



April Newsletter

www.hups.org



2019

Houston Police Department Dive Team

We're all aware of the Houston police department and all they do to keep us safe year in and year out. However, few of us realize that one of the less well-known units in their force is the Dive and Rescue Team. It's not a big group, only 16 men, but they go about their business with endless energy and dedication. Sgt. Edward (Eddy) Godwin,

one of the key members of the team, was recruited by Russell Ramsey to give our presentation on April 4th, an event that none of us should miss.



certainly, when we think of the PD Dive Team, images of them diving in murky bayous looking for drowning victims or victims of violence come to mind. However, what lies under the surface is how much they contributed during the Harvey disaster when a good portion of Houston was underwater and thousands of people were in dire need of assistance and

rescue. During that event, the HPD Dive Team was credited with rescuing 3000 people in danger of drowning. In the words of Sgt. Godwin... "We're going through an apartment complex and it looks like white water rapids." "People screaming, people on their roof, people pointing to bodies," said Officer Bryon Vecera. Ultimately 300 people in that apartment complex owe their safety to the dive team.

However, when all efforts fail, the team continued to perform their duty, diving in the swirling muck looking for those that didn't make it out. This scene and other like it typifies what they are called upon to do on a daily basis. It's not easy what they do and the training, practice, and equipment required are very special and rigorous.

Be sure to come early and get a good seat. Eddy plans to give us a great and sobering program.

--Dennis Deavenport





President's Corner

Spring cleaning: Have you done a good inventory of your gear? Is it time to restock your first aid kit?

New events, new ideas, fresh spring start. HUFF is the coolest new thing HUPS is doing. Get excited and get involved.

Apologies to everyone: our workshop was cancelled and we did not get the word out to the members. A protocol is being developed.

Enjoy the newsletter and I hope we can see you tomorrow.

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

See you at JAX's (6510 Rice Ave., Bellaire) after the meeting.

---Lorna carpenter

Announcements

REEF's 2019 Fishinar Schedule

Fishinars are REEF's brand of fun, live, interactive webinars, and anyone who wants to know more about ocean life is welcome to join in. These short, free webinars will teach you the finer points of identifying fish and invertebrates underwater. In addition to marine life identification sessions for all REEF's worldwide project areas, they also feature guest speakers who present a variety of ocean topics.

--Interesting Fish of Oman - April 1 @ 8pm EST

--Tropical Western Atlantic Beginners course: Part 1 - April 30 @ 8pm EST

--Tropical Western Atlantic Beginners course: Part 2 - May 2 @ 8pm EST

--Tropical Western Atlantic Beginners course: Part 3 - May 7 @ 8pm EST

--Tropical Western Atlantic Beginners course: Part 4 - May 9 @ 8pm EST

--Gobies and Blennies of the Sea of Cortez: June 19 @ 8pm EST

--California Sluginar - August 15 @ 8pm EST

--Unique Fish of the Cayman Islands - September 4 @ 8pm EST

--Invasive Lionfish update - October 3 @ 8pm EST

--Indo-Pacific Surgeonfish - November 19 @ 8pm EST

To register for a fishinar go to their website: www.REEF.org/fishinars. can't make it to the live

2019 HUPS Membership Statistics (as of March 31 2019)

78 active members (paid + lifetime members)

-->down from 85 active members as of end of 2018 and 97 active members as of end of 2017

