

July 2021



HUPS Newsletter

HUFF Winners

July 12

7 - 9 pm

Come and enjoy the presentation of the
1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners from the HUFF 2020/21 and festival highlights.
7 film categories.

This meeting will be a dual meeting at the
Bayland Community Center and on Zoom.

[Link to the Zoom broadcast](#)

Meeting ID: 899 2566 6545

Password: 478903

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Remembering Sudi



See Sudi's last film [here](#)

President's Message

First HUFF a Success!

By David Lenderman

The 2020 Houston Underwater Film Festival is a wrap! The first HUPS sponsored Houston Underwater Film Festival, originally scheduled for April 2020, finally happened June 26-27, 2021.

I had the opportunity to meet and chat with many attendees from both Houston and out of town. Everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves. If you missed the festival, but would like to see the films you can purchase a virtual ticket at hups.org/huff. This will allow you to view all the films at home via a private YouTube link.

We had a bunch of HUPS members that volunteered their time to make this event happen. Betsy and Craig Beasley deserve a special mention for heading up the event. Everyone involved should be very proud and give themselves a pat on the back. An event of this scale would be impossible without dedicated volunteers. We hope that HUFF will become a long running annual film festival for Houston and surrounding areas. All the volunteers should take pride in the fact that they helped the first ever HUFF happen.

The HUFF 2022 promises to be an even bigger, better event. Next year's event will be April 2-3 at the Midtown Arts & Theater Center Houston (MATCH). To have HUFF 2022 live up to its potential we will need all hands on deck. The HUFF committee is already reviewing film submissions for 2022. All HUPS members can help by spreading the word about the event. We need to make everyone aware of the event and get it on the calendars of all Houston area divers. The venue for HUFF 2022 is much larger and we need to fill those seats. HUPS members can also start encouraging film entries. If you know an underwater filmmaker encourage them to submit a film to HUFF 2022. All the information on HUFF 2022 can be found here: hups.org/huff

For HUFF to thrive and grow into the future we all need to get involved.



Winners

Novice

- 1st – Dreaming with Whales – Laura Veariel (assisted by Dennis Deavenport)
- 2nd – Caribbean Creatures – David Stone (assisted by Betsy Beasley)
- 3rd – Turtles, Turtles & Other Critters – JaVan Pruett (assisted by Dennis Deavenport)

Fixed Lens

- 1st – The Mad World of Lembeh by Betsy Beasley
- 2nd – Endless Battle for Survival by Nick Skiadopoulos
- 3rd – That's Strange – What's Happening? by Dennis Deavenport

Short Video

- 1st – The Bottlenose Dolphins of Tiputa Pass by Rene Cote
- 2nd – I've Got Crabs by Dennis Deavenport
- 3rd – 700 Sharks by Nicolas Zunino

Feature Length

- 1st – Showdown At Tiger Beach by Paul Cater Deaton
- 2nd – Night Stalkers by Tom Collier
- 3rd – Treasure Bay by Craig Beasley

Made in Texas

- 1st – Showdown At Tiger Beach by Paul Cater Deaton
- 2nd – Treasure Bay by Craig Beasley
- 3rd – Freedom by Jennifer Opiela-Miksch

Protect and Respect the Oceans

1st – The Evolution of the Ocean by Rafael Fernandez Caballero

2nd – Only One World Left by Alican Abaci

3rd – Tropical Coral Reefs Under Pressure by Bent Yde Joergensen

Art House Flicks

1st – Transformation by Cathryn and Gui Garcia

2nd – The Hunt by Ulf Marquardt

3rd – Transformation by Dennis Deavenport











Watch these two videos of Travis House, the star of the film, Freedom, by Jennifer Opiela-Miksch, which won 3rd Place in the Made in Texas Category and Laura Veariel, whose film, Dreaming With Whales, won 1st place in the Novice category.

Filmed by Paul Cater Deaton and edited by Dennis Deavenport.

