) plans to award \$500 College scholarships during 2026. This scholarship is given in memory of the many deceased members and leaders of our dive community. It is also awarded in recognition for support of the TGCC Scholarship Program by Frank & Joyce Burek, Tom Burns, Rodney Dwire, Alicia Grimes, the Houston Underwater Club, the Houston Underwater Photographic Society, Pete & Norma Hunter, Mark Leiserowitz, Loy Murphy, Mike Peters, Linda Petty, David Pichler, Ja Van Pruett, Russell Ramsey, Louise & Fred Toole and Billie Williams. The purpose of this award is to support the higher educational goal of the members, and their families, who support the dive clubs in the Texas Gulf Coast area. The award will be paid by TGCC directly to the U.S. college towards tuition.

## Eligibility Rules:

Scholarship applicant must be a college undergraduate or graduate student attending a U.S. college in 2026, or a high school senior that has been accepted to a U.S. college in 2026.

The applicant, the parent(s) (biological or through formal adoption), or the grandparent(s) of the applicant, must be an individual member of TGCC or a member of a TGCC member club with dues current in 2026.

Application (see other side) must be received by the TGCC Donations Committee prior to **June 30, 2026**. TGCC will review all completed applications on July 9, 2026.

Applicant shall have the high school/college furnish a transcript of grades, courses and class standing.

## Scholarship General Guidelines:

Scholarship decisions of TGCC are final.

Scholarship winner is expected to keep TGCC abreast with his/her progress in college.

TGCC reserves the right to not award a prize depending upon the number of entries and qualifications of the applicants.

A personal interview with members of the TGCC Scholarship Committee may be required prior to awarding this scholarship.

Confirmation will be by e-mail. Make sure phone and e-mail data provided is current.

TGCC is offering this scholarship as a reward to TGCC members, TGCC member and associate clubs or the children of these members to thank them for supporting TGCC's efforts in promoting safe sport diving. The committee will take into consideration the applicant or applicant's parents involvement in TGCC and member clubs and/or the diving community in general throughout the year.

**Applications should be e-mailed to the TGCC Donations Committee Chairman:**

[jfburek@consolidated.net](mailto:jfburek@consolidated.net)

# 2026 TGCC MEMORIAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP



Applicant's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Graduated: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the U.S. college to be attended in 2026: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please enclose a copy of the acceptance letter, or current college transcript):

Comments and information about the applicant's grades and academic performance:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Comments and information about the applicant's sports and/or other extracurricular achievements:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Description of why the applicant feels he/she should be selected for this scholarship.  
(Use a separate page)**

TGCC Affiliation (member of TGCC or TGCC member club)

Applicant                  Parent                  Grandparent                  (please circle one)

Affiliate First Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliate Clubs (TGCC, CHUM, HUPS, Lunarfins, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Years as member of the above named club(s): \_\_\_\_\_

List any positions of leadership held by Affiliate: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# American Charitable Watersport Activities Foundation



## 2026 Supporter Registration

# \$20

The “American Charitable Watersport Activities Foundation” (ACWA) was established by SCUBA divers on March 31, 2023. ACWA is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) public non-profit charity. Staffed by non-paid volunteers, all ACWA’s administrative expenses and some of its donation support, is provided annually by members of our community who chose to become “Supporters”.

Supporter Registration for the “American Charitable Watersport Activities Foundation” (ACWA) is open to Clubs and Individuals who reside in the United States of America.

“Supporters” on record for 2023, 2024 & 2025 are listed on a “Supporter Master List” and need not complete this form. They continue their charity efforts with their 2026 payment of \$20 to ACWA’s treasurer - Mark Leiserowitz (contact information listed below).

New “Supporters” need to complete this form to provide ACWA with contact and IRS reporting information. To join the others who believe in supporting the operations of a charity targeting our community. Please print legibly as e-mail addresses will be utilized to keep supporters abreast with the charity’s status and your name as identified below, used in any future donation reporting required by you or the IRS.

