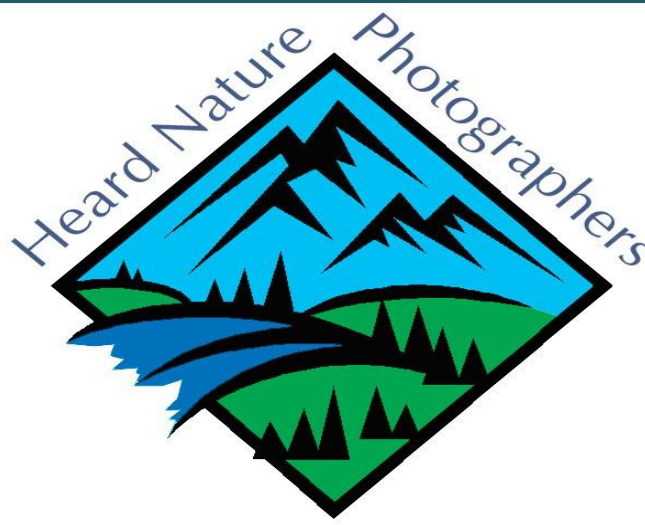


JULY, 2015



VOLUME 31, ISSUE 7

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

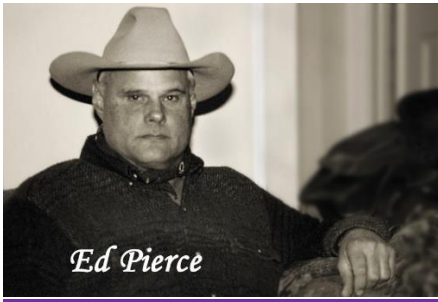
How many folks shoot nature photos with a smart phone? Not too many is my guess. Yet surprisingly I am taking some close-up nature photos with my iPhone just because it is so handy / always with me. When a photo opportunity presents itself, it is easy to pull my phone out and shoot. This nonvenomous Rough Green Snake explored our pool deck and posed while I took his picture. Check out that shade of green that so perfectly matches grass or leaves! Normally this camouflage would allow the snake to stay hidden. But against our pool deck, I was able to capture the contrast. I simply took a shot, moved the phone closer, shot again, moved closer, etc. until he slithered back into the grass. The final shot was only a few inches away. I would NOT have attempted this technique with a poisonous copperhead (like the one that Chandra spied going by our front patio tonight)! Don't worry, my image stabilized 100-400mm is still my nature field lens of choice. Be sure to sign-up to bring your favorite snack or calorie-bomb to a future club meeting. Ed Pierce, our refreshments coordinator, has a sign-up book and will give you a reminder phone call.

Jim Ross, President.



Below are the **JULY** refreshment volunteers. Thanks!!!!

- **Kay Griffith**
- **Jen Carrick**
- **Jackie Ranney**
- **Ed Pierce**



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

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## **JUST ONE PHOTO**

July's subject is **Open**. Summer is here - maybe share shots of how you are staying cool, enjoying the heat or celebrating our nation's birthday. Send me ONE photo that you have taken during the month of July that represents your interpretation of the subject. I need the photo emailed to me by midnight of July 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](mailto:t.stone3@sbcglobal.net)

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## Field Trip Report by Lee Hatfield

Nine members participated in the North Texas Water Garden Society Pond Tour the weekend of June 13/14. Detailed descriptions of 43 private gardens open to the public on the tour were highlighted in the Pond Tour Guide. Gardens include koi ponds, bogs, rock lined streams, waterfalls, flowering waterlilies and lotus, plants of all kinds and even trains! Pond and garden sizes range from small backyards in developments to several acres in the country. Friendly owners were available to answer questions about their ponds, fish, plants and even filtering systems.

A few things we saw:



Koi Pond with Water Lilies & Waterfall



Dragonfly



Koi Eating From the Owner's Hand



## JULY FIELD TRIPS

### July 10 Field Trip: LLELA

The Lake Lewisville Environmental Learning Area (LLELA) is open Friday, July 10 until 7 p.m. and we can take pictures at their Prairie and Pollinator Garden until they close. Their Cottonwood and Cicada Trails are also open as of June 16.

I have asked them to put us on their calendar for July 10 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
Entry fee is \$5 per person payable by cash or check (no credit cards) at the gatehouse upon entry to LLELA.  
Another great opportunity to photograph butterflies, dragonflies, birds, frogs and flowers.

PLEASE email me at [leehatfield@me.com](mailto:leehatfield@me.com) ASAP if you will attend so I can give them head count. Contact me if you'd like to carpool.

Address: 201 E. Jones St., Lewisville, TX 75057

Physical Address: corner of Jones and Kealy St., Lewisville, TX 75057

Web page: <https://llela.unt.edu>

The July 10, Friday evening field trip to Rockledge Park is cancelled due to lack of interest plus the lake is flooded and the Friday night fireworks probably won't happen at the lake. (They have moved their 4th of July show to the Colony.)

### August 15 Field Trip: Sun to Moon Gallery

Located at 1515 Levee St., Dallas in the Design District and near the Trinity River, this gallery offers a wide array of images by fine art photographers. The gallery is open from 11 am. to 5 p.m. and we will plan to be there for at least two hours. More info to come. Please email me if you will attend. <http://www.suntomoon.com>

## 2015 FIELD TRIPS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
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May 2	Dallas Arboretum for spring flowers and White Rock Lake for birds
June 13-14	North Texas Water Gardens Pond Tour. Please email Lee at <a href="mailto:leehatfield@me.com">leehatfield@me.com</a> if you would like to join us to tour several local gardens for day and night photo opportunities this weekend. A book of private gardens with addresses & maps is \$20 and may be used by a group for entrance to all gardens open this weekend. Tripods are allowed.
July 10	Lake Lewisville Environmental Area. See above for details.
Aug 15	Carpool at 10:15 a.m. or meet at the Sun to Moon Gallery, 1515 E Levee St, Dallas from 11:00 to 1:00 to view photography images on display. Lunch in Dallas

- 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)
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## **JULY 11TH PROGRAM**

The speaker in July will be Eugene Jabbour from Competitive Camera, talking about the newest technology and trends in camera equipment.



