

APRIL, 2015



VOLUME 30, ISSUE 4

President's Letter

Jim Ross, President

Have you toured the new Nebraska Furniture Mart? Chandra and I walked the store looking for ideas for our new house. We noticed many photos that had been printed on canvas and hung as wall art. Seeing them made me think "hey, I can do that with my own images... while also reducing framing cost". Down the road I may try some of the techniques suggested by Ron Marabito at his "turning your images into art" presentation. Costco and other local places provide print on canvas services starting at \$29. Why not go print and hang some of your art this year?

Please be sure to sign-up to bring refreshments to a future club meeting. Ed Pierce is always looking for new folks. You can make your favorite treat or stop by the store and purchase something. Either way our stomachs will thank you!

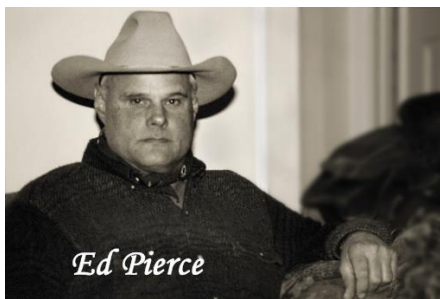
Canon recently announced an ultra-high resolution 50 megapixel full-frame camera. Holy smokes, I think my hard drive would be full after downloading images from one trip -- ha, ha! If you have any gear you would like to sell, let Larry Petterborg know and he can help you advertise it via our newsletter.



Oak Creek Park Carrollton by Jim Ross

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

- Nellie Bretherick
- Peter Gilbert
- Brian Clancy
- Mary Binford



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

March Field Trip Report by Lee Hatfield

Here are some images of the group that went to the Texas Discovery Gardens yesterday.

We had 14 people attend and several of us carpooled from Plano. We all tried to catch the Blue Morpho Butterfly with its wings open but it is a very illusive creature! Some of us took the scenic trip through Lower Greenville on the way to lunch at Luby's Cafeteria on Mockingbird on the way home.



Next Field Trip (APRIL)

We have 17 people signed up for the Ennis Bluebonnet Field Trip on Saturday, April 18. Please email me if you want to go and haven't signed up: leeHatfield@me.com

We'll plan to carpool early that morning to arrive in Ennis for breakfast before heading out to find that perfect spot for photographing the bluebonnets, Indian paintbrush and any horses, dogs, cows or donkeys we can find!

We'll check out the Kachine Prairie wildflower walk and then have lunch in Ennis.

The afternoon options include shopping at vendors' booths and the Ennis Visitor Center, plus music by James Lann, a vintage antique auto show and the Railroad and Cultural Heritage Museum.

I plan to spend Saturday night in Ennis to have the option of sunset photography. Sunset is 7:57 p.m. Sunrise will be at 6:54 a.m. Sunday. I can take up to three people for carpooling if anyone wants to spend the night and rise and shine really early on Sunday for sunrise shots.



2015 FIELD TRIPS

Please note the date change for our June field trip listed below.

DATE

ACTIVITY

March 21	Texas Discovery Gardens and Butterfly Shoot, 3601 MLK Blvd., Dallas, 75210. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Butterflies are released at noon and staff give a talk about butterflies at this time. Texas Discovery Gardens has 7.5 acres featuring native plants and species from around the world. Admission is \$8 for adults, and \$6 for seniors 60+. We can meet outside the main entrance of the butterfly house at 11:00 a.m. and if there are 10 or more of us, we can enter as a group and receive a \$2.00 discount per person.
April 18	Ennis Bluebonnet Festival, Ennis, TX
May 2	Dallas Arboretum for spring flowers and White Rock Lake for birds
June	North Texas Water Gardeners Pond Tour with day (14 th) and/or night (13 th) photography of the flowers, koi, & waterfalls. There is a \$20 per group charge.
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) Bugling Elk Bus Tour Sept. 19 at 6:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., reservations begin 8/31/15.
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, Fall Foliage, Talimena Scenic Byway, Ouachita National Forest, Lodging options: Beavers Bend Lodging cabins, Beavers Bend Resort Park Lodge, or hotels in Broken Bow For those who want to book a cabin, here's the link to Beavers Bend Lodging: https://www.beaversbendlodging.com (see below)
Dec 5	Hagerman NWR, Sherman, TX (Geese and ducks)

