



December Newsletter

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December 2016

HUPS Christmas Party & Potluck Dinner

Please plan to attend this month's December Meeting as it is the final meeting for 2016. 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 Jan Baughman 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 Page - 2016 Year in Review

2016 has been an exciting year for HUPS. We have had a thought provoking workshop by Ken Knezick, one DAN sponsored Basic Life Support: CPR, AED training and a First Aid Provider Course, one Walk About at Brazos Bend State Park, 11 great photo contests, a HUPS sponsored trip to the BVI/St. Croix and the almost annual Bonaire excursion this year led by John and Lorna Carpenter. There was a Palau trip sponsored by Island Dreams which several members participated in as well as a trip to the Forgotten Islands, Indonesia sponsored by Oceanic Ventures Dive Shop. One half of the guests aboard the vessel, Arenui, were HUPS members, including trip leader, Jesse Cancelmo.

During the year HUPS members removed, re-installed and then removed again in August the photographs in the Moody Gardens Aquarium rotunda to make way for the offshore platform exhibit to be completed next year. The gift shop, once reopened, may continue to sell prints of various popular HUPS photos. While HUPS no longer has a large photo display area, we were invited to provide photos to accompany MG's winter feature Ice Land Ice Sculptures, A Caribbean Christmas which Bess Bright's discusses in her Moody Gardens update contained elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Last month the membership voted in a new slate of officers and board members. Those officers voted in for 2017 are: President - Russell Ramsey; Vice President and Program Chairman - Beata Lerman; Secretary - Tammy Allen and Treasurer - Debbie Mensay. The members of the Board of Directors consist of: Membership and Newsletter Chairman- Monica Losey; Photo Contest and Workshop Chairman - Lance Glowacki; Webmaster - Joe Holden; Trip Coordinator - Jim Mensay; Historian - Frank Burek; Special Events Coordinator- Jan Baughman; Moody Gardens Coordinator - Bess Bright and the TGCC Reps are Frank Burek, Debbie Mensay and Alicia Grimes. Additional members of the Board who agreed to remain and were reelected were: Martin Daniels, Mike Greuter, Henry Ragland, Tom Collier, Joe Haws, and Dennis Deavenport. The Board of Directors

welcomed two new members, Craig Beasley and Lorna Carpenter. With regret the BOD accepted Ken Knezick's resignation. Ken has been so instrumental over the years in guiding HUPS through thick and thin. When you get a chance please go up and tell Ken how much you appreciate all the "blood, sweat and tears" he has poured into this organization.

2017 will be HUPS 35th year serving the diving photographer and videographer. It looks to be exciting year with a trip planned to Batang, Philippines which will be led by Beata Lerman in November 2017. Other trips are still in the planning stages and will be announced next year. Very likely, if interest continues, there will be the "almost annual trip to Bonaire". Workshops are being scheduled for the 3rd Saturday every month in 2017 beginning in February. The first workshop is a video produced workshop entitled Ultimate Lightroom Course, Part 1 produced by Matt K. You definitely will want to calendar that workshop.

The TGCC 2016 Banquet is scheduled to take place Saturday January, 28, 2017 at Bayland Community Center beginning at 11 AM when the social get together begins, with the luncheon starting at 11:45. Tickets are \$15.00. Guest speaker will be Emma Hickerson, Science Coordinator for the Flower Garden Banks National Sanctuary and a member of the Women's Diver's Hall of Fame who will discuss FGBNMS Deep- or Life below recreational diving and Virtual Diving. The banquet will conclude with award presentations by all the Houston Area dive clubs. See Frank for additional information. The sign-up sheet will be on the table next to the name badges both this month and at the January meeting.

The monthly meeting calendar is already set for next year with our meetings continuing to be held at Bayland on the first Monday of each month other than January and September when the meetings will be on the second Monday due to holiday closing of the Bayland Community Center.

Let's remain safe through the holidays and continue diving and pursuing our photography passion whether above or below the water column in 2017.

Russell Ramsey, President





HUPS Member of the Year Nominations

HUPS Member of the Year Nomination – 2016

It has always been gratifying when this time of the year comes up and it's time to choose HUPS' Member of the Year. The reason has never been more apparent than for 2016 which has multiple members who have contributed time, energy, and creativity toward making our organization the quality experience we've come to expect over the years.

I have given hard thought to the contributions of Monica Losey, Russell Ramsey, Bess Bright, and Joe Holden. In all honesty, they all deserve to be honored. Monica has taken the Membership Chairperson's job and Editor of our Newsletter and run for touchdowns with both.

Bess Bright continues to volunteer for all of the thankless but demanding jobs such as organizing the displays at Moody Gardens and other mind-grinding tasks.

Joe Holden has spent an enormous amount of his time completely revamping HUPS.ORG to make it a truly artistic and information-rich asset for HUPS.

