

HEARD

Nature Photographers Club

www.heardnaturephotographers.com



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May 2018

ANNUAL HEARD NATURE PHOTO CONTEST WAS BIG SUCCESS!!



Jackie Ranney and Dick Robinson present Sy Shahid of the Heard Nature Museum with a check from the recently completed photo contest. Photo supplied by Peter Gilbert.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER FOR MAY

I want to thank Elisabeth Shore for filling in for me last month and from the reports I have received, she did a bang-up job.

REMINDER: Guy Huntley will be our class leader starting about 9:30 am the morning of our regular meeting. He will tell us all we want to know about using flash during the day. Make sure you attend, that is unless you know all about it. I sure don't and will be there to try to improve my photography.

Now for some sad news. We were supposed to be in the Hill Country at the time of the last meeting. We had to cancel the trip. Our youngest Corgi dog had a serious seizure on Monday, April 9th, two days before we were to depart. The vet gave him some medication with the hopes there not be more. Didn't go that way. He had multiple seizures the following day and we had to take him to a clinic with Neurologic capabilities. He spent the night and was sedated pretty good. Diagnosis was a form of Epilepsy, with other possibilities, so they began treatment accordingly. Eight days later they began again. Thursday, April 19th, he suffered several small events and then a long severe seizure, so we took him in again. He had developed other symptoms and the long-term prognosis was, it didn't look good and his quality of life had deteriorated quite a bit. We opted to put him down. He was only 7 years old. This is a significant loss to our family. May he rest in peace. Here is an image of the boy:



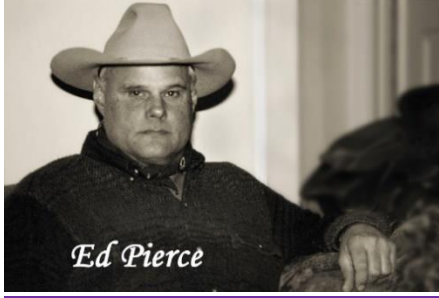
Future classes will feature Rob Hull presenting "Lightroom" in July and Irwin Lightstone presenting "Macro Photography" in September. In August we will have our annual "Table Top Workshop".

Thanks for reading.

R.E. (Ron) Marabito, President

Below are the May Refreshment Volunteers:

- Brigitte Kiba
- Kathy Ledzius
- Phyllis Fosdick
 - Clif Ranney
- David Ringrose



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!

MAY PROGRAM

ROBERT MARKOWITZ

LIFE AS A NASA PHOTOGRAPHER

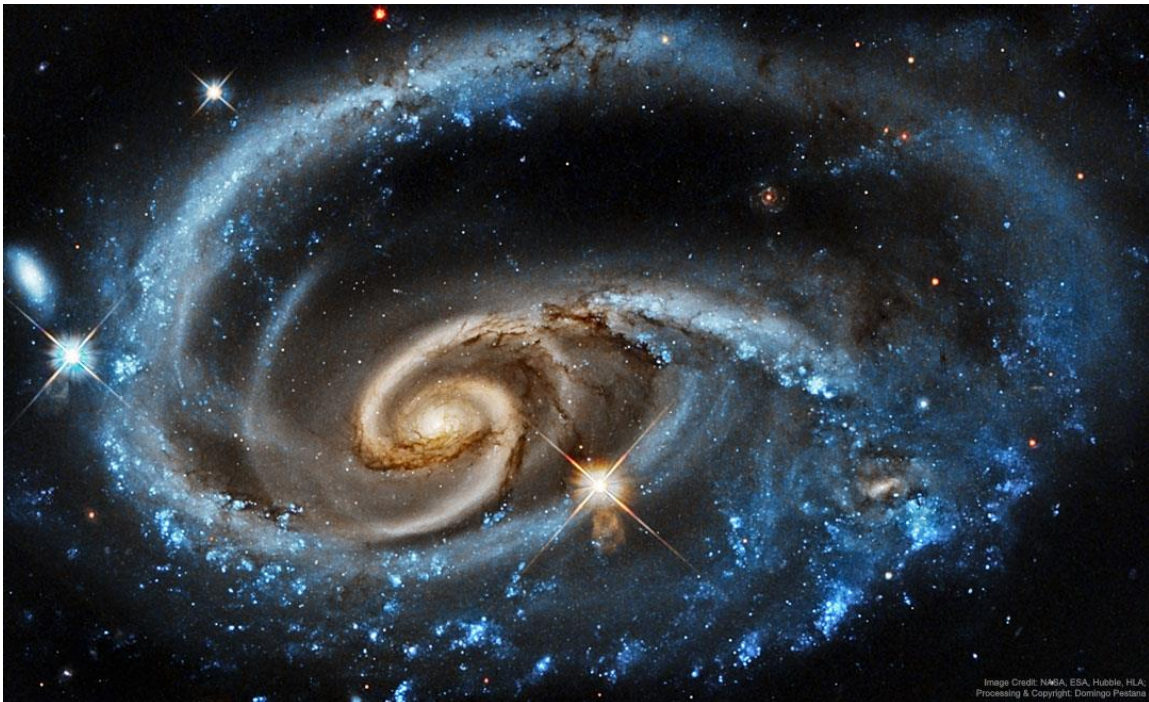
I am excited to share our May 12th program with you! This month, we will be taking a look at Earth and Nature from a very different perspective - Space. Join us for our Guest Speaker, Robert Markowitz, as he shares his work and experience in his presentation of "Life as a NASA Photographer".

