

# HEARD

## Nature Photographers Club

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



Volume 33, Issue No. 9

September 2017

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER FOR SEPTEMBER

As many of you know, I just made a quick trip to Ruidoso, NM which was for attendance to a Memorial for a golfing buddy. Nice and brief gathering of friends and relatives. While there, I attempted golf, but with back issues, I was only able to complete 12 holes. Oh well, I did have time to take a few photos in the neighborhood of my close friends. Saw moose, deer and turkeys, some that I posted on our Facebook page. It was overcast and rainy most of the time. I stayed at an altitude of 7200 feet and it remained cool most of the time. Here are a couple shots that were not on Facebook.



Another news item is that we have purchased a surge protector and backup battery system for the club. It will prevent our losing of the slide shows during meetings and protect the equipment, in case of a lightning strike.

I will be appointing a Nominating Committee this month to prepare a list of candidates for officers this next year. Frank Fosdick will head the group. He can be reached at [ffosdick@verizon.net](mailto:ffosdick@verizon.net) or 972-424-8099. He will present the slate at the October meeting and we will vote on them in November. Nominations can be made from the floor in October. If you have interest in a position on the Board, they will appreciate your volunteering and be included in the proposed slate. Since I will be traveling during the October meeting, the Nominating Committee will handle the presentation. I will be back for the November meeting and election.

Dick Robinson has volunteered to assist Jackie Ranney with the Heard Contest this winter, with the prospect of taking over the job after that. Dick and I serve together on a Foundation Board and he is quite capable.

Thanks for listening and I will see you all at the September meeting.

Oh yes, before I forget: Larry Petterborg did a great job with his Puma presentation and storytelling last meeting. Thanks Larry.

R.E. (Ron) Marabito, President



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## **PLEASE NOTE!!**

*An Introduction to the Power of Lightroom*  
with  
Dennis Fritsche

Heard Nature Photographs Club  
September 9, 2017  
9:00 AM to Noon

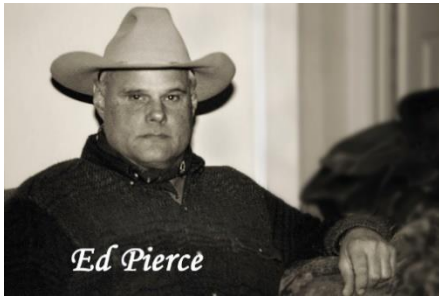
Lightroom by Adobe is a powerful tool for photographers. With Lightroom, the photographer can organize, enhance, and share their work efficiently and artistically. For years, many photographers processed their photographs in Photoshop by Adobe but they now use Lightroom and rarely, if ever, take their images to Photoshop.

This class will describe all the modules in Lightroom but will concentrate on the power of the Develop Module to enhance your photographs, rather in RAW, TIF, or jpeg format, and achieve breath-taking results with minimal effort. Step by step examples will be shown.

You will not be an expert after this class, but you will appreciate the power available in this single software package. You will also have references to successfully get you started with Lightroom.

## Below are the SEPTEMBER Refreshment Volunteers:

- David Lindsey
- Anne Hargreaves
- Brigitte Kiba
- Gaby Pruitt



Be sure to sign up at the next meeting to bring snacks to a future meeting. If you would prefer to just give some **money** for refreshments, that's ok too. Please make donations to the club by way of Club Treasurer, **Peter Gilbert**. Thanks to all that contribute to making our meetings more enjoyable!

## SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

### TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

BY KATHY ADAMS CLARK



Our speaker for September is Kathy Adams Clark. She has spoken several times in the past, and has always been informative and interesting. She is a photographer, naturalist, and teacher. Her goal as a businesswoman is to promote photography and the natural world through teaching. When people understand photography, they can enjoy it for a lifetime. When people experience the natural world, they will work to preserve it for future generations. This month she will share her insights on travel photography.

