

HEARD NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS CLUB

MEETING DATE *FEBRUARY 8TH*****

• MEETING WILL BE IN LAUGHLIN HALL **2 PM**

President's thoughts

By the time you read this our 42nd annual photo contest will be underway. Entries are open until Saturday February 23 so there is still plenty of time for you to find those "winners" and submit them.

A big "thank you" to the entire Contest team for the hours of toil and love they have put into making this happen!

The January "swap meet" went very well, we had about 43 people show up, and lots of fun exchanging our "stuff". It was a nice change in the routine and a chance to talk "shop" if for no other reason. Thank you to everyone who participated.

February at the Heard means Trout Lilies! Typically, these small flowers bloom in mid-late February and are a treat to shoot, even though it involves what I like to call "wet belly" photography, see the photo (apologies to Rob*: I'm sure everyone recognizes him from this view).



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2020 DUES ARE DUE \$20/YEAR

At the February meeting I plan to briefly outline some shooting tips and techniques you might want to try if you are not familiar with shooting these flowers (if Ron Marabito comes along, he can do that for us!)

* by the way, Rob recently became a Grandpa – Congratulations!

Peace,

Peter

Meeting Room:

We will be meeting in Laughlin Hall January ~ March in 2020.

GUEST SPEAKER – VEN VENKATESH

By Elisabeth Shore



Our guest speaker for our February meeting is Ven Venkatesh, a Plano-based photographer, who was a member recommendation.

Ven describes himself under the label of an “opportunistic photographer”. He lives with his bird-watcher and travel-planner wife, Tara. Together, they travel domestically and internationally. Their most memorable domestic trip was to the Oregon coast, spanning 18 days and 5400 miles.

Ven and Tara have travelled to several countries, and their bucket list is still long. After each trip Ven compiles a photo-book of travel photographs, and he has several groups where he shares his travels and photography, which is how he came to my attention. 😊

Ven credits his knowledge about photography from everything he learned at Collin College under the tutelage of a host of accomplished art photographers. Among other things, he learned the art of making black and white prints in the dark room, color prints (in even darker rooms!) and digital post-processing in Photoshop and Lightroom.

His presentation will showcase a trip with Tara to Egypt – with pictures of the country’s landscape, iconic landscapes and cultural activities.

His work can be found on the following website:

500px.com/vensine



Texas Discovery Gardens Butterfly House Field Trip

By Steven Earles

About 16 Heard members met at the Texas Discovery Gardens to photograph butterflies on Saturday, January 25th. About half of the group walked to the Old Mill Inn for lunch.

The weather was great outdoors, but we found the butterfly house hot and humid, creating some interesting effects with fogged lenses. The butterflies were reasonably cooperative, and our members got some good shots.

Thanks to all who participated in this field trip and thanks to Jack Harrison for this image.



FIELD TRIPS

If you are interested in any of the field trips scheduled you may sign up on our web site, email me at heardphototrip@gmail.com or sign up at our meeting.

2020 Field Trips

Date	Location
2/15	Heard Museum Trout Lilies
4/3 through 4/5	Mowdy Mustang Ranch
11/6 through 11/8	Caddo Lake Fall Colors

Heard Museum Trout Lilies

Trout Lilies usually start blooming at the Heard in the middle of February. They can be located on the Hoot Owl Trail. We will meet at the gift shop at 9:00 am to walk down to the Trout Lilies together. The Heard opens at 7:30 am the second Saturday of the month if you want to try to get some images in the early morning light. And don't forget, entry is free to members of the Heard Nature Photographers on meeting day. When I issue the call for images, I will send it to everyone who signed up for this event. So, if you plan to take some photos at the Heard during February, sign up and share some of your best.

Mowdy Mustang Ranch, Coalgate, OK

This is a repeat of the very popular trip the club went on last year. This experience will be different. At last year's event, the horses were being fed so they gathered in groups waiting for the feed truck. For this event, they will probably be spread out grazing. The Mowdys have increased the rates for this year but they are giving us a discount from their published prices. We are limited to 20 photographers, first come firsts serve. You can find more details on our website.

Caddo Lake Fall Colors

We will be returning to Caddo Lake this year, but we will be going to capture the fall colors this trip. Caddo is home to many species of birds, mammals, fish, plants, and to the bald cypress. I don't know how many animals or birds we will see on this trip, but there is good chance the cypress will be in full color. More details on our website.



