

HEARD NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS

President's Letter

Happy New Year! I hope that you had a blessed holiday and that Santa brought you that dream camera – ho, ho, ho! Chandra and I went up to Wisconsin for a week to visit my family and were surprised to find green grass and no snow! My nephew Scott showed us some cool videos that he took with his GoPro and my niece Carolyn showed me how to take time-lapsed photos of our hike using my iPhone. Kids sure are smart using technology these days!

Be sure to submit your entries to the annual Heard Nature Photography contest by the 1/23/2015 deadline. Details are found on our web site: www.heardnaturephotographers.com. Thanks to Jackie Ranney (contest coordinator) and team for their hard work. Be sure to email Jackie if you have any questions.

Annual Club dues of \$20 per individual or family are now due to our Treasurer Ron Marabito. Thanks to Ron and all of the returning Club Officers. Congratulations to our new Field Trip Coordinator and 2014 Member's Choice winner Lee Hatfield! We sure are fortunate to have such a hard working team. Our next big project is to select a digital projector for the club – more about this at our January meeting! Jim.

Volume 31, Issue 1

PROGRAMS

January: Rob Hull
Topic TBA

Details on page 6.

FIELD TRIPS

Read all about the next
Field Trip/Workshop.
See page 7.

JUST ONE

Share your work with this month's
theme – "Weather".
See page 3 for details.



DECEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

MEMBERS CHOICE

This Year's Heard Nature Photographers Club's Members Choice is Lee Hatfield's "Red-billed Gulls."

Lee says, here is the "image of the red-billed gulls I took on the Otago Peninsula on South Island, New Zealand.

I was in the area to find and photograph Yellow-eyed Penguins and Royal Albatross and as I was leaving the viewing blind for the albatross, these gulls were squawking and engaged in their mating dance.

Males were fighting for females who just seemed to be ignoring the whole scene. I just happened to catch these three in what looked to me like two males with a female in the middle, hence my title: Three's a Crowd, Charlie!"



Pictures from the Party





JUST ONE PHOTO

JUST ONE PHOTO - January - Weather

January's subject is Weather. You can interpret "Weather" however you want. Send me ONE photo that you have taken during the month of January that represents your interpretation of the subject. I need the photo emailed to me by midnight of January 31st. You can put your name or initials on the photos if you'd like. This is not a contest to be judged, just an opportunity to show off your talent. Make sure you send your photo in a .jpg format. Email to: t.stone3@sbcglobal.net

JUST ONE PHOTO -

Email to: t.stone3@sbcglobal.net

NORTH TEXAS NATURE NOTES

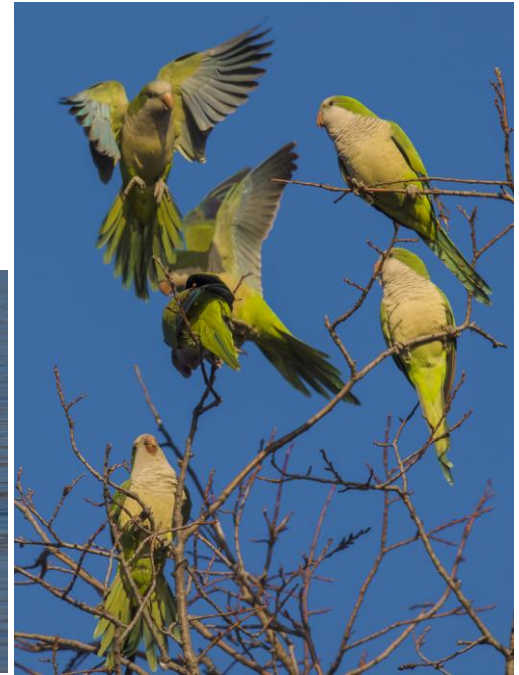
In this space, I plan to highlight things for North Texas nature photographers to see and do. Please feel free to send me items of interest to share with the club. Thanks.

NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS

With the New Year comes the annual halfhearted pledge to eat better, lose weight and get more exercise (sound familiar?). For me, 2015 is going to be different, this year I resolve to do something important. This year, my resolution for myself is to become a better person. About time some might say, but I've been busy working and all. If I have any time, money, and energy left over from this monumental endeavor, I would also like to become a better photographer. To that end, I am asking you to email me suggestions for how both you and I can get better at making nature images. Send your suggestions to me at lpetterborg@gmail.com. I will collect, collate, and share the entire list of suggestions in a future newsletter. This way, we can all help each other to do what we enjoy just a bit better. Thanks.

One way I know that works, if you want to get better at something, is to practice To become a better taker of pictures, take more pictures. One way I plan to do that is to visit White Rock Lake in Dallas at least once a month (more often is more likely) for the entire year of 2015 and shoot. There are a great many things to photograph around the lake and well as documenting the annual changes that naturally occur.

Monk Parakeets at White Rock Lake (2014)



Cormorants and Pelican at White Rock Lake (2014)



WEB Sites of Interest

1. <http://www.mckinneyonline.com/December-2014/McKinney-Magazine-Wants-Photos-from-Professionals-and-Amateurs/> If you want information on the McKinney Magazine Photo Contest.
2. <https://www.keh.com/> If you want to buy or sell used photo equipment.
3. <http://www.dpreview.com/> For reviews of new cameras, lenses and printers.
4. <http://www.capturedallas.com/photos> Check out what photographers are doing around the area.
5. <http://www.meetup.com/NANPA-Nature-Photography-Group-of-North-Texas/> Get information about nature photography meetups in North Texas led by Sean Fitzgerald.

**YOUR 2015 HEARD NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS CLUB DUES ARE DUE
PLEASE SEE RON MARABITO AT THE NEXT MEETING
JANUARY 10th OR AT THE TABLE TOP WORKSHOP**

FIELD TRIPS

Lee Hatfield, Field Trip Coordinator

I'm pleased to report that to date 23 members have returned the Field Trip Survey and provided me with feedback on places they would like to revisit as well as new places that the club hasn't yet visited.

Twenty three members agreed that local trips should be on a Saturday within a 30 minute to one hour drive from McKinney. Twenty-one said they would be interested in participating in weekend field trips and fourteen would do a 3 to 5 day trip.

The favorite top five local, one day or half day trips are: Hagerman NWR, Dallas Arboretum, White Rock Lake, Ft. Worth Botanical Garden and Butterflies, and Ennis Bluebonnets.

Top 3-5 day trips are: Caddo Lake, Texas Hill Country Kerrville and Fredericksburg, Bosque del Apache NWR and the Great Smoky National Park.

The Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge near Lawton, OK was not on my list but three people suggested it. Beavers Bend near Broken Bow, OK was also noted.

The Fort Worth Botanical and Butterfly Gardens only have butterflies every other year so in 2016 it could be on the list.

The October Tyler trip could be either a day trip or a weekend trip.

There will be sign-up sheets at the January club meeting.

Here's information for the February Field Trip

Second Saturday, **February 14**: We'll meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Heard Nature Museum for a photography scavenger hunt along the trails of the Heard. Lee will provide a scavenger list for each of the participants. Everyone will choose ONE best shot for each category and must turn in a memory card with JPEGs with just the shots they are entering to Lee before 11:00 a.m. that day. (This means you may end up deleting shots you want to keep, so you may want to bring your laptop to save your other images.)

Here's my [tentative schedule](#) for the rest of the year if you want to include the dates and places in the newsletter to give everyone time to plan.

As Ron always stated: The schedule is not set in stone....but I have already booked our cabin for Beavers Bend in November.

March 21: Texas Discovery Gardens and Butterfly Shoot, 3601 MLK Blvd., Dallas, 75210. (Butterflies are released at noon)

April 18: Ennis Bluebonnet Festival, Ennis, TX

May 2: Dallas Arboretum for spring flowers and White Rock Lake for birds

June 6: TENTATIVE - North Texas Water Gardeners Pond Tour with day and/or night photography of the flowers, koi, waterfalls

July 25: TBD - possible workshop on Lightroom editing

Aug 15 or 22: TBD

Sept 17-20: Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, Indianahoma, OK (30 miles northwest of Lawton)
(Elk, bison, prairie dogs, sunrise and sunset)

Oct 17-18: Caldwell Zoo, Opens at 9 a.m. Closes at 4:30 p.m. (\$10.50 adults, \$9.25 seniors 55+)
and/or Tyler Rose Show, Tyler, TX.

