

HEARD

Nature Photographers

www.heardnaturephotographers.com



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November, 2015

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Seen any critters in your neighborhood? Urban wildlife sightings have become commonplace as our cities grow. Some may find it scary, but I enjoy seeing critters when I am out and about! I value local wildlife habitats that have been set aside for us to enjoy, such as the Heard Wildlife Sanctuary in McKinney, the Arbor Hills Nature Center in Plano and the River Legacy Parks in Arlington – where this Bobcat photo was taken. They are great spots to hike and take photos!

You can help urban wildlife survive by paying close attention when you are driving or biking. You can also create wildlife habitat in your backyard by planting native flowers, shrubs and trees to provide the foliage, nectar, pollen, berries, seeds and nuts that many species of wildlife require. You can also incorporate supplemental feeders, bird baths and food / water sources.

Wildlife need places to hide in order to feel safe from people, predators and inclement weather, as well as a sheltered place to raise their offspring. Native vegetation, shrubs, brush piles and dead trees work great! Surf the internet for ideas!

Anita Oakley is gathering names of those people who want plastic name tags. They run \$9.00 each, including shipping. If you need one, please email Anita at anita.oakley@verizon.net.

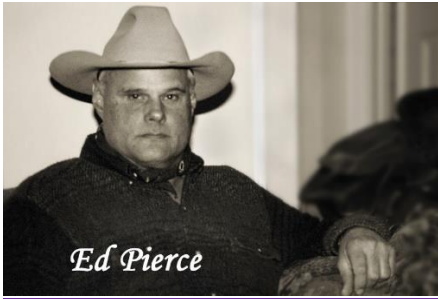
If you are interested in becoming a club officer for next year, be sure to let us know!

Jim Ross, President.



Below are the NOVEMBER refreshment volunteers:

- Mary Binford
- John Yates
- Phyllis Fosdick
- Shirley Marabito



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

(Thanks to all of our refreshment volunteers. The snacks and treats you bring are wonderful and help promote socializing at our meetings. Those of you that have contributed money also deserve our sincere appreciation for your continued generosity. Thanks Everyone!)

JUST ONE PHOTO by Terree Stone

November's subject is **Vacation**. Send me **ONE** photo that you have taken during the year that represents vacation to you. This could mean a photo of a sunset from your porch to a landscape from an exotic location. Email your photo to me by midnight of November 30th. 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



Field Trip Report by Terree Stone

Tyler/Caldwell Zoo, October Trip

The group met at the Tyler Zoo at 9am – Mary Binford, Fay Stout, Larry and Mary Petterborg, Deanna Ward, Wy Roberge, Peter and Nancy Gilbert, Kay Griffith and Terree Stone. Keith Parris and his wife also visited the zoo over the weekend. The weather was perfect and even though part of the walkway was under construction, we all had a great time photographing the critters. The monkeys were quite entertaining as well as a trio of white pelicans. Even the plants at the zoo provided some great photo ops; definitely a place to come back to again. For lunch we all headed to Sweet Sues, some folks checked out the rose garden and the rest headed homeward.



Pelicans at Caldwell Zoo by Terree Stone

FUTURE FIELD TRIPS

November 4 - 8, 2015 Beavers Bend State Park

We have 21 club members signed up for the Beaver's Bend fall foliage trip and we are hoping the forests of southeastern Oklahoma and western Arkansas show us their full colors!

December 19, 2015 Hagerman NWR

We have approval from the refuge manager to arrive on site about 30-45 minutes prior to sunrise in hopes of seeing flocks of snow geese plus to have a chance for sunrise shots. All roads are open and the visitor center and gift shop will also be open. This is a great chance to practice your flying bird photography skills!

January 13-17, 2016 Bosque del Apache NWR

Seventeen members are signed up to photograph at Bosque del Apache NWR in New Mexico. We are expecting to see large numbers of Sandhill cranes, snow geese, hawks, deer, shore birds and lots more wildlife. We will visit the Very Large Array Visitor Center and seek out the Pronghorn Antelope that frequent that area. We will have a group dinner after sunset Friday night.