[Here](#)

Buy your \$10 Virtual Tickets for the HUFF 2020 [here](#).

Includes 66 films in 7 categories and extra award winning intermission films. There is also a Slideshow of HUPS Photo Contest Winners from 2016-2021.

Following your purchase you will receive an email with private links to the show on YouTube.

2021 Photo Contest Categories

January	Flatfish (disk-shaped fish)	Flounder, angelfish, filefish, butterflyfish, sunfish, triggerfish, etc. It just needs to have a pronounced flat profile and be a FISH.
February	Fish Buddies (2 of the same)	2 Fish of the same species in the composition (Max number is 6)
March	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.
April	Leading lines (natural lines that lead the eye)	An interesting topic and something that true artists use to point the viewer's eye to the primary "focus" of their work. Elements within the picture (straight lines, curves, spirals, etc.) should be obvious to the eye. You can even use interesting negative space effects if you serve the job of attracting the eye of the subject. Look at your stuff and you'll find plenty of examples. Learn to see and create like the masters.
May	Long and thin (fish or critters)	Anything that is characterized by long, thin lines. Can be fish, invertebrates, or even non-living.
June	Silhouettes	Silhouettes are interesting in that the outlines and shape of the subject are what is important. A good silhouette should have almost no detail observable in the primary subject. We're talking form and composition this month so see what you can come up with. If you don't have good examples, you've got plenty of time to go try shooting some. It'll be good for you.
July	Single Color Focus (Blue, Red, Green, Yellow)	Subject must be a single color or shade of color. Examples: green moray eel, green parrotfish, soap fish, sharks, sponge, coral
August	Fish Portraits	Side on, angled views, or face-to-the-camera shots are what we're looking for. You can have more than one fish in the shot, but be reasonable, keep it to 2 or less, please. And, of course, we're talking fish here....not critters.
September	Echinoderms (starfish of all kinds, urchins, sea cucumbers, etc.)	All Starfish are Echinoderms, but not all Echinoderms are Starfish. So there's the dilemma. But for this month's contest all Echinoderms are acceptable. Asteroidea (Sea Stars), Ophiuroidea (Brittle Stars and Basket Stars), crinoids, sea urchins, sand dollars, or sea cucumbers which are Echinoderms.
October	Composition Through A Hole	A hole is a hollow place in a solid body or surface. This theme is looking for a creative use of a hole in the composition. Examples: subject in a porthole of a wreck, goby or eel in a hole, fish swimming in front of a cave entrance - be creative.
November	Animals in the Sand	Fish & critters that live in sand or muck.
December	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.

Silhouettes



Barry Cline - Intermediate 3rd



Sage Holt - Novice 2nd



Steven Anderson - Advanced 3rd



Barry Cline - Intermediate 1st



Cheryl White - Novice 2nd



Sage Holt - Novice 3rd



Justin Wallace - Intermediate 2nd



Catrin Pichler - Advanced 2nd



Catrin Pichler - Advanced 1st

2021 POTY STANDINGS

Novice

1ST	Jody Cline	362
2ND	Sage Holt	296
3RD	Janavi Folmsbee	53

Intermediate

1ST	Barry Cline	439
2ND	Justin Wallace	429
3RD	Russell Ramsey	373

Advanced

1ST	Steven Anderson	436
2ND	Catrin Pichler	406
3RD	Betsy Beasley	365

Click [here](#) to view the
June 2021 Photo Contest Slide Show
 on **HUPSdotORG.**

