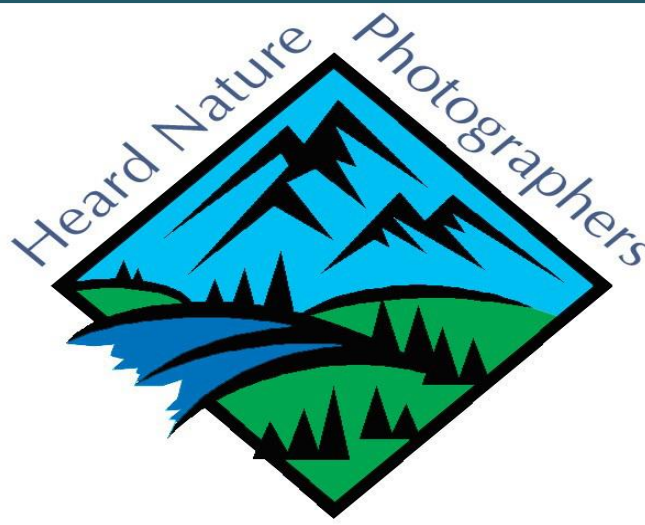


AUGUST, 2015



VOLUME 31, ISSUE 8

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

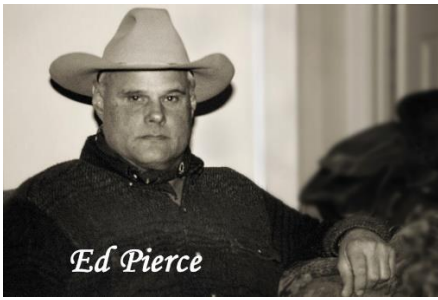
Looking for some fun low cost ideas to escape the Texas heat? Start by attending our club meetings and volunteering to bring along your favorite snack or dessert to share. Then, be sure to register for “A Day with Jennifer WU -- Canon Explorer of Light” held on 8/22 at the Microsoft Building in Irving. Be sure to print and bring your ticket with you. See our web page [HeardNaturePhotographers.com](http://HeardNaturePhotographers.com) for details. Next, sift through your images from a recent trip, photo shoot or family reunion. Pick images that make you smile or laugh! Then send an email with an image or two attached to brighten someone's day! Or post them on Facebook for others to enjoy. Print a bigger sized image and give it away as a gift. Create a photo book from your images using Shutterfly, Walgreens, etc. and surprise someone with it! Finally, photo document a progression of nature in your backyard. I used my iPhone to peer into a Cardinal's nest and my zoom lens to capture the little ones fledging the nest. The babies didn't mind me until I used my flash so I will avoid that in the future. Stay cool and enjoy your summer!

Jim Ross, President.



## Below are the AUGUST refreshment volunteers. Thanks!!!!

- Anne Hargraves
- 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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### **REMINDER**

Just a reminder that if you haven't already registered for Jennifer Wu's presentation, we still have seats available. You can follow the link on our club website to register. Jennifer will be speaking on Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Microsoft Campus, 7100 State Hwy 161. That's just off MacArthur and the George Bush Turnpike. A donation of \$10-\$20 to the Heard is appreciated.



Agenda:  
9:00 to Noon - Nature's Elusive Beauty  
Noon to 1:00 Lunch. A list of local restaurants will be provided.  
1:00 to 4:00 PM - The Amazing Night Sky, followed by Q&A.

## **JUST ONE PHOTO**

JUST ONE PHOTO - August - "Water"

August's subject is WATER. Send me ONE photo that you have taken during the month of August that represents your interpretation of the subject. I need the photo emailed to me by midnight of August 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.

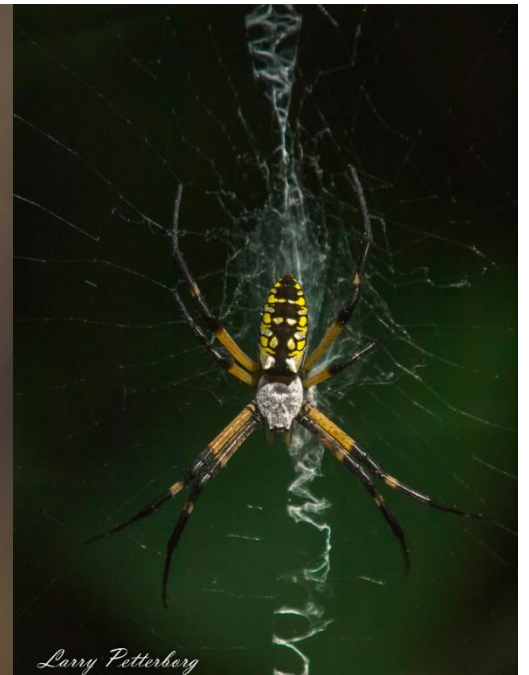
Email to: [t.stone3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:t.stone3@sbcglobal.net)