Snow Geese at Bosque del Apache by Lee Hatfield

There is a separate opportunity to attend a Birding Intensive program led by the Friends of Bosque that weekend at the refuge. This includes dinner at the refuge and an afternoon birding event plus an opportunity to enter an off limits area of the refuge to seek out and photograph owls at night. This program is \$200 and if you are interested, please email Lee at leehatfield@me.com for details and contact info to sign up. To check out the refuge Friends site: <http://www.friendsofthebosque.org>

February 20 or 27, 2016 - TBD (Trout Lilies should be up at the Heard and White Rock Lake)

March 26 - April 2, 2016, High Island, Bolivar Peninsular, Texas Upper Gulf Coast

Houston Audubon has several sanctuaries at High Island including the Boy Scout Woods Sanctuary and Nature Preserve, Smith Oaks and The Rookery. Houston Audubon offers birding walks and even seating for birders near the rookery. Day passes are \$7 per person or the \$25 patch provides unlimited access to all Audubon High Island sanctuaries for a year. The Upper Texas Coast is on the flyway for birds migrating to and from Mexico, Central and South America. Anahuac NWR is also in this area and we will plan to check it out, too.

I have marked off a week for this birding trip but you can come for all or part of this time. For lodging there are houses to rent along the coast, one motel at High Island, more hotels inland at Winnie. Sign-up sheets will be available at the November meeting, but if you want to go, please book your lodging as soon as possible and let me know.

Links to birding on High Island and some local history: <http://www.birdinghighisland.com/about.htm>
<http://www.houstonaudubon.org/default.aspx/MenuItemID/373/MenuGroup/High+Island.htm>

April 16, 2016 White Rock Lake, Dallas - Photography of local birds (maybe owls) wildflowers and wildlife, early morning. (see <https://www.flickr.com/photos/lpetterborg/collections/72157650494898047/>)

May 7, 2016 Dallas Arboretum - Spring blooms and water features, 9 a.m. to noon

June 18, 2016 Hagerman NWR Butterfly Garden and Haller's Haven or Harris Creek Walk - 7:30 a.m. to 11:00

July 16 2016 TBD

August 6, 2016 Tabletop Workshop at the Heard SRC, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

September 10, 2016 Heard Sanctuary Trail Walk, butterflies and birds, this is our meeting day and we can enter the sanctuary at 7:30 a.m.

October 25-30, 2016 Ozarks Fall Foliage, landscapes and wildlife in Arkansas

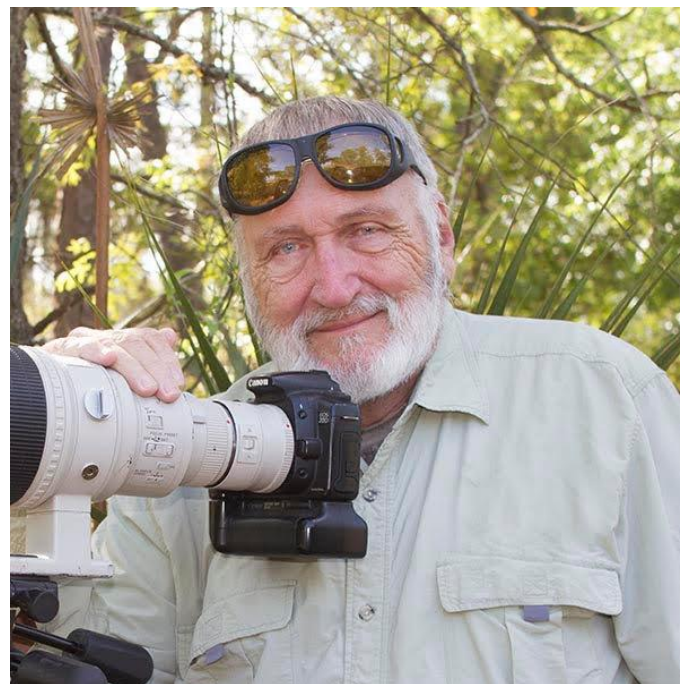
November 19, 2016 John Bunker Sands Wetlands, wildlife and birds

