



HEARD

Nature Photographers Club

www.heardnaturephotographers.com



Volume 34, Issue No. 4

April 2018

PRESIDENT'S LETTER FOR APRIL

We just had the finest photo contest ever, which was run by the club for the Heard Museum. Thanks to the leadership of Jackie Ranney. But, let's not forget the team she had. It consisted of: Anita Oakley, Rob Hull, Elisabeth Shore, Peter Gilbert, Retha Moulder, Mary Binford and Dick Robinson. Hip, Hip, Hooray for an outstanding job. We had a record 1005 entries. Competition was terrific, and I hope all those that won a ribbon, understand that fact.

I attended the Saturday outing at the Arboretum with several other members. It was a beautiful day and I have seen some great captures on Facebook. Jerry Reece challenged everyone to do some "Camera Motion Abstracts". Since I have been struggling with lower back issues, I didn't do much. On March 22nd, I had a MRI. As a result, my doctor recommended I see a Neurosurgeon. Don't have the appointment yet, but I'll keep you informed.

Shirley and I are headed to the Hill Country on April 12th, so we will miss the next meeting. Elisabeth Shore will host the meeting and I am sure you will enjoy Mike Mezeul again. Elisabeth has attended a couple his workshops by Mike and can attest to his great photography. He and I worked together as judges for this year's Richardson Photo Contest.

Please remember coming in May, that Guy Huntley will teach the class before the meeting with the subject of "Use of daylight flash". Most of Guy's images captured at the Arboretum are with flash. He has the experience and you can learn a lot..

We seem to be doing well with Saturday morning classes. Ron Hasty's class had more than 50 in attendance. Hope the membership likes and appreciates the efforts of these good presenters. If you have a subject that you would like to see covered, please let me know so I can get it scheduled. We have Rob Hull on Lightroom in July, Irwin Lightstone on Macro in September and an unknown currently for November. The subject I hope we can cover then is "Capturing the Moment".

Before I end this letter, let me remind everyone that we have our annual Table Top event coming up in August. If you have a particular skill you would like to learn, please let Jerry Reece know about it right away, so he has time to find someone to present it for this event. We need some new skills, so think on it hard. Enjoy April and I will see you again in May.

Respectfully, R.E. (Ron) Marabito, President of Heard Nature Photographers Club.

Peter Gilbert, HNPC Secretary/Treasurer receives
Honorary Lifetime Membership from Pres. Marabito



Below are the March Refreshment Volunteers:

David Duckworth
Elisabeth Shore
Cliff Ranney
John Yates



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!

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CONTEST!

The 40th Annual Heard Nature Photography Contest has been our most successful yet! With 1,005 submissions, this year we raised \$8,000.73 for the Museum. (Since becoming a digital contest in 2015, our total contest contributions to the Museum have reached \$26,394.12!) Our thanks to the 152 photographers who participated this year – some from as far away as Canada, California and Arizona. Without their participation, this could not have been accomplished.

Here's some interesting information for those who may be wondering: For the Adult-Experienced photographers, the most popular categories were Scenics and Feathered Friends. For the Adult-Aspiring photographers, the most popular categories were Feathered Friends and Floral.

By contrast, in the Youth Divisions, the Senior Youth preferred Animals and Scenics while the Junior Youth photographers preferred the Scenics and Floral categories.

Once again, thanks go to Contest Committee members Anita Oakley, Peter Gilbert, Rob Hull, Retha Moulder, Mary Binford and Elisabeth Shore for their work in pulling all of this together. This is my last year to manage the contest and I'm happy to turn the reins over to Dick Robinson who will coordinate the contest going forward. I've appreciated the support and encouragement from our club members who have made this such an exciting and fun project.

Thanks again,

Jackie Ranney, Contest Coordinator

PROGRAMS

By Elisabeth Shore, VP

"Mike Mezuel will be returning as a guest speaker for our **April** meeting. He has a very diverse portfolio of images and photographic themes. His portfolio includes professional sporting events, live music venues, hanging 5,000 feet in the air out of a plane, natural disasters (tornadoes and severe thunderstorm cells), the tops of volcanoes and mountains, the bottom of the ocean floor, and more... This month, Mike will be sharing his images and experiences in capturing various aspects of Night Sky photography, including solar and lunar eclipses, Milky Way, star trails, northern lights, etc.

His work can be seen on his website (www.mikemezphotography.com), on Instagram (@MikeMezPhoto), and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/MikeMezPhoto).

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Field Trips

Jerry Reece, Field Trip Coordinator
Cell: 909-223-8052
Email: bjreece@verizon.net

When you sign up for participation in a field trip, and this is your first field trip with the club check with Jerry Reece either at the meeting or later at bjreece@verizon.net so we can verify that a Waiver of Liability is on file.