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### Field Trip Report by Lee Hatfield

We had 10 people attend the July 10 field trip to LLELA and one more joined us for dinner at the Italian Villa in Lewisville. We were all amazed at the vast amount of water rushing through the gates from Lake Lewisville. The "Prairie and Pollinator Garden" was a bit on the dry side but we managed to find some great subjects for our photos and a few armadillos made the walk into the woods interesting.



If you haven't signed up and want to attend any of the following trips, please email me as I have lots more info: [leehatfield@me.com](mailto:leehatfield@me.com)

August 15 - visit the “Sun to Moon” Gallery, 1515 Levee St, Dallas. We expect to be there at 11 a.m. to explore fine art photography images on the Trinity River and the Great Trinity Forest. We’ll have lunch and then either explore the galleries in the Bishop Arts District or the Dallas Museum of Art and the sculpture garden of the Nasher Museum in Dallas if temps allow. Carpool at 10:15 a.m. from Main Event, Main St and the tollway, Frisco.

September 16-20 - visit the Wichita Mountains NWR, near Medicine Park and Lawton, OK. If you have not made your lodging arrangements, please do so as soon as possible. You are welcome to come for all or any of the dates. Opportunities to photograph elk during rut, bison herd, Prairie dogs, and birds.

October 16-18 - Tyler, TX, for the Rose Festival and the Caldwell Zoo. This can be just a day trip if you don't want to spend the night.

November 4-9 - Beaver’s Bend State Park, Broken Bow, OK, for fall foliage, landscapes, and water fowl. For Lodging: <https://www.beaversbendlodging.com>

December 5 - Hagerman NWR, Sherman, TX. This will be an early morning trek to be up there by sunrise if there are geese and the lake waters have receded enough.

January 2016 - Bosque del Apache NWR, San Antonio, NM. Photographing the Sandhill cranes, snow and Ross geese, eagles, hawks, deer and various water fowl. A possible side trip to the Very Large Array.



## **AUGUST 8TH PROGRAM**

### **“Bird Photography on the Upper Texas Coast” by Mike Cameron**

Mike Cameron is an electrical engineer by training, but the advent of digital photography allowed him to combine his technical knowledge and his interest in the natural world into a rewarding and artistic hobby. For the past 11 years, Mike’s photographic efforts have been focused on birds, developing the skills necessary to create compelling images of these beautiful creatures. Mike uses his photography to promote education, conservation, and awareness of the natural world through his involvement in Prairie and Timbers Audubon Society, the City of Richardson’s Urban Naturalist program, the Heard Nature Photographers, and the Heard Museum.

Mike will be sharing images from his 2013 and 2014 trips to the Upper Texas Coast, a world renowned location to observe bird migration each spring. Because of its geography, this section of the coast hosts an astounding diversity of bird species, each on their way north to nest and raise their young. Birders and photographers alike flock to locations like High Island, Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, Bolivar Flats, and Galveston Island to see these winged wonders. Mike will show birds from of these hotspots, as well as provide some tips to make your own great photographs in these locations.

(Photos by Mike Cameron; Baltimore Oriole & Royal Terns)



## **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	

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## **GSCCC NEWS**

As a member club in the GSCCC, we may submit a total of 4 images from 4 different members to each Projected Nature 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 [http://www.gulfstatesccc.org/html/nature\\_rules.html](http://www.gulfstatesccc.org/html/nature_rules.html)). 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 judged the July GSCCC Nature competition, thanks to Mary Petterborg, Frank Fosdick, Terree Stone, and Fay Stout for their help.**