November Field Trip (Nov. 6-8, 2015)

Beavers Bend Cabins & Lodging Broken Bow Vacation Cabins & Getaways

Beavers Bend Lodging is located north of **Broken Bow, Oklahoma** near the state park and lake. We offer a collection of 1-4+ bedroom rentals for **all types of vacation getaways**. Our **Cabins** are perfect for 2 people wanting to spend alone time or honeymooning to groups, we can accommodate those looking for spending time with loved ones.

Our Beavers Bend and Broken Bow Cabins are favored destination by city and country folk alike looking for a vacation in Broken Bow, OK. Located near Broken Bow Lake and Mountain Fork River. Trout fishing is available in the richly abundant waters of Mountain Fork River. If you are an outdoor person then the forest area will be fun to explore.

Our **cabins** are anything but rustic! **They have all the comforts of home**. We make your vacation near the State Park effortless. All you need to bring is your food and your clothes! It's that easy.

Our goal is to make your stay as enjoyable as possible. Take a few moments to explore our website and find your perfect **getaway rental**. ***Please let us help you select the perfect location.***

<https://www.beaversbendlodging.com/>

APRIL 11TH PROGRAM

Our speaker for April will be **Mike Mezuel**. He is a self-taught professional photographer, living in north Texas. Mike says he is addicted to photography and adventure, and his images show it! He photographs in many different situations, from music concerts and sporting events, weddings to natural disasters. His landscapes and night shots are phenomenal.

One of his specialties is foul weather photography, including thunderstorms, lighting, and tornados. He'll speak about storm chasing photography, and staying safe in the process.

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

FUTURE PROGRAMS

2015 Speakers		
Date	Speaker	Subject
1/10/2015	Rob Hull	
2/14/2015	John DeFillipo	John Bunker Sands Wetlands Center
3/14/2015	Ron Marabito	Images to Art
4/11/2015	Mike Mezuel	How to stay alive while photographing severe weather.
5/9/2015	Dereck Broman	Bobcats - Texas Parks & Wildlife
6/13/2015	Eleanore Avery	Western Ireland
7/11/2015		
8/8/2015	Russell Graves	TBD
9/12/2015	Marea Downey	Travel Photography
10/10/2015	Robert Bunch	TBD
11/14/2105	Jim Foster	TBD
12/12/2015	Members' Choice	

Just One Photo - April Subject: FLOWERS

April's subject is Flowers. You can interpret "Flowers" however you want. Send me ONE photo that you have taken during the month of April that represents your interpretation of the subject. I need the photo emailed to me by midnight of April 30st. 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

As a member club in the GSCCC, we may submit a total of 4 images from 4 different members to each contest. The contests are held every May, July, September, November, and February. I maintain a collection of images to pick from for use in future competitions. If you would like to participate, please send me copies of your best nature photos (see guidelines above for what is allowed). Files should be resized to no more than 1024 (wide) x 768 (high) and the file name should include the title of the image and the name of the maker. Please do not put your name or copyright on the image itself. Attach files to an email and send to Lpetterborg@tx.rr.com.

You can see the full results and the winning images in the next GSCCC Newsletter.

Our Club will be judging the July GSCCC Nature competition.

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.

1. From Tom Heath, a lesson on "back button focus: http://photography.tutsplus.com/tutorials/back-button-focusing-how-to-use-full-auto-and-full-manual-controls-at-the-same-time--cms-23321?mc_cid=2aa4769588&mc_eid=019f613ae6
2. International Landscape contest <http://www.internationallandscapephotographer.com/>
3. Want to know where the wildflowers are?
4. Want to know how to photograph those wildflowers?
<http://texas.wildflowersightings.org/http://www.jeffparkerimages.com/pdfs/WILDFLOWERPHOTOGRAPHYTIPS.pdf>
5. Want help photographing your backyard birds? Check out the following tips from Jeff Parker

7 Tips for Backyard Bird Photography

1. **Keep a journal.**

Log which feathered friends come and go---and when. This helps you learn not only when you can photograph the subjects you seek and when they engage in their most action-packed behaviors, but also what type(s) of food to serve (see *Tip #2*).