4 new members so far in 2019

-->down from 7 new members in 2017 but up from 3 new members in 2018

--> only 2 of the 10 new members from 2017 & 2018 have paid dues for 2019

10 members paid in 2018 but not yet paid in 2019

-->down from 15 in 2018 and same as in 2017

64% of active members are dues paying members

-->down from 69% in 2018 and 74% in 2017

32 lifetime members

-->down from 33 in 2017



2019 POTY Standings through March

Novice

1	Betsy Beasley	274
2	Lorna Carpenter	193
3	Justin Wallace	59

Intermediate

1	Bess Bright	254
2	Russell Ramsey	237
3	John Van Atta	175

Advanced

1	David Lenderman	264
2	Dennis Deavenport	246
3	Steven Anderson	234
4	Craig Beasley	216
5	Joseph Holden	62



Lorna Carpenter
Novice 1st



Steven Anderson
Advanced 1st

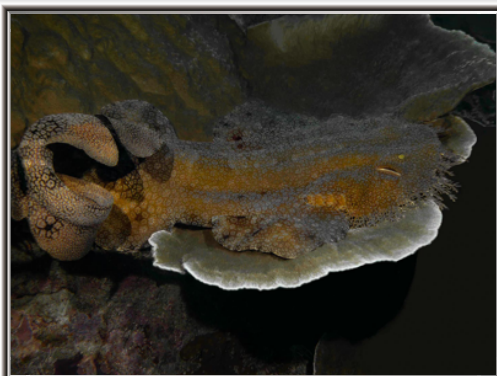


Bess Bright
Intermediate 3rd



2019 Photo Contest Themes

Month	Themes	Description
Jan	Grouper	Groupers are teleost, typically having a stout body and a large mouth. They are not built for long-distance, fast swimming. They can be quite large
Feb	Seahorses & pipefish	Just like it says. Anything in the subfamily "Syngnathinae". Look it up and learn something.
Mar	Sharks & Rays	Not that you have to read all of this but it might be interesting: 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, which are sometimes separated into their own class).
Mar Video	General	1 to 3.59 minutes
Apr	Schools of Fish	We're talking beaucoup Pisces this month. Lots fish... not critters, just fish. What is a school? Good question. Let's see if we can take a stab at it. How about 12 or more of the same fish.
May	Eyes	Any sea life that has an eye. Can be fish, invertebrates or mammal.
Jun	Juveniles	This seems simple but it's not always easy to know when you have a juvenile of a species. I'm really not sure I can offer you any good advice other than look it up or ask someone that probably knows. Anything that's not a mature adult is an operational definition. In reality, we're probably looking for fish or critters that are obviously still maturing. Good examples might be juvenile angelfish that have distinct markings or juvenile spotted drums that still need a while to grow into their fins. You get the picture (I hope).
Jun Video	General	1 to 3.59 minutes
Jul	Camouflage	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.
Aug	Macro subjects	The main 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 crop the heck out of a picture.
Sep	Scorpionfish, Gunards, Lionfish	Another 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.
Oct	Single color focus	Subject must be a single color or shade of color. Examples green moray eel, green parrotfish, soap fish, sharks, sponge, coral.
Oct Video	General	1 to 3.59 minutes
Nov	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 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.



Betsy Beasley
Novice 3rd



Happy Earth Day

By Monica Losey

I've themed this month's newsletter in support of Earth Day, internationally celebrated on April 22. Because our underwater photography hobby is so intimately dependent upon the quality of the oceans of our world, I thought it fitting to provide some history and recognition to this day. Below are some tidbits of facts related to Earth Day that I thought you might find interesting.

- Currently celebrated in more than 192 countries by more than 1 billion people each year, Earth Day has become the largest civic observance in the world; one of the most widely celebrated environmental events across the globe; and the first and largest secular holiday in the world.
- An estimated 20 million Americans participated in the first Earth Day held on April 22, 1970. This huge turnout made the first Earth Day the largest organized celebration in the history of the United States. The success of Earth Day helped to influence the United States' government to create stronger laws and organizations to protect the environment such as the EPA, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and many others.
- The roots of Earth Day can be traced to a speech given by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson at the University of Washington in September of 1969. Decrying a massive oil spill off the coast of Santa Barbara, CA in 1969 as emblematic of environmental problems, he called for a teach-in on the environment at colleges across the country, modeled on the earlier anti-Vietnam War teach-ins.
- The name "Earth Day" was chosen by national coordinator Denis Hayes and his staff over beer and pizza for use in a full-page ad in the Sunday New York Times. Other proposed names included Environment Day, Ecology Day, E Day.
- Nelson chose the date in order to maximize participation on college campuses for what he conceived as an "environmental teach-in". He determined the week of April 19-25 was the best bet as it did not fall during exams or spring breaks. Moreover, it did not conflict with religious holidays such as Easter or Passover, and was late enough in spring to have decent weather. More students were likely to be in class, and there would be less competition with other mid-week events—so he chose Wednesday, April 22.
- Earth Day became an international event on March 21, 1971, when UN's

Secretary-General spoke about it at a Peace Bell Ceremony at the United Nations in New York City.