2020 Awards



Mary and Martin Daniels
Members of the Year



Dennis Deavenport
Advanced Photographer of the Year



Betsy Beasley
Intermediate Photographer of the Year



Justin Wallace
Novice Photographer of the Year

SUPER MACRO

UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY TECHNIQUES

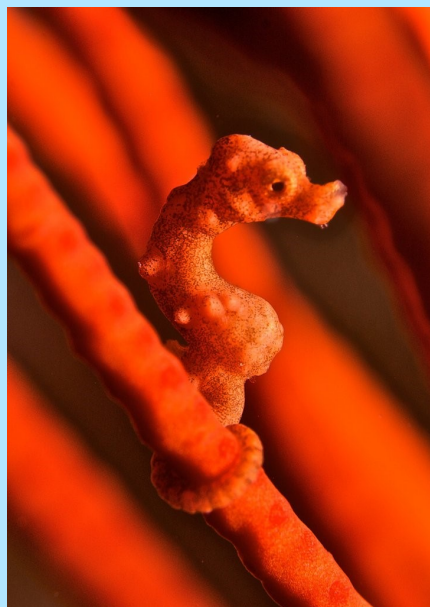


Magnifying past a 1:1 image ratio of your subject is commonly referred to as going from macro photography to super macro photography. Super macro is a challenging but rewarding subsegment of underwater photography.

A standard macro takes a subject you can see pretty well with the naked eye, and brings out detail, color, and translucence that you had no idea was there unless you had seen in an image before. *Super* macro often deals with subjects that you can barely discern with your eye. The details revealed in a well exposed capture are stunning, and addictive.

Super macro photography is challenging due to the narrow depth of field and the very close working distances. Shooters working on super macro images are notorious for being the worst dive buddies, preferring to concentrate on the smallest section of reef, and seldom moving.

There are many approaches. Most require lots of light so we can stop down our lens for maximum depth of field.



Classic Solution

For DSLR users, the most popular lens choices are:

- Canon EF 100mm f/2.8L IS USM Macro
- Nikon 105mm f/2.8G EF-ID VR Macro
- Sony FE 90mm f/2.8 G OSS Macro
- Sigma 105mm f/2.8 EX DG OS HSM Macro
- Canon EF-S 60mm f/2.8 Macro (crop sensor cameras only)
- Nikon AF 60mm f/2.8G ED Macro (crop sensor cameras only)

Then you add external magnifying lenses or diopters to allow closer focusing and greater magnification. These diopters can be screwed onto the lens itself, but more popular are the external wet lenses that can be attached to the end of your flat port.

A diopter is referenced by a + number which indicates its strength, i.e. +5, +10, etc. The greater the number, the greater the magnification. Most macro wet lenses can also be stacked for greater magnification. Examples are the INON UCL-165, ReefNet SubSee Magnifier, and the SAGA Diopter Close-Up Macro Lens.



Focusing Techniques

Be prepared: it's much harder than macro.

Often center spot focus is the way to go for super macro. Your depth of field is so narrow you have to choose what is going to be sharp, and what you choose is key.

Autofocus is fantastic for macro photography but can be maddening for super macro as it struggles and continuously searches. There are a few ways to avoid this:

1. Use manual focus (MF).
 2. Use the back button focus technique to lock focus, then get your subject properly in frame and shoot.
 3. Switch to MF and lock the lens in minimum focus before you install it in the housing. This means you will ultimately always shoot at the same distance.
- Regardless of the way you lock focus, most often you will rock the camera in and out of the



A Different Approach

It is a happy coincidence that much of the new technology in compact and mirrorless cameras lends itself so well to super macro shooting.

Microscope mode like on the Olympus Tough TG-5 compact camera means super macro right out of the box. The magnifications rival anything that can be done with the previous systems discussed here.

Details

Many of us will want to shoot the smallest aperture we can muster (highest f/number) to battle the razor thin depth of field. But the assumption that f/22 is better than f/8 is being challenged these days. Some contend that each lens has a "sweet spot" in its aperture range.

The important thing to keep in mind is that you will have only one thing in focus... choose it well. Everything else will be "bokeh" which means it is out of focus on purpose.





Lighting Your Subject

There are still more challenges. One is light. We need a lot in a very small area. Most any flash is powerful enough, but the placement of your light can be tricky.

Super macro lenses and particularly microscope modes typically require the subject to be “right on the lens” (but don't actually touch it). You may need a longer strobe arm to get the flash very close to the front of the lens and the subject. Often you will need to light from a top-down angle.