2. **Feed them right.**

Avoid seed mixes containing high amounts of red millet. Most birds spurn it; however, House Sparrows, which you probably don't want to attract, readily scarf it down. Instead, offer those eats favored most by the subjects you seek. For example, here at Red Belly Ranch, Painted Buntings get white millet (which I have to special order, but it's worth it!). Black-oil sunflower seeds and raw peanuts also tend to attract wonderful winged subjects.

3. **Water them well.**

Attract a larger variety of birds by providing three distinct water sources: a bird bath, a hanging waterer, and a drip system. When selecting a bird bath veer away from fancy, image-cluttering versions (see *Tip #4*). The movement and sound created by a drip system grabs the attention of migrants that might not otherwise notice your tweet-retreat.

4. **Mind that background.**

Since you're in charge of where feeders and water sources are placed, think in terms of images with solid, smooth backgrounds. Position feeders far enough away from foliage to create a nice background blur, while also remaining vigilant for bright spots (*e.g. sunshine through leaves*) or other distracting elements. IMPORTANT! --- Place feeders at least 25-feet from windows to avoid strikes, and 12-feet from trees or structures that provide pouncing places for predators (see *Tip #6*).

5. **Put in a pretty perch.**

When picking a piece of wood for a perch choose one that compliments the size of the bird you want to photograph. Make it photo-worthy by adding lichen, native foliage, or berries. Birds appreciate perches near feeders because they provide places to pause and check out the scene before digging in for a meal. Perches also provide you with perfect chances to get keepers---sans feeder.

6. **Put some light on the subject.**

Position feeders and water sources so that you get front light on the birds (*rather than side or back lighting*). Also, watch for nearby objects that cast unwanted shadows during your sweetest light (*early-morning and dusk*). If you can, set up two areas---one for morning shooting and another for evening.

7. **Keep Kitty indoors.**

Indoor cats average 15-17 years of life, that's significantly longer than the 1-5 years outside cats typically get. And, not only are indoors-only cats healthier, but, studies show that when kept properly stimulated, they're happier, too. That's good news for cat and bird lovers both! Even when Kitty wears a bell, birds often don't get enough notice before she pounces. In addition, social dynamics tend to distract birds collected at feeders, which makes escaping predators even more problematic for them (see *Tip #4*).

From Jeff Parker <http://jeffparkerimages.com/>



Ron Marabito (club treasurer) presenting Sy Shahid, Executive Director of the Heard Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary, a check from the contest proceeds.

Plea for Donations

Please be aware that, the Rogers Wildlife Rehab Center in Hutchins is in financial trouble and will be forced to close after 35 years of saving thousands of birds of all kinds by Kathy Rogers and her volunteers.

Please go to www.rogerswildlife.org and make a donation in any amount you can afford. Let us not allow her wonderful place to go away. If you truly love nature, this is a great opportunity to pay back for all the wonderful wildlife you enjoy photographing. Don't forget to look at the Wish List on the site. You might have something laying around that they need.

Thanks, R. E. (Ron) Marabito, Club Treasurer

(see <http://www.dallasnews.com/news/community-news/best-southwest/headlines/20150327-north-texas-bird-rehab-center-may-curtail-operations.ece>)

Meet Lee Hatfield

Club Field Trip Chair

1. How long have you been a member of the Heard Nature Photographer Club?

I joined the Heard Photo Club in 2003 after reading about it on the Heard Museum's webpage. Terree Stone and Kay Griffith were two of the first members who made me feel welcome. Ron Marabito, Jack Harrison, Peter Gilbert, Larry Petterborg and Rob Hull have always been very helpful anytime I've asked a question or needed help.