Oh, yes, please print your information with care – especially be sure that your name is easy to read. I can always pick the other info off the club roster if you have kept the club up to date with your new info. With my aging eyesight some entries were hard to read last month. I have terrible handwriting, so I empathize.

General Courtesies for Field Trips

Let's review a few items that will make our trips even more successful both for the leaders and the participants. It's a time to share our love of nature photography while strengthening our relationships with each other in pursuit of our passion!

Sign up for the field trip (even if you decide to go at the very last minute). Signing up can be done at each of our meetings or by calling or emailing the Field Trip Coordinator.

The following guidelines are offered, to improve the quality of our field trip experience.

- When signing up for a trip, provide your name, your cell number and your email address. Complete information is essential since essentially all correspondence/notifications with field trip participants is by email. Cell phone numbers are important for needed contact when on the trip.
- If your spouse or a friend is going, please sign them up separately and provide all of their contact information (their name/their cell number/their email address).
- Reminder that anyone going on our field trips needs to join our club (which includes acknowledgement of the Waiver of Liability) and pay the membership fee.
- If your plans change and you are unable to go on the trip (local or out of town), don't just not show up. Contact the Field Trip Coordinator (preferably by telephone if this is last minute). Frequently our field trip destinations request group size or other information about our group. Without adequate information, making arrangements for large groups can be tricky.
- Carpooling: If a centralized location is chosen for carpooling, please let the Field Trip Coordinator know that you will be participating and be on time on the event day. If you plan to be one of the drivers, that information is also very helpful.
- Carpooling – offer to share in the expense whether it be gasoline or parking charges at the destination.

- While on location be courteous to other photographers. He who gets set up first has priority. This means you need to be cognizant of his/her field of view. Ask if you think you might be in the way. If asked by the photographer to move, please do.
- If the field of view for the shot is limited and others are waiting, please be prudent about getting your shot and letting others get their shot.

April 2018 Field Trip

TIGERS & ROSES

Thursday

April 26th

This trip has two venues the same day

1st Venue: Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge

10 am Thursday April 26th

Entrance fee: Adult \$18

Seniors (65 and plus) \$16

Talking with the people at Tiger Creek, I was advised that Thursdays were a better bet for pictures since they fast the tigers on Thursdays and the animals are not as lazy and satiated.



Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge is a 150 acre preserve dedicated to over 40 rescued big cats and located a few miles north of Tyler, TX. They have tigers in several different cages on the property. There

is a paved walkway to and around the cages so moving around is easy, even with a roller camera bag. The tigers are behind two layers of fencing which complicates photography. Getting close to an enclosure fence with a telephoto lens at wide apertures (f/2, f/2.8, f/4 for example) and with the animals a little distance from the fence sets the stage for making the fence invisible or barely visible. In much of the area you can shoot over the top of the first fence, but you are still three to four feet from the second fence. I have added a couple of images taken in February with my 100-400mm. The tiger lying down was shot at f/5.6 & 160 mm. The head shot was f/5.6 at 250 mm.

Having a wide to normal focal length with you for general shots will be helpful. To photograph the tigers, 100 mm crop frame or 200 mm full frame or longer will be most beneficial. If you have a “really big gun”, you may want to bring it. Parking is not far from the enclosure area.



For more information about the Refuge visit: www.tigercreek.org

2nd Venue : Tyler Rose Garden



Tyler Rose Garden
Afternoon Thursday April 26th

Admission Free

The second part of our trip is the Tyler Rose Garden. The Garden features over 600 varieties with 32,000 bushes. The Garden is one of 24 trial sites located in different parts of the country for roses under consideration for introduction through the All American Rose Selection (AARS). To add photographic variety there are fountains and sculptures to enhance your images.

A macro lens would certainly be helpful, but there are plenty of image opportunities if you don't have a macro lens.

Further information about the Tyler Rose Garden may be found at:

<http://parksandrec.cityoftyler.org/ConventionTourismFacilities/RoseGardenCenter.aspx>

General Information for the April Trip



In case we are a tad too early for roses, or if roses are not your thing, an alternate location in Tyler will be the Caldwell Zoo. I might add the zoo has a magnificent pair of white tigers who (behind clear glass) will roar at tripods and cameras. Ask Guy Huntley about this. We were there last month.

The sign-up sheet be available at the April club meeting. Do plan to join with us. You may wish to think about a car pool buddy in advance. This is a one day trip with a driving time each way of just 2 hours for a distance of about 125 miles.

A car pool gathering location will be established in Richardson.

Details for the trip will be emailed to all that sign up a few days before the trip.