Nov 12-15: Beavers Bend State Park, north of Broken Bow, OK, Peak Weekend for Fall Foliage,
Talimena Highway, Ouachita National Forest, Arts & Crafts Fair.
Lodging options: Beavers Bend Lodging cabins, Beavers Bend Resort Park Lodge, or in
Broken Bow (Booking should be made no later than March for cabins at Beavers Bend)

Dec 5: Hagerman NWR, Sherman, TX (Geese and ducks)

2015 PROGRAMS

January: Rob Hull, Topic TBA

Feburary: John DeFillipo, Director, John Bunker Sands Wetlands Center

March: TBA

April: Mike Mezeul, Photographing and surving severe weather.

Please contact Terree Stone (t.stone3@sbcglobal.net) and/or Anita Oakley (anita.oakley@verizon.net) if you
have any ideas or suggestions for furture programs.

Next Field Trip

January Field Trip is our annual Table Top Workshop

Saturday, Jan 31, 2015

We have our Table Top Workshop coming up late this month up in the SRT Building where we recently did our December program on Members Choice. The event will run from 10:00am to 12:00 noon with a one hour break for lunch and then a repeat from 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

We have 7 activities this year. They are the following:

The Creative Cloud in Photoshop and Lightroom presented by Guy Huntley. Guy will explore some of the features available in the Creative Cloud that are not available in the stand alone versions of these popular softwares.

Splash Photography presented by Rob Hull. Rob will bring an aquarium, goodies and lighting for you to have a lot of fun with floating and dropping objects in the water.

Bird Photography presented by Mike Cameron and Jim Ross. Both will bring equipment and accessories as well as information to make your bird photography a rewarding experience.

Introduction to Photo Books presented by Fay Stout. Fay will bring samples of books and explain the process of creating books.

Photo Restoration presented by Cliff Weaver. Cliff will take you through the process of restoring an old photo to like new. Old negatives and prints can be scanned to create a digital file to work with.

Oil on Water presented by R.E. (Ron) Marabito. Ron will help you get some very interesting abstract images from this process. No need to stop there, you can take the images into various filters to create amazing abstracts.

Applying Textures to images presented by Roger Roberts. Roger has been doing some unique images of late applying textures to images. Come see some of them and how they are done.

The presentation on Bird Photography, Photo Books and Oil on Water are not new, but have been requested by members to be repeated. The other activities are new and should be fun and educational.

I suggest you bring a note pad for some of the events, so you can remember what they just showed you. Also, make sure you have macro capability with either a macro lens or and 20-200mm or 75-300mm lens with extension tubes do duplicate the macro capability. No need for flash since lighting will be provided.

There is no sign-up for the **Table Top**. Everyone is invited. Bring photo friends and we can sign them up as new members. Just tell them, it is a real bargain at \$20 per year.

Thanks for coming.

R.E. (Ron) Marabito, Retiring Field Trip Coordinator and new Treasurer.

P.S. Be sure to welcome Lee Hatfield as the new coordinator. I will lend whatever assistance is needed to get her first year off to a good start.

MEET OUR MEMBERS: JIM ROSS

LP: How long have you been a member of the Heard Nature Photographer Club?

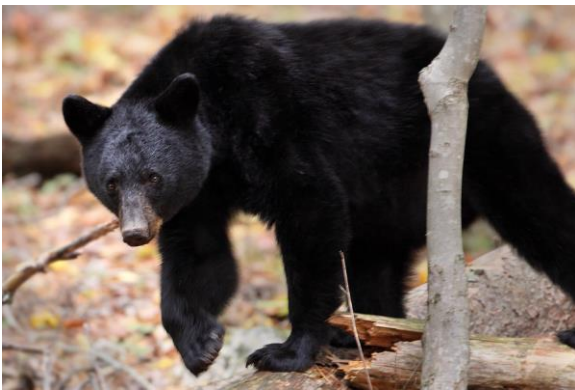
JR: For over 12 years, President for the last 10.