He currently serves as the lead photographer as part of NASA Johnson Space Center's Imagery Acquisition Group. He will discuss his nearly 30-year career as a NASA photographer and talk about many of his iconic images, including his portraits of historic astronauts such as John Glenn, John Young and the first female

commander Eileen Collins. Robert will describe what it was like to document astronauts training to repair the Hubble Space Telescope from forty-feet underwater, to soaring in the skies in NASA's T-38 aircraft flying next to the Space Shuttle sitting atop a 747 aircraft while capturing photographs of them flying above Washington D.C. and New York City. Discover what it's like to float for nearly 30-seconds inside NASA's zero-gravity aircraft where NASA astronauts and scientists learn to experience weightlessness.

As one of NASA's few photographers, Robert has been involved with one of America's premier scientific, engineering and environmental research firms. Be sure to spread the word - this is a special opportunity to meet someone who has been involved in photographing an important part of American history!

I look forward to seeing everyone at our May 12 meeting.
Elisabeth Shore, Vice President



UGC 1810: Wildly Interacting Galaxy from Hubble

Image Credit: [NASA](#), [ESA](#), [Hubble](#), [HLA](#); Processing & Copyright: [Domingo Pestana](#)

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May 2018 Field Trip

Chandor & Clark Gardens

Weatherford, Texas

Saturday, May 19th

Both gardens have a variety of sculptures, water features, flowers and shrubs. Springs blooms will include Butterfly Bush, Oxalis, Roses, Iris, Ferns, Lilies, Echinacea, Cactus, Yucca, Daylilies, Yarrow, Magnolias, Abelia, Hydrangeas, Artemesia, Coreopsis, Bird of Paradise, wildflowers and more. At the Clark Gardens there are swans and ducks.

Opportunities abound for a wide range of regular lenses, wide to telephoto, as well as macro lenses. If you have a collapsible reflector or diffuser they could be handy particularly if it is a bright sunny day. Some of our members use fill flash to lighten shadows and illuminate deep into the flower.

It is about an hour and fifteen-minute drive from the George Bush and Coit in Plano to our first stop at Chandor Gardens. The Clark Gardens are twenty minutes from the Chandor Gardens.

1st Stop: Chandor Gardens at 9:00 am to 10:30 am

There is a mix of ancient Chinese architecture with the beauty of a formal English garden. There is a 30 foot man made waterfall and a variety of fountains. Jackie Ranney found an article about a new raised flower bed with a sloped rock rise, mimicking the shape of a Mayan pyramid. Watch for it. On such a small site there are a plethora of photographic set up possibilities. I even found a use for my fisheye.



The literature says tripods are not allowed. (Monopods are okay) However, the lady at the front desk stated that they are flexible about tripods, but we must take care not to be a hazard or block pathways.