= Advanced Alert =

May 2018 Field Trip

Chandor Gardens and Clark Gardens

Weatherford, Texas

May 19th

Mark your calendars for a colorful photo excursion to Weatherford, Texas, to visit and photograph the beautiful Chandor Gardens and the Clark Gardens. Weatherford, as you know, is located about 25 miles southwest of Fort Worth.

A sign-up sheet will be available at both the April and May club meetings. Details of the trip will be emailed shortly before the trip to those who have signed up



= Field Trip Reports =

January - The weather really complicated scheduling the White Rock Lake Trip. The Marathon didn't help as far as parking and getting about. Twenty one photographers contributed images covering birds and other critters, water shots and general landscape shots. The pelicans were a little scarce and "out to sea" most of the time, but they were there – at least those that didn't move a little further south to escape the cold weather of this winter.

February – Weather continued to haunt us when it came to trout lilies. They were few and far between this year which may have been due to flood run off and a real cold snap. The trip was officially cancelled, but potential participants were encouraged to explore on their own at both the Heard and at Spring Creek Forest Preserve. And many did. As of this writing images are still coming to me. We will have a trout lily show.

March – My anxiety level was high a few days before the Dallas Arboretum trip as thunderstorms remained for several days as the forecast for the 17th. My late wife's Native American ancestors came to the rescue and chased the storm spirits away. The sky had just enough haze to soften the light a little and the breeze was minimal. Great conditions for flowers. Twenty photographers participated. The images coming in to me range from macros, general landscape, camera-in-motion to zoom bursts and zoom spirals.

So – What have I learned my first year in Texas? The venues are fun, the participants are a great and cordial group and the weather – oh well, it's Texas. I am learning to just wait an hour and see what the sky brings.

The annual field trip schedule is a work in progress. I am always looking for new and for better ideas. Please see me at a club meeting or send me an email with your ideas for field trips, especially those that are nature related.

Jerry Reece, Field Trip Coordinator

bjreece@verizon.net

909-223-8052 Cell

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GULF STATES CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL (GSCCC) NEWS

FEB 2018 GSCCC RESULTS

Jack Twiggs earned 15 points and first place in the Feb. GSCCC Projected Nature Competition. As a club, HNPC scored 48 pts. and placed tied for 3rd overall. **Way to go Jack!!!**



Mates by Jack Twiggs

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Any HNPC member may contribute nature images to the contest library for potential future submission. **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. All submission must conform to PSA guidelines for nature photography. Attach files to an email and send to Lpetterborg@gmail.com.

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.

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Cliff Weaver is trying to sell a bunch of stuff:

Nikon D7000 w/18-200 lens SB60 Speedlight, 2 batteries, Charger, Lens case, UV filter, Circ Polarizer	\$800	OBO
Nikon D80, batteries, charger	\$80	OBO
Nikon D70S, batteries, charger	\$65	OBO
Epson Projector Screen	\$65.00	OBO
2 Mono Lights with Beauty Lights and 24" Soft Boxes, Stands, Carrying Case	\$500	OBO
Fujifilm XE1 with 18-55mm lens	\$500	OBO
Fujifilm 55-200 mm	\$500.00	Firm
Canon 6D, BPack, Speed Light, 2Chargers, 4 bats	\$1,200.00	Firm
Sigma Artist Sport 150-600mm Lens	\$1,500.00	Firm

If interested, contact Cliff Weaver
<http://www.bluebonnetmemories.com>
<http://www.dfwphotoprinting.com>
1404 Spring St.
Allen, TX 75002
Ofc. 469-854-0290
Cell 469-579-7044



Larry Petterborg

7 Tips *for* Wildflower Landscapes

© 2018 ~ Jeff Parker / ExploreinFocus.com

1) Complement with color.

Color often attracts us to flowers in the first place so use it to enhance your wildflower images. Look for opportunities to use complementary colors —blue/orange, yellow/purple & red/green— when composing the shot.

2) Build interest with blocks of color.

Fields of wildflowers can be breathtaking, but usually still need an element of interest. One idea is to use a block of color created by the flowers themselves as your "element of interest." A great example is a clump of paintbrush in an image dominated by bluebonnets.

3) Cut out distractions.

Take a shot & then check your camera. Are there bright spots in the background that draw the eye to places you don't really want it to go? What about power lines or the edge of something else unsightly? Is there something there that you didn't notice when the flowers first caught your attention? With beautiful scenery it's easy to be overwhelmed by the beauty & miss the ugly elements keep your image from being a keeper.

4) Angle for a unique perspective.

Try getting down low & angling your camera up so that it almost appears as if you're capturing the field of flowers from one flower's perspective.

5) Maintain a firm focus on the focal point.

Not only do you want your image to have a clear focal point, but you want that focal point to be clearly in focus.

