



Houston Underwater Photographic Society

June Newsletter



A full program dedicated to the exciting new subject, Black Water Diving, is the topic for the June meeting. This February, Tom, David, and Dennis made the trip to the Philippines to jump out of the boat in the middle of the night in 600 ft of water to photograph and video the denizens of the deep that make their nightly migration to the surface. We all met at Crystal Blue Resort south of Anilao after signing up for a week's workshop with Mike Bartick, the owner and photo pro there. We had complications however. Taal volcano had just blown its top Jan 12th and was busy making an ash of itself just before David was scheduled to leave for a week in Puerto Galera. We really didn't know if the Manila airport would be open for us. That was also the time when the COVID-19 virus was making its opening on the world stage. So, just getting there was a story worth telling.

Tom Collier had met Linda Iannello, a black water pro from south Florida, on an earlier trip to West Palm Beach to do his first black water dives. By coincidence, Linda was at Crystal Blue Resort when we arrived. Mike and Linda gave a fantastic introduction to black water diving for us all and she has agreed to give half of our program based on her extensive experience. I've seen what she has to present and it's pretty spectacular.

Also, HUPS will be drawing a name and giving one of her books Black Water Creatures to a lucky participant in our June 1st meeting so if you want a signed book from Linda, you need to log in.

From a personal standpoint, I have received some astonishingly good photos, video, narration, and technical support from 5 individuals. Piecing it all together into a single film has been difficult but exciting... a bit like assembling

a 1000 piece jigsaw with only a fuzzy picture to go by. It's been interesting trying to make a coherent movie fitting all of the pieces together. Often, I've been missing good transition material and had to go back to David and Tom for more 'stuff'. They have graciously obliged and the final product should be lots of fun and very different (IMO of course).



Martin Daniels will host the meeting.

Here is the Zoom broadcast link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89112456070>

Meeting ID: 891 1245 6070



You can choose to join either with or without video. If you join with video we will see you. If you join without video we will only hear you. If for some reason you lose contact with the Zoom meeting, simply click on the link above again and you will be reconnected. If you have questions about using Zoom, please contact Martin Daniels at martin.daniels3@gmail.com. Please log on around 6:30pm to ensure you are properly set up to see the presentations, then just chat with your friends online before the meeting begins at 7 pm.

President's Message

I know most of us have not been diving lately. Just because you have been staying dry it doesn't mean you need to stop using your camera. I feel it is important to keep shooting so your skills, and images, stay sharp. If you are not sure what to photograph I have a few suggestions.

Shoot some family portraits or pet portraits. Practice balancing your lighting with multiple light sources. Balancing flash and natural light will help you learn to do the same underwater to get that pleasing blue water background. Try shooting your subjects at different angles to see what looks best. These angles can also apply to many underwater subjects. Play with your f-stop to manipulate your depth of field in the portraits. This will enforce the concept of controlling depth of field in your underwater pics.



Another idea is to go on a back yard safari with your macro lens. When you think small, you will be amazed what you can find in your yard. Hunting with macro in mind will help train your eyes and mind to search for those tiny subjects. Play with your composition of these tiny subjects so that you are showing them from their best side. If your subject has eyes, be sure they are in focus. Work with the limited depth of field so that it best matches the subject. Think about the negative space (background). Make it compliment the subject and not distract from it. Don't shoot down on all your subjects! Kneel down or lay in the grass to get face to face with your new back yard buddies.



If those ideas don't interest you how about shooting some downtown skylines at dusk and into night. This will be great practice for creating a pleasing compositions. Work on your exposure of those high -rise building lights. Manipulate your shutter speed so that car tail lights become long red streaks. Be creative!

During these dry times I have spent many days outside photographing birds. Over the last few months I have taken several thousand bird photos. I even managed to get a few keepers! I find bird photography has many similarities to photographing fish. I spend time researching where to find the most interesting birds. I spend hours hunting for the subjects, that, like most fish, rarely sit still. When I do find a desirable subject I work to nail the exposure and get a pleasing composition. Just like with fish it is often a struggle to get good eye contact in bird images. Chasing birds has given me the opportunity to play with some new focus techniques that I hope to try underwater.

