Houston Underwater Photographic Society

January Newsletter

www.hups.org

Happy New Year

2017

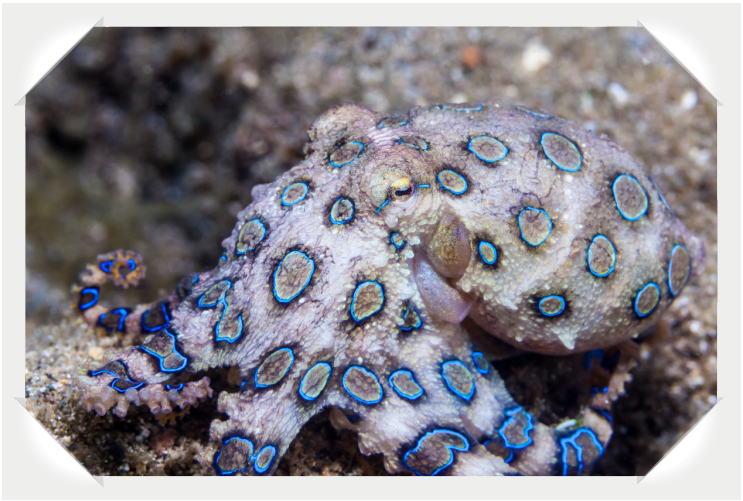
Mindoro & Sabang Bay
The Philippines

submitted by Beata Lerman

2016 was the second year in a row we travelled to Sabang Bay, Philippines, and I am existed to share my experience with all the club members. The Philippines is an enchanting country, with warm, friendly people, vast green lands, and an incredibly beautiful underwater world. 2016 was also the first year when I had a camera with decent video capabilities, and was able to document our travels above and below the water.

I will talk about the dive club we were diving with both times we were there, the sites we visited and critters we saw. From thresher sharks to mandarin fish and pigmy seahorses, Sabang Fun Divers expert staff and dive guides catered to my camera in the best way I have ever experienced. Close proximity to the world famous Verde Island is an additional bonus. With hundreds of feet of clear water and more fish around than stars in the sky, it is a special site to see.

When we were not diving we were exploring the nature, rocky hills and scenic waterfalls. There



are plenty of places oriental Mindoro and Luzon islands have to offer. For foodies, there were plenty of authentic local foods to try. In the evening we were relaxing in local spas, eating Pilipino foods and sharing laughs with the locals.

My presentation will consist of two parts: exploring nature on land and underwater. Come join HUPS to see what Mindoro and Sabang Bay is all about, and if you like what you see, we will be happy to have you on our trip this year.

President's Page

I would like to thank Jan Baughman, the Special Events Chairwoman, and all those who arrived early to assist in setting up the Christmas party, for making this end of the year event such a rousing success.

I would encourage everyone to attend our January 2017 meeting and enjoy Beata Lerman's presentation pertaining to Sabang and Puerto Gallera in the Philippines.

The topic of the first Photo Contest of the year is: Angelfish, Butterfly Fish and Surgeon Fish. Send your entries to Lance Glowacki no later than January 4th to have your photos entered. Lance has posted all the Workshop Topics on the HUPS Facebook page. The workshops will start in February and go through November. Please see the Workshop Schedule attached to this Newsletter. These tutorials will concentrate on how to work more efficiently to process your photographs using Adobe Lightroom.

Your HUPS Board of Directors will be meeting in February to plan additional 2017 events. If you have any ideas you would like your Board of Directors to consider, please let any Board member know at the January meeting or email any of them before our February meeting with those ideas.

Underwater Photography Etiquette

In the November edition of the HUPS Newsletter I wrote an article, Why Do Divers Stop Diving. Two of the reasons mentioned by non- camera toting divers were that "divers with big cameras hog all the sites so that non-camera divers do not get a chance to see what was there or that camera users were given preference over non-camera users". The September Newsletter posted The 10 Commandments of Underwater Photography Etiquette. The Fourth Commandment stated, "Thou shalt share the subject; especially with non-photographers……." and the Tenth Commandment indicated, "Thou shalt not take possession of the scene. Just because you have a camera in your hands does not give you any special rights. …." Both those Commandments should take care of these complaints.

In reading the blogs and articles as to camera etiquette under water, it has been noted that many divers have had some sort of bad or stress filled experiences with divers with cameras. In the not so distant past, having a camera aboard a live aboard or a dive boat not devoted to camera enthusiasts was a novelty. In today's world almost everyone is carrying a camera of some sort. All of us with cameras, large or small, should not forget about the divers without a camera who just wish to enjoy the underwater experience or capture the memories of the dive through their visual perception. Studies confirm that when one does not use a camera, those persons recall much more of the experience than those who take photographs of that same scene.