Make Checks Payable To: **ACWA, c/o Mark Leiserowitz, 5205 De Milo Dr., Houston, Texas 77092**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone / Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Click [here](#) to view the  
**Spring 2025 Video Contest**

**SPRING 2026 VIDEO CONTEST**

**Entries are due by midnight May 1. Short Video and Feature Length Video categories. 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 on [hups.org](http://hups.org).**

**Address questions to [betsytennis@gmail.com](mailto:betsytennis@gmail.com)**

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

# Membership

## 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. <https://www.hups.org/join>**

**Contact Dennis Deavenport at [ddeavenport@comcast.net](mailto:ddeavenport@comcast.net)**

# SAVE THE HUFF 2026 DATE

April 11-12

at Midtown Arts & Theater Center Houston (MATCH)

## 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](mailto:HUPS_Photo_Contest@googlegroups.com)**

**Address questions to Martin at**

**[martin.daniels3@gmail.com](mailto:martin.daniels3@gmail.com)**

### **From the Editor.....**

Send program ideas to Justin Wallace

at [jwunderwater@gmail.com](mailto:jwunderwater@gmail.com)

Send workshop ideas to David Lenderman

at [underh2o@mac.com](mailto:underh2o@mac.com)

Send newsletter entries to Betsy Beasley

at [betsytennis@gmail.com](mailto:betsytennis@gmail.com)

# 2026 HUPS Dates

## Bayland Community Center

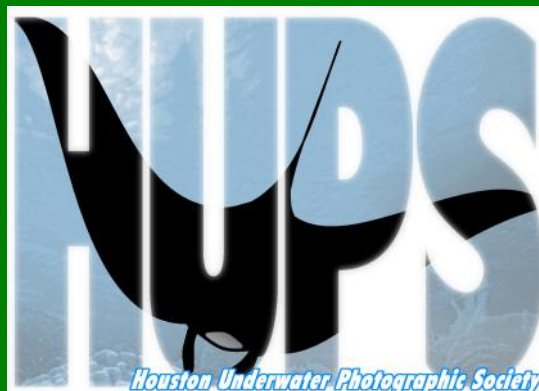
General meetings - Jan 5, Feb 2, March 2, April 6,  
May 4, June 1, July 7, August 3, Sep 14, Oct 5, Nov 9,  
Dec 7

BOD Meetings -  
Feb 28, 2 pm at Bayland Community Center

Workshops - TBD

The BOD and Workshop dates are likely to change,  
as needed.

Stay Tuned!



## 2026 Meeting Presentations

<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Expanded Topic</b>
Justin Wallace & Dennis Deavenport	January 5	“Anything Goes Video Night”	Video clips and short films from HUPSters
The Fling Team	February 2	“The Fling & The Flower Gardens”	History and behind the scenes look at The MV Fling
Craig Beasley	March 2	Flotation	The most important aspect of underwater photography never discussed
Kramer Wimberley	April 6	Diving with a Purpose with CARES	Collective approach to restoring our ecosystem
HUFF Crew	May 4	HUFF 2025 Retrospective	Overview of winning films and events of the weekend
TBD & Betsy Beasley	June 1	TBD + HUFF Spring Video Contest Winners	
Hergen Spalink Reef Photo & Video	July 6	Diving in Indonesia with a Nauticam Ambassador	Underwater photography journey
Trish Ross	August 3	Diving Safety	Practical dive safety principles for photographers
Justin Wallace	September 14	Shoot, Surface, Share	UW photography workflow overview
	October 5		
	November 9		
Martin and Mary Daniels	December 7	Christmas Dinner/Best of HUPS, and Creative Contests	Pot Luck Dinner/ Best of HUPS in Novice, Intermediate and Advanced Categories/ Creative Contest

## APRIL 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
	6 	7	8	9	10	
	13	14		16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## MAY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 		6	7	8	9
	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24		26	27	28	29	30
31						

## JUNE 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18		20
	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

 Monthly Meeting 7 pm at Bayland and on Zoom

 Houston Underwater Film Festival

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!

## 2026 HUPS Officers

**President: Craig Beasley**

**Vice President: Justin Wallace**

**Secretary: Tammy Allyn**

**Treasurer: Debbie Mensay**

**Membership: Dennis Deavenport**

**Photo Contest: Martin Daniels**

**Video Contest/ HUFF Coordinator/ Newsletter: Betsy Beasley**

**Workshop Coordinator: David Lenderman**

**TGCC Reps: Frank Burek, JaVan Pruett and Mark Leiserowitz**

**Webmaster: Joe Holden**

**Trip Coordinator: Trish Ross**

**Historian: Frank Burek**

**Special Events: Mary Daniels**

**Merchandizing Coordinator: Sandy Bryan**

**Moody Gardens Coordinator: David Lenderman**

## 2026 HUPS Board of Directors

Frank Burek	Henry Ragland	David Lenderman
Mary Daniels	Monica Losey	Betsy Beasley
Martin Daniels	Mike Greuter	Russell Ramsey
Brion Saathoff	Dennis Deavenport	



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



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groups/174166478778](https://www.facebook.com/groups/174166478778)



<https://www.instagram.com/>