



HEARD

Nature Photographers

www.heardnaturephotographers.com



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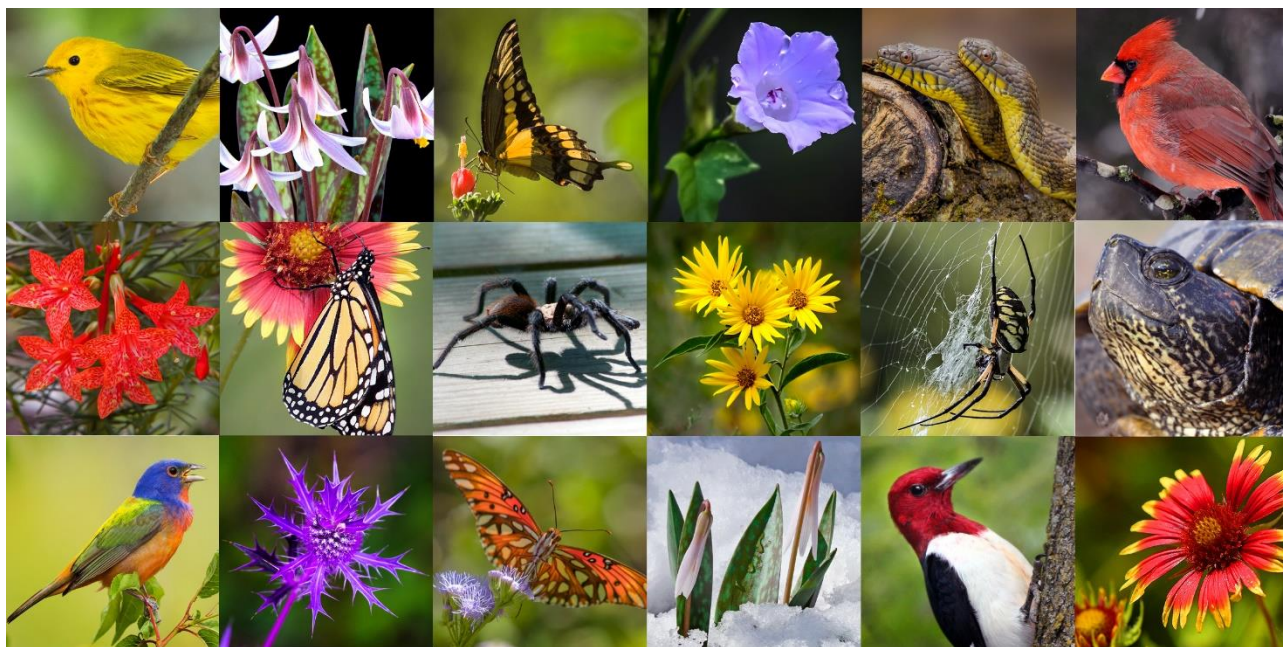
PRESIDENT'S LETTER

FREE BBQ will be served at NOON at our Dec. 12 meeting held in the Science Resource Center (SRC) building. The Club will provide the meat (sliced brisket, sausage and turkey). You please bring a favorite side dish, desert or healthy treat to share at this holiday social! Paid members are welcome to bring your spouse (or a friend) to this yummy BBQ lunch! Please RSVP to Jim Ross (jimrosshome@aol.com).

Following lunch we will jump right in to the MEMBER'S CHOICE event. Be sure to submit up to 5 images in advance via our web site by the Dec. 10 deadline (see details in this newsletter). One winner will be selected and will receive bragging rights for a full year! Don't be shy about entering – this is a great opportunity to share your images! See example images from club members below.

How have you blended your photo skills / tools and creativity? Recently I used Photoshop to visualize and redesign the fireplace / TV area of our living room. By inserting various styles / options as Layers into a photo taken of our living room wall we could better visualize and determine which design that we liked the best. Then we used the image to work with a contractor to implement the concept!

Jim Ross, President



DECEMBER PROGRAM

MEMBER'S CHOICE

Yes, it's that time of year again - time to sort through your favorite images and then share them (limit 5) with the other club members in this year's Member's Choice slide show.

At our December meeting we will be having a slide show of member's work and, as it has been for the past decade, we will vote on the one image that will become the annual Member's Choice award winner.

Any **five** (5) photos that you want to include in the Member's Slide Show need to be uploaded by Thursday, December 10.

You'll find lots of information about preparing your images along with instructions on how to upload them at the club's website, www.HeardNaturePhotographers.com. At the top of the home page click on the Member's Choice Award tab.

Dues Notice

January is the month to renew your club membership. Ron Marabito wants everyone to know that he will not be at the December meeting, so, if you would like to mail a check to him at the address below that is fine. Otherwise, plan on bringing your Twenty American Dollars to the January meeting. Make your checks out to the Heard Nature Photographers Club. Send to:

Heard Nature Photographers
915 St. Lukes Dr.
Richardson, TX 75080

Names will be dropped from the email list at the end of February if dues are not paid by then.

Dues for the year are \$20.00.