Sometimes there might even be some sort of strain between photographers and non-photographers over who first gets to see what the dive master has found. Become aware of how your actions or behavior with the camera and strobe is affecting the sea life you are photographing. Be careful with those fins as they can stir silt and sand up and ruin the shot or a view of the animal you had been photographing. Check your buoyancy to insure you are not resting on the coral or rising or falling into another diver. Do not hog a subject and "camp out" on the subject. Let everyone have a turn at seeing the cool stuff. If you find something that no one else has found or seen, take your pictures and then get the group to come over to see what you have found. If you respect your fellow divers, the environment around you and do not abuse the privilege of the total underwater experience, it is my belief that you will cultivate more friends than enemies among the non-camera carrying dive community.

I have also found that sharing your photos with divers, who are not photographers, at the end of the day around the communal bar goes a long way to diffusing any tensions that might exist between the underwater photographer and non-photographers. You will receive oohs and aahs from the non-photographers as they are able to relive the dive by seeing your pictures. You may also get converts to the underwater world of photography.

Wishing all HUPSTERS a Happy 2017 and great diving this year!

Russell Ramsey

2017 HUPS Meeting Schedule

Jan

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HUPS meeting 7-9pm

HUPS BOD meeting 5:30pm; HUPS meeting 7-9pm

HUPS workshop noon-3pm

2017 Annual Membership Dues

$35 Single membership
$45 Family membership

Payable:
Cash or Check at January meeting

On-line via HUPS webpage:
www.hups.org

2016 Membership Statistics

102 active members
7 new members in 2016
33 Lifetime Achievement Award (LAA) members
78 paying members (includes LAA members who chose to pay dues)
54 inactive members (members from previous years who did not pay dues in 2016)

2017 Presentations & Contest Topics

	Presentation	Presenter	Contest Topic
January 9	Sabang and Puerto Galera	Beata Lerman	Angelfish, Butterflyfish, Surgeonfish
February 6	Truk Lagoon Photo Tips & Tricks	Ken Knezick	Black Background
March 6	Forgotten Islands	Dennis Deavenport	Sand & Muck denizens
April 3	Sharks of French Polynesia	Cecilia Clementi	Something Yellow
May 1	TBD		Close Focus Wide-Angle
June 5	TBD		Damselfish, Chromis, Hamlets, Basslets
July 3	TBD		Diagonal composition
August 7	TBD		Mollusks
September 11	TBD		Vertical composition
October 2	TBD		Weird & Spooky
November 6	TBD		Hawkfish, Drums, Triggerfish
December 4	Best of HUPS	Lance Glowacki	Creative

2017 Workshop Topics

Date	Topic
Feb 18	Organizing and importing your photos
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

2017 Photo Contest Themes

Month	Themes	Description
Jan	Angelfish, Butterfly fish, Surgeonfish	If you aren't sure, look it in your fish ID book or just ask someone you trust for an expert opinion. If it's platter-flat, colorful, and pretty, it's probably what you're looking for.
Feb	Black Background	Any primary subject as long as the background has a nice black color
Mar	Sand & Muck denizens	"On muck dives, underwater photographers find rare nudibranchs, juvenile fish, frogfish, and strange critters that are found nowhere else."
Apr	Something Yellow	A critter or fish that has noticeable yellow. Yellow is the color of gold, butter, and ripe lemons. Yellow is the color people most often associate with amusement, optimism, gentleness, and spontaneity,
May	Close Focus Wide-Angle	It is a sub-division of wide angle, as the name suggests, comprising of images taken at camera to subject distances of less than about two feet.
May Video	General	1 to 3 minutes
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 &y 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.

