



In Focus

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2012

February Program—Trip to South Africa by Eric Mittman

The February program will be presented by Eric Mittman, Photography Program Director for Sparkman High School in Huntsville, AL. The Photography Program was created at Sparkman in 2003 and introduces students to 35mm, medium and large format film photography as well as digital photography, studio photography and alternative process photography. The program seeks to give students a well-rounded foundation in the fundamentals of all aspects of photography as well as preparation for a career in photography. Graduates of the program can be found in all Alabama state school photo programs, various state programs throughout the Southeast US as well as at prestigious fine art colleges including Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), Watkins and Cooper Union.



Through photos and lecture, Eric will discuss various socio-economic and environmental challenges that face South Africa, against a back drop of stunning scenery and exotic wildlife. How did he get to travel to South Africa? Eric was awarded a travel grant from the Toyota International Teacher Program to travel to South Africa with 23 other U.S. teachers to study the environment and culture of South Africa. His acceptance into the program was based on a lesson he designed that seeks to collaborate with a group of high school students living in South Africa through the medium of photography. Currently, these students and his own are creating a book that documents their lives through the lens. The book should be available later this spring. All proceeds from the sale of this book will go to the students of Belgravia High School in Cape Town to create and maintain a small photography program. Earlier in December they sent out over \$1000 in small portable cameras so that they could begin the process of documenting their lives.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From The President, Member News	2
Before you format that card . . .	3
RMSP Photo Weekend Feb 25-26	3
Jan Competition Results, Feb Mini-class	4-5
Arts Council 20th Seafare	6
Applying Texture Photo Class	7
Link for CS5 Features	7



From The President

I want to express my thanks to Lee Pratt for a very entertaining 3-D presentation on January 9th. Those who were not at the meeting (most likely watching Alabama beat LSU) missed a great program. Although Lee's previous 3-D programs were really good, his transition to digital images and projection made the presentations spectacular.

Thanks also to Keith Jones for judging our Still Life images on the 23rd. After seeing the quality of the submissions, Keith really had his work cut out for him. He also provided valuable comments on the winning photos. Congratulations to all the winners – be sure and check them out in the newsletter and on our Smug Mug site. Also, take note of the number of new names on the Winner's list – I'm really excited by that.

Andrea reported that the field trip to the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge with the Chattanooga photo club was lots of fun. She said that 10-12 HPS members went along, and they got some good images, especially of the eagles.

With the weather so wet and cold,

it's difficult to get outside and take photos. Now would be a good time to go through your camera manual to reinforce your camera knowledge so you can make changes in the field quickly and efficiently, and not miss that chance-of-a-lifetime shot.

While you are here for a meeting, take a look at the photography books the Library has to offer, from technical subjects to the art itself. You could also investigate macro or close-up photography with indoor subjects or work with your flash. You should never stop learning!

A hearty welcome to our new members. We all hope you enjoy HPS as much as the rest of us. If you are a beginner, don't hesitate to approach a long-time (or short-time) member and ask questions – we all want you to become a great photographer. If you are an accomplished photographer, please share your knowledge with the rest of us.

Thanks, and go out and take some photos!!

Eddie Sewall

"Now would be a good time to go through your camera manual to reinforce your camera knowledge. . ."

**M
e
m
b
e
r

N
e
w
s**



Barbara Staggs

Barb Staggs image, 'Feathery' was a finalist in Outdoor Photography's "Nature's Colors" contest. There were about 80 finalists with thousands of entries.

Think Before You Format That Card *by Henry Smith*

I had two photo “jobs” one day last month. The first was to shoot about 35 formal photos for a church group, and the second was to shoot photos of my grandson’s 1st grade class for inclusion into a school newsletter. I brought my flashes, diffuser umbrella, and a backdrop and finished the formal shots without much problem. Checked them on the back of the camera and they all looked good, so I was happy.

From there I went to the school classroom to get prepared. While assisting the teacher herd a class full of seven year olds, I Formatted my memory card so that I would have plenty of space. I had only taken a couple of shots when suddenly I realized what I had just done - my blood ran cold, and I

stopped dead in my tracks. The teacher asked if I was ok, I gulped and muttered, “I think I just erased all of this morning’s shots...”. I swapped memory cards and proceeded with the kids, but my mind was definitely not on the job.