**April 3-4-5, 2020 Field Trip
Mowdy Mustang Ranch
Coalgate, OK**

IMPORTANT: Our field trip is limited (by the owners of the Ranch) to 20 participants for them to provide adequate time, attention and on-site transportation to and from Ranch locations for this photography weekend.

This is a repeat of the very popular trip the club went on last year. This experience will be different. The horses are fed in the fall and winter, so they are bunched up waiting for the feed truck. In the spring they will probably be grazing so they will be spread out. Rates have increased from last, but owners are giving us a discount from their published prices.

Location

Mowdy Mustang Ranch – Oklahoma’s only wild mustang ecosanctuary dedicated to ecotourism. Located 12 miles NE of Coalgate in the hills of southeastern Oklahoma, 4,000 acres – 180 horses, expecting 200 more! www.mowdyranch.com

When is it?

April 3-4-5, 2020

How far is it?

Please check from your own location: Entering “Mowdy Ranch Mustangs” into googlemaps.com will take you directly to the Lodge. (Apple Maps is hit or miss!)

What will we see?

Wild mustangs in a natural habitat. We have the opportunity to photograph them as they graze (no cowboys, stampedes, branding or intentional running of the horses.....). Some of the horses are semi-friendly, others are very timid. There will be escorted* sunset shooting on Friday night, escorted sunrise shooting Saturday morning, escorted-to-on-site-locations during the day on Saturday, escorted sunset shooting Saturday and free-to-wander-on-your-own photography on Sunday. Departure time Sunday – you decide!

**Escorted” means they will transport us in small groups to different locations on the Ranch in their vehicles.

The tours are 2 hours each, you are more than welcome to walk back if you choose to stay longer. It is about a mile walk.

Should you wish to schedule private escorted time on Sunday, this should be arranged by the photographer directly with the Ranch for an additional \$30/per person (pending availability).

What is the cost?

Cost to us for this date for Heard Nature Photographers (different from the rates shown on their website): \$60 per person for the Friday/Saturday/Sunday combination.

The \$60/per person is in addition to the room cost should you be staying at the Ranch.

Payment is due upon arrival at the Ranch.

Lodging

Please see the Ranch website for accommodations and contact the Ranch directly for reservations (two night minimum for each room). Please review the photographs on their website (at the bottom of the "Tours" page) to familiarize yourself with their offerings! To contact the Ranch, TEXT Kit Mowdy at 580-927-5093. Leave your name, number and mention you are part of the Heard Nature Photographers group. She will respond as soon as she is free to do so.

Our rate: \$150.00 per room for the weekend (NOT per person).

No deposit is required and there is no fee should you need to cancel. The Ranch is not set up to accept credit cards. **Cash or checks only.** Payment due upon arrival at the Ranch.

The Ranch also has a large bunk room ideal for room/cost sharing!

RV Options

City water. 30amp and 50amp electricity. No sewer dump. \$50/per weekend (our rate). RV guests get full use of all the lodge common area's: fire pit, kitchen, dining, living, game room, laundry facilities as well as a half bath in the game room.

Other lodging options:

- HiWay Inn Express in Coalgate. Clean, updated. 15 minutes away from the Ranch.
- County Charm Inn – not recommended.
- There are several options in Atoka, OK – 30-minute drive from the Ranch - Motel 8, Motel 6, Comfort Inn and Best Western.

Amenities at the Ranch

The Ranch has been reserved just for us for this weekend. The facilities include a fully equipped kitchen (condiments, coffee, tea, cooking utensils, pots & pans), coin laundry service, large living/game room, spacious dining area, satellite television, picnic table, tire swing and a fire ring. There is also the possibility for outside grilling should you choose to do this (bring your own charcoal).

We may have one group meal (Saturday evening) in Coalgate (Mexican food) .

Meal Options

Meals are not provided or included. Participants may bring their own food or drive into Coalgate or Atoka for meals. The lodge has a large kitchen – refrigerator, oven, etc.

In Coalgate: Grocery store with a deli (Sonny's), Daylight Donut Shop, Subway & Sonic.

In Atoka (about 25 miles from the Ranch): Walmart & chain restaurants like Chili's and KFC/A&W.

Gear Suggested

Short zoom, long telephoto lens, fast wide angle, camera cleaning air blower bulb (very dusty). Tripod for possible night-time star photography.

