



HEARD

Nature Photographers

www.heardnaturephotographers.com



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February, 2016

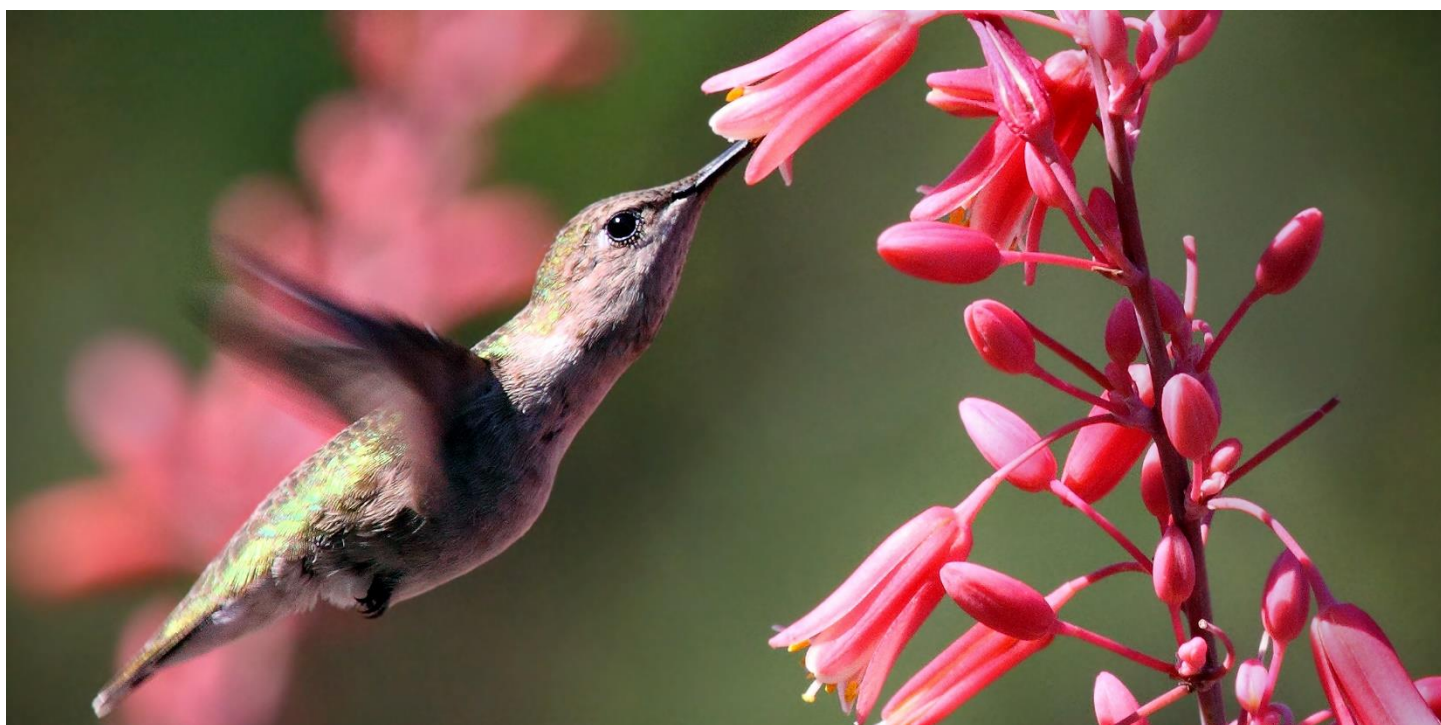
PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Now is the time to prepare your images for the annual Heard Nature Photo Contest! Proceeds benefit the Heard Nature Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary. Check-out the revised contest categories and submit your digital images on-line Feb 3 – March 20 via the link on our web site: <http://www.heardnaturephotographers.com/> .

Thanks to Anita Oakley and Terree Stone, our club VPs, for the outstanding line-up of speakers at our club meetings. In addition, Lee Hatfield, our Field Trip Coordinator, has an exciting list of adventures planned for the year! Bring a friend to our next meeting and consider joining our club. Dues are only \$20 per year and can be paid to our Treasurer Ron Marabito.

Has life thrown some “worries” your way? Chandra’s job security, stock market corrections, no luck having children, and balancing household /other projects are worrisome for me. Yet, I can often find peace by taking a nature hike or simply observing the critters in our yard. For me, seeing God’s love through the beauty of his creations – such as this hummingbird drinking nectar from a flower, makes me smile. I realize that I’m not going through these trials alone – there is a plan and things are okay!

Jim Ross, President.



HEARD NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST BEGINS FEBRUARY 3!!!

