

FEBURARY, 2015



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President's Letter

Woohoo! The Heard Nature Photo Contest was a big success! Jackie Ranney called to say that over 600 images were submitted! The new streamlined / improved process worked! No more hassle of printing, mounting, paperwork, driving up to the Heard, staffing in-take tables, hanging photos, etc. A huge "Thank You" goes to the core team for successfully making the contest 100% on-line: Jackie Ranney, Anita Oakley, Terree Stone, Rob Hull, Peter Gilbert and Ron Marabito. Thanks also to Lee Hatfield (helped with marketing), Larry Wechsler (photos) and Mary Binford (ribbons), and to club members for your contributions and support!

Chandra and I took a hike at Arbor Hills in Plano and noticed a new birding sign featuring the excellent photos of club member Mike Cameron. Congrats to Mike for this honor! It is neat to see the impact that fellow club members make around town. Did you know that John Yates took the Polo Club photo used to make the sculpture at the corner of Park and Parkwood in Plano? Did you also know that there is a street named after John Yates in The Colony?

Yippee – we voted and agreed to use club funds to buy a new replacement Digital Projector. The projector will have PC, Mac, Tablet and Smartphone connections, as well as WiFi. We hope to have the new projector in place for the February 14 meeting!

Jim Ross, President



Next Field Trip

Here's information for the February Field Trip (From Lee Hatfield)

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 (of 6 subjects) 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 6 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.) Prizes will be awarded at the March meeting & there will be a slideshow!

2015 FIELD TRIPS

DATE	ACTIVITY
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	TBD
Sept 17-20	Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, Lawton, OK (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 6-8	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)

FEBURARY 14TH PROGRAM

John DeFillipo Biography 2014

John DeFillipo, Director of the John Bunker Sands Wetland Center, is an engaging naturalist with over 18 years of experience blending ecological concepts with business insights. After receiving his BS degree in Business Administration in 1992 from the Mississippi University for Women, he pursued a naturalist career with two nature centers in the southeastern United States; Camp McDowell Environmental Education Center in Alabama and Crow's Neck Environmental Education Center in Mississippi. In 2002, John refined his focus as an Outreach Educator with the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science where he presented endangered species programs, including live Alligators. While living in Mississippi, John served as the president of the Mississippi Environmental Education Alliance and was the recipient of the 2008 Environmental Educator of the Year Award.

John moved to Dallas in late 2008 to accept the Lead Natural Science Educator position with the Perot Museum of Nature and Science before becoming the Director of the Wetland Center in March 2010. Currently, John serves as a board director for the Association of Nature Center Administrators (ANCA) and the Crandall Independent School District's Education Foundation.

Through his enduring passion of man's stewardship of the Earth, he envisions leading the Wetland Center to become a premier example of environmental education with a strong focus on habitat and water conservation, public education, partnerships, and wetland research.

John DeFillipo

Director

John Bunker Sands Wetland Center

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Partnership for Conservation

Water, Wetlands, and Wildlife at the John Bunker Sands Wetland Center

What does a manmade wetland, American Bald Eagles and Alligators have in common? Water Conservation! The John Bunker Sands Wetland Center provides education and research opportunities related to water conservation and wetlands in the middle of the 2000 acre East Fork Wetland Project. The Wetland Center is the focal point of a one of a kind manmade wetland that recycles millions of gallons of water each day to supplement the municipal water supply for 1.7 million people living in the North Texas corridor. This project was formed by a unique public/private partnership between the North Texas Municipal Water District and The Rosewood Corporation to provide a long term sustainable solution for water supply while providing diverse wetland habitat for over 357 species of birds, dozens of mammals, reptiles and other wildlife. Protection and conservation in the headwaters of the upper Trinity River have a lasting effect downstream. Come and experience the realities of our most precious resource WATER and discover how stewardship can be integrated into our everyday lives.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

April - Mike Mezuel - How to stay alive while photographing severe weather

May - Derek Broman - Texas Parks and Wildlife - program TBD

June - Eleanore Avery - Western Ireland

September - Marea Downey - Travel Photography

November - Jim Foster - TBD



KID'S REFLECTIONS AT
JOHN BUNKER SANDS
WETLAND CENTER



GREAT EGRET AT JOHN
BUNKER SANDS WETLAND
CENTER

2015 DUES ARE DUE NOW!!

Ron Marabito says, "After Feb 28, any past member not current with dues will be dropped from the list and anyone wishing to re-join will have to fill out a new application and pay their dues."