<http://www.competitivecameras.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	Eugene Jabbour	What's New in Cameras
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	

## **GSCCC NEWS**

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](mailto:Lpetterborg@tx.rr.com).

**Our Club will be judging the July GSCCC Nature competition.**

For the latest Gulf States Newsletter, go to <http://www.gulfstatesccc.org/newsletters/gscconewsletter201505.pdf>

**The Heard Nature Photographers Club placed fifth overall in projected nature contests for 2014-2015. I know we can do better. Please send me your best images (see above).**

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## **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 Lee Hatfield, here is a link to the Digital Photography School, <http://digital-photography-school.com/> . Looks like a good site for lots of information to help you take better pictures.
2. Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge 6th Annual Photography Contest. Entries will be accepted from. Jun 1, 2015 through 4 pm, July 11, 2015. All entries including those sent by mail must be RECEIVED at Hagerman NWR by the deadline. THERE WILL BE NO DEADLINE EXTENSION! If you have questions regarding the photography contest, please contact us on [www.friendsofhagerman.com](http://www.friendsofhagerman.com) or by email to [fohphotoclub@gmail.com](mailto:fohphotoclub@gmail.com).
3. From Cathy Burkey, Dallas Zoo, We are offering a combination morning Photo Safari and afternoon workshop with Sean Fitzgerald, environmental and fine art photographer, here at the Dallas Zoo on July 11<sup>th</sup> . The Photo Safari begins at 8:00 a.m. and includes a continental breakfast and a box lunch, and ends at 4:00 p.m. The cost for Zoo members is \$125.00 or \$150.00 for non-members.  
<http://www.dallaszoo.com/>.

Sean Fitzgerald is a Deep Ellum-based environmental and fine art photographer whose images have been widely published in books, magazines, calendars. His fine-art prints are found in private and corporate collections across the country, including banks, hotels, and hospitals. Sean creates images that are simple, graphic, evocative, surreal and that in some way evoke a reaction, provoke an emotion, or tell a story. While his photographic subjects are widely varied, he is repeatedly drawn to nature and wildlife and the impact of man on both. Sean has won numerous awards and contests, including the City of Dallas Trinity River Photo Contest, the international World in Focus photo contest, and the Coastal Bend Wildlife Photo Contest. Sean received the Rising Star Photographer Award at the Fotofusion International Photography Festival and his career has been featured in Professional Photographer Magazine and other books. The Bravo Network has featured his artwork on several home redesign shows. He is currently working on a project to document and celebrate the beauty and diversity of the Dallas' urban Trinity River ecosystem and a book on the Texas prairie. He is the President Elect of the North American Nature Photography Association. You can see more of his images at [www.seanfitzgerald.com](http://www.seanfitzgerald.com). (Editor's note: a few years ago, I attended a similar activity at the Dallas Zoo. A close-up shot of an elephant's eye I made at that time won the adult division of the Zoo's annual photo contest. The gorilla is from a recent Plano Photo Club scavenger hunt.)



## **Meet Jackie Ranney Contest Coordinator**

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

Since 2011

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

Taking pictures for 36 years.....photography about 4 years

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

A 2014 trip to Lost Maples area but the actual photography was on the Guadalupe River near there.



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

Excellent macro shots but not ready to invest in the lens.

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

Get out there and shoot.....then not be uncomfortable sharing your results with the club.

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

No.

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

No thank you.





# EDGE MASK (FAST & EASY) IN PHOTOSHOP

## by Peter GILBERT

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First, make sure the Channels panel is visible, if not then Choose from top menu Window>Channels and select.

1. Duplicate the Green Channel. Select the Green Channel, Right Click, then choose “Duplicate Channel” from the pop-out menu. Name the selection “Edge Mask”.
2. With the Edge Mask alpha channel selected, and RGB Channels deselected (click on the RGB Channel eye icon to turn off), Choose Filter>Stylize>Find Edges.
3. Filter>Noise>Median Filter. Choose 2 pixels.
4. Still with Edge Mask selected, go to top menu bar and choose Image>Adjustments>Levels. Move the Black (left) triangle to about 120 and the White (right) triangle to about 185 to darken the (black) edges and lighten the white (non-edges) areas.
5. Filter>Blur>Gaussian Blur, at 1.5 pixels.
6. Now invert the Edge Mask, Image>Adjustments>Invert. The Edge Mask should now be black with white edges. The white edges will be where the sharpening effect will show through, the black surface areas will block the sharpening.
7. Click on the Background layer and then duplicate it; [cmd] or [cntrl]-J
8. On the Duplicate Layer, change Blend Mode to Luminosity and reduce Opacity to 66% .
9. On the top menu, Choose Select>Load Selection. In the menu box that appears, select Edge Mask and click OK.
10. On top menu, Choose Layer>Layer Mask>Reveal Selection.
11. Apply sharpening routine on the duplicate layer, and fine tune layer opacity to suit.





<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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[lpetterborg@gmail.com](mailto:lpetterborg@gmail.com)

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## **Monthly Meeting**

July 11, 2015

**1:30 PM**

Heard Natural Science Museum  
1 Nature Place  
McKinney, TX

[www.heardnaturephotographers.com](http://www.heardnaturephotographers.com)