Below are the DECEMBER refreshment volunteers:

YOU!!!



**PLEASE BRING
SOMETHING GOOD (NOT
NECESSARILY GOOD FOR
YOU) TO SHARE.
THANK YOU!!!**



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

FIELD TRIP REPORT

November's trip to Broken Bow and Beavers Bend State Park, Oklahoma, was attended by 12 club members: Peter and Nancy Gilbert, Mary and Larry Petterborg, John Deal, Elisabeth Shore, Jackie Ranney, Wy Roberg, Gary and Lee Hatfield. Tom Heath and Jack Harrison drove up a few days earlier than the rest of the club. We met for dinner Friday and Saturday nights in Hochatown, visited the forestry museum at the state park and the forest rangers visitor center. We drove the Talimena National Scenic Byway Drive from Talahina, OK to Mena, Arkansas in fog, rain and sunshine. The newly renovated Queen Wilhelmina Hotel in the Ouachita Mountains is open and the restaurant offers a very reasonable luncheon buffet as well as an a la carte menu.

Fall foliage colors were mostly golds with a few reds here and there but landscape vistas were still beautiful even in fog. We scouted the back roads for color, saw a bald eagle, avoided the huge logging trucks racing to the mill with their freshly cut trees, and checked out Mountain Fork River and dams. Spillway Road below Broken Bow Lake dam has had a huge washout and flood but there were several people fishing there. The lake

marina offers boat rentals as well as tours of the lake. This area is only 3 1/2 hours from the McKinney area and could be on our field trip schedule again.



Gary Hatfield at Washout at Spillway Road and Dam, Broken Bow Lake, Image by Lee

Tour Boat on Broken Bow Lake, Image by Lee Hatfield



FUTURE FIELD TRIPS

December 19, 2015 Hagerman NWR

Sunrise will be at 7:25 a.m. so plan to meet at 6:45 a.m. at the corner of Bennet Road and Wildlife Drive at the south end of the refuge. We'll shoot sunrise plus watch for owls, geese, ducks, heron, hawks and deer. About 9:30 to 10:00 we'll visit the butterfly garden at the Visitor Center. Suggested lenses: wide angle, telephoto and macro lenses. A tele-extender between your camera and lens will increase your reach. Lunch in Sherman about 11:30 a.m. If you didn't sign up but want to attend, please email me as I will send out a map. We have 16 people signed up so far.

January 13-17, 2016 Bosque del Apache NWR

Landscape and nature wildlife photography options will include sandhill cranes, geese, hawks, deer, ducks and wild boar plus sunrise and sunset. A side trip to the Very Large Array may give us a chance to photograph pronghorn antelope. We have 17 members signed up. Please make your lodging reservations ASAP with best hotel options in Socorro, NM.



Snow Geese at Bosque del Apache by Lee Hatfield

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 Peninsula on the Upper Gulf Coast of Texas

Come for all or any of this week on the coast just east of Galveston to photograph shore birds including roseate spoonbill, egret and heron during mating dance and nest building.

We will visit Houston Audubon's Boy Scout Woods Sanctuary and Nature Preserve, Smith Oaks and the rookery among others. Day passes are \$7 per person or the \$25 patch will get you access to all of the Audubon High Island sanctuaries for a year. Nearby Anahuac NWR with over 34,000 acres offers walking trails, shorebirds, wading birds, waterfowl, plus alligators. All visitors MUST register before entering this refuge. Birding on Bolivar Peninsular, walking on the beach to look for macro photo opportunities, sunrise and sunset plus landscape shots will keep you busy!

April 16, 2016: White Rock Lake, Dallas (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/lpetterborg/albums/72157658910516504>), This will be an early morning photo opportunity with recent speaker and new member of the club, Robert Bunch.

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

June 18, 2016: Hagerman NWR, Sherman, Texas, Butterfly Garden and a walk at Harris Creek or Haller's Haven Trail.

JUST ONE PHOTO by Terree Stone

The November/December 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

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. Looking for help with Lightroom or Photoshop? Try <http://jkost.com/index.html> . "Julieanne Kost is a Principal Evangelist at Adobe Systems, responsible for fostering relationships with customers through meaningful and inspirational Photoshop and Lightroom instruction.
2. Looking to improve your photography? Try <http://www.dpreview.com/articles/2958299752/pix-2015-tim-grey-and-reframing-your-story>. A YouTube talk by Tim Grey.
3. Want to enter the 2016 Richardson Photo Contest? <http://www.cor.net/index.aspx?page=267>
4. Ron Marabito will be visiting White Sands National Park NM again in April, 2016. If you think that you might be interested in joining him, send him an email, remarabito@gmail.com for more information.
5. From Terree Stone: <http://www.country-magazine.com/our-national-parks-photo-contest/>
6. From Jeff Parker, <http://exploreinfofocus.com/>:

7 Tips for Snow Photography

1) Watch the contrast.

Dark objects in a snowy scene make getting a good exposure a challenge. In fact, it might not be possible on a bright, sunny day. You'll either have to let the darks block up with no detail or wait for the light to moderate.