Admission at the Chandor Gardens is \$5.

Further Information: <http://www.weatherfordparks.com/170/Chandor-Gardens>

2nd Stop: Clark Gardens at 10:50 am to 1 pm to 2 pm



This is a 50-acre garden. Flowers, shrubs, trees, ponds, lakes, waterfalls, fountains, sculptures, swans, ducks, etc. As at the Chandor there are so many possibilities for different concepts. Your creativity will flourish at both locations. Currently blooming among many other plants is an extensive collection of various Irises.

There is a G Scale outside model train layout which could give some interesting “non-nature” shots.

If you wish to bring a sack lunch, the Clark Gardens has seating areas in the gardens and the gift shop has a soda machine and very limited snacks. Tripods are okay at Clark Gardens.

Admission is \$9 for adults and \$7 for seniors. Good News! Your current Dallas Arboretum membership card gets you in free.

Further Information: <http://www.clarkgardens.org/>

The car pool location for this trip will be at the Sam’s Club in Plano at the George Bush and Coit.

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

If you wish to participate in a trip, and are not able to attend the May meeting, feel free to email Jerry at bjreece@verizon.net and I will add you to the sign-up list.

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.



= Advanced Alert =

June 2018 Field Trip

Irwin Lightstone's

Cactus Garden

Saturday June 16th

This will be a wonderful opportunity to photograph cacti and succulents that are part of Irwin's plant collection. Both macro and close-up images will be the main focus but shooting at "regular" distances will also yield great images. If you are into focus stacking, you will find many subjects available.

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

= Field Trip Report =

The Tyler Jaunt - We had sixteen participants for the venture. Although there were two busses of kids and a “stroller mom” group at the Refuge the venue was not crowded enough to be a real problem for us. Two tigers roared and squared off at each other periodically and hopefully generated some great shots. The tigers spent a lot of time lying about in the shade and often too close to the fence to get focus and blur the fence at the same time. But there were some good opportunities. The field trip show will reveal the successes.

The weather man predicted a minimal breeze for the rose garden but ended up being a little stiffer by the time we arrived. Some members got up early and went to the rose garden prior going to the refuge. That was a smart choice to remember for another year. Nine of us met for a midafternoon lunch at Rick’s on the Square and had a very nice meal and fellowship. If any participants had comments, suggestions or critiques, please send to Jerry at bjreece@verizon.net

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.



GULF STATES CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL (GSCCC) NEWS

HEARD NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS CLUB

PLACES THIRD IN

NATURE PROJECTED DIGITAL COMPETIONS FOR 2017-18

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.

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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.

FOR SALE

Oben AT-3585 Tripod, with ball head (Arca-Swiss compatible). It's a folding tripod (folds to 16"), Aluminum, can take a load of 27 lbs. Comes with carrying case. Some minor scratches on the camera mounting plate. Sells new at B&H \$190, I'll take \$125 or close offer. Will bring to May meeting. Selling because it's a bit large for my present outfit of small prime lenses.

Contact Peter Gilbert

peter.gilbert@att.net

LINKS

1. <https://www.dpreview.com/news/7500791302/dunning-kruger-effect-why-you-re-not-as-good-a-photographer-as-you-think-you-are>
2. <https://www.dpreview.com/videos/0016490252/video-10-lightroom-features-you-may-not-know-about>
3. <https://www.lensrentals.com/blog/2018/04/breakdown-of-all-the-memory-card-options-available-for-photographers-and-videographers/>
4. <https://www.lightstalking.com/7-photography-exercises-that-will-give-your-creativity-a-boost/>

From Lee Hatfield

Terree & I visited Russell Graves' property a couple of weeks ago & I think members of the Heard, Plano & Dallas clubs who do wildlife photography would be interested in going up. He has an above ground blind now that holds 3 people & he's building a dugout blind that will hold 4 and will be located near water. He also has a huge watering hole where all types of wildlife come to drink plus another couple of feeding areas for songbirds & larger wildlife.

We saw deer & lots of turkeys on our visit in early April (when it was still frigid up there) plus flickers, tufted titmouse, white-crowned sparrows & several pairs of Northern Cardinals.