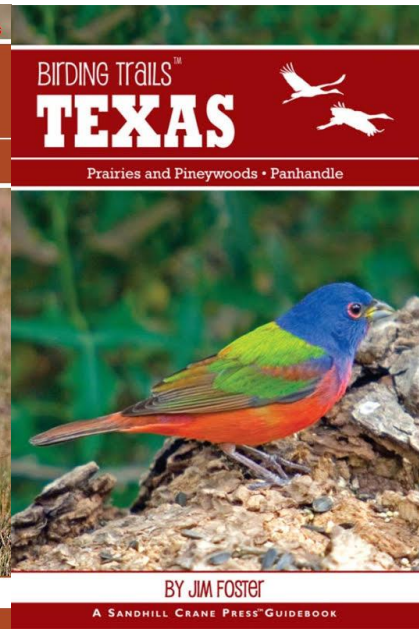
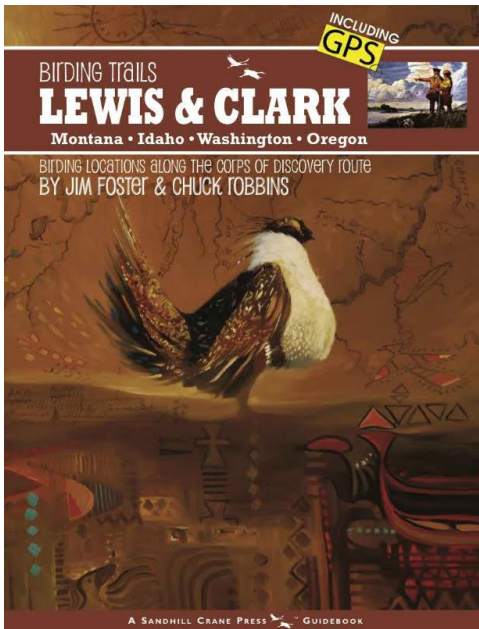
December 2016 No Field Trip

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

"Finding a Place to Bird and Shoot Bird Images" by Jim Foster

Jim Foster is originally from Texas and is a full time photographer/writer specializing in nature photography. His images have appeared in many national and regional magazines, newspapers and books. He has completed a couple of books on birding: "Birding Trails - Texas" and "Birding Trails – The Texas Coast" and is in the process of editing two more – "Birding Trails – Florida" and "Birds of the Lewis & Clark Trail". Jim will be talking about finding birds and how to shoot them, and I'm sure he'll have a few great stories too!





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. Wildlife Photographer of the Year, <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/wpy.html>
2. The Epson International Pano Awards, <https://thepanoawards.com/>
3. An essay on landscape photography, <https://luminous-landscape.com/voice-in-a-landscape/>
4. From Sean Fitzgerald's blog, <http://www.seanfitzgerald.com/2015/10/that-something-extra/>
5. Whooping Crane Workshop at the John Bunker Sands Wetlands, Novv. 7th.
<http://www.wetlandcenter.com/>
6. REI wants you to go outside and enjoy (photograph) nature instead of shopping on "Black Friday",
<http://www.rei.com/> . Why not??

GSCCC NEWS

As a member club in the Gulf States Camera Club Council (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). 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.

The “BIG” news from Gulf States this month is the announcement of the dates and location of the 2016 GSCCC Convention to be hosted by the Beaumont Camera Club. Make plans now to attend. The 2016 convention will be held at the MCM Elegant Hotel in Beaumont, TX. The dates are May 5-7. More information to come.

<http://www.texashighways.com/travel/item/8011-10-things-to-do-in-beaumont>

In the September Projected Nature Contest, our club entries scored a total of 42 points, which was good enough for a tie for 4th place out of 13 clubs. Our entries were “Sunrise at Caddo Lake” by Jack Harrison (11 pts.), “Another Year, Another Nest” by Mike Sweatt (11 pts.), “Ready for Romance” by Mary Binford (10 pts.), and “White Tail Buck” by Larry Petterborg (10 pts.).



MEET HNPC MEMBER, KAY GRIFFITH



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

When we moved to McKinney in 1993 I found the Heard Club, a small group of excellent nature photographers. I have spent the last 22 years sharing our love of nature, and learning about photography, from many friends in the group. My first "workshop" was with Jeremy Woodhouse, a week-end at Fossil Rim!

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

After my youngest child had moved on, and I was well started into my Grandmother role, I decided to enroll at Richland to learn more about Photography. I was enthralled with developing and printing my own pictures and taking classes in Studio, Sports, and many types of photography! Ah, but the Nature course was my dream come true!

What has been your most memorable nature photo experience?

There is no single MOST memorable experience, as they have all been simply excellent! From the programs, to the contests, to the field trips, to the friendships! Trips to the Arkansas Mountains, the Oklahoma Wildlife Refuge, Palo Duro Canyon, Caddo Lake, Santa Clara Ranch, and even Big Bend have all been part of this wonderful experience!

3. Where would you take someone from out of town, to take nature photos locally?

As for taking pictures locally, there are wonderful places all around us, even our own back yards! The pictures are there... we need to "see" and "take" them.

4. Do you have a web site where members could go to see your images? If so, what is the URL? Is there anything else that you would like to share with the club?

All the new technology has passed me by, Photoshop is beyond my ken, but I am still happy to snap on my long lens and head to the nearest Park to see what is there!

