

HEARD NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS CLUB

AUGUST 2019
VOLUME 35, ISSUE 8

MEETING DATE *AUGUST 10TH*****

- **MEETING WILL BE IN LAUGHLIN HALL**

President's thoughts

First, a reminder that the meeting this month is scheduled to start at 2pm in Laughlin Hall, 30mins later than before. Terree has updated the last page of this Newsletter to reflect this change. The Museum is normally busier during school vacation periods, and after the dinosaurs return (September) so Laughlin Hall is most often occupied Saturday mornings with kids' birthday parties and so-on; sometimes it's hard to kick them out in time for us to set up our equipment with an earlier meeting start time.

Rob Hull, Alan Daniel and I met this week to go over some updates and improvements to our Club membership webpage (and related pages), to make it easier to sign up for membership and pay the dues at the same time. More about this later as the new system is ready for prime time. Alan will be making a short slide show in a couple of months to explain things. A big shout out to Rob for taking his own time to do this for us!

I want all y'all to be thinking deeply about running for office in 2020. As you know, we are looking for a Field Trip Coordinator, and in addition to that, a Contest Coordinator for 2021 and beyond – Jackie has kindly offered to train someone for that role. And believe me, after Jackie has finished with you, you will know everything there is about the Contest to be successful!

Finally, August is our Tabletop workshop (see elsewhere in this Newsletter) because it's too darn hot to be outside! This workshop is open to Club members only (no guests); however, we are quite happy to sign up new members on the day. We will have a sign-up table available for that. So please tell your photographer friends and ask them to come along (with \$10).

Finally, Clif Ranney took this candid shot of me at Caddo Lake. Great shot Clif, despite the scowling old geezer subject! (I was looking carefully for panthers). *Peter*



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Pegasus
Dallas, Texas



Reunion Tower
Dallas, Texas



Guest Speaker – Mike Sherman

By Elisabeth Shore



Mike Sherman

The history of the Republic of Texas has shown that many industries have dominated the economy. These industries helped to produce many objects that come to mind when you think of our great state – objects that have become associated with iconic images you see around you daily.

Our August guest speaker is one of our own members – Mike Sherman. Mike has traveled the state of Texas for seven years photographing the major and minor scenes that are the heart and soul of this great state. His program, “Iconic Texas”, will highlight many of these images, and because of the new age of photography technology, he can finally control the entire process from shutter click to final display of his image. Unlike a more “traditional” artist, he cannot create the image – he can only discover the beauty that is already there. Mike’s mission is to capture that beauty artistically by using light, composition, digital developing and advanced printing techniques to present the beauty with impact. He will share what he sees in the scene, how he captures it, and what he does to present a product.

Mike Sherman is an accomplished fine art photographer with a passion for his art and his state. He searches for beautiful creations by man and nature and capturing and presenting these creations using fine art digital photography is what he strives for. His subjects range from landscapes to vernacular architecture, from flora to wildlife, from old cars to old buildings. He sees beauty in the scenes of the Southwest, and especially loves Spanish and Native American architecture, both ancient and contemporary.

All of Mike’s work is digitally photographed and developed, printed using museum archival paper, inks and matting, and all work is done by him. The analog techniques of composition, color and texture are combined with the digital technology of the computer to create new methods that present images in new and powerful ways.

Examples of Mike’s creative work can be found on www.mikeshermanphotography.com



Dealey Plaza
Dallas, Texas



Margaret Hunt Bridge
Dallas, Texas



New Iconic Texas
Mike Sherman

August Field Trip/Workshop

The dog days of summer are upon us and photographing outside in the heat is miserable. So, it's time to dust off the camera equipment and come to our indoor workshop on August 17th. The rooms will be airconditioned and this will give you a chance to try out some new things with your equipment. Kathy Adams Clark, our speaker last month talked a little bit about trying new setting on your camera and really spending time seeing what your camera, lenses and other equipment can do.

Jackie has lined up a bunch of activities for us to enjoy. We have Mike Cameron that is going to show us how to build a backyard bird photo studio and Paul Chance talking about photographing Big Bend. Rob Hull is bringing his "splash" photography set up – if you haven't tried it, it can be addictive and fun. There is also going to be several stations set up for you to wonder around and try some new photo techniques. Bring your camera, tripod and other equipment – some stations you will need your tripod to get the best results. Remember to register on the website. You must be a member to attend this activity.