Perhaps the biggest benefit of getting out and creating images is that it gets your mind off the news. I know when I am shooting photos I am not thinking about the price of oil, stock market swings or the virus case count. I am only living in the moment with all thoughts on my camera and subject. Turn off the television, put down that tablet, pick up your camera and go make some images!



David Lenderman

2020 POTY Standings through May

Novice		
1	Justin Wallace	286
2	Kathy Long	186
3	Laura Veariel	110
Intermediate		
1	Betsy Beasley	375
2	Russell Ramsey	339
Advanced		
1	Steven Anderson	395
2	Dennis Deavenport	366
3	Catrin Pichler	270



Announcements

**HUFF**

HUFF Update

The 2020 Houston Underwater Film Festival has been rescheduled to September 12-13, 2020. We will be presenting the same three shows, at the same times, that we would have presented on April 18-19. Tickets bought for the April shows will be shifted to the same shows and times on September 12-13. The venue is still the 14 Pews Theater. Please address any questions to Betsy Beasley at huff@hups.org. Hopefully we'll see you there!

Seeking Newsletter Editor

HUPS is looking for a member to volunteer as the HUPS Newsletter Editor starting in January 2021. No prior experience is necessary, just good English grammar skills, the ability to learn, and adept on a computer. The incumbent will help transition the role as soon as a candidate is identified and approved by the HUPS BOD. If you have questions or may be interested, feel free to reach out to the current Newsletter Editor, Monica Losey, at monica_losey@yahoo.com.

TGCC Memorial Scholarship

Once again the Texas Gulf Coast Council of Diving Clubs will be offering college scholarships in memory of Jack Allyn, Greg Grimes, Jean Himes, Anne Millioud, Clint (Dwight) Moore, John Pederson, Michael Szewczyk, and Dick Zingula. This year one scholarship in the amount of \$500 will be awarded. Please see eligibility rules, guidelines, and the application at the end of this newsletter. Completed applications must be received by the TGCC Donations Committee prior to June 30, 2020.

Virtual Field Trips to the Flower Gardens

The week of May 31 will offer opportunities to learn more about the Flower Gardens Banks National Marine Sanctuary. There will be several live "virtual field trips" each covering a different topic. The first will be June 2nd at 1:00 CST covering Coral Spawning at the FGBNMS. Coral Reef Biodiversity and Connectivity at the Flower Gardens will be discussed June 3rd at 10:00 CST. Finally, Exploring for Black Corals of the FGBNMS will be presented June 5th at 1:00 CST. If you want more information or want to register for the virtual field trips here is the link: <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/live/watch.html>

Keep the Boat Afloat

There is an online GoFundMe fundraising program set up by a volunteer crew member to benefit the Fling. Due to social distancing measures it has not been allowed to go out this year. There are expenses such as rent, utilities, insurance, etc. that must be paid even when the boat is not taking divers out. Without it there would not be a way to go out to the Flower Gardens. See the link below if you are interested in providing your support.

[Keep the Boat Afloat organized by Daniella Fontana](#)

2020 Photo Contest Themes

Month	Themes	Description
Jul	Hawk fish, Drums, Triggerfish	A 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. If not sure, check your fish id sources or ask the PC.
Aug	Crustacean	Just like it says... look it up in the book (crabs, shrimp, lobsters, barnacles, etc.). When in doubt... Wikipedia can help you out.
Sep	Natural light	Shooting ambient light means you are using the sun as your light source. Shooting with ambient light means less camera drag, as strobes can be left on the surface. The lighting of the photo will be more even, which is ideal for large subjects such as large reefs or schools of fish, silhouettes, or large wrecks.
Oct	Blennies and Gobies	Some of our favorite tiny guys. The ones that like to hug the reef, hide out in holes, or build their nests in the sand. If you aren't sure if your little guy (or guys) qualify, look it up in your critter ID book or ask the opinion of one or our ID experts.
Nov	Polka Dots/Fish with Spots	A spot, a small round or roundish mark differing in color or texture from the surface around it. The most common subjects underwater are known variously as boxfishes, coffer fishes, cowfishes and trunkfishes.
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.