Once again it's time for the annual Heard Nature Photo Contest – the 38th year this contest has been sponsored by the Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary and is administered by the Heard Nature Photographers! Come join the fun.....all proceeds benefit the Museum and it's a chance for all of us to show our support. Besides, we have some pretty phenomenal photographers in the club who are still hiding their talent.

Digital submissions are being accepted between February 3 and March 20, 2016 at www.heardnaturephotographers.com/contest . Just think – no printing, mounting or delivery expense! There is no time limit for when these images may have been taken and we have a new, more relaxed policy concerning the “hand of man”. (*Evidence of the hand of man is now acceptable as long as it is incidental and not the subject of the image.*) This should open a whole new world for some of our participants.

We also have a more definitive description of an “advanced photographer”: *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.)* It is up to the photographer to determine the appropriate Division for their level of experience.

As in the past, the fee for participating is \$5/per image for our Youth Divisions and \$10/per image for our Adult Divisions. Payment is made via PayPal (accessible through our website) and invoices will be issued upon request for those who either do not have a PayPal account or do not wish to establish one.

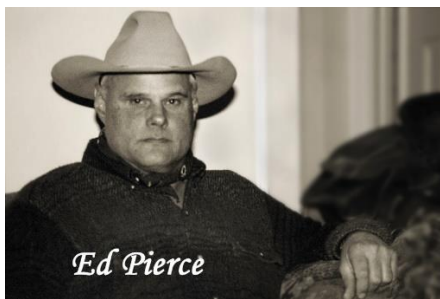
The award ceremony is Sunday, April 10 at 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in Laughlin Hall at the Museum. Winner's names and their winning images will be posted to our website on April 11. Winning images will also be showing after April 11 on a video loop in the lobby area of the museum. (Reminder that the rights to all submitted images remain with the photographer. By entering this contest, the photographer agrees to let the Heard use these images for marketing and promotional use).

Complete contest details are available at www.heardnaturephotographers.com/contest . We look forward to seeing you there!

Jackie Ranney
Contest Coordinator
214/478-2107
Email: contest@heardnaturephotographers.com

Below are the FEBRUARY refreshment volunteers:

- Steve Jordan
- Terre Stone
- Jackie Ranney
 - Ed Pierce
- John Yates



Please sign up at the next meeting to bring snacks to a future meeting or just give Ed Pierce some money. Thanks to all that contribute to making our meetings more enjoyable!

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/new-page-1/>) . 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@gmail.com. Gulf States CCC has a new web site, <http://www.gulfstatesccc.org/> , check it out.

While you are at it, please look at the description of speakers and activities to be available at the 2016 GSCCC Convention to be hosted by the Beaumont Camera Club (<http://www.gulfstatesccc.org/convention-1/>). 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. <https://www.facebook.com/gsgccc2016/>

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2016 PSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

September 10-17 in San Antonio, TX. <http://www.psa-photo.org/index.php?2016-psa-conference>

"JUST ONE PHOTO" - FEBRUARY

Sunrise/Sunset

February's subject is Sunrise/Sunset. We should hopefully have some really nice clouds this time of year to make sunrise and sunset a great photo opportunity. Send me ONE photo that you have taken during the month of February that represents your interpretation of the subject. I need the photo emailed to me by midnight of February 29th. 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

