

# HEARD NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS CLUB

**MEETING DATE \*\*\*JULY 13TH\*\*\***

**• MEETING WILL BE IN LAUGHLIN HALL**

## President's thoughts

The Club officers held a meeting in June ahead of the regular meeting. At this officer's meeting we accepted the resignation of Dick Robinson as Photo Contest Coordinator, because he is moving sometime later this year to near Georgetown. Dick will remain in the Dallas area until his new home is completed, so we might still see him at upcoming meetings for a few more months. On behalf of all the Club members, I wish Dick well in his retirement, and extend to him a big "thank you" for stepping up and serving our Club and members in the role of Contest Coordinator (as well as helping with past contests as long as I can remember). Elsewhere in this Newsletter you can read about the 2019 Contest summary statistics.

Jackie was nominated to take over as Photo Contest Coordinator for 2020, so we are now searching for a replacement Field Trip Coordinator for 2020, and hopefully beyond. If anyone is interested, please contact me or Jackie and we can give you a heads up on the job.

We now have 156 paid-up members, which I believe is an all-time high; 21 folks have recently joined or rejoined. However, only a few of us are regular bringers of goodies for snack time at the meetings! I know several folks have donated money to the kitty to allow Ed to purchase food and drink items, but it would be great if more people would bring along their favorite calorie bombs (or nuts and twigs if that's what you prefer, but please, no celery); please sign up in the book that Ed puts out at each meeting.

As many of you would know, the Club has a Facebook page, to showcase images from members, and occasionally, provide advice and information. These days, social media is becoming increasingly common as a means of sharing and communicating. We are thinking of adding a question to the on-line membership form to ask if folks are already on Facebook. In addition, for the 2020 Photo Contest we plan to set up a new Facebook page that will be just for contest-related matters, and Elisabeth has agreed to be the moderator of this new page. More about this later.

Good shooting!

*Peter*

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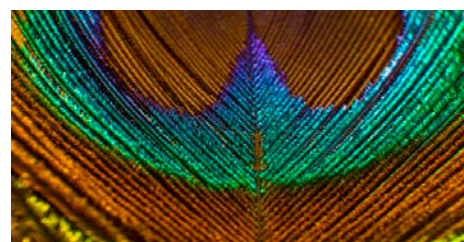
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Infrared Golf course by Kathy Adams Clark



Peacock Feather by Kathy Adams Clark



# Guest Speaker – Kathy Adams Clark

By Elisabeth Shore

Texas summers can be brutally hot to get out and find places and things you can photograph without melting away. How many times have you heard someone (yourself included?!) lament that there is nothing to photograph? Yet if one looks around, there are actually a lot of things to photograph.

This month's speaker is Kathy Adams Clark. Join us as she shows there are hidden photo opportunities if you are willing to look and try new things. Her program will explore the use of macro lenses, infrared, long-exposure, focus stacking, and much more. Novice to experienced photographers will gain insight into new and different techniques and equipment (gadgets) that can be used to create new masterpieces.

Kathy Adams Clark has been a professional nature photographer since 1995. She runs the stock agency KAC Productions that represents the work of 15 photographers. Kathy's photos have been published in hundreds of places including Family Fun, Natures Best, New York Times, Birders World, and Ranger Rick. AAA Journey, Texas Parks & Wildlife and Texas Highways magazines have all used Kathy's photos on their cover.

Her photos have also appeared in numerous books and calendars including the Barnes & Noble Ireland Countryside Calendar, the cover of the Arbor Foundation Rainforest Calendar, and the Sierra Engagement Calendar. Kathy's photos of Houston were compiled into a calendar offered in Costco in 2016. Her photos appear every week in the "Nature" column in the Houston Chronicle written by her husband, Gary Clark.

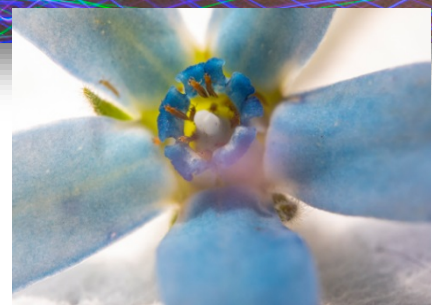
Kathy and Gary have worked with national publishing houses to produce ten books that combine their photography and writing skills. Their latest books are Book of Texas Birds published by Texas A&M University Press and Backroads of Texas published by Voyageur Press.