Russell? Well, we really can't put a value on how much he has meant to HUPS due to his outstanding leadership and stewardship skills. He makes coming to monthly meetings a happy and fun experience. He runs the club professionally and presents us to the world in a quality manner. He has organized great trips to BVI and St Croix and continues to promote our organization internally and externally at every opportunity.

My difficult choice comes down to Russell. I wish I could give the award to everyone I've mentioned but I feel that Russell has been the most impactful of the group and very deserving of being honored as HUPS Member of the Year.

Dennis Deavenport

HUPS MEMBER OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

I am honored to nominate Russell Ramsey as the 2016 HUPS member of the year. Russell has been a key leader of HUPS for the past several years. He has performed the duties of president better than anyone in recent memory. He has participated in numerous club trips and has organized his own club trips to his favorite destination in the Caribbean. He has been involved in the Moody Gardens project and volunteered his house for several meetings in this endeavor. His attention to detail is unmatched and his self-sacrificing efforts for the benefit of HUPS has been extraordinary. Because of Russell'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 Russell Ramsey should be chosen as the 2016 HUPS MEMBER OF THE YEAR.

Tom Collier

Sweat Equity and Giving to Receive...a retrospective by Dennis Deavenport

When I joined HUPS back in the late 1990's, I was pretty much in awe of the people that were in the club and how good they were compared to where I was at the time. I had just come off an epic journey (for me anyway) to Papua New Guinea on The Febrina and was really pumped about what I had seen and the pictures I'd taken with my new SLR. At one of the first meetings I attended, I went up to Jack Allyn who was the VP in charge of programs and volunteered to give a show. Several years later, Jack confided in me that he was thinking something like "Who is this strange guy that wants to do a show anyway?" OK, I'm pretty sure that he figured I'd botch the job and in retrospect, I suppose his first thoughts were probably close to being on target. Maybe he was desperate for a program or just intrigued by my offer but in the end, he gave me an opportunity for "15 minutes of fame". I had some decent stuff but I also had a lot of throw-aways that should have ended up on the "cutting-room floor" but didn't.

My HUPS career could have easily ended right then and there but I was too much into the moment and kept on soldiering away by volunteering when I could and working to get better and make contributions. That was back when Seaspace was going strong and HUPS always had a booth that showed members' photos and pushed to sign new members. I tried to do my part to make it a positive experience for people attending the show and gradually our involvement with Seaspace became much greater. Don't ever forget just how much Ken Knezick has meant to the dive community in Houston and to the diving world in general. Where would we be without his energy and talents?

My 2nd presentation was a watershed event for me and perhaps to HUPS. I had just returned from a 2nd trip to PNG and was amped up about my slides and the whole experience. It was also just after I had obtained a copy of Photoshop and I needed an excuse to learn how to use it. B&H was selling slide scanners and I was in the market. For the next couple of months I flogged my new Canon FS 2710 scanner getting a healthy number of digital files that I started whipping into shape with Photoshop. Nothing thrilled me quite as much as taking a poorly executed image and extracting the magic that was lurking deep down inside the underlit, poorly framed, and backscattered emulsion. It truly was magic and I tackled it with energy that I can only dream of now. The results on my PC screen looked great but getting it on the projection screen was another enormous hurdle. I managed to borrow a digital projector from my job and

after a lot of searching, found a rudimentary slideshow program that let me kludge a program together. I actually don't remember how I managed the music but somehow it all magically came together in the room that night. The projected resolution was poor relative to today's standards and the color was certainly not calibrated very well but by golly, it all worked and I was totally pumped at actually getting something decent on the screen.

It took years for HUPS to fully move over to digital technology but it did and thanks to forward-thinking members like James Wiseman, we've been one of the pioneers in the Gulf Coast area in its implementation and promoting it among our members. Thanks to Joe Nicklo's vision of doing workshops for our members, HUPS leveraged its collective experience with underwater photographic techniques, Photoshop, Lightroom, and other pieces of presentation software into programs that helped jump-start other members into the digital age.

What we are today is a far cry from what it was when I joined. Perhaps not better but certainly much different. Without the "sweat equity" that has been poured into keeping things moving along at a fast clip, HUPS could have easily ended up "on the cutting room floor" like many other organizations.

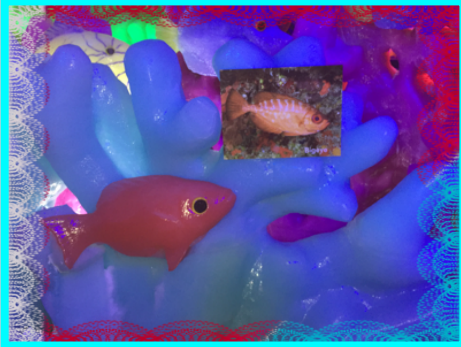
It didn't happen by mistake or by good fortune. It took the collected efforts of many members giving of their time, energy, leadership, and creativity to keep charging along and to make being a member of HUPS a positive experience for all of these years. I'm just one of many that has stepped forward to help. To say the least, I'm immensely proud of what HUPS is and my involvement with what we have collectively accomplished. How I feel about what we've built is its own reward. Very few things I've done in life have meant as much to me. Many of my closest and most interesting friends have come from people I've met by staying active and involved. Giving to receive isn't a new concept but it never gets outdated.