We will have a station with mylar and flowers – so you can get creative with reflections



It should be a great event, be prepared to have fun and enjoy the fellowship of other members.



2019 Field Trip Schedule Heard Nature Photographers (As of July 22, 2019)

August 17, 2019	Annual Tabletop Workshop – SRC Building
September 28, 2019	The Dallas Arboretum
October 12, 2019	Blackland Prairie Raptor Center – Lucas, TX
October 19-25, 2019	Big Bend National Park – wait list only.
November 15-17, 2019	Mowdy Ranch Mustangs – Oklahoma (wait list only)

Scarborough Haven in Emory, TX is still a possibility for November, too. They will not announce the only weekend they will be open until Fall gets closer.

December 5, 2019	Vitruvian Lights – Addison, TX Note that this field trip is on a Thursday night.
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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>	Photo Contest Coordinator
<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>	Field Trip Coordinator/s
<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.





JUNE 2019 FIELD TRIP CADDO LAKE

BY

**JACKIE RANNEY/FIELD
TRIP COORDINATOR**

What an adventure we had!!! Thirty-two of us packed our bags (including the necessities.....you know those.....camera(s), tripod, SD cards, multiple lens....all that important stuff!) and headed for East Texas on Friday, June 28.

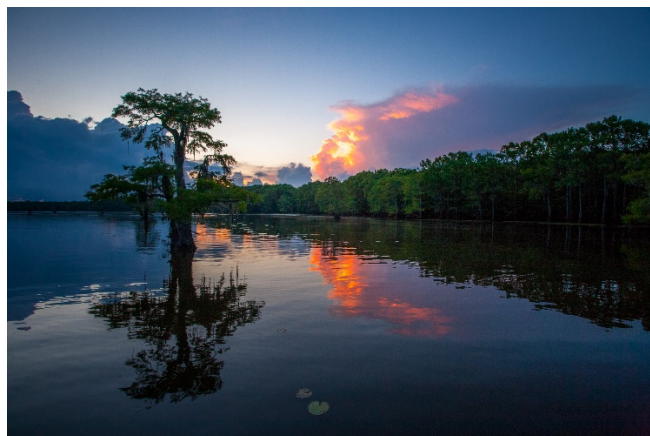
We met for dinner at the Riverbend Restaurant on Caddo Lake at 5:00 p.m. Talk about a terrific staff – they had us seated, orders taken, served, ticketed, paid and out the door IN ONE HOUR! They knew we were coming and were appropriately staffed but that's a lot of people to move in an hour and they did it smiling all the way.

With Riverbend's excellent service, we wound up being at the boat docks a whole hour early.....just finding a place to park was a challenge and everyone took it in stride. A few of us stepped into the Shady Glade Café by the dock for a quick soft drink only to find that all 31 seats in the café were completely taken! Who knew.....!!

We got ourselves all “organized”, into the boats and sailed off to photograph not only the surroundings but ideally, the sunset. The weather wasn't particularly cooperative and the “stunning sunset” we hoped for didn't exactly happen. We made it back to the docks, said good night to the boat captains and headed back to our overnight lodging.

So.....as they say, “the story continues”!....by the time we reached our hotel in town, it was raining. Hmmm..... next morning, even with rain, thunder and lightning threatening, all but a couple of us were back at the dock at 5:15 a.m. sleepy and a bit apprehensive about being out on the water. The final decision was to skip the morning trip (weren't going to have a sunrise as it was!) and the captains rearranged their schedules so they were available for another sunset tour. The rain continued most of the day and we courageous photographers donned our rain gear, walked the streets of Jefferson with cameras in hand and had a really enjoyable day in spite of the changes.

By that evening the rain had cleared so again we met at the docks at the appointed time, headed out for some really great photography and a gorgeous sunset to our absolutely delight! I'm not sure any of us got back to our hotels before 11:00 but it was worth every moment we had to remember Caddo Lake!!!



