



HEARD

Nature Photographers

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The President's Letter, by Jim Ross, President

Habitat loss is the number one threat of wildlife today. That is why it is important to protect, create and support nature sanctuaries in our area. Places like the Heard Nature Center and Wildlife Sanctuary need our help to continue operation during these tough economic times. We would not have much fun as a nature photography club without wildlife habitats to explore and beautiful critters to snap pictures of. You might consider becoming a member today.

As mentioned before, this fall we will celebrate 28 years as a Nature Photo Club with a delicious BBQ lunch at our Oct 10 meeting. Each member is invited to bring a favorite dish to share and our club will provide the BBQ. Note that this meeting will be held in the Science Resource Center starting at 11:00am. We will eat first followed by Ron Marabito's presentation on Composition.

Photo tip of the month - use a sturdy tripod or brace your camera for the sharpest shot! If hiking longer distances with your gear, use a carbon-fiber tripod for reduced weight. If a tripod is not available, steady your camera against a tree trunk or other rigid item for improved results!

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our next club meeting!

Jim

September Program - "DFW Wildlife Hot Spots", by Jim Ross

Heard Museum, Laughlin Hall - Saturday, September 12, 1:30 p.m.

On September 12th our club president Jim Ross will provide a special presentation on Nature Photography Techniques & D/FW Wildlife Hotspots, focusing on the Dallas area. His presentation will include video footage demonstrating how to implement the photo techniques in the field as well as over 230 exciting examples! Come learn how to find and take fantastic nature shots right here in the metroplex!



Jim's "Sunning Lizard"

Jim's work has been published in the Dallas Morning News, Birds and Blooms magazine, and by the Heard Museum and D/FW Wildlife Coalition. He has earned many ribbons including 5 First Place awards in the annual Heard photo contest. Jim's passion for nature photography stemmed from his upbringing (family trip slide shows), his families' love of backyard nature and the outdoors, his Boy Scout days (Jim earned his Eagle), and from his photo buddy / mentor Gregg Schwartz. Jim became an active member of the Heard Nature Photographers in 2002 and has enjoyed learning from fellow club members ever since.

We are expecting a large turn-out for Jim's presentation and we hope you can join us!

Field Trip News, by Ron Marabito and Jack Harrison

Scavenger Hunt Field Trip - Saturday, September 19th, by Ron Marabito

This is a new event for the Heard Club and should be fun and challenging. This event will require driving around to capture the images. There are no rules on where you go to seek your subjects, they are where you find them.

Here are the rules and procedures:

1. We will meet at the Heard Museum at **9:00 AM** and depart after the categories are handed out and clarified. All images must be turned in by **1:30 PM**.
2. Members will team up in pairs to accomplish this event. Each team will be given a list of 8 items or categories to locate and photograph and each member will turn in a maximum of 2 images per category within the designated time period. Each team will have the same list. *If, for some reason, a member doesn't have a partner, he/she can participate as an individual, if they choose to, but can't qualify for the best time.*
3. Each team will return to the Heard Museum where I will download your images into a file. The files will then be turned over to the Judge.
4. Nine awards will be given to the winners of the Scavenger Hunt at the next meeting. One award will be for the team who has the lowest time for the hunt and eight prizes for the best images in each of the categories. *To qualify for the fastest time in the hunt, each member of the team must have 2 images for each of the categories.*
5. Members may take as many images of each category in JPEG format as you choose, however each member will be responsible for selecting their best 2 images and deleting the rest in their camera or on that card that will be turned in for the competition.

WARNING: *If you turn in more than 16 images, you will be disqualified. However, There is no penalty for failing to turn in an image in a category except the award for the fastest time in the hunt.*

REMEMBER: This exercise will be judged just like any other competition, so take your time to get the best images you can. By the way, the judge will not be a member of the Heard Nature Photographers.

Grab your team member and let's have some fun.

Butterfly Field Day - Saturday, October 12th, by Jack Harrison

Ron Marabito has scheduled a second field trip for October. In addition to the trip to Arkansas October 16-18 for fall color, members are invited to photograph migrating Monarch Butterflies on Saturday, October 24 at the Dallas Arboretum. Admission to the Arboretum is \$9.50 (\$8.00 for seniors) plus a \$5.00 parking fee. The butterflies were numerous last October; however, if they are scarce this year, there are many other photo opportunities in the Arboretum, as everyone knows. Further details regarding time and place to meet will be forthcoming. Clear your calendars and join us – and hope for a high overcast sky!