February 2016

Dallas, Texas (adapted from <http://www.sunrisesunset.com/calendar.asp>)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Tw: 6:57am Sunrise: 7:23am Sunset: 5:58pm Tw: 6:24pm	2 Tw: 6:56am Sunrise: 7:22am Sunset: 5:59pm Tw: 6:25pm	3 Tw: 6:55am Sunrise: 7:21am Sunset: 6:00pm Tw: 6:26pm	4 Tw: 6:55am Sunrise: 7:21am Sunset: 6:01pm Tw: 6:27pm	5 Tw: 6:54am Sunrise: 7:20am Sunset: 6:02pm Tw: 6:28pm	6 Tw: 6:53am Sunrise: 7:19am Sunset: 6:03pm Tw: 6:29pm
7 Tw: 6:53am Sunrise: 7:18am Sunset: 6:04pm Tw: 6:30pm	8 Tw: 6:52am Sunrise: 7:17am Sunset: 6:05pm Tw: 6:30pm New Moon: 8:40am	9 Tw: 6:51am Sunrise: 7:17am Sunset: 6:06pm Tw: 6:31pm	10 Tw: 6:50am Sunrise: 7:16am Sunset: 6:07pm Tw: 6:32pm	11 Tw: 6:49am Sunrise: 7:15am Sunset: 6:08pm Tw: 6:33pm	12 Tw: 6:49am Sunrise: 7:14am Sunset: 6:09pm Tw: 6:34pm	13 Tw: 6:48am Sunrise: 7:13am Sunset: 6:09pm Tw: 6:35pm
14 Tw: 6:47am Sunrise: 7:12am Sunset: 6:10pm Tw: 6:36pm	15 Tw: 6:46am Sunrise: 7:11am Sunset: 6:11pm Tw: 6:37pm First Qtr: 1:48am	16 Tw: 6:45am Sunrise: 7:10am Sunset: 6:12pm Tw: 6:37pm	17 Tw: 6:44am Sunrise: 7:09am Sunset: 6:13pm Tw: 6:38pm	18 Tw: 6:43am Sunrise: 7:08am Sunset: 6:14pm Tw: 6:39pm	19 Tw: 6:42am Sunrise: 7:07am Sunset: 6:15pm Tw: 6:40pm	20 Tw: 6:41am Sunrise: 7:06am Sunset: 6:16pm Tw: 6:41pm
21 Tw: 6:40am Sunrise: 7:05am Sunset: 6:16pm Tw: 6:42pm	22 Tw: 6:39am Sunrise: 7:04am Sunset: 6:17pm Tw: 6:42pm Full Moon: 12:21pm	23 Tw: 6:38am Sunrise: 7:03am Sunset: 6:18pm Tw: 6:43pm	24 Tw: 6:37am Sunrise: 7:02am Sunset: 6:19pm Tw: 6:44pm	25 Tw: 6:36am Sunrise: 7:01am Sunset: 6:20pm Tw: 6:45pm	26 Tw: 6:35am Sunrise: 7:00am Sunset: 6:21pm Tw: 6:46pm	27 Tw: 6:34am Sunrise: 6:58am Sunset: 6:22pm Tw: 6:46pm
28 Tw: 6:32am Sunrise: 6:57am Sunset: 6:22pm Tw: 6:47pm	29 Tw: 6:31am Sunrise: 6:56am Sunset: 6:23pm Tw: 6:48pm					

Field Trip Report By

Lee Hatfield

Eight lucky club members made the trek to Bosque del Apache NWR in January for a chance to witness the Sandhill Cranes before they head north to their breeding grounds. Jack Twiggs, Larry and Mary Petterborg, Jimmy Lee, Wen-chi Lee, Steve Jordan, Dennis Thompson, and I each took more photos than we wanted to edit but our efforts will be offered for viewing in a slideshow at our February club meeting.

Thousands of Sandhills, Snow Geese and a multitude of ducks flew each day before sunrise from neighboring ponds all up and down I-25 to feed on the corn at Bernardo Waterfowl Management Area. With access via perimeter roads and observation decks, it was easy to take more images than we will ever need!



Bosque offered bald eagles, deer, golden eagles, ducks, Canada geese and even an Oryx but the cranes were often out of sight due to low water levels in the public viewing areas of the refuge. The corn crop on the refuge was very small this winter as they are trying a new variety of Non-GMO corn before they plant large quantities.

The Friends of Bosque offered free tours of the refuge including "Hidden Areas" when we were taken to places which are off limits to the public. We learned of their efforts to eradicate Salt Cedar, increase habitat for ducks, cranes and geese and how they use the specially dug ditches to move water from the Rio Grande River through the refuge and back to the river.

We also visited the extremely windy Very Large Array Radio Telescope area 50 miles west of Socorro. We didn't see the local herds of Pronghorn Antelope but the drive through the mountains and high plains is beautiful.

FUTURE FIELD TRIPS

February 27, 2016 - Plan to join us at the Heard at 9 a.m. to photograph the trout lilies. These small but lovely flowers grow on the sanctuary and flower only for a very short time.



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

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 Sale: Canon 250D Closeup Filter, 58mm, \$50; PhotoMadd L-Bracket with grip for Fuji XT-1, \$100; Rokinon 12mm f2 lens (silver) for Fuji XF mount, mint with caps, \$225. Contact Peter Gilbert, peter.gilbert@att.net
2. Mike Mezeul has one spot left for the San Francisco workshop, and 3 for New York. See his web site for details, <http://www.mikemezphotography.com>

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## FEBRUARY PROGRAM

### **Kathy Adams Clark - Travel Photography**

Travel photography is so much more than stepping out of the car and taking a quick shot. Travel photography is about capturing the essence of the location and the spirit of the people. Join Kathy Adams Clark as she shares her knowledge of traveling with a camera plus tips on coming home with more than snapshots. Kathy will pass along ways to capture more intimate portraits, how to capture grand landscapes, ideas on photographing under low light, and tips on creating something different in a photograph. Traveling with a camera, working with traveling companions, and how to stay safe will also be covered. This program will cover traveling locally and well as internationally.