Kathy's photography is featured in Portrait of Houston published in 2012 by Farcountry Press. Photographing Big Bend National Park, published in 2013 by Texas A&M Press, is written by Kathy and uses her photography throughout.

Kathy is past-President of the North American Nature Photography Association. She teaches photography and is a popular speaker at local and national events. She leads photo tours through Strabo Tours to countries including Costa Rica, Spain, Africa, Italy, Peru, Morocco, and Bhutan.



**Kathy Adams Clark**



**Blue star Milkweed**



**Patterns and Shapes**



## Know your equipment

On a recent trip I realized I had not planned very well when it came to lens choice. Since I had no other choice, I managed to work with what I had. So, when I had a minute, I googled shooting with one lens and there were tons of articles about it. Most of them brought up a very good point, we should know our equipment and its limits. By limiting ourselves to, in this case, to just one lens, I had to figure out how I could capture what I “saw” with what I had. In my case, I needed a long lens and only had a wider-angle lens, so I had to get a lot closer to my subject than I had planned. When photographing wildlife, it isn’t always the easiest thing to do. My challenge to you is to try a new setting on your camera or even go through all the menu items taking the same image just to see how each setting effects the results. You can also take one lens and photograph the same object at different distances to see how that effects your results. Either way you’ll get more practice and learn more about the limits of your equipment.





## 2019 Field Trip Schedule Heard Nature Photographers (As of May 17, 2019)

June 28-29-30, 2019	Caddo Lake – Uncertain, TX – wait list only
July 20, 2019	Nighttime Photography with Jim Hamel in Downtown Dallas – wait list only
August 17, 2019	Annual Tabletop Workshop
September	Still working on it!
October 12, 2019	Blackland Prairie Raptor Center – Lucas, TX (This has been rescheduled by the Center due to weather conditions predicted for their May 18, 2019 event.)
October 19-25, 2019	Big Bend National Park – wait list only.
November	Possibility of two Fall Color field trips for November! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scarborough Haven – Emory, TX – dates not yet announced (they will only be open for one weekend).</li> <li>• Dallas Arboretum (Date pending Scarborough Haven date).</li> </ul>
November 15-17, 2019	Mowdy Ranch Mustangs – Oklahoma This trip is currently full – wait list only
December 5, 2019	Vitruvian Lights – Addison, TX This has been changed to a week night since crowds on the weekends are very heavy and not conducive to real photography.

Note that this is a living schedule and subject to updates/changes.

As always, call if you have questions!

Jackie Ranney  
Field Trip Coordinator  
214/478-2107



## WE'RE HIRING !! Sort of.....

<u>Position:</u>	<b>Photo Contest Coordinator</b>
<u>Salary:</u>	Not really
<u>Benefits:</u>	Job satisfaction! Working with terrific people!
<u>Skillset needed:</u>	Enthusiasm, attention to detail, comfortable with a computer, ability to delegate – you will have group of volunteers to help

We're looking for someone to prepare for and then coordinate the 2021 annual photography contest! If you're into challenges and love contributing to worthwhile projects, this might be for you!!!

The first (and most important) committee meeting for the 2020 contest is to be held on Tuesday, August 6, 2019 and ideally, you'll be part of it. By jumping in a year early, you'll be able to ride along through the entire process, be part of the preparation and decision making and help to identify ways to make the contest even better. Yes, the job takes time – no doubt about it – but the contest committee works together to see that it all gets done so that no one person does it all. Responsibilities of the committee include selecting categories to keep the contest interesting, locating judges, marketing (some on-line and some in person), updating the information on the contest website, soliciting sponsors, managing submissions, invoicing via PayPal, ordering the ribbons, managing the award presentation, "thank yous" to the participants and sponsors, periodic reports to the club's Board and anything else that comes up during the months between August and April (yes, preparation does start that early!). Jackie can provide you with more details and coach you every step of the way during the 2020 contest planning and execution process.