Now it's past time that I start to move into the background and let others with more energy and talents waiting to burst forth, take the ball, and run untethered and unafraid into the future. Lance Glowacki has taken over the photo contest and is doing an amazing job. Beata Lerman has volunteered to be our next Vice President and already has a great start to putting her unique stamp on HUPS. Russell Ramsey is an amazing leader with a real passion for doing things the right way. Our other officers, the BOD, and key contributors like Monica Losey, Joe Holden, Bess Bright and others, that I apologize for not mentioning, are part of a bright future. I look forward to seeing what our new leadership will be doing as we start a new chapter in "HUPS' Book of Life Underwater". Thanks for all the fish.



HUPS at Moody Gardens

Bigeye - Dennis Deavenport



Moody Gardens
Galveston, Texas
Caribbean Christmas

contributed by Bess Bright

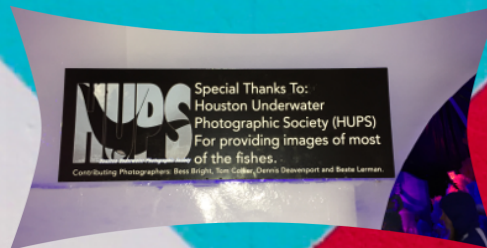
Tarpon - Bess Bright



2016 saw the end of HUPS' multi-year run of displaying our members' photos on the rotunda walls of the Moody Gardens Aquarium. Although we lost our venue when the rotunda was demolished to make way for their offshore platform exhibit, Moody Gardens invited us to participate in their Ice Land exhibit, featuring several Caribbean critters carved from giant blocks of ice. HUPS provided photos of many of these animals so visitors could see what they really look like. HUPS supplied images for Bigeye, Blue Angelfish, Four-eye Butterflyfish, Green Moray Eel, Rock Beauty, Stoplight Parrotfish, Ocean Sunfish, Tarpon, Blue Tang, Goliath Grouper, Barracuda, Queen Triggerfish, Yellowtail Snapper), Lined Seahorse, Queen Angelfish, and Spotted Eagle Ray. Russell Ramsey and I visited the exhibit to take photos for the newsletter. It's an impressive (and cold! Duh) display of ice carvings. It runs through January 8, so if you get a chance, check it out. Oh, and if they offer you a parka, trust me, you'll want to take it!



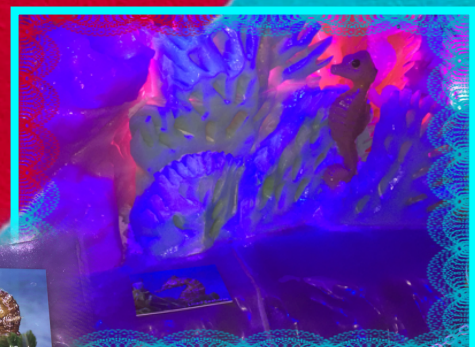
Blue tang - Bess Bright



**Four-eye Butterflyfish -
Dennis Deavenport**



**Triggerfish & Goliath Grouper -
Bess Bright**



Seahorse - Tom Collier

2016 POTY Standings thru October

NOVICE

1st	Craig Beasley	617
2nd	Mathis Weatherall	550
2nd	Kevin Crofoot	455
4th	John Van Atta	269
5th	Lorna Carpenter	225
6th	David McCracken	103
7th	John Scheldt	95

INTERMEDIATE

1st	Martin Daniels	598
2nd	Beata Lerman	575
2nd	Bess Bright	568
4th	Lance Glowacki	542
5th	Paul McDonald	373
6th	Joe Holden	207

ADVANCED

1st	Dennis Deavenport	766
2nd	Jackie Reid	747
3rd	Debbie Mensay	299
4th	Jim Mensay	295
5th	Daniel Bergeron	209

Martin Daniels
Intermediate 1st



Dennis Deavenport
Advanced 1st



Beata Lerman
Intermediate 2nd



Lorna Carpenter
Novice 1st



Lance Glowacki
Intermediate 3rd



Craig Beasley
Novice 3rd



John VanAtta
Novice 2nd



2017 Presentation and 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

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 & 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.

Don't forget to submit creative photos to
hupsphotocontest@gmail.com no later than 11:59pm this Friday,
 December 2nd for judging & presenting at the December meeting.

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!



2016 HUPS Officers

President:

Russell Ramsey

Vice President:

Dennis Deavenport

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

HUPS on the Internet



www.hups.org



www.youtube.com/user/HUPSdotORG



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2016 HUPS Board of Directors

Jan Baughman
Bess Bright
Frank Burek
Martin Daniels

Lance Glowacki
Mike Greuter
Beata Lerman
Ken Knezick

Monica Losey
Henry Ragland
Tom Collier
Joe Haws

Jim Mensay



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