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

## **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. For anyone that was moved to buy an Olympus Mirrorless camera after the last meeting; <http://robinwong.blogspot.com.au/2015/07/the-robin-wongs-om-d-camera-cheat-sheet.html>[http://www.biofos.com/mft/omd\\_em1\\_settings.html](http://www.biofos.com/mft/omd_em1_settings.html) If anyone (eg. Peter) has experience with other brands, please send me a blurb for the next newsletter. Thanks.
2. An interesting piece on shooting scenics with a long lens; <https://luminous-landscape.com/make-it-long/>
3. From Elinor Hite; CNN online has an article on the dangers of the extreme selfie. Reminder to not take selfies in or near dangerous situations like heights, stairs, boats, moving vehicles, trains, etc. The link to the complete article: <http://www.cnn.com/2015/07/08/asia/russia-selfie-death-brochure/>
4. At the Aug. 20th meeting of the Plano Photography Club, Sam Eichenwald will present a program on “light painting”. Maybe something different to try, <http://www.planophotographyclub.com/>.
5. The Hagerman NWR Visitor center has re-opened, <http://www.friendsofhagerman.com/News> .
6. Photo OP from Cathy Burkey, Dallas Zoo, <http://www.dallaszoo.com/> Sat. Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Smartphone and Social Media Photo/Video Workshop Activity Outline:**

Come spend a full day exploring the Dallas Zoo taking fun photos and quick video clips of animals. Then share your cool photos/videos, instantly, with family and friends on social media.

Guest SmartPhone photographer, Lorraine Kuehnelt will start the workshop off with a brief visual presentation during breakfast. Then Lorraine and staff photographer, Cathy Burkey will guide the group through the Dallas Zoo’s most popular and interesting habitats. Participants will be encouraged to take tons of photos and video clips in a relaxed and casual manner during our morning walk. At lunchtime, the group will be served a refreshing lunch and Lorraine will answer questions, give feedback and discuss shots taken by participants during the morning photo safari session.

After lunch the group will spend a bit more time taking photos throughout the zoo and then we’ll finish the workshop gathering photos and videos taken during the day to be presented in a fun group slideshow and a brief critique.

Participants should expect to gain hands-on Smartphone camera experience and learn how to:

- Observe animals from unusual perspectives
- Be aware of beautiful natural light, patterns and abstract compositions at the zoo
- Utilize the compact size of small camera devices to shoot from different vantage points
- Learn to compose close-up animal portraits by placing your device up against the windows of the habitats
- Use basic editing filters and in-camera processing to manipulate your images and videos to make them even cooler
- Learn how to share your images on Social Media

Lorraine will also give you tips on how you can utilize your phone photography to market yourself on Social Media and will share insights and tips on how to share, even perhaps, sell, your smartphone photos online.

### Lorraine Kuehnel Bio

After 30 years as a graphic design and advertising creative professional, Lorraine started shooting and editing abstract photographs of everyday items in her light-filled design office after she purchased her first iPhone 4s in 2011. What started out as daily, lunchtime, personal photo obsession has turned into a new career as an Abstract and Art Photographer. Lorraine's work has been published in various Texas travel and tourism magazines and several online photo zines. You can view her daily postings on Instagram (lophoto52), Viewbook, Pinterest and FB.

## 7. Looking for a new tripod? Check this out from Jeff Parker, **7 Tips for Tripod Selection**

Probably the number one thing you can do to improve your photography is to use a tripod. In some situations like night sky photography or other long exposure shots a tripod is mandatory. Unless you are Arnold Schwarzenegger a tripod will also be mandatory when using a super-telephoto as well. So, consider these tips when you are ready to buy that tripod:

### **1) Forget the cheap stuff.**

Buy a cheap, big-box retail store tripod & you'll regret it almost immediately. You'll then move up to a \$100 tripod only to find it doesn't really work for you, either. Cry once & start with a high quality tripod to begin with. Yes, you'll spend \$500 or more, but it will last forever.

### **2) Go with carbon fiber.**

Wood --*nature's version of carbon fiber*-- works well, but is heavy & awkward. Aluminum is light, but conducts cold & does not dampen vibrations as well as carbon fiber. *See tip #1.*

### **3) Get one tall enough.**

I learned this the hard way & spent years shooting hunched over when photographing from a standing position. Really, you should look for a tripod that goes a bit taller than you need so you have some room to adjust for slopes.

### **4) Get one low enough.**

At the other extreme, look for a tripod that goes all the way to the ground. Sometimes you need to do so for the shot you're after. A center post prevents you from doing so, therefore I prefer no center post at all. To me, a center post turns your tripod into a monopod sitting on top of a tripod.

### **5) Consider the weight of your camera/lens combo.**

If you have a 500mm or 600mm lens (or think you might ever rent one or buy one in the future) make sure the tripod you get can support such weight.