Kathy is the owner of KAC Productions. She started the company in 1995 after a career in human resources. Her photos have appeared in many places including Birder's World, Ranger Rick, The New York Times and National Geographic Books. Kathy also leads photo tours for Strabo Tours as well as teaches photography classes in the Houston area. In addition, she is Past-president of the North American Nature Photography Association.

<http://kathyadamsclark.blogspot.com/>



Machu Picchu, Peru





Blue Man, Essaouira, Morocco



Wildebeest

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## FUTURE PROGRAMS

| MONTH    | SPEAKER           | TOPIC                         |
|----------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| FEBURARY | KATHY ADAMS CLARK | TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY            |
| MARCH    | TBA               |                               |
| APRIL    | RUSSEL GRAVES     | TBA                           |
| MAY      | ELEANORE AVERY    | BIG CATS OF AFRICA            |
| JUNE     | LARRY PETTERBORG  | OREGON AND WATERFALLS         |
| JULY     | TOM SAVAGE        | PHOTOGRAPHING BEARS IN ALASKA |
| AUGUST   | THOMAS MYNT       | VIDEO                         |

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## MEET HNPC MEMBER, MIKE CAMERON



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

Officially, about 5 or 6 years, but I entered the annual photo contest several times before I became a regular member.

### 2. How long have you been "doing" photography? What sparked your initial interest in photography in general? How did you become interested in "nature photography"?

My interest in nature and wildlife was fostered by my parents and grandparents growing up, but I didn't start photography until I bought a Nikon point-n-shoot in 1999. Photography was an activity that was different than my job as an engineer for TI, and it got me back into nature. I shot anything wild that I could find around the local parks and trails -- wildflowers, butterflies, insects, and the like. But I really wanted to couple photography with my interest in birding, so when the Canon D30 was introduced in 2001, I purchased it and Canon's Image-Stabilized 100-400mm zoom lens. While I continue to enjoy landscapes and other subjects, birds have been my primary target ever since.

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

I've had many great experiences, but my first week-long solo trip to Big Bend has to be the best. To sit, to listen, and to observe nature without distraction, and to be alone with my thoughts in that spectacular landscape was a fantastic experience.

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

An RV road trip through Alaska is high on the list for both my wife and myself -- Lots of wildlife, untarnished landscapes, and escape from civilization.

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

My best advice is to follow your photographic passion. I think the excitement you feel for your subject translates through to the final image; it gives you the desire to improve the quality of your work, and a desire to share it with others.

#### 6. Where would you take someone from out of town to take nature photos?

I think Hagerman NWR is a great place to visit, at least when it's above water. The abundance of wildlife, landscapes, and macro subjects will keep any nature photographer busy. I have made many fine images and great memories while visiting this refuge.

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

My photo gallery can be found at <http://mikecameronphoto.smugmug.com> -- it's still a work in progress, I have many more bird images to upload...

#### 8. Is there anything else that you would like to share with the club? (For this one, it would be great if you could discuss what folks should plan on to visit High Island later in the spring)

We have an upcoming trip to High Island, one of my favorite places to visit for bird migration in the spring. We'll be going too early for songbird migration, but most of the herons, spoonbills, and cormorants will be nesting in the rookery, and there will be plenty of migrating shorebirds on the beaches. In both cases, a 300 to 400mm class lens with an extender for flexibility is my minimum recommended setup for these situations. There are viewing platforms at the rookery that are very good in the late afternoon for flight photography, especially an hour or two before sunset. Gulls, terns, pelicans, and shorebirds can be found in several locations, including the Bolivar Flats Sanctuary, the Rollover Pass fishing area, and Anhuac NWR. The key to good shorebird photos is to get down low for an eye level perspective, so prepare to get dirty. If you are going to the beach, remember to pack a clean towel to dust the sand and salt spray off your camera and lens. You can also protect your camera with a rain cover to keep the grit and spray out in the first place; my favorite is the inexpensive plastic Rainsleeve made by OP/TECH. The weather can be unpredictable at this time of year, so be prepared for both warm and cold conditions. Finally, there are fees for several areas that will be visited. Houston Audubon maintains the High Island sanctuaries and charges a fee of \$7/day or \$25/year (details at <http://houstonaudubon.org>). Galveston County also charges a fee to drive on the beaches -- the permit can be purchase at most local stores for \$10/year.



## SOME OF MIKE'S FAVORITE IMAGES



Baltimore Oriole

Black-crested Titmouse







Western Scrub Jay

Swainson's Hawk





<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: Peter Gilbert

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**

FEBURARY 13, 2016

**1:30 PM**

Heard Natural Science Museum

1 Nature Place

McKinney, TX

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

# 2016 Annual Heard Nature Photography 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.

## **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.