2) Overexpose.

Yes, you read that correctly! It may seem counter-intuitive; however, it's necessary because your light meter wants to make everything medium gray, but YOU want the snow in your pictures to be beautiful white...which brings us to Tip #3...

3) Take charge!

If you leave your camera to its own devices the snow that shows up in your image won't be bright enough. I generally work in Manual mode and set my exposure so that it reads about 2 stops overexposed when the frame is filled with snow. If using one of the other modes adjust your Exposure Compensation to +2. Take a test shot and check that histogram. A snowy scene should have data almost to the right edge of the histogram.

4) Play with shutter speed.

If shooting in falling snow, try different shutter speeds. A fast shutter speed like 1/500sec. will "freeze" the snow into flakes. A slower shutter speed, less than 1/100sec will cause the falling snow to appear as streaks. Of course if you change the shutter speed you will also have to change the aperture or ISO to keep a proper exposure.

5) Don't tread on it.

This may seem obvious, but it's an easy mistake to make, especially when you get absorbed in the creative process. True...footprints can add interest to an image, but do that AFTER you shoot other images. There's no going back once you've left tracks.

6) Protect against camera condensation.

One of the biggest problems for cameras in cold weather is condensation. Condensation commonly occurs when bringing your camera from cold temperatures outdoors into warm and relatively moist conditions (e.g. *your home or car*). To avoid condensation remove your memory card and battery(s) from your camera and transfer your gear into your bag and seal it while you're still in the cold air. Now when you bring the camera gear inside, everything can warm up gradually.

7) Bring extra batteries.

Batteries drain faster in colder temperatures, so it's wise to carry extras. It's also wise to store them where they can absorb some of your body heat (e.g. an inner coat pocket, hip pocket, etc.) until you need them. Newer lithium ion batteries have less problems with this, but it's still a good idea.



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 November Projected Nature Contest, the HNPC scored a total of 49 points.



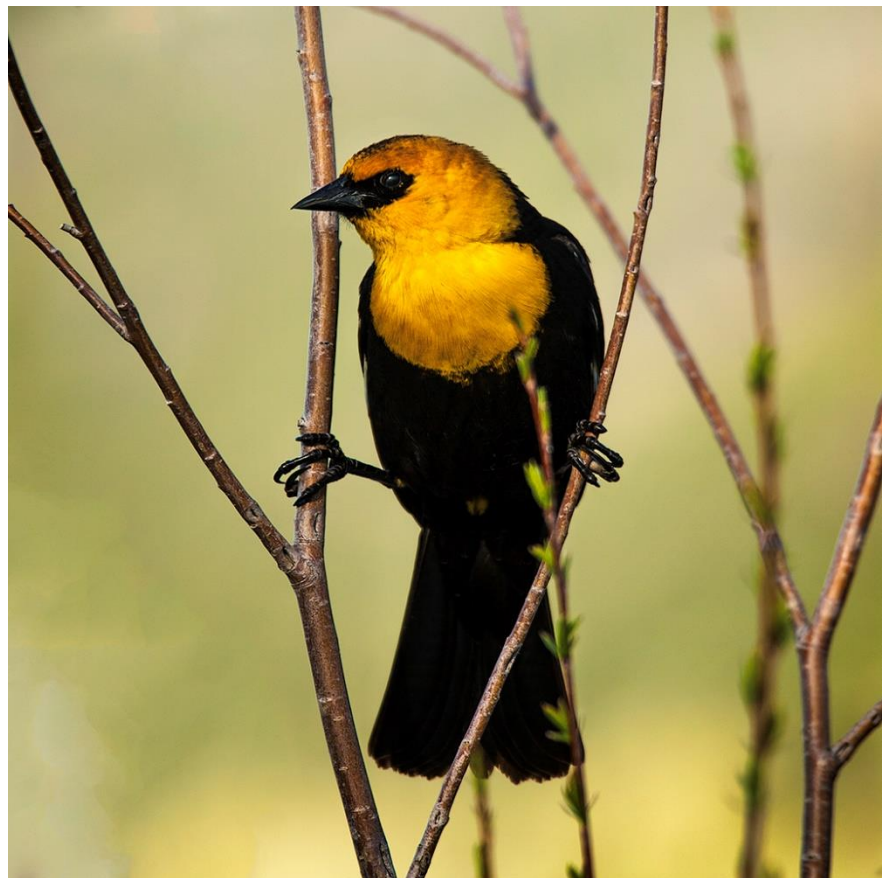
Lesser Long Nosed
Bat by Larry
Pettersborg, 14 pts.
1st Place.

Sunset in White Sands by
Linda Grigsby, 13 pts.





Horseshoe Bend by
Peter Gilbert, 10 pts.



Hang Tuff by Jack Harrison, 12 pts.

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

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*

CONTEST CATEGORIES – YOUTH DIVISIONS

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

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.*

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
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Monthly Meeting

DECEMBER 12, 2015

12:00 PM

Heard Natural Science Museum

SCIENCE RESOURCE CENTER

McKinney, TX

www.heardnaturephotographers.com