6) Flow with the blow.

Windy days can make for frustrating photography but can also add interest to fields of wildflowers. Get setup on a tripod & start playing with slower shutter speeds. By varying the ISO & aperture you can maintain the same exposure at different shutter speeds. The results may surprise you!

7) Walk about.

When you see a breathtaking scene, it's tempting to think that's the best place to take the shot. So, take the shot but then go for a little walk-about. There could be an even better view of the same amazing field 30 feet to your left or right.

Award-winning naturalist photographer, Jeff Parker, leads friendly & informative photo tours & workshops focused on the flora & fauna of North, Central, & South America. Coming soon – he'll be leading tours to India to photograph tigers in the wild!

Call (512) 378-3355 ~ OR ~ Click www.ExploreinFocus.com

New HNP Member: Alan Abair

By Tom Martin, Membership/Marketing Coordinator



Alan Abair stumbled across the Heard Nature Photographers during our field trip to the Japanese Tea Garden in Fort Worth on December 17, 2016. He kept running into people with cameras and tripods who said they were there with the Heard Nature Photographers, and he wondered who this group was. Frank Fosdick and I talked to Alan a couple of times during the morning, and we happily answered his questions about HNP. Alan was pleasantly surprised to learn that our group meets in McKinney where he lives. He was looking for an active photo group he could participate in. He gave me his card, and I encouraged him to come check out our meetings. I was immediately impressed by his intensity and commitment to his photography, but when he didn't show up for a few months, I wondered if I would ever have the privilege of getting to know him better. He eventually came to a meeting, and I guess he liked it, because he joined up and has participated in several meetings and field trips.

Alan grew up in Garland, and he has spent the bulk of his life in North Texas. He earned a degree from SMU. His first job after college, new economics degree notwithstanding, was in a professional photo lab where he scanned and retouched images in Photoshop 2.5 on a MacIntosh computer with 20 Mb of RAM and a 1 Gb hard drive.

After a few years, he purchased his first camera: a Nikon N6006, a 35mm film camera manufactured from 1990 through 1994. He exclusively shot Fuji Velvia color slide film, because he loved the saturated colors. He eventually got frustrated with the long lags between taking images and seeing the results and with the cost of processing film. So, he put the camera in a closet and "moved on."

Sometime later, a friend showed Alan her Sony Mavica, and he was filled with the possibilities of digital photography. That led to his purchase of a Canon PowerShot. As he says, "he was hooked." Once he had this

camera, he could capture all the images he wanted for free, see the results immediately, retouch them on his computer “to his heart’s content,” and easily share the best ones. He could store the images on a hard drive for as long as he wanted without taking any physical space. Unfortunately, all this led to a severe case of GAS (Gear Acquisition Syndrome) that persists to this day spurring him to buy “better and more sophisticated cameras.” He just purchased a Canon 5D Mark IV.

As a dedicated nature photographer, he uses most of his vacation time to travel for his art. I always enjoy when he returns from his trips, because he is so generous in sharing the beautiful images he brings back. He feels fortunate to have a wife who tolerates his addiction, though she draws the line at being a camera caddy. They have visited many U.S. national parks including Big Bend, Arches, Canyonlands, Olympic, Yosemite, Grand Tetons, and Yellowstone. They have traveled to Wales, Scotland, and Iceland constantly on the move to see as much as they can, though they are concluding that they need to put less travel in their travel, so they can become more intimately acquainted with the beautiful areas they visit. Alan’s goal is to someday live in a beautiful place he can really get to know; where he can outlast the less-than-ideal days and stick around to photograph the amazing ones.

In addition to nature, some of Alan’s favorite photographic subjects include old, decrepit things like castle ruins and rusty machines. While not strictly “nature” photography, they often are found surrounded by beautiful natural landscapes. Alan likes to think of them as the world reclaiming what it once possessed after man moves on, and photographically documenting the “inevitable entropy of the universe.”

I asked Alan to include two or three of his favorite nature-related images to accompany this article. When he sent them to me, he said, “Man, it was really hard picking out three photos.” I think that’s a challenge with which we all struggle. Alan takes some amazing photos, and I have encouraged him to make a presentation to the Heard Nature Photographers to share some of his best work. He indicated that he does not feel comfortable in front of groups. So, if you want to see more of his remarkable photography, reach out, introduce yourself to him, and invite him to share some of his images with you.

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Larry Petterberg





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

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

2017 CLUB OFFICERS

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President: Elisabeth Shore

Secretary: Peter Gilbert

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Membership: Tom Martin

Refreshments: Ed Pierce

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Monthly Meeting

14 APRIL 2018

1:30 PM

Heard Natural Science Museum

1 Nature Place

McKinney, TX

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