Please give this serious consideration. For many years now, we as a club have committed to the Heard Museum that we would run the contest and donate the net proceeds to the Museum for their growth and maintenance. In turn, the Museum does not charge us for using their meeting rooms for our monthly meetings (some with classes before the meetings) or for space to conduct the annual photography workshop.

Let's talk.....214/478-2107

Jackie Ranney

2020 Contest Coordinator



## WE'RE HIRING !! Sort of.....another opening

<u>Position:</u>	<b>Field Trip Coordinator/s</b>
<u>Salary:</u>	Not really
<u>Benefits:</u>	Job satisfaction! Working with terrific people!
<u>Skillset needed:</u>	Like to meet new people and make new friends Interested in leading a group of folks to a location Scouting new locations for field trips Organization is a plus Knowledge of word or excel and a slide show program are a plus – all are easy to learn, and we can teach you Laptop computer or have access to one you can borrow for slide show programs

Since the Board has nominated Jackie to manage the annual photography contest for 2020, “the search is on” for a new Field Trip Coordinator or Coordinators for 2020! We all have talents to share – Jackie’s just happens to be “organizing the details”. If you have a desire to get more involved in the club and get to know fellow club members, this is the position for you. It’s a great opportunity to give back to the Club and share your talents.

Do you have places you want to go photograph but don’t want to go alone or a place that you’ve been that you want to share with other photographers? Being the Field Trip Coordinator gives you the opportunity to share photo experiences with several likeminded folks. Don’t want to do it alone, we’ve had two Field Trip coordinators in the past and that is certainly an option. We would like to have a local outing scheduled monthly and if you want to schedule out of town trips that is great too but not mandatory.

Jackie has done an excellent job scouting new locations in town and scheduling out of town trips. If you want to get more information or have questions you can talk to Jackie, Jerry Reece or Terree Stone, they have been the field trip coordinators in the recent past. Ideally, we’d like to have the person/s assist in the last couple of trips, so they can get the hang of it.



# Competition is Not a Dirty Word

by Sharon Prislipsky

"I don't like to compete, I just take photographs for myself," "I usually don't agree with the judge, anyway," or "Competition is a waste of time, it will ruin the fun we have in our club," are only some of the things I have often heard fellow photo enthusiasts say. I understand where they are coming from - competition forces you to put yourself on the line, and it is often uncomfortable to have work that you have put time and effort into judged. When I entered my first competition I recall clearly the feeling of my heart racing as I waited to see if I would measure up.

Over the years, however, I have come to see the value in competition. If you want to hone your skills, there is probably no better way. That is, providing you treat each competition as a lesson and try to learn from it.

One of the first things I learned from competition is that it is important to find subject matter that not only interests me but speaks to me on an emotional level. I have tremendous admiration for the wonderful sports action photos I see in the PSA Journal and other photo periodicals, but I have never been a sports fan, so I am unlikely to ever make a prize-winning sports action photograph. Bugs don't inspire me, so I would be wasting my time trying to take macro shots of insect eyes. I love nature, back roads, dramatic landscapes and anything "Americana" so my efforts are best spent trying to communicate to others the passion those subjects invoke in me. The bottom line is, if you don't love your subject, neither will anyone else.

The second lesson is very simple: if the subject you choose is something very common, one that most people see often, you have to show it to them in a different way. Everyone has seen trees. If trees are what you love you need a unique approach. That may be a different perspective than what is ordinarily seen, extraordinary light, a lens choice that creates a special effect, or post processing that makes it stand out from all the other photographs of trees.

The third, and most important thing I learned is that many great photographs are imperfect, but they all have impact. Impact is the connection between the photographer and the viewer. If you have ever heard a melody that took you right back to an important time in your life, if you have ever cried while watching a movie or a play, if you have ever finished a good book and felt that the characters in it were your best friends, you understand what it means to make a connection. Our goal is to do the same thing with our photographs. I feel a sense of pride when a viewer says, "That looks like the place where I grew up." (It usually isn't.) Or they say, "That scene is so beautiful I feel like I want to walk into it." (They can't.) Or they may say, "That looks like a flower my grandmother loved to grow." (Maybe.) The important thing is that I photographed that particular subject because it meant something to me and my viewer liked it because it meant something to him or her.