Photograph by Kurtis Allen



JULY 2019 FIELD TRIP

NIGHT LIGHTS

W /

JIM HAMEL

BY

**JACKIE RANNEY/FIELD TRIP
COORDINATOR**

When you want to learn, ask a professional! And that's just what we did for our July field trip. Jim Hamel, author of the "Night Photography" course on the Digital Photography School website, led a group of us on an exciting adventure to photograph the Margaret Hunt Hill bridge at dusk (designed by architect Santiago Calatrava) then on to the Churchill Way overpass to photograph Dallas traffic after dark – VERY dark!!

We met for dinner at Off-Site Kitchen in Trinity Groves just across the Trinity River on Singleton Blvd. What a treat! Not only was the restaurant absolutely packed and the food was delicious, but timing allowed us time to get to know each other better and share all sorts of war stories! (Just an aside....if you're there in the month of July, 7:00 p.m. is a bit early for catching the golden hour!!)

If you've not yet been to "the levee" overlooking downtown Dallas, there is ample parking and the Ron Kirk Pedestrian bridge (which parallels the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge) offers multiple opportunities for people watching, street photography and ample photographic views of the Calatrava bridge. As a community gathering place for families, friends (and photographers!), it is well lighted and easy to access. The levee, particularly appealing when the Trinity River has flooded, offers multiple levels for positioning your tripod and getting those "under the bridge" shots and downtown cityscapes. Traffic is very heavy on the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge/Singleton Blvd. so photographs are not taken on this bridge itself under normal circumstances.

Once it was really dark, we proceeded to the Churchill Way overpass that crosses I-75 just south of the High Five interchange in the northern part of Dallas. Well lighted parking is available at Costco on the west side of I-75 and it's a five-minute walk to the overpass. (Vehicles exiting, I-75 have to come to a complete stop before proceeding in a left turn to go over the overpass and the very wide open area allows plenty of room for photographers with their tripods.) One word of advice – going to this location unaccompanied isn't recommended.



Talk about a fun photo session! Jim worked with us on positioning our equipment, advice about F/stops and timing and anything else any of us needed! What a treat and a great opportunity to really experiment with our equipment and improve our skills. Thank you, Jim!!!

Check out some of Jim's articles! <https://digital-photography-school.com/author/jimhamel/> and Jim's website <https://www.jimhamelphotography.com/>



HAVE YOU SEEN IT ???? We have another addition to our website! "Galleries" is where you'll find images from our field trips and other photographic activities in which the club participates! Thanks go to our webmaster, Rob Hull, for keeping our website fun and exciting for everyone!!



Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge 10th Annual Photography contest

- Contest is open to anyone not involved in judging or coordinating the contest
- Photographs must be taken at Hagerman NWR within the past 5 calendar years
- Four Categories will be judged:
 - **Wildlife** – Animals and birds in their natural habitat
 - **Flora and Macro** – Flowers, trees, and shrubs in their natural habitat. This category includes images of insects, plants, and animals taken with specialized macro equipment, settings or close up images taken with a telephoto lens
 - **Landscape** – Expansive and dramatic views of the land and its features. Photographs in this category may include images of people enjoying the Refuge
 - **Artistic** – Artistic compositions in nature, both natural and manipulated in post processing (black and white, infrared, stitched panoramas, multiple-exposure, digital manipulation). Photographs in this category may include images of people enjoying the Refuge. HDR will be judged in this category
- Entry Fee is \$1.00 per image for Friends of Hagerman NWR members and \$2.00 per image for Non-Members
- Entries will be accepted from. Aug 1, 2019 through 4 pm, Aug 31, 2019
- Contest Rules and Entry Form will be available on the Friends of Hagerman NWR web site:
<https://www.friendsofhagerman.com/Home>

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Month	Day	Guest Speaker Name	Presentation Topic
September	14	Randy Dunn	How to outthink your automatic camera to improve your photography
October	12	Earl Nottingham	Have you seen what is around Texas
November	9	Ron and Sharlott Hasty	Jaguars of Brazil
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

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. (If images are in portrait orientation, they must still only be 768 pixels high.) Winners will be acknowledged during monthly meetings!

ANITA

August Refreshment Volunteers:

- Mike Sweatt
- Ron Varley
- Mary Binford
- Anita Oakley
- Liv Schad

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

MONTHLY MEETING

10 AUGUST 2019

2:00 PM

HEARD NATURAL SCIENCE MUSEUM

1 NATURE PLACE

MCKINNEY, TX 75069

<http://www.heardnaturephotographers.com>