### **6) If possible try before you buy.**

Some people prefer lever locks others twist grip. The twist grips on my Induro are easier to use than my Gitzo, but that also means it's easier for them to unlock inadvertently. If you can try out a few different styles you'll discover which one you favor most in certain situations.

### **7) Accessorize.**

You need a way to attach your camera/lens to the tripod. Pan/tilt heads mean you have two controls to deal with when you want to adjust the camera position. A ball head does it with one knob. However, a ball head flops over if left unattended. A gimbal head is a joy to use with a big lens, but unlike a ball head can't move in any direction. Determine which suits you best. I use a ball head for landscapes and a gimbal with my big wildlife lenses.

**Visit Jeff's WEB site for more great tips, <http://exploreinfofocus.com/>**

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## Meet **FAY STOUT**



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

OK... you are jogging my brain with this question. I am thinking it was around 2006 or 2007 that I joined.

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

I got my first 35mm film camera (a Mamiya) when my first daughter was a baby in 1968. I wanted the camera so I could shoot a rose with a soft background as well as to take better photos of my daughter. It was a steep learning curve and I became excited when I finally understood what depth-of-field meant. I took an adult-ed course in the basics of 35mm photography and this started me on my journey. It was not until 2005 when I got my first digital camera that my interest in nature photography took hold. Prior to that, although I wanted to shoot butterflies, it would have been a terrible waste of film and money but with digital and the capability to delete-delete-delete, it was worth giving it a try.

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

My most memorable nature photo experience/experiences always involve the element of surprise and many have happened at my "happy place", White Rock Lake... like the time I shot the seagull in flight and then realized he had a hook caught in his foot, connected to a lure, connected to a fishing line. Or the time I watched a grackle make a "fish sandwich"! He stood on a log and grabbed a little fish in his beak. He held the fish and was watching a piece of bread floating in the water. He waited until the bread got within reach and then he grabbed the bread in his beak without letting go of the fish! Yes... I got the shot and roared with laughter to think that the grackle was such a gourmet to fix a fish

sandwich for lunch! I was thrilled to "catch" the armadillo that came to get a drink at the watering hole at Santa Clara Ranch.

And then there was the funnel spider that emerged from his funnel web at the arboretum. That photo was recognized by National Geographic as Photo of the Day. Here is the story: <http://yourshot.nationalgeographic.com/photos/4044099/>

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

It doesn't take a lot to keep me happy as long as I have a camera in my hands. I do not have a bucket list but rather, take each day as it comes. I would like to learn to take my nature photos and apply textures like Roger Roberts. His artistic flare has captured my attention on numerous occasions. Oh... to have the creativity and skill to do that!

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

A photo friend once told me... if you don't like the "big picture", then change your point of view and get in close. I have followed this advice on numerous occasions and have come away with some of my favorite macro images.

For those of us who do not get to go on exotic trips to faraway lands, learn that nature is indeed where you find it. I actually had a marvelous time shooting the butterflies on the flowering sage in front of a CVS store parking lot next to a very busy intersection. And... it was at the Tom Thumb gas station that I saw and photographed my first Western King bird. As I was pumping my gas, I saw a flicker of yellow fly by. I followed the bird to the tree with my eyes and there she landed on her nest. I ran home, got my camera and returned day after day until I photographed her and the baby birds as the traffic whizzed by. Not exactly the optimum nature experience but fun, none-the-less.

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

I enjoy posting to my blog on The Inquisitive Eye. This gives me an opportunity to pair my photos with what is happening in my life at the time.

<http://theinquisitiveeye.zenfolio.com/blog>

I also post frequently to Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/88326925@N08/>

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

I have been inspired by the club members as I follow along with their photography and so much appreciate the encouragement that I have received in return. Photography is powerful! I could not imagine life without it. It makes me happy and gives me a reason to get up in the morning... something new to learn, an unexpected photographic experience and meeting new friends along the way. Life is good and I celebrate it through my photography, as best as I know how.

## **SOME OF FAY'S FAVORITES**



**The Thirsty Armadillo**  
Santa Clara Ranch



**From out of his hidey-hole comes the Spider...**  
National Geographic published this as Photo of the Day on August 23, 2014

Fay Stout Photography



Fay Stout Photography

**HOOKED**



*Photography by Fay Stout*

**Stop Bugging Me!**



<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**

AUGUST 8, 2015

**1:30 PM**

Heard Natural Science Museum  
1 Nature Place  
McKinney, TX

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