LP: How long have you been "doing" photography? What sparked your initial interest in photography in general?

JR: I've enjoyed nature photography as a hobby for well over 20 years. During my growing up years Dad captured family trips using Kodak slide film. I loved reliving the memories through his slide shows. Soon I received a camera for Christmas and began to capture my own photos. Dad enjoyed backyard birding and encouraged me to earn my Eagle Scout award. My love of nature and photography really came together once I moved to Texas in 1985. My buddy Gregg Schwartz mentored me and taught me how to use my Canon Rebel film camera.

LP: What has been your most memorable nature photo experience?

JR: While on the Smoky Mountains NP trip with our photo club we ran across a mother black bear with cubs eating acorns high in a tree. She came down out of the tree and started heading straight toward me. I was able to take a few shots before she ran off into the woods with her cubs. I was scared and excited at the same time!



LP: What have you not been able to do and most want to do in nature photography?

JR: Someday soon I would like to visit Yellowstone and also Alaska. I think it would be fun to rent a long lens and capture some great wildlife shots!

(Editor's Note, the 2015 PSA Convention will be in Yellowstone in September <http://www.psa-photo.org/>)

LP: What advice do you have for nature photographers in the club?

JR: Get involved in the club, take some classes and learn from fellow members. I learn best by doing -- so recommend that you get out there and shoot photos with the club.

LP: Do you have a web site where members could go to see your images? If so, what is the URL?

JR: I am working on my Flickr account: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/126494999@N07/sets/>

LP: Is there anything else that you would like to share with the club?

JR: I'm blessed to have a wife Chandra who enjoys sharing nature adventures with me. We recently visited Costa Rica and Glacier NP and had a wonderful time. Life is short as we learned from our friend and mentor Harold Green, so be giving to others and take some time to adventure / play along the way!

SOME OF JIM'S FAVORITE IMAGES





37th Annual Heard Nature Photography Contest

- ❖ Ten Contest Categories for Nature-related Digital Images.
- ❖ Four Contest Divisions:
 - ❖ Student Junior (14 and under)
 - ❖ Student Senior (15-18)
 - ❖ Adult (beginner to intermediate)
 - ❖ Adult Advanced (advanced amateur or professional).
- ❖ Entry Fee \$5/Photo for Students, \$10/Photo for Adults.
- ❖ Ribbons awarded for Best of Show and 1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners in each contest category for each Division
- ❖ All contest proceeds to benefit the Heard Museum.
- ❖ Please see these websites for contest details and instructions for preparing and submitting entries:

www.heardnaturephotographers.com

www.heardmuseum.org

❖ Questions? Please contact

- ❖ Jackie Ranney, Heard Nature Photographers, Contest Coordinator
214/478-2107 or **contest@heardnaturephotographers.com**

or

- ❖ Mandy Carrasco, Special Events Coordinator, Heard Museum
972/562-5566, x271



CLUB OFFICERS

President: Jim Ross
Co -Vice – President: Terree Stone
Co -Vice – President: Anita Oakley
Secretary: Peter Gilbert
Treasurer: Ron Marabito
Membership: John Yates
Refreshments - Ed Pierce
Field Trips - Ron Marabito
Field Trips: Jack Harrison
Contest Coordinator: Jackie Ranney
Webmaster: Rob Hull
Newsletter Editor: Larry Petterborg
GSCCC Representative: Larry Petterborg

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Monthly Meeting

JANUARY 10, 2015

1:30 PM

Heard Natural Science
Museum
1 Nature Place
McKinney, TX

Refreshments for the January Meeting Provided by

Larry and Mary Petterborg, John Yates, Phyllis Fosdick,
Ed Pierce

<http://www.heardnaturephotographers.com/>

<http://www.psa-photo.org/>

<http://www.gulfstatesccc.org/>