Automatic TTL exposure is preferred for strobe light so that you don't blow out the subject and you can focus on.. well.. focus.

Constant Light

A simple solution is to use a constant-on video or dive light. We are capturing such a small area that the power (lumens rating) needed is minimal.

The advantage is that your camera will see, and use this light. It will focus faster, and stop down its lens (if shooting in an automatic exposure mode).

The disadvantage, particularly with very bright lights, is the heat radiated. You can feel it at very close distances, and so will your subjects. If you are night diving often the “bugs” will come out and follow you and dance in your frame. Lionfish and other predators will even use your bright light to hunt.

Ring Light

Ring lights are famous for macro work. The major advantage is the ability to light your subject consistently while maintaining a very short working distance (without touching). The criticism is that too much uniformity in your light, i.e. not enough shadowing, can leave your subject looking flat and lifeless. This downside is probably overstated given the major

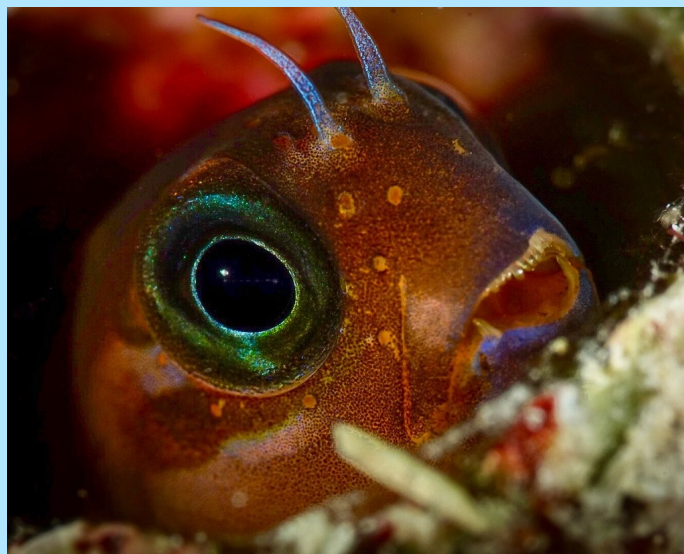


There is a post-capture solution to depth of field at this level. Very little is being done with it currently, but as it's now being built into some cameras we expect to see more.

Simply put, you would capture a number of images of the same static subject, but changing the focus slightly for each frame. Then use software to combine these frames so all parts are sharp. The Olympus Tough TG-5 has this built in, and can rattle the frames off so quickly that hand holding is possible.

Conclusion

Keep a close eye on your dive computer because it's easy to get sucked into the world of super macro and lose sight on everything else. It will take a lot of patience and practice to get the right shot. Don't give up... super macro images can be astoundingly beautiful and worth the effort!



Did You Know This About...

Russell Ramsey

I was born in England to an English Mother and an East Texan Capt. in the US Army Air force in 1944. They met while both were serving in their respective armed forces in Scotland. My mom along with me and my middle brother sailed from Southampton, England on the Queen Mary, then still outfitted as a troopship, in 1946 with many other war brides bound for America. I am a naturalized citizen because of one of the Naturalization Acts passed by Congress to allow all children born on foreign soil during the war to American war brides.

I met my wife at Southwestern University. We dated for 4 years before getting married and today is our 54th anniversary. We were a true partnership until Ann's disease made that impossible. We have both been heavily involved with Southwestern serving as Co Presidents of the Houston Southwestern Alumni Association for 4-5 years. I have been involved with many Southwestern activities and served on the Alumni Board and presently trying to organize a travel program for Southwestern alumni. We were married in the Southwestern Chapel by my major professor who was also an ordained minister. I was elected president of the 1966 Senior Class and our class has held a reunion every 5th year since graduation. This October will be the reunion celebrating our 55th year or 11th reunion since graduation. As the class president I, unfortunately, have been in charge of organizing every reunion we have held..