At home and on my computer my worst fears were verified. The original memory card did not contain a single one of the first set of formal photos, only a handful of the kids shots made before I realized my mistake and swapped cards. The Format command had done exactly what it was supposed to do, erased the card, leaving plenty of room for more photos. After an ample amount of stomping, swearing and pounding on my desk, I took a deep breath and went on line. Searching for “recovering lost

photos” turned up dozens of applications, each which promised to save my bacon. Apparently this is not an uncommon accident.

Being the cheapskate that I am, I opted for CardRaider for \$19.95. I downloaded and installed the application, and in 30 minutes it had extracted most of the “lost” files from my memory card – whew! Actually it recovered all that had not been written over by the second gig, and they were in their original condition. Luckily I had discovered my error before I had taken many shots. Basically it appears that even after you Format a card, the data is still accessible with one of these applications, until you write over the card with new photos.

Rocky Mountain School of Photography

Join us for two days of up-to-date photography instruction at an RMSP Photo Weekend in Birmingham, Feb 25-26. Experience learning in a relaxed, fun-filled environment from instructors that are among the best in the industry. Topics range from photography basics, to using Adobe® Lightroom® and HDR.

RMSP's Photo Weekends offer a diverse range of topics that are crafted to provide a valuable learning experience for almost any beginner to intermediate photographer. Our schedule is designed so that you can customize your own curriculum. During each session, you have a choice between two classes so

that you can attend the classes that are the most interesting and relevant to you. Cost is one day for \$139 or both days for \$189. Save \$5 when you register online. For more info, including hotel, go to www.rmosp.com/weekends/



January Competition Results			
Subject - Still Life			
Judge - Keith Jones			
	Digital (77)	Color Prints (77)	Monochrome Prints (38)
1st	Barbara Staggs	Ronald Atchley	John Kirwin
2nd	Susi Stroud	Bart Fay	Ronald Atchley
3rd	Margaret Phillips	Barbara Montgomery	Ronald Atchley
HM	John Kirwin	Margaret Phillips	Henry Smith
HM	Susi Stroud	Margaret Phillips	Henry Smith
HM	Emily Saile	Cliff Loehr	Ronald Atchley
HM	Diana Davidson	Liz Smith	Barbara Montgomery
HM	Jens Lambert	Tom Bryant	
HM	Eddie Sewell	John Kirwin	
HM	Virginia Gilbert	Sarah Curtis	
HM	Geri Reddy	Don Bennett	
HM		Jens Lambert	

First Place Winners



Color Print by
Ron Atchley



Digital by
Barb Staggs



Monochrome Print
by John Kirwin

Name	2012 points	2012 wins
Ronald Atchley	13	4
John Kirwin	7	3
Margaret Phillips	5	3
Susi Stroud	5	2
Bart Fay	5	1
Barbara Staggs	5	1
Barbara Montgomery	4	2
Jens Lambert	2	2
Henry Smith	2	2
Don Bennett	1	1
Tom Bryant	1	1
Sarah Curtis	1	1
Diana Davidson	1	1
Virginia Gilbert	1	1
Cliff Loehr	1	1
Geri Reddy	1	1
Emily Saile	1	1
Eddie Sewall	1	1
Liz Smith	1	1

February Mini-class

February's mini class will be at the Library on Feb 27, 6:00 p.m. It will be a critique forum led by Veronica Beaudry. Each person may bring 2 prints (no digital) that they'd like to share. Please don't use the competition entries for that month. Anyone is welcome to attend and comment but if you submit an image for critique please make sure that you give feedback as well.

2012 HPS Meeting Info
Feb 13 – Trip to South Africa by Eric Mittman
Feb 27 - Open Competition
March 12 – Lightroom by Don Wolfe
March 26 – Birds Competition
April 9 - Program TBD
April 23 – Bottles Competition
Apr 30 – Applying Texture Photo Class
May 14– Program TBD
May 28– Fountains Competition
June 11 - Program TBD
June 25 - Store Fronts Competition
July 9 – Members Forum
July 23– Geometric Shapes Competition
July 30- Members Forum
Aug 13– Fences Competition
Aug 27—Members Forum
Sep 10 – Program TBD
Sep 24 – Open Competition
Oct 8 - Program TBD
Oct 22 – Weather Competition
Oct 29 – Members Forum
Nov 12– Program TBD
Nov 26 - Barns Competition
Dec 10– Best Of Year Dinner
Jan 28, 2013 - Metal Competition



“The artists Artwork and buoy will be displayed together with an artist bio and picture, and give attendees an opportunity to learn about each Signature Buoy Artist. This will be a wonderful way to highlight your work to a diverse and eclectic group of patrons.”