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

I received a Kodak Brownie camera for Christmas when I was 10 and began taking photos at my family's special occasions like birthdays and holidays. Our first trip was to Washington D.C and Florida and I still have some of those pictures. My mother loved to take pictures and encouraged me to photograph whatever I wanted and she paid all the development fees!

3. What has been your most memorable nature photo experience?

On safari in Tanzania we saw hundreds of wild elephants, wildebeests, antelope, birds, and leopards but the most memorable was photographing several pairs of mating lions.

4. What have you not been able to do and most want to do in nature photography?

I want to photograph whales in migration along the California coast, bears filling up on salmon in Alaska plus polar bears and the aurora borealis in Norway. I'm also watching for owls at the Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge but never seem to be in the right place at the right time!

5. What advice do you have for nature photographers in the club?

Keep on trying to capture that flying bird, that magnificent flower or that animal that captivates your attention! Learn to read the light and how it can enhance your subject. Try using your off camera flash and a sturdy tripod to help light your subject. Never give up on a sunrise or sunset! Get out and shoot every day (no matter what the weather), and try to learn from your images by studying your f stop, aperture and ISO settings to see what went right or wrong! Always make sure your lens is clean, your battery is charged and you have extra memory cards with you. Practice patience and have fun!

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

leehatfieldphotography.com

7. Is there anything else that you would like to share with the club?

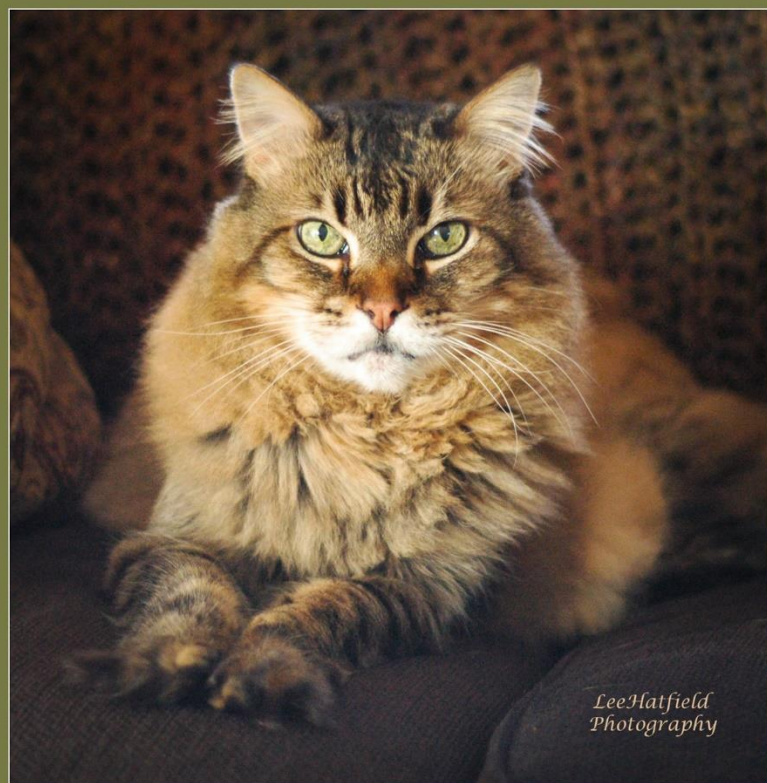
Attend every photo related workshop you possibly can, both field and classroom, as there will be at least one new thing you will learn no matter how experienced you may be.

If you are stuck on a photo issue or want advice on gear, ask a club member.....they will always be happy to share what they know!

SOME OF LEE'S FAVORITE IMAGES



Portland Head
Light House,
Cape Elizabeth,
Maine



Dragon, A Maine
Coon Cat



Snowy Creek



Iris in Sunlight



<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
Refreshments - Ed Pierce
Field Trips – Lee Hatfield
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

APRIL 11, 2015

1:30 PM

Heard Natural Science Museum
1 Nature Place
McKinney, TX

www.heardnaturephotographers.com