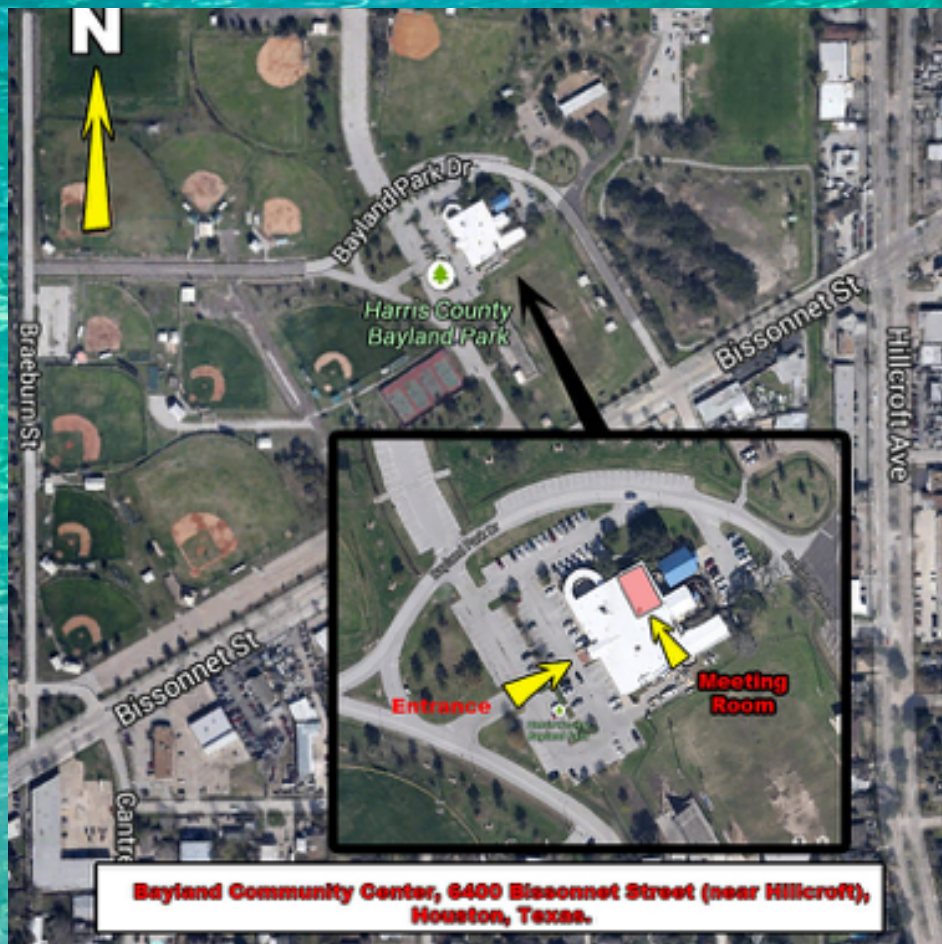
- Earth Day originated in the US but became recognized worldwide by 1990. In 1990, Earth Day turned its attention overseas, ultimately catalyzing events in 141 countries. Earth Day 1990 gave a huge boost to recycling efforts worldwide and helped pave the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro—the largest gathering of heads of state in history.
- Starting in 1996, Earth Day Network began coordinating Earth Day internationally. EDN is a non-profit organization that promotes and coordinates activities of over 22,000 participating organizations in more than 192 countries worldwide to raise environmental concerns.
- Earth Day 2000 was the first year that Earth Day used the Internet as its principal organizing tool, linking activists from around the world. An estimated 200 million participants in 184 nations took part in Earth Day 2000, which included the first national environmental campaign in the history of China.
- Earth Day was officially renamed by the UN in 2009 as International Mother Earth Day.
- Over 70% of the Earth's surface is under the ocean; it makes up 99% of the living space on our planet; and is home to half of all species on Earth. More than 2.6 billion people depend on the ocean as their primary source for protein.
- Some easy ways to protect our oceans in observance of Earth Day:
 - o Carry a reusable bag to reduce plastic bags from damaging ocean wildlife
 - o Fill your boat's gas tank only 90% full to reduce risk of spills
 - o Carry a reusable mug
 - o Print double-sided documents
 - o Use cold water to reduce energy and your utility usage
 - o Use a drying rack for your clothes instead of the dryer
 - o Use cloth napkins
 - o Don't use straws
 - o Use reusable containers for leftovers instead of plastic bags

Monthly Meeting Presentation Topics

	Presentation	Presenter
January	Short Video Clips – Audience Participation	Tom Collier
February	Regulator Use, Care, & Maintenance	Dave Bullard
March	DSLR, Mirrorless, MFT, IBIS, Full Frame, etc.: what does it all mean for underwater photography and video?	Craig Beasley
April	Houston Police Department Dive and Rescue Unit	Sgt. Edward Godwin, HPD Dive Team
May	Lembeh – Video & Tech discussion	PJ Campagna
June	Solomon Islands	Eric Keibler
July	Diving the Red Sea	Morad Hassan
August	St. Eustacius	Mike Greuter
September	BVI – After the Hurricane	Jim & Sudi Babcock
October	Philippines – Cabillao & Dumaguette	Craig & Betsy Beasley, Tom Collier, Dennis Deavenport
November	Flower Gardens	Jesse Cancelmo
December	Best of HUPS	Martin Daniels



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/

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