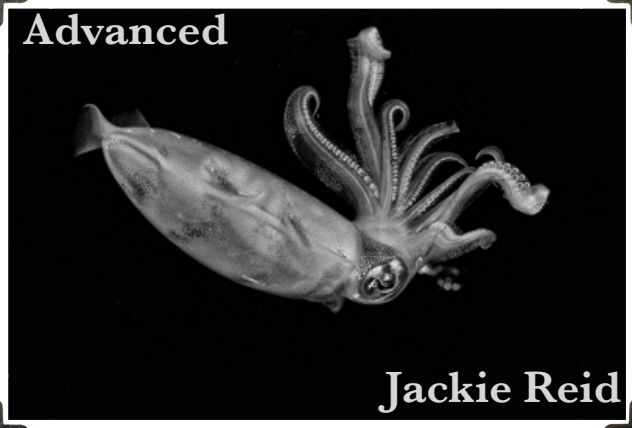
2016 POTY Finale

NOVICE		
1st	Craig Beasley	682
2nd	Mathis Weatherall	550
3rd	Kevin Crofoot	505
4th	John Van Atta	336
5th	Lorna Carpenter	292
6th	David McCracken	145
7th	John Scheldt	103
INTERMEDIATE		
1st	Martin Daniels	691
2nd	Beata Lerman	641
3rd	Bess Bright	619
4th	Lance Glowacki	600
5th	Paul McDonald	373
6th	Joe Holden	242
ADVANCED		
1st	Dennis Deavenport	855
2nd	Jackie Reid	747
3rd	Debbie Mensay	299
4th	Jim Mensay	295
5th	Daniel Bergeron	209
VIDEO		
1st	Tom Collier	67
2nd	Kathy Long	43
3rd	Beata Lerman	32
4th	Mathis Weatherall	32
5th	Dennis Deavenport	32
6th	Craig Beasley	32
7th	Monica Losey	17
8th	Lornie Mueller	11

Congratulations!
2016
Photographers of the Year

Advanced: Dennis Deavenport
Intermediate: Martin Daniels
Novice: Craig Beasley
Video: Tom Collier

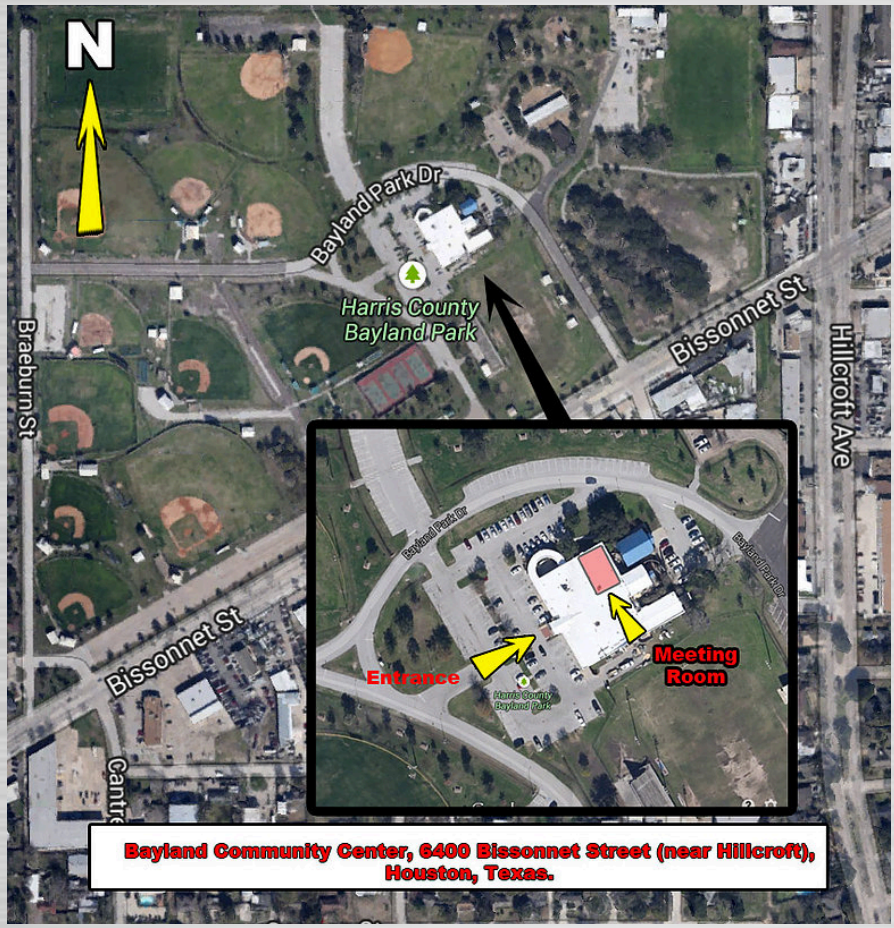
2016 Best of HUPS



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

Find us on: facebook www.facebook.com/groups/174168478778/

2017 HUPS Board of Directors

Jan Baughman
Bess Bright
Frank Burek
Martin Daniels
Lance Glowacki
Mike Greuter
Beata Lerman
Monica Losey
Henry Ragland
Tom Collier
Joe Haws
Jim Mensay
Dennis Deavenport
Lorna Carpenter
Craig Beasley

2016 HUPS Officers

President:
Russell Ramsey

Vice President:
Beata Lerman

Secretary:
Tammy Allyn

Treasurer:
Debbie Mensay

Membership/Newsletter:
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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