Very nice living quarters are upstairs in a separate building on his property with an ensuite bathroom with shower. Bedding was a double arrangement, but I think he's going to get two twin beds soon.

His place is about 10 minutes north of Childress, TX, which is a 4 1/2-hour drive northwest from McKinney. Here's the link to his site: <https://www.redlandsranch.com>

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New HNP Member: David & Lily Ringrose By Tom Martin, Membership/Marketing Coordinator



A couple of months ago, I had the pleasure to welcome a tall, slender gentleman and his young daughter as guests to our Heard Nature Photographers (HNP) meeting. As it turned out, their names were David and Lily Ringrose. They live in Allen. David became acquainted with Bryan Zumbar through the Plano Photo Club, and Bryan, who had recently joined HNP, mentioned it to David. Lily had been involved in Heard Nature Center's youth education programs, and was developing an interest in photography, so they decided to check out HNP as a possible family activity. They jumped right in and last month's Arboretum field trip.

David grew up in Oklahoma and started shooting photographs with a Kodak 110 when he was 8 years old. At about 11 years old, his father began teaching him how to use a Nikon SLR. At 14 years of age, got his own Nikon FG. His family was seriously into photography, and he says that when they traveled, which they seem to have done a lot, he shot the telephoto shots while his dad and sister shot the wide-angle shots. They traveled to Hong Kong (where he bought the Nikon FG), England, Germany, Japan, China (they were in the fourth American tour group), Egypt, Australia, New Zealand, and the Philippines. His father strikes me as a wise man whose philosophy was that film was cheaper than plane tickets, so take the shot.

He was an active photographer all through high school and college. He was the senior class photographer who had to learn how to capture nice, natural images of all his senior peers. He also shot sports. He says that the worst was shooting wrestling matches, because it's almost impossible to get flattering photos of two guys "In unitards grappling on a mat."

He graduated from the University of Oklahoma having majored in management information systems with a minor in economics, but he continued to pursue his interest in photography doing photography for some clubs.

During a post-college trip to Spain and Italy, he bought a Minolta 35mm point-and-shoot camera following his dad's excellent suggestion that he probably didn't want to carry an SLR and multiple lenses around Europe while staying in hotels. He left home with 36 rolls of film and purchased another two dozen rolls along the way. He continued to use the Minolta for subsequent trips to Portugal, France, and The Netherlands.

David stepped into the modern (digital) era when he purchased a Canon Powershot G2. He continued to use that camera until the screen got wonky and he found that shutter lag was making it impossible to get good images of an active one-year-old daughter.

Following the demise of the Canon Powershot, he stepped up to a Nikon D80, because it was compatible with the old lenses from his film days. He then purchased a Nikon D7000 (now his back-up body), and currently shoots with his first full-frame sensor, a Nikon D750, because he was interested in its low-light capability. He also uses an Olympus TG-5 for canoeing and camping trips with Lily.

David also uses his photographic skills in charitable work. He is the Director of Help-Photo Allen, a chapter of a national charity that does photo portraits for people who, otherwise, could not afford photography. He tells a compelling story on their Web page (<http://help-portrait.com/2015/02/a-portrait-and-a-fresh-start-allen-tx/>).

Lily enjoys lots of things: piano, tae kwon do (she will be testing for her second-degree black belt this year), the outdoors and camping, and, of course, photography. Being the primary model for her dad sparked her interest, and she has already earned a photography merit badge in photography for American Heritage Girls. Lily's first camera experiences were with her dad's DSLR and her mom's point-and-shoot, but she got her own Fuji XP120 point-and-shoot for Christmas. She particularly enjoys nature photography, shooting Lego and Stickbot stop-motion, and learning more about photography.

David and Lily are delightful people, and I hope everyone takes a moment to get acquainted soon. You will find some of their photos following this article.







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

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

2018 CLUB OFFICERS

President: Ron Marabito

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Secretary: Peter Gilbert

Treasurer: Peter Gilbert

Membership: Tom Martin

Refreshments: Ed Pierce

Field Trips: Jerry Reece

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Monthly Meeting

12 MAY 2018

1:30 PM

Heard Natural Science Museum

1 Nature Place

McKinney, TX

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