Finally, participating in competition requires that we learn how to deal with disappointment. No one can win all of the time. Some of us may not win very often. If you treat each competition as a learning experience you will begin to be a more successful competitor. Study the results of every competition you enter. If the judge supplies comments read them thoughtfully and try to see what it was about the winning images that resonated with him or her. Keep an open mind about your own work and learn how to critically evaluate it. We all have images we like. It is fine to keep them in our catalogues and enjoy them again and again. Perhaps they have sentimental meanings for us. But unless we have communicated that to others, they are only our memories, not winning images.

Remember that all great photographs are a result of experience and you get that experience by taking a lot of bad photographs. Most of them should be tossed; no amount of post processing work will make a poorly captured photograph into a winning one.

Competition is Not a Dirty Word – cont'd

## **TYPICAL WORKFLOW**

Step 1: Set black and white points

Step 2: Adjust white balance if necessary

Step 3: Make Global Adjustments - Bump up contrast and clarity slightly  
-(In LR not more than 15)

Step 4: Straighten the horizon

Step 5: Remove sensor dust spots

Step 6: Check for chromatic aberration

Step 7: Check for halos

Step 8: Tone down specular highlights if necessary

Step 9: Patrol the borders

Step 10: Adjust the tone curve

Step 11: Make targeted adjustments

- adjustment layers
- selective dodge and burn

Step 12: Evaluate for monochrome

Step 13: Finishing

- consider special effects
- add vignette

Step 14: Save and back it up



## 2019 Heard Photo Contest ends with a Check to the Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary

The 2019 Heard Photo Contest has wrapped up and was once again a success. This year our judges had to review over 800 images submitted by over 130 individuals – in either the Adult or Student classification. Our three judges were very complimentary of the variety of images received in all the Contest categories and the overall quality of the images submitted; making it particularly difficult to make the final selections. In last month's Newsletter, winning images from the various categories were featured and once again this month we are highlighting the Overall Best of Show Image submitted by Pody Connally.

As you are aware, the Heard Photo Contest is a fund-raising activity of the Club that supports the programming activities of the Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary. At the conclusion of this year's Contest, the Heard Photo Club presented a check to the Heard's Executive Director, Mr. Sy Shahid, in the amount of \$5,851.79. This contribution will aid the Museum in achieving its mission of "...an appreciation of nature and its conservation through education."

Next year's Contest is not that far away! Now is the time for you to get out, shoot and enjoy all the things Mother Nature has to share with you so you will have great images to submit in the **2020** Heard Photo Contest.

Dick Robinson

2019 Heard Photo Contest Coordinator





Elinor Hite found a YouTube video on the fastest camera in the world – here is the link. 10 trillion fps

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ys\\_yKGNFRQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ys_yKGNFRQ)

## For Sale

### **FOR SALE:**

**Manfrotto 393 Heavy Telephoto Lens Support (Gimbal Mount) with Quick Release Adapter and Plate \_ 4.7/5.0 Stars, B&H (182 reviews)**

Easily supports Heavy Telephoto Lenses with Camera (I use a Sigma 150-500mm)  
Tilt and Lock Lens in place, tracks smoothly, Great for photographing wildlife/birds  
Load Capacity: 44.1 lb excellent condition  
-- asking \$100 or thereabouts

Contact Bob Green, 303-345-4166, [imagesRBG@gmail.com](mailto:imagesRBG@gmail.com)