Registration option for this field trip

- On line www.heardnaturephotographers.com/events on a first come/first served basis We will maintain a wait list to use in case of a cancellation.

Steven Earles

heardphototrip@gmail.com

713-898-5204



**November 6-7-8, 2020 Field Trip
Caddo Lake
Uncertain, TX**

The focus of this field trip is to photograph the brilliant fall colors at Caddo Lake. We can't control mother nature, but the boat captain I am working with assured me we have a good chance of having great color. We will be offering sunset trips Friday and Saturday evenings and sunrise trips Saturday and Sunday mornings. Each trip will be two hours in duration. Each trip will be \$40.

Different from how we normally do things: For this trip, will need a firm commitment of interest NO LATER THAN AUGUST 14 (our August meeting) in order to ensure that we have enough boats for the tours! This is a busy season for the boats!

What will we see???

Caddo Lake in all its splendor.....water, Spanish moss, cypress trees, lily pads, lilies (2 varieties of lilies and one lotus we're told!), wildlife (birds, beavers, alligators....)

What is the cost?

\$40 per person for each:

\$40/pp for sunset boat tour

\$40/pp for sunrise boat tour

ALL PAID UP-FRONT THE WEEK BEFORE WE GET TO CADDO LAKE. Payment instructions will be provided at a later date.

Why \$40.....I see rates showing \$25/pp.....???

The \$40 keeps us on the water for two hours (\$25 shown on websites is for one hour).

Each boat will be limited to 6 passengers + the captain to allow adequate room.

When is it? November 6-7-8, 2020

How far is it? About 3 hours from McKinney – please check googlemaps.com from your location. Destination: Uncertain, TX (where we meet the boats) or Jefferson, TX (one option for lodging)

What's the schedule?

The schedule of boat departure times and departure locations will be announced later. This is after daylight savings ends Sunrise is about 6:50 am and sets around 5:30 pm.

What else is there to photograph?

The Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge An 8,493-acre protected area of Texas managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. It is located along Caddo Lake in East Texas

Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge – there is a six-mile-long driving trail offering native grasses, birdhouses, feeders, duck boxes and bat houses/nurseries. Many wildlife observation areas on the refuge. Over 216 recorded resident and migratory bird species.

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Caddo_Lake/visit/visitor_activities.html

You are welcome to enjoy the many open paved and gravel roads within the refuge as they are great for wildlife watching and hiking. An old railroad right-of-way is today a 9-mile nature trail. In addition to the Wildlife Observation Trail, several shorter trails are available for your enjoyment.

Free of charge, seven days a week from sunrise to sunset. Come prepared! Mosquitoes and deer flies can be abundant, so insect repellent is recommended. Be on the look-out for poison ivy.

Caddo Lake State Park

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/caddo-lake>

Historic downtown Jefferson – for those who wish to photograph non-nature related items, you'll find architecture, historic buildings, antique stores and their "wares".

Lodging Suggestions (we don't have a "where is everyone staying" location at this point):

The Shady Glade Resort in Uncertain offers several budget-friendly options: 2 cabins (with 2 double beds - \$ 99/night); five motel rooms w/2 double beds each - \$89/night double occupancy; and three manufactured homes with fully furnished kitchens (see website for # of bedrooms/baths and rates).

Website: www.shadygladeresort.com

Contact: Sara and David Smith 903/789-3295

This is about 25 minutes from Jefferson and is across the road from the Shady Glade docks where we will meet the boats.

Kahn Hotel in Jefferson

Clif and I are staying at the Kahn. (We were there last November and for us, its conveniently located within walking distance of restaurants and architectural photography). Warmly decorated rooms feature flat-screen TVs and free Wi-Fi; some en-suite bathrooms have showers only. Suites have kitchens; an upgraded suite adds a balcony and a whirlpool tub. (Just a heads up: Stairs to the second floor rooms are steep and difficult to negotiate with luggage. The Kahn does not have an elevator and does not serve breakfast or other meals – coffee, sweet rolls only. Most of the rooms are interior and do not have windows. www.kahnsaloon.com or contact: Melanie 903/601-4434. If you reserve at the Kahn, please tell her you are with Jackie Ranney. We do not have a discount or negotiated rate.

Other options:

There are multiple B&B's in Jefferson. Search google for information. Cabins/houses can be rented on Caddo Lake. Search google for information. Marshall, TX, offers options for chain hotels.