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## **2017 SPEAKERS AND PROGRAMS**

Date	Speaker	Subject
14-Jan	Jeff Parker	Jaguars and the Pantanal
11-Feb	Arlington Camera	GoPro and DSLR video photography
11-Mar	Dennis Fritche	Printing
8-Apr	Ron Marabito	Yellowstone
13-May	Frank Richards	Leading the Eye
10-Jun	Sharlott and Ron Hasty	Make Your Photography More Interesting, Fun and Exciting: Add Motion and Emotion
8-Jul	Steve Reeves	National Parks
12-Aug	Larry Petterborg	Patagonian Pumas
9-Sep	Kathy Adams Clark	Travel Photography
14-Oct		
11-Nov	Dan Leffel	TBD

## **“JUST ONE PHOTO” - SEPTEMBER**

### **Depth of Field**

September’s subject is Depth of Field. Capture your image for this month with a Shallow depth of field, in other words set your camera at the lowest F stop possible for your lens, i.e. 1.4, 2.8, 5.6. This will isolate your subject and should blur your background. Send me ONE photo that you have taken during the month of September that represents your interpretation of the subject. I need the photo emailed to me by midnight of September 30<sup>th</sup>. 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, please resize to have longest side 2000 pixels. Email to: [t.stone3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:t.stone3@sbcglobal.net)



## Field Trips:

I'm going to start rating our trips so that those of you that can't make the trip and want to go at a different time will have an idea of the pro and cons for that place. I'm going to be rating the places from 📷 - may not be worth your time, to 📷📷📷📷📷📷 - must see. \*\*\*This is based on my opinion only. \*\*\*

### **Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area** - <http://www.llela.org/>

Located at the intersection of Jones and Kealy in Lewisville (201 E. Jones Street)

**Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> – 8 am**      Cost: \$5/car (cash)

Sunrise 7:20am

**LLELA** is located where the Blackland Prairie meets the dry upland forests of the Eastern Cross Timbers. The Elm Fork of the Trinity River runs through the middle of these two ecosystems. This makes LLELA a perfect place to find a diversity of wildlife and plants. Over 360 vertebrate species make a home at LLELA, from river otters to peregrine falcons, along with more than 500 plant species and uncounted dragonflies, butterflies, and other invertebrates. We will be walking some of the trails, most of them are fairly level so you won't have to worry about climbing over boulders or trees. There is an old 1870's log cabin on one of the trails as well as a meadow that should have some birds and butterflies. There are seven different trails and we will decide which one/s that we want to take when we get there. The park opens at 7am, so if everyone that signs up wants to meet when then open we will do that. It would give us a better opportunity to photograph some wildlife.

#### **Things you'll need to know**

- Wear closed-toe shoes, long pants, long sleeves, and a hat.
- Bring AT LEAST one full water bottle per person, sunscreen, and insect repellent.
- There are clean portable toilets close to the Pavilion parking lot.
- **Respect wildlife.** LLELA is here to preserve wildlife and habitat. Please respect the animals and plants at all times. We ask all visitors to **Leave No Trace:** *Leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but memories, kill nothing but time.*

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### **Window to the Wild – Bird experience**

Hutchins, TX – south of Dallas

**Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> 8am**

Cost: \$25 per person



Image by Ron Marabito

**Window to the Wild** is a company dedicated to training wildlife for public education. They use the natural instinctive behavior of birds for striking performances and to educate about conservation. We will have the opportunity to photograph birds in flight. We will be photographing birds as the trainers work with them and afterwards we will tour Rogers Wildlife Rehabilitation Center and have the opportunity to photograph some of the birds that are currently being treated. Rogers is one of the few facilities in the metroplex that specializes in rescue and rehabilitation of sick, injured and orphaned birds; as well as a sanctuary for those birds that are deemed non-releasable due to injuries. **If weather turns rainy, this outing will be rescheduled for another time. I will be contacting those who have signed up with any updates.**

**\*\*\*You must sign up for this field trip – I have to give them a head count before the trip\*\*\* Sign-up sheet will be available at the meeting.**