Arkansas Fall Foliage Field Trip, October 16-18, by Ron Marabito

After looking at all the potential areas and considering the logistics of travel, lodging, etc., we have decided to go to Petit Jean State Park, near the town of Morrillton. In addition to fall color, it features trails, waterfalls and rock formations, etc. Check out its amenities on their website.

The idea is that most of us would drive up on Friday, 10/16 and check into our motel and photograph in the park and vicinity Saturday and possibly Sunday morning and return home on Sunday afternoon.

Lodging may be somewhat scarce. The cabins, lodge and campsites in the state park are already reserved, so we will have to stay in motels, unless you have relatives in the area. A quick check indicates that the best opportunities for motel rooms are in Morrillton, which is about 20 miles from the park, and at Conway, which is about 40 miles.

If you plan to go, you should make reservations soon and advise Ron that you intend to go, with contact information, so he can keep you updated as the plans are finalized.

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Club Business, by Harold Green & Jim Ross

Jim and I met recently with Sy Shahid, Executive Director of the Heard, to review and discuss the club and its relationship with the Heard Museum. Mr. Shahid is aware of all the contributions the club makes toward the museum and its program and expressed sincere appreciation for the efforts of its members. However, tough economic times require changes to the Heard admission policy

Here are some significant items that came from our discussion that you should know about.

1. Club members will continue to be allowed free admission to the museum and sanctuary trails, for photography purposes, *on the day of photo club meetings*. Club members will be required to show a photo club ID card before being allowed to enter. The photo club will issue membership cards, with an expiration date, to all paid members.

Further, on the club meeting day, the museum has offered to allow the members to enter the museum and sanctuary at 7:00 am, instead of at the normal 9:00 am opening time, provided we pay a club cost of \$30.00, to cover the additional administrative cost, for each day we use the privilege, with a two weeks advance notice.

2. On non-photo club days, members will be required to have membership in the museum or pay admission to use the museum or sanctuary trails.

Photo Opportunity, by Harold Green

The new butterfly house at the Texas Discovery Gardens opens September 12.

Membership News, by Harold Green

New Members

We have two new members, Carol Christian, who joined at the August club meeting and Michael Connelly, who joined by mail so we don't have a photo of him.

Carol lives in Corinth, uses a digital SLR, and considers herself a beginning photographer.

Michael, who is retired, lives in Dallas. He wants to improve his composition and sell his images on the internet. He photographs anything interesting. Likes flowers, B/W, animals, artistic expression. Wants good quality photos. Uses DSLR. He applied by mail, thus no photo.



Carol Christian



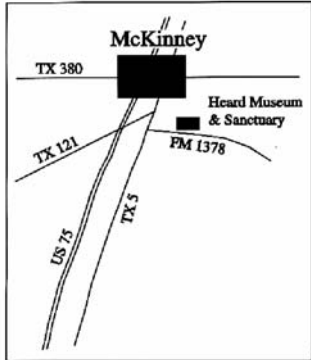
Becky's winning image

Becky is a Big Winner!

In the lottery, you ask? Nooo, better than that. One of her images won Best of Show at the State Fair of Texas, Creative Arts Department, Adult Division, in the Child Category.

Way to go, Becky!

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Hospitality, by Ed Pierce

September refreshment volunteers are: Fay Stout, Randi Boldon and Debbie & Jim Oates.

October sign up so far for lunch side dishes: Randi Bolton: ???? (didn't specify); Barbara Stone: Marinated bean salad; Martina Thompson: Potato salad; Gail Murcial: Fresh corn salad; Debbie Oates: Cornbread & Sausage and Nancy Gilbert: Macaroni salad.

I'll have the October lunch sign up sheet available at the September meeting so an updated list can be sent out in the next news letter as well.

2009 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

January 10 - Tips for Obtaining and Preparing Heard Nature Photo. Contest Winners, by Larry Petterborg & Don Steele	July 11 - Texas Tiger Shoot, by Tom Hicks
February 14 - Scenic Beauty: The Inca Trail, Machu Picchu, Argentina, and Antarctic, by Dan Leffel	August 8 - Roger Sanderson - The Photographic Advantages of Being a Naturalist
March 1 - Heard Photo Contest Exhibition March 14 - The Art of International Ecotourism Photography: Madagascar, by Andy Hollander	September 12 - DFW Wildlife Hot Spots, by Jim Ross
April 11 - Eleanore Avery - Wildebeests, Gorillas, etc.	October 10 - Ron Marabito - Subject to be Announced
May 9 - Jeremy Woodhouse - Man Cannot Live on Nature Alone	November 14 - "Come Fly With Me, by Sid & Shirley Rucker
June 13 - Field Trip Videos, etc.	December 12 - Member's Choice

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