Sign up Options for the Caddo Lake field trip:

- On line – <https://www.heardnaturephotographers.com/field-trips-1/>
If you have already signed up on-line, there is no need to re-register!
- At the next meeting



42nd Annual Heard Nature Photography Contest

**2020 SUBMISSION DATES:
February 1-23, 2020**

- ❖ Four contest divisions:
 - ❖ Youth - Junior (14 and under)
 - ❖ Youth - Senior (15-18)
 - ❖ Adult – Aspiring (Beginner/Intermediate)
 - ❖ Adult - Experienced (Advanced Amateur or Professional)
- ❖ Contest categories for nature-related digital images.
- ❖ Entry fees: \$5/photo for youth, \$10/photo for adults.
- ❖ \$100 cash prize to Best of Show winners in each of the four contest divisions!
- ❖ Ribbons awarded for Best of Show in each Division and 1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners in each contest category for each division.
- ❖ All contest profits to benefit the Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary in McKinney, TX.
- ❖ Please see these websites for contest details and instructions for preparing and submitting entries:

www.heardmuseum.org/events/

www.heardnaturephotographers.com/about-the-contest-1

- ❖ Questions? Please contact:

Jackie Ranney, 2020 Contest Coordinator

Heard Nature Photographers - 214/478-2107 or

contest@heardnaturephotographers.com



NEW PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES!

Hello Nature Photography Enthusiasts!

Your Heard Nature Photography Club Photo Contest Board is very excited to announce that we now have TWO NEW Social Media pages to help spread the word about our upcoming 2020 Photography Contest!

Our Facebook page address is:

<https://www.facebook.com/Heard-Natural-Science-Museum-Photography-Contest-100142291356177/>

Our Instagram page address is: <https://www.instagram.com/heardcontest/>

We will be featuring image posts from our 2018 and 2019 contest entries with the photographer's name listed on/with the image, so you never know when your image(s) will be put up there for all to see! Feel free to invite your family and friends to LIKE/SHARE our page so they can see your work as well as generate greater and broader awareness about the contest.

The contest is hosted by our affiliated photography club (Heard Nature Photographers), but you do not have to be a member of either the museum or the photography club to participate. The proceeds from the Photography Contest go back to support the Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary (www.HeardMuseum.org). This contest is open to ALL photographers worldwide.

We appreciate your on-going support and look forward to many new and beautiful contest entries this year.

Thank you!

Elisabeth Shore (Facebook manager)

Anita Oakley (Instagram manager)



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!!

WEBSITE UPDATES FOR CONTEST TIME:



Check out the 2020 Contest tab for information about the contest, ie. Divisions, Categories, How to submit your images, how to pay, etc.

NEWS

We are off to great start for 2020

Half of our members have already renewed for the 2020 year.

Let's get that other half done in February.

Dues are only \$20 and it's easy to pay - Three options

1. Pay online with PayPal Click here [membership-payment](#)
2. Mail check made payable Heard Nature Photographers to:
Treasurer
441 Cherry Spring Drive
McKinney TX 75072
3. Bring Cash or a Check to the next meeting on February 8th.

Have questions: Contact Alan Daniel alan.w.daniel@icloud.com

Sponsors for the 2020 Heard Nature Photography Contest



For your camera and other equipment needs, just talk to Steve Wright.

1401 Northwest Highway @ Sunset
Garland, TX 75041
972/278-0717
info@garlandcamera.net



2025 Irving Blvd, Suite 107
Dallas, TX 75207
214-744-5511
sales@competitivecameras.com

GSCCC News

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

February Refreshment Volunteers:

- Donations from members

If you haven't volunteered to bring snacks to share – please sign up – Ed will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting.

We need about **4-5 folks** per meeting to bring your favorite dessert or something healthy like a fruit or veggie tray. If everyone signs up, you will only need to bring something about once every year and a half.

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/>

2020 CLUB OFFICERS

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Newsletter Editor: Terree Stone	t.stone3@sbcglobal.net
GSCCC Representative: Anita Oakley	anitaoak@outlook.com

MONTHLY MEETING

8 FEBRUARY 2020

2 PM

HEARD NATURAL SCIENCE MUSEUM

1 NATURE PLACE

MCKINNEY, TX 75069

<http://www.heardnaturephotographers.com>