Proposed Expansion of Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

A proposed expansion of Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS) was released in the Federal Register on May 1st. The proposal would expand the current sanctuary from 3 banks and 56 square miles, to a sanctuary of 17 banks and 160 square miles. This would include 3 diveable bank additions (Sonnier, Geyer and Bright). A comment is an expression of interest or support to communicate that the protection of dive sites is important to you. Public comments will be open between May 1, 2020 to July 3, 2020. Comments on the following were specifically sought:

- Support for the expansion to 17 banks and 160 square miles
- The sanctuary boundaries
- Pelagic Longline Exemption Request
- Spearfishing Exemption Request

Comments are on-line. You don't have to comment on everything! Examples of acceptable comments are:

- I'm a diving photographer, I support the expansion and its boundaries.
- I'm a diver – I like the addition of 3 diveable banks and the diving safety that a mooring buoy system will provide.

On-line comments can be made through:

- <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=NOAA-NOS-2019-0033> Click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.
- <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/05/01/2020-08128/proposed-expansion-of-flower-garden-banks-national-marine-sanctuary> Click the "Submit a Formal Comment" button, complete the required fields, and submit

NOAA's website providing more supporting details and links:

<https://flowergarden.noaa.gov/management/expansionnpr.html>



Join Us for the HUPS Almost Annual Trip to Captain Don's Habitat, Bonaire **October 10 – 18, 2020**

Depart Saturday, October 10 and return on Sunday, October 18.

Airfare is NOT included.

The package includes: 8 nights accommodations, daily breakfast, 12 boat dives, 6 days unlimited shore diving, airport transfers, and taxes.

With at least 8 divers, we get 18 boat dives + a night boat dive & free Nitrox for boat dives plus at least an additional 10% off the prices below.

**** \$1205 per diver double occupancy (\$1560 single occupancy) - Deluxe Oceanview Room ****

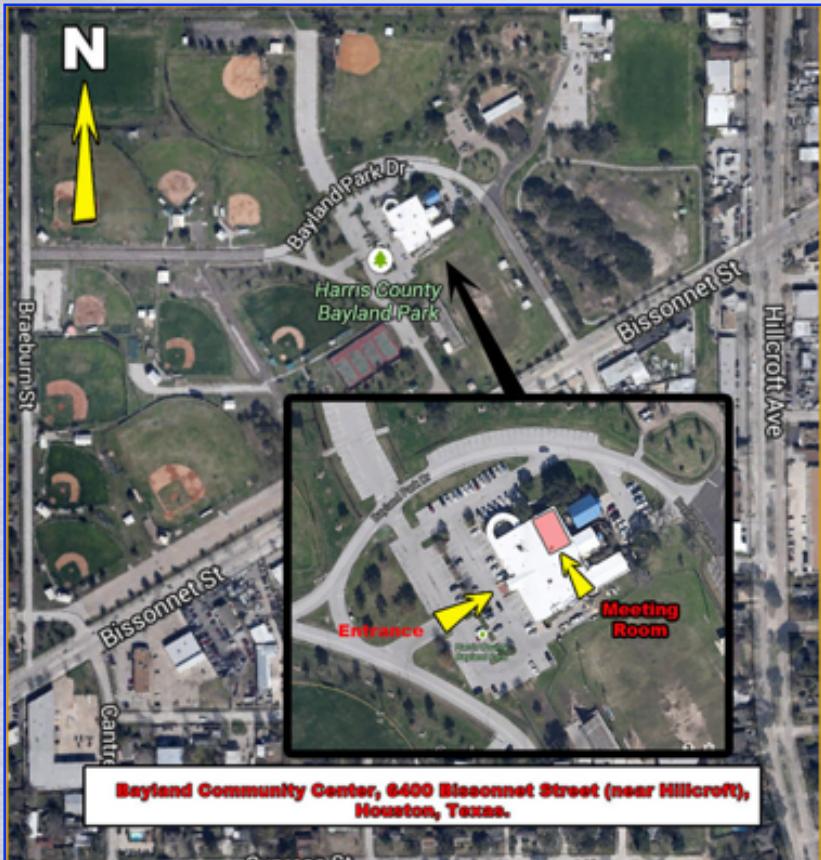
**** \$1320 per diver double occupancy - Ocean Front Deluxe Junior Suite ****