### **For Sale:**

Nikon Micro 60mm f2.8D  
Nikon Micro 105mm f2.8d  
Nikon Micro 85mm f2.8 D TS  
Nikon 135 f2 DC  
Nikon 12-24 F4 AFS-DX  
Nikon 18-140 F3.5-5.6 DX  
Nikon 17-55 F2.8 AFS-DX  
Nikon D800 Body (less than 1000 shutter clicks)  
Nikon D7100 Body  
Hasselblad 500cm w/80mm 2.8 Planar  
2-film backs  
Prism and waist level finders  
plus extras  
Lowepro Dryzone 100 Waterproof Backpack (never used)  
Lowepro Dryzone Rover Waterproof Backpack (used a few times)  
Pelican PCS182 Rolling Camera Case (used 1 time)

If anyone has any interest in any of these items, please email me: [clifbrandt@aol.com](mailto:clifbrandt@aol.com)

## UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Month	Day	Guest Speaker Name	Presentation Topic
August	10	Kathy & Robert Norwood	Drone Photography
September	14	TBA	
October	12	Earl Nottingham	Have you seen what is around Texas
November	9	TBA	
December		No Guest Speaker	Members Choice

# GSCCC News

At the June meeting I mentioned that we have decided to open our Gulf States contest entries to include images that may show the hand of man as well as the strict nature category. I will enter any pictures that you send in that don't qualify under the Nature Projected in other categories where they will fit. See below for sizing and other information regarding entries. If you have additional questions, please contact me @ [anitaok@outlook.com](mailto:anitaok@outlook.com)

Peter Gilbert took 1st place in May's Nature projected image with his White Sands Black and White image.



**Contests:** It's a whole new year, and a fresh chance for our club to shine! The guidelines are a little dry, but here they are:

- Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict observations from all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and to certify as to its honest presentation.
- The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality. Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements enhance the nature story. The presence of scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals is permissible. Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens, or obviously set arrangements, are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.
- No techniques that add to, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content are permitted. All adjustments must appear natural. Color images can be converted to grayscale monochrome. Infrared images are not allowed.

We have some great photographers in our midst. **Let's show off!**

Please size any images no larger than 1024 wide by 768 high, and send them in email to [anitaok@outlook.com](mailto:anitaok@outlook.com). (If images are in portrait orientation, they must still only be 768 pixels high.) Winners will be acknowledged during monthly meetings!

*ANITA*

## July Refreshment Volunteers:

**Clif Ranney**  
**Phyllis Fosdick**  
**Mike Sweatt**  
**David Drake**  
**Ed Pierce**

If you haven't volunteered to bring snacks to share – there's still time – Ed will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting. We need about 5 folks per meeting to bring your favorite dessert or something healthy like a fruit or veggie tray.

**A big thanks to Ed who brings the drinks, cups, plates, napkins, forks and ice to every meeting.**







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

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

## 2019 CLUB OFFICERS

President: Peter Gilbert	<a href="mailto:peter.gilbert@att.net">peter.gilbert@att.net</a>
Vice President: Elisabeth Shore	<a href="mailto:eshore738@gmail.com">eshore738@gmail.com</a>
Secretary/Treasurer: Brian Clark	<a href="mailto:brian@emporiummax.com">brian@emporiummax.com</a>
Membership: Alan Daniel	<a href="mailto:alan.w.daniel@icloud.com">alan.w.daniel@icloud.com</a>
Refreshments: Ed Pierce	<a href="mailto:ed.pierce1@att.net">ed.pierce1@att.net</a>
Field Trips: Jackie Ranney	<a href="mailto:jackieranney@aol.com">jackieranney@aol.com</a>
Contest Coordinator: Jackie Ranney	<a href="mailto:jackieranney@aol.com">jackieranney@aol.com</a>
Webmaster: Rob Hull	<a href="mailto:info@greatphotography.com">info@greatphotography.com</a>
Newsletter Editor: Terree Stone	<a href="mailto:t.stone3@sbcglobal.net">t.stone3@sbcglobal.net</a>
GSCCC Representative: Anita Oakley	<a href="mailto:anitaoak@outlook.com">anitaoak@outlook.com</a>

## MONTHLY MEETING

13 JULY 2019

1:30 PM

**HEARD NATURAL SCIENCE MUSEUM**

1 NATURE PLACE

MCKINNEY, TX 75069

<http://www.heardnaturephotographers.com>