## **Upcoming Field Trips\*\*:**

<b>August 5<sup>th</sup> – 10am – 1:30pm</b>	Indoor workshop at the Heard Museum – SRC building
<b>September 30<sup>th</sup> – 8am</b>	Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area – LLELA Nature Preserve
<b>October 7<sup>th</sup> – 8:30am</b>	Window to the Wild – bird photography
<b>October 21<sup>st</sup> – 8:30am</b>	Fossil Rim Wildlife Center
<b>November 16-18</b>	Lost Maples State Park
<b>December 2<sup>nd</sup> - 9am</b>	Dallas Zoo

**\*\*this is a living schedule; dates may be adjusted due to weather, etc.**

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## **MEMBER'S FORUM**

**If you have items to sale, stories to tell, or just want to express your opinion on topics related to nature and photography, please send me some words and pictures I can put in upcoming newsletters.**

**From Ron Marabito:** Prior to the September meeting, Dennis Fritsche is going to present an "Introduction to the Power of Lightroom". More details to follow but for now, please make time before the September meeting to learn how you can make the most out of your images with Lightroom.

**From Jackie Renney:** Come join me as I lead one of the 10th Anniversary Scott Kelby Worldwide Photo Walks on Saturday, October 7. It's in Pilot Point and the registration site explains the details for this particular walk. The main website ([www.worldwidephotowalk.com](http://www.worldwidephotowalk.com)) explains why the walks are being conducted, contest entry information (if you choose to enter) and other pertinent information. The walk is free but registration is required!

"Walk".....start/stop at your leisure...all within close proximity to a coffee shop and on easy terrain. Stay as

long as you want - leave when you're ready! See....it's easy!

Let's make it even easier ..... here's the registration link!

<http://worldwidephotowalk.com/walk/pilot-point-historical-commercial-district-in-pilot-point-tx/>

Hope to see you then!

Jackie Ranney

[214/478-2107](tel:2144782107)

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### 7 Tips *for* Night Sky Photography

© 2017 ~ Jeff Parker / [www.ExploreinFocus.com](http://www.ExploreinFocus.com)

#### 1. **Make the mode Manual**

In auto or semi-auto modes, our cameras make adjustments based on what they think we want. However, when shooting night skies, our cameras tend to be terrible mind readers! For night photography, you've got to take control & shoot in Manual mode.

#### 2. **Do the math to get points**

Want your stars to appear as points or trails? To get points, the general rule is to divide your focal length into 500 to determine shutter speed. For example: with a 20mm lens, the math looks like this:  $500/20=25$ . Note that this is the *maximum* shutter speed to retain the stars as points of light. That means your stars will start to streak with a shutter speed longer than 25 seconds. (Refer to Tip #5)

#### 3. **Construct star trails**

In the film days you could just lock your shutter open & leave it to record the stars as arcs. With digital you can still do that, but I don't recommend it; when a shutter's open for a long period the sensor heats up & produces hot pixels. (*This is a separate issue from the usual high ISO noise.*) Instead, construct your digital star trails by shooting a series of 30-second exposures over at least a 45-minute period. Combine them into one image using Photoshop, other software, or a website. [StarStax](http://StarStax.com), my favorite, is free!

#### 4. **Manual focus is a must!**

Once it's dark enough to photograph the Milky Way it'll be too dark for autofocus to work. Can you just set your lens to the infinity mark? This does often work, but doesn't always give you the sharpest focus. During daylight, focus on a distant subject to see if it lines up with the infinity mark. If not, either tape the focus ring into position or make your own mark. For another strategy, employ Live View & magnify the display as much as possible. Then manually focus until the stars are sharp.

#### 5. **Settings**

The formula for obtaining a shutter speed in Tip #2 above marks the max for capturing stars as points. But you can choose a shorter exposure. After about 10 seconds the starlight your sensor has captured won't shine any brighter; however, the longer your shutter remains open the more sky glow you'll collect.

Regarding your aperture: keep it wide open. Hopefully, you have a pretty fast lens (*an f/2.8 makes a good choice*).

ISO is your main brightness control. I find ISO 3200 works pretty well. Remember—the beauty of digital is the ease of experimentation! Try both higher & lower ISO's to discover what **you** like.