I learned to dive in 1978 through KenLee's West and was fortunate to have met many of the pioneers of diving and underwater photography. I started diving using a Nikonos III, graduated to a Nikonos V until I began using a Pentax LX, in an Ikelite housing with Ikelite strobes, the only pro camera that Pentax ever made. When I ordered the housing from Ikelite, someone from Ikelite called me to tell me they had never made such a housing. I then sent them a catalogue that contained a picture and item number for the LX housing. Ike called me and said he would build the housing but wanted to know where I found one of their catalogues with the LX housing. I told him from their display table at Houston's Seaspace event. I now shoot with Canon cameras. Thank goodness for digital and large digital camera cards as I now get more than 2-5 useable pictures from 36 shots,

I enjoy traveling. Ann and I had been travelling to the Caribbean since the late 70's . While not strictly in the Caribbean we have also been to both the Bahamas and Bermuda. I did my first ocean dive in the BVI's and after probably 10 dives did a dive on one of the foremost wrecks in the Caribbean, the HMS Rhone near Salt Island. It is still one of my favorite dives even though I have dived it at least 20 times. One of the best night dives I have ever done was on the Rhone. We have sailed using a captain and once a cook through the USVI's and the BVI as well as the Grenadines. We have been to England at least 12-15 times to see castles, museums, gardens, and to visit with my English cousins whom I am quite close to. While we have also travelled to France and Italy, England is still one of my favorite places to visit.

In addition to diving and underwater photography, I enjoy gardening, shooting, fishing and pig hunting as feral pigs are such a nuisance. Most of my hunting is now usually done with a camera unless a feral pig shows up. I also enjoy handloading for my rifles, pistols and shotguns.



Russell is the past President of HUPS (many times over). Thank you, Russell!

Iain Kerr's Snotbots²⁴



by Jesse Cancelmo

This video recently won 1st place in Airwards. Rather than collecting whale tissue samples with devices that pierce the skin, scientists are now able to use drones to more easily, more quickly, less intrusively and more cost effectively collect particles they exhale to get the biological samples they need for their research.

I have not met Iain Kerr in person but have exchanged a few emails. His team has done quite a bit of whale research work in the Gulf of Mexico.

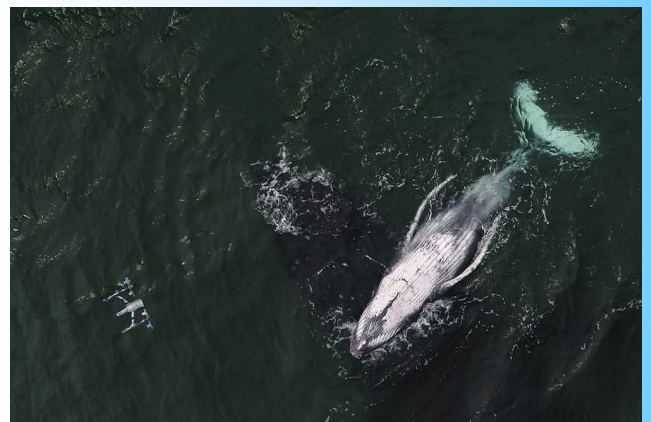
The video production is well done and I thought you'd find what they do impressive, I sure do.

[Watch the film here](#)



“The exhaled breath condensates, the snot the whale is blowing out, is likely full of these wonderful chemical makers...”

“Looking at the largest animal that ever existed on this planet...just flying down along its body, and then having it blow into the drone and seeing on camera all the snot. I mean WOW!”



Watch the “Off the Beaten Path” presentations from the
June 7, 2021 HUPS Meeting
 on HUPSdotORG with these links.

[Mike Greuter - Climbing Kilimanjaro](#)

[Paul Cater Deaton - Wine Diving in Croatia](#)

[Catrin Pichler - Off the Beaten Path in Indonesia](#)

[Craig and Betsy Beasley - Kalimaya - Off the Beaten Path
Between Bali and Komodo](#)

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

Address questions to Martin at

martin.daniels3@gmail.com

From the Editor.....