So, please get your 2015 Heard Nature Photography Club dues payment to Ron as soon as possible. The \$20.00 you spend now is an investment in the future of the club and will enable us to continue to provide great nature photography programming and activities.

JUST ONE PHOTO - February - Open

February's subject is *Open*. You can interpret "*Open*" however you want. Send me ONE photo that you have taken during the month of February that represents your interpretation of the subject. I need the photo emailed to me by midnight of February 28th. 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

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.

<http://texas.wildflowersightings.org/> With spring coming, visit this site to see where the flowers are.
<http://photonaturalist.net/downloads/photonaturalist-13tips-wildflowers.pdf> How to shoot wildflowers.
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/ngtseminars/seminars/the-power-of-light-color.html>
(Austin, Feb 22 this is as close as these seminars will get to Dallas this year)
<http://www.birdsasart.com/> Arthur Morris is one of the best bird photographers working today.
http://www.learn.usa.canon.com/galleries/galleries/tutorials/birds_as_art_morris.shtml
http://blog.allaboutbirds.org/2013/06/28/eight-great-reasons-to-love-the-new-migratory-bird-stamp/#_ga=1.218997337.1324305275.1421510592 Suggested by Peggy Evans

Last month I asked folks to share tips for improving their photography in the coming year. I will be working on a project at White Rock Lake in Dallas to get me out and shooting throughout the year. One way to get better at something is to practice. I will be posting 10 images every month for all of 2015. You can see January photos at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/lpetterborg/sets>

Professional Landscape Photographer, Alain Briot offers his ideas on New Year's Resolutions at http://www.luminous-landscape.com/columns/briots-view/reaching_your_goal_in_2015.shtml

Heard Herd Member Photography Tips for 2015

From Elinor Hite:

“Did someone give you a drone for Christmas? The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has posted online an informative video and rules for flying drones. You can see more on this topic under the heading *What the FAA Wants You to Know Before You Fly Your Drone*. Please note their rule: “Do not conduct surveillance or photograph persons or areas where there is an expectation of privacy without the individual’s permission.”

From Peggy Evans:

“Larry I like the idea of what to do to improve photography - Not only go on club workshops but find a photo buddy that is learning too or has better skills and go out adventuring together. It is a great way to see things differently and to share learning many skills. It is the mentor idea.”

From Ron Marabito:

“Something I’ve just started doing myself a lot of the time. Shoot in manual and make sure you meter on your subject. Amazing how well your exposures turn out. My Bald Eagle that was posted on facebook and sent to a list of followers via email was shot that way in mid-day sun. I’ve attached it just in case. The background was replaced because the surroundings for the shot were awful.”

“Tip: Become aware of the light, what color it is, how strong it is, and which way it falls on your subject. Decide if you need to change your position to allow the light to enhance your subject. Or should you consider shooting at a different time of day?”



Ron Marabito’s Bald Eagle

From Lee Hatfield for the Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge (<http://www.friendsofhagerman.com/Home>):

Dr Wayne Meyer will offer a Guided Bird Walk at 8 a.m. on Feb 14 at HNWR. Meet at the Visitor Center. Dr Meyer will do a presentation on Owls at 10 a.m. on March 14 at the Visitors Center. Tram Tours are at 2 p.m. on Saturdays & Sundays. Reservations needed, call [903-786-2826](tel:903-786-2826) as space is limited.