For white balance, I like 4000K. If shooting RAW leave your white balance on auto & change it during post-processing. Again, experiment to determine the white balance that looks right to **you**.

## 6. **Light painting**

When shooting the heavens consider adding an earth-bound element to increase image interest. Foreground items will need some light unless you're styling for a silhouette. Light painting's lots of fun & easy to do. A simple flashlight works wonders. Keep that light moving & don't let it stay in one spot for too long.

Light painting can cause depth-of-field issues since you're shooting wide open & focused at infinity. With a lens in the 20mm-24mm range, there's a good chance the hyperfocal distance will make your foreground element acceptably sharp. Find the hyperfocal distance for your lens at [www.dofmaster.com](http://www.dofmaster.com).

## 7. **Equipment**

When it comes to which camera to use high ISO performance is key! If your camera's less than 5 years old it'll most likely work just fine.

For making Milky Way shots, a lens in the 16mm-24mm range is your best bet. The faster the better—f /4 will work, but f/2.8 or faster is better.

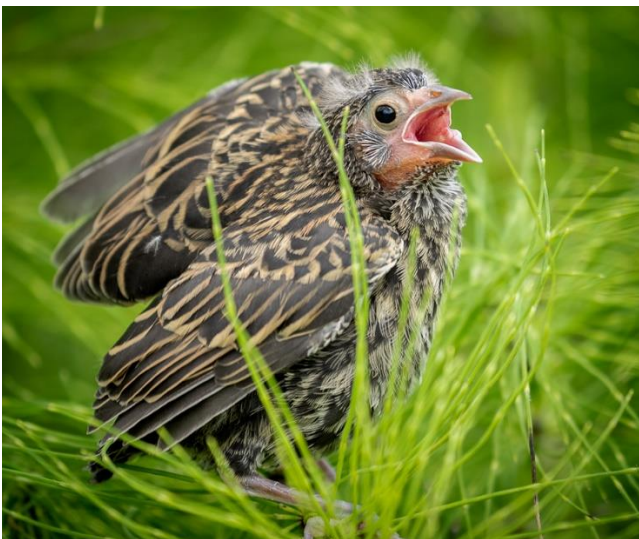
Working with these kinds of exposure times makes a tripod non-negotiable.

A headlamp keeps your hands free to operate your camera. To preserve your night vision, choose a headlamp with a red LED.

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## **GSCCC NEWS**

In July, we submitted four digital nature images to the bi-monthly Gulf States Camera Club Council (GSCCC) contest. Since we will be judging the September contest, our next entries will be in November.



Feed Me by Larry Petterborg (10 pts.)

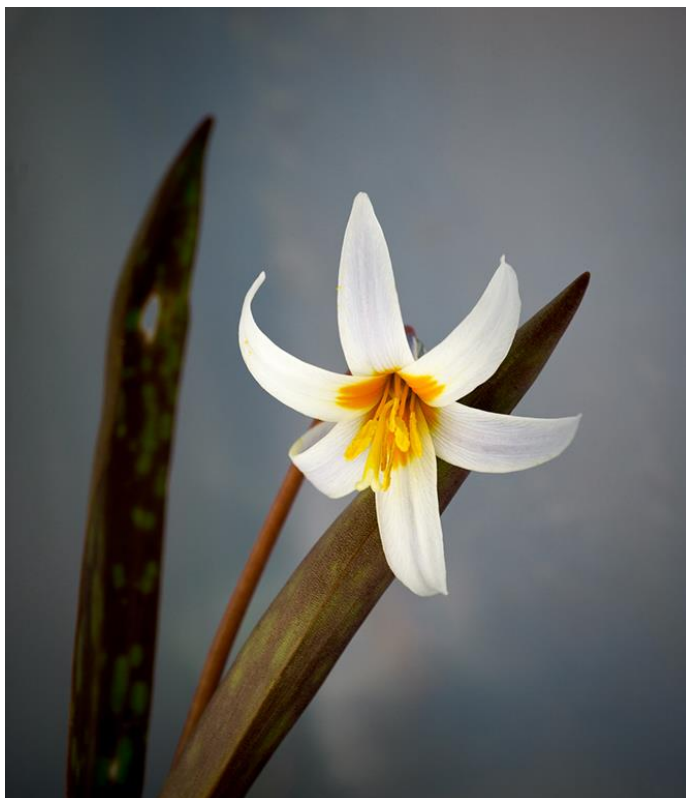


Spotlight on Moran by Jack Harrison (12 pts.)