Send program ideas to Dennis Deavenport

at ddeavenport@comcast.net

Send workshop ideas to Craig Beasley

at cb_as@hotmail.com

Send newsletter entries to Betsy Beasley

at betsybeasley@swbell.net

SAVE THE DATE

Houston Underwater Film Festival

The HUFF 2022 is April 2-3, 2022 at the Midtown Arts and Theater Center- Houston (MATCH).

FALL 2021 VIDEO CONTEST

Entries are due by midnight October 1. Limit of 5 minutes and 2 GB. Voting will take place on the HUPS Video Contest Facebook page through October and winners will be announced at the November HUPS meeting. View the rules at hups.org.

Address questions to betsybeasley@swbell.net.

Please transfer files to Betsy Beasley via the free service - 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 since we are still meeting virtually and unable to collect payments in person during our monthly meetings. <https://www.hups.org/join>**
- **Contact Monica Losey at monica_losey@yahoo.com**

2021 Meeting Presentations

Who	When	Topic	Expanded Topic
Tom Collier & Others	January 4	"Anything Goes Night" - Video clips from everyone	Discussion during presentation - what, where, how
Mike Bartick	February 1	"Macro Photography"	Sidebar into Black Water diving at Anilao
Marty Snyderman	March 1	"Diving in Indonesia"	Focus on Atlantis Resorts
Jody and Barry Cline	April 5	"Diving Puerto Galera and Dumaguete in the Time of Volcanoes"	Diving the Atlantis Resorts in Puerto Galera & Dumaguete
Dr. Bob Sanders	May 3	"Diving in Antarctica"	Exploring below 12 ft. of solid ice
Mike Greuter, Catrin Pichler, Craig/Betsy Beasley, Paul Cater Deaton, Scott Bauer	June 7	Short Shows: "Off the Beaten Track"	Video and Photo Contest Winners, HUFF stuff, announcements, and drawing for HUFF tickets
Betsy Beasley	July 12	HUFF Winners	1st, 2nd and 3rd Place films from each category
Jennifer Idol	August 2	"Lens of Adventure"	Book Giveaway - "The Underwater Designer"
Scott Bauer	September 13	"Diving Inland Texas"	A tour through the inland lakes and waterways of Texas
Justin Wallace	October 4	Somewhere in the Caribbean Islands	Experience the Caribbean Islands from an expert
Burt Jones & Maureen Shimlock	November 1	"Bird's Head Seascape"	Conservation programs in the Bird's Head region
Martin Daniels TBD Mary Daniels	December 6	Best of HUPS Contest/ Jackie and Mary Lou Reid Retrospective/ Christmas Dinner	Best of HUPS in Novice, Intermediate and Advanced Categories/ Lives of Jackie and Mary Lou Reid plus Jackie's most iconic photos

Meeting Schedule

JULY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST 2021

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SEPTEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5		7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



Monthly Meeting

**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!

2021 HUPS Officers

President: David Lenderman

Vice President: Dennis Deavenport

Secretary: Tammy Allyn

Treasurer: Tom Collier

Membership: Monica Losey

Photo Contest: Martin Daniels

Video Contest/ HUFF Coordinator/ Newsletter: Betsy Beasley

Workshop Coordinator: Craig Beasley

TGCC Reps: Frank Burek, JaVan Pruett and Mark Leiserowitz

Webmaster: Joe Holden

Trip Coordinator: Joe Haws

Historian: Frank Burek

Special Events: Mary Daniels

Merchandizing Coordinator: Sandy Bryan

Moody Gardens Coordinator: David Lenderman

2021 HUPS Board of Directors

Frank Burek	Henry Ragland	Craig Beasley
Mary Daniels	Debbie Mensay	Betsy Beasley
Martin Daniels	Jim Mensay	Mike Greuter
Joe Haws	Monica Losey	Russell Ramsey



hups.org



youtube/user/HUPSdotORG



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