A COUPLE OF KAY'S FAVORITES



Northern Cardinal

Mexican Green Jays



Update – 2016 Annual Heard Nature Photography Contest

Jackie Ranney, Contest Coordinator

The 38th Annual Heard Nature Photography Contest dates have been set and the website is “up and running”!!! Details are being announced early this year to give everyone an opportunity to consider contest entries while shooting between now and then!!!

There are lots of new things for the 2016 Contest including when the contest is being held, change in a division name (from Student to Youth), changes/updates to the categories, a new policy regarding “the hand of man” and as requested, an amplified definition of “Advanced Photographer” for purposes of the contest.

Calendar of Events:

Submission Dates: February 3 – March 20, 2016

Award Reception: April 10, 2016 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

*Winners will be notified by email between March 31, 2016 and April 2, 2016.

Fees: Adult/Adult Advanced - \$10/per image

Youth Junior/Youth Senior - \$5/per image

Please go to the website for complete details: www.heardnaturephotographers.com/contest

The following pages will provide an overview of the Divisions and Categories for the 2016 Contest. We’re looking forward to another year of exciting images!

CONTEST CATEGORIES – ADULT DIVISIONS

- Adult - Beginner/Intermediate
- Adult - Advanced
Comfortable with the technical aspects of the camera. Proficient in the concepts of composition, exposure, lighting and post-processing techniques for creating images. May be skillful in more than one genre of photography (for example: landscape, portrait, macro, photojournalism, still life, etc.)

ANIMALS - CAPTIVE

Images of animals in a controlled setting (i.e. farm, zoo, ranch, etc.). May include mammals, marine life, reptiles and amphibians. Does not include pets.

ANIMALS - WILD

Non-captive animals.

BIRDS

Wild or captive birds.

CREATIVE INTERPRETATION

Nature-related images intended to express the photographer's impression of the subject (i.e. creative blurs, abstract and digital manipulation.) Not to be judged on amount of manipulation but on artistic end result.

FLORAL AND STILL LIFE IN NATURE

Images of natural or cultivated flowers, plants or gardens.

INSECTS & ARACHNIDS

Wild or captive insects and arachnids.

NATURAL ARTISTIC ABSTRACTIONS IN NATURE

Naturally occurring patterns, lines, shapes and forms of animals, objects, or plants in nature; also may include macro and extreme close-up images in cases where the patterns, lines, shapes, etc. are the principal subject.

SCENICS

Expansive views that may include landscapes, cloudscapes, mountains, forests, deserts, etc. Nature should be the subject of the image.

WATERSCAPES

Images primarily featuring water such as seascapes, oceans, waterfalls, lakes, streams and rivers. Water is to be the primary subject.

Note: *It is the responsibility of the photographer to read through the category descriptions carefully and choose the appropriate category for each image.*

The photographer's selection will be final.

Anything not meeting the criteria will be ineligible for judging

FEES

Adult - Beginner/Intermediate – \$10/per image

Adult - Advanced - \$10/per image

CONTEST CATEGORIES – YOUTH DIVISIONS

- **Junior Youth** – Up to age 14
- **Senior Youth** – Age 15 - 18

Note: There is no limit to the number of submissions but payment must be received via PayPal within 72 hours of submission. Checks and cash will not be accepted.

NOTE: In all categories, the “hand of man” is acceptable as long as it is incidental and not the subject of the image. *This is a change from previous years.*

Please note that the Adult Division Categories are listed separately and are not all the same as the Youth Division Categories.

ANIMALS (including Pets)

Images of animals in a controlled setting (i.e. farm, zoo, ranch, etc.). May include mammals, marine life, reptiles and amphibians

ANIMALS – WILD

Non-captive animals.

BIRDS

Wild or captive birds.

CREATIVE INTERPRETATION

Nature-related images intended to express the photographer's impression of the subject (i.e. creative blurs, abstract and digital manipulation.) Not to be judged on amount of manipulation but on artistic end result.

FLORAL AND STILL LIFE IN NATURE

Images of natural or cultivated flowers, plants or gardens.

INSECTS & ARACHNIDS

Wild or captive insects and arachnids.

WATERSCAPES & SCENICS

Expansive views that may include seascapes, oceans, waterfalls, lakes, streams, rivers, landscapes, cloudscapes, mountains, forests, deserts, etc. Nature should be the subject of the image.



<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: Jim Ross
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

NOVEMBER 14, 2015

1:30 PM

Heard Natural Science Museum
1 Nature Place
McKinney, TX

www.heardnaturephotographers.com