Jack Harrison passed along the following from Tim Grey's site because the club has a new projector:

“Our club has a good quality digital projector but some people are not always happy with how their images look when projected. Would it make a substantial difference if we took the extra step of calibrating it or will we always see a difference between the projected image and the display on a calibrated monitor?”

Tim's Answer:

“Calibrating and profiling your digital projector will indeed have a tremendous impact on the accuracy and consistency of the display of projected images.

Put simply, if all club members calibrate the monitor display they use for reviewing and optimizing their photos, and you calibrate the projector being used to display the images at your club meetings, you can expect a very good match between what the photographer created on their own computer and what is being displayed by your projector.

The key is to make sure everyone is calibrating to the same target values. For example, you could specify that everyone should calibrate to a color target of 6500 Kelvin and luminance of 100 candelas per square meter (cd/m²). If everyone uses the same values, you will achieve a high degree of consistency across multiple displays.

To actually calibrate the digital projector, you'll need a monitor calibration package that supports digital projectors as well as standard displays. One such package that works very well is the X-Rite ColorMunki Display package”.

<http://greylearning.com>

Below are the February refreshment volunteers. Thanks!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

- John Yates
- Debbie Conard
- Ann Hargreaves

Please sign up at the next meeting to bring snacks to a future meeting or just give Ed Pierce some money.

“The Printer From Hell”

By Larry Genender

I have always lived by the motto “always buy the biggest and best, otherwise you wind up with two”. While taking Photoshop classes at Richland College, I learned to print on an Epson 4880, which has roll paper as well as cut sheet capacity – it can print any size as long as one dimension is 17 inches or less. I was determined to have this printer, and when a sale came along that gave it to me at a 50% discount, I took the plunge. The newest model is the 4900. The big secret is that the ink is the thing that costs big bucks – eleven colors at \$100 each for a 200 cc cartridge (they do last a long time).

The unit weighs 130 pounds and is bulky. It takes 2 people to lift it. I did a lot of moving around in my study to make room and finally got it installed. It made some great prints (including some poster sized ones) before it broke down, and I had to have it replaced – a faulty sensor in the paper feed mechanism. That was just bad luck with a new printer.

These high-end printers use pigment rather than dye inks, making the nozzles on the print head more prone to clog. Pigment-based inks make better prints whose colors are more permanent than do dye-based inks. Infrequent use makes clogged nozzles more likely to occur. Recently I had a major clog, one that I couldn’t fix myself. I spent a lot of ink trying, and realized that I had to find a repairman who would come to the house and fix it. I finally found a company who provided that service, and in due course the tech arrived. It took him 2 ½ hours (at \$150/hr.) to unclog it. It was touch and go for a while whether he could; if he couldn’t, I would have to replace the print head at prohibitive cost. In any case, the printer works perfectly, and he showed me how to prevent this in the future – run a test pattern once weekly, and unclog any nozzle(s) that weren’t perfect. I was thrilled.

In the end, all is well. The printer works perfectly, and I know how to look after it. I should have bought the smaller model 3880, which does almost everything I ever will want. Unlike many of us, I actually enjoy printing. I have learned that there are exceptions to the rule about always buying “the biggest and the best”.

PLEASE NOTE

The 2015 Heard Natural Science Museum’s 37th Annual Photography Contest **award ceremony** will be held on Sunday, February 22 (2:00 – 4:00 p.m.) at the Heard Museum of Natural Science & Wildlife Sanctuary (Laughlin Hall), 1 Nature Place, McKinney, TX 75069 (www.heardmuseum.org)



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

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Jim Ross
Co -Vice – President: Terree Stone
Co -Vice – President: Anita Oakley
Secretary: Peter Gilbert
Treasurer: Ron Marabito
Membership: John Yates
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Field Trips - Ron Marabito
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Monthly Meeting

FEBURARY 14, 2015

1:30 PM

Heard Natural Science Museum
1 Nature Place
McKinney, TX

www.heardnaturephotographers.com