The Arts Council 20th Seafare

On March 2, 2012 The Arts Council will host our 20th Seafare. As a member of The Arts Council we would like to ask your help as we "set sail on our voyage"! This casual, no-frills party at the Historic Depot Roundhouse features great music and dancing, competitive silent auction, and fresh seafood from the Gulf. All proceeds support the programs of The Arts Council.

For the 2012 Silent Auction we want to do something out of the ordinary! We would like to have several signature pieces, and we are asking Huntsville Photographic Society photographers to consider getting creative with a buoy in order to help us achieve that goal. That's right I said get creative with a buoy, or as some call it, personal floatation device. These fun & unique signature pieces will definitely be a hit! Each buoy will be 18" in diameter and made of foam. We will provide the buoy and you do the rest! Be as creative as you want, there is no theme that must be followed, just make it your own. Paint, mixed media, sculpture.....they sky is the limit. Please let me know if you would like to participate. I will contact you when the rings arrive and you can make arrangements to pick them up at our office. **All buoys must be completed and returned to The Arts Council no later than Friday, February 24th** so that we can feature pictures of them & information about the artists on our web-

site, Facebook and in any pre-event publicity that we have. Any artist who does not return their buoy will be responsible for a \$30 fee.

All of our Signature Buoy Artists will be asked to consider including one piece of their artwork in the auction at a 50% commission. The artists Artwork and buoy will be displayed together with an artist bio and picture, and give attendees an opportunity to learn about each Signature Buoy Artist. This will be a wonderful way to highlight your work to a diverse and eclectic group of patrons. Please note that you do not have to include an additional piece in order to be a Signature Buoy Artist. We will also be auctioning off several packages that include gift certificates to local businesses, eateries and performances. Each package will have a unique focus like The Art of Relaxing, The Art of Cooking, The Art of Entertaining, and so on.

I hope that you will consider this unique opportunity to help The Arts Council make Seafare 2012 a swimming success! Please let me know if you have any questions about this opportunity, or if you would like more information about Seafare.

Vicky Hinton
Art Education & Community Outreach Manager
700 Monroe Street, Suite 2
Huntsville, AL. 35801
(p) 256-519-2787

Class On Applying Texture To Images

Veronica Beaudry, HPS member, has offered to teach a hands-on class about applying texture to your images. She uses Photoshop CS5 primarily but can also demonstrate some techniques using Elements 8. Bring your laptop to the members forum on April 30th if you'd like to follow along. Images and textures will be provided for use (probably through the HPS Smugmug website). Look for additional info in the March newsletter.



“Before” Image



“After” Image



“Before” Image



“After” Image

Photoshop CS5 Features

Discover the hidden gems in Photoshop CS5. Go to the following link for a series of short tutorials uncovering new features and time saving techniques in Photoshop.

http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshop/features._sl_id-contentfilter_sl_solution_sl_hidden+gems.html

Huntsville Photographic Society
Von Braun Civic Center
700 Monroe St
Huntsville AL 35801



HPS website:
www.huntsvillephotographicsociety.org



2012 Officers of Huntsville Photographic Society

President	Eddie Sewall	(256) 880-7144	cesewall@comcast.net
Primary Competition Officer	Ernie High	(256) 772-5864	ernhigh@knology.net
Digital Competition Officer	Mike Lyon	(256) 564-7386	mike.lyon@comcast.net
Competition Records Officer	Diana Davidson	(256)564-7570	lyn@davidson.net
Program Officer	Roger Hunter	(256)755-1057	rogerhunter01@bellsouth.net
Activities Officer	Andrea Shetley	(931) 438-9339	alshetley@hotmail.com
Publicity Officer	Sam Tumminello	(256) 534-1480	samjt3@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Dave McGuinness	(256) 895-2940	d.mcguinness@mchsi.com
Communications Officer	Geri Reddy	(256) 656-0876	hpseditor@bellsouth.net
Historian	Liz Smith	(256) 586-6729	lizzypat123@hotmail.com
PSA Representative	Lee Pratt	(256) 325-1854	leepratt@knology.net
Webmaster	Walt Schumacher	(256) 536-1284	waltshoe@comcast.net

Website for Digital Competition results: www.HPSPhotos.smugmug.com

Meeting Information:

HPS meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library-Main Branch, 915 Monroe St.

Annual Membership Dues: \$20.00 due Jan 1st (\$18.00 if renewal paid before start of the Calendar year).

Membership required to submit entries in monthly competitions.