Big Eyes by Elizabeth Buchanan (14 pts., 1<sup>st</sup>)



Trout Lily by Peter Gilbert (9 pts.)

If you would like a chance to participate in these contests, please send me ([letterborg@gmail.com](mailto:letterborg@gmail.com)) your best nature images for our contest collection. I will be picking 4 images from 4 different photographers to submit to the next contest.

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## IT'S JUST MY OPINION

By Larry Petterborg

Do you want to have a photographic experience where you are at the right place at the right time? Would you like help making that one great memorable image of a long sought-after scene or animal? How would it be to not have to worry about how to get from one place to another or where to eat next and just concentrate on making photographs? In my opinion, signing up for a photo tour or workshop with a knowledgeable and experienced professional photographer is the answer to these questions and many more. If you want to learn and get better at your craft, spend as much time as you can with people that know more than you do.

If you were to ask me to pick out my two dozen favorite images (not including pictures of my children or grandchildren), most, if not all of them, would likely have been taken while on an organized photo tour or workshop with an accomplished professional. This is not to say that I haven't got some very nice images on my own or during club outings. I just think that thanks to being put just where I needed to be and when, I have

come away from tours and workshops with my best stuff. I have never been disappointed with any of the trips I've been able to take with a photographic professional.

At the meeting last month, I talked about my recent trip to Patagonia to photograph Pumas with Jeff Parker (<http://exploreinfoocus.com/>). Jeff has spoken at our club meeting several times and even judged the annual Heard Nature Photo Contest. A couple of years ago I participated in a hummingbird photo workshop at his house in the woods near Bastrop. I knew then that a wildlife tour with Jeff would be very rewarding experience. If you saw my cat pictures last month, I think you would have to agree.



I have with traveled with Jeremy Woodhouse (<http://www.pixelchrome.com/>) more than anyone else and I feel very strongly that the best photographs I have ever made were the result of those opportunities. Jeremy will put you in a position to capture incredible images. He is knowledgeable and relentless in his pursuit of meaningful photographs from around the world.



Our speaker this month, Kathy Adams Clark (<http://kathyadamsclark.com/>), is a delight to work with. She is extremely helpful in advising you how to make the best shots. When I was with her in Arizona to photograph

bats, it became painfully clear that my Olympus cameras were not going to work with the custom flash triggers we were going to use to shoot the nectar feeding bats at night. Kathy was kind enough to loan me one of her Canon cameras and I was able to make some fantastic images.



Even though I have not yet been able to take one of Rob Hull's trips (<http://www.greatphotography.com/>), I have known him for many years and he is always pleasant and willing to help. I was able to watch Rob work with folks at the flash/splash photography station during the recent "table-top" activity and he was most generous and encouraging. Plus, as you all know, if you go with Rob, there is going to be chocolate involved.

If you have not yet gone on a photo tour or workshop with an accomplished professional photographer, you really must. In my opinion, it is money well spent. When asked about the cost of photo tours, I ask how can you put a price on a priceless experience? Ask other members of the club about their experiences and who they might recommend. You will not regret it.







<http://www.psa-photo.org/>

<http://www.gulfstatesccc.org/>

### **2017 CLUB OFFICERS**

President: Ron Marabito  
Co-Vice President: Larry Wecsler  
Co-Vice President: Anita Oakley  
Secretary: Peter Gilbert  
Treasurer: Peter Gilbert  
Membership: Tom Martin  
Refreshments: Ed Pierce  
Field Trips: Terree Stone  
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**

SEPTEMBER 9, 2017

**1:30 PM**

Heard Natural Science Museum  
1 Nature Place  
McKinney, TX

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