Additional costs not included: marine park fee (\$45), other meals, vehicle rental (can be arranged individually for pick-up at the airport, or you can rent at the resort after we arrive)

A \$100 deposit pp is due now. The final payment will be due no later than the August meeting 8/3/2020. No refunds after 8/3. Make check payable to HUPS. Specify your room preference. *The DAN or equivalent Trip or Dive insurance is required for each participant.**



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!



2020 HUPS Officers

President:
 David Lenderman

Vice President:
 Dennis Deavenport

Secretary:
 Tammy Allyn

Treasurer:
 Tom Collier

Membership/Newsletter:
 Monica Losey

Photo Contest:
 Martin Daniels

Video Contest/HUFF Coordinator:
 Betsy Beasley

Workshop Coordinator:
 Tom Collier

TGCC Reps:
 Frank Burek
 Ja Van Pruett
 Mark Leiserowitz

WebMaster:
 Joe Holden

Trip Coordinator:
 Joe Haws

Historian:
 Frank Burek

Special Events:
 Mary Daniels

Social Media Coordinator:
 Laura Veariel

Merchandising Coordinator:
 Sandy Bryan

Moody Gardens Coordinator:
 David Lenderman

HUPS on the Internet



www.hups.org



www.youtube.com/user/HUPSDotORG



www.facebook.com/groups/174168478778/

2020 HUPS Board of Directors

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



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2020 TGCC MEMORIAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

(In memory of Jack Allyn, Greg Grimes, Jean Himes, Anne Millioud, Clint (Dwight) Moore, John Petty, Michael Szewczyk and Dick Zingula)



The Texas Gulf Coast Council of Diving Clubs (TGCC) plans to award one College scholarships (1 @ \$500) during 2020. This scholarship is given in memory of Jack Allyn, Greg Grimes, Jean Himes, Anne Millioud, Clint (Dwight) Moore, John Petty, Michael Szewczyk and Dick Zingula; deceased members of our dive community. It is also awarded in recognition for support of the TGCC Scholarship Program by Alicia Grimes, the Houston Underwater Club, the Houston Underwater Photographic Society and Linda Petty. The purpose of this award is to support the members who support the dive clubs in the Texas Gulf Coast area. The award will be paid by TGCC directly to the college towards tuition.

Eligibility Rules:

1. Scholarship applicant must be a college undergraduate or graduate student attending college in 2020, or a high school senior that has been accepted to college in 2020.
2. 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 2020.
3. Application (see other side) must be received by the TGCC Donations Committee prior to **June 30, 2020**. TGCC will review all completed applications on July 2, 2020.
4. Applicant shall have the high school/college furnish a transcript of grades, courses and class standing.

Scholarship General Guidelines:

1. Scholarship decisions of TGCC are final.
2. Scholarship winner is expected to keep TGCC abreast with his/her progress in college.
3. TGCC reserves the right to not award a prize depending upon the number of entries and qualifications of the applicants.
4. A personal interview with members of the TGCC Scholarship Committee may be required prior to awarding this scholarship.
5. Confirmation will be by e-mail. Make sure phone and e-mail data provided is current.
6. 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 may be mailed or e-mailed to:

TGCC Donations Committee
c/o Frank Burek
8448 Grand Lake Estates Drive
Montgomery, TX 77316
jfburek@consolidated.net

2020 TGCC MEMORIAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

(In memory of Jack Allyn, Greg Grimes, Jean Himes, Anne Millioud, Clint (Dwight) Moore, John Petty, Michael Szewczyk, and Dick Zingula)



Applicant's First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

High School: _____ Year Graduated: _____

Name of college to be attended in 2020: _____
(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, ROC, etc.): _____

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

List any positions of leadership held by Affiliate: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____