HEARD NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS CLUB

MEETING DATE *MARCH 14TH******

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

Pelicans @ White Rock by Alan Daniels

President's thoughts

A big thank you to all the club members that have submitted at least one entry into the photo contest – or if you didn't have a chance and still want to donate you can easily donate \$10 or so at any time up to the awards ceremony on March 22 by calling Jackie Ranney, who will then send you an invoice so you can pay through PayPal.

We are off to a great start this year and are hopeful we can get a record number of entries, from a variety of States in USA – thanks to our great marketing effort spearheaded by Elisabeth and Anita. We have learned quickly that social media is the "thing" to get out the message – we have even had one inquiry about the contest from Bangladesh!

Thanks to Ron for his short informative show on shooting trout lilies – as I write this, it is doubtful we will be having any luck on Saturday 15th February, but perhaps by the March 14 meeting we will have bagged some winners. I encourage folks to attend the March 7 field trip to the Tyler Zoo – it's a neat little place with many opportunities for decent shots without having too many visitors to avoid. While you are in Tyler, you might also like to stop by the abandoned ice house located at North Spring Road at Swann Street in Tyler (just north of the railroad station on Oakwood, where you can park). Here's a link to some of my shots taken last year on the way to Caddo Lake

https://www.talkemount.com/threads/abandoned-ice-house-tyler-tx.19340/

Good Light, and Good Shooting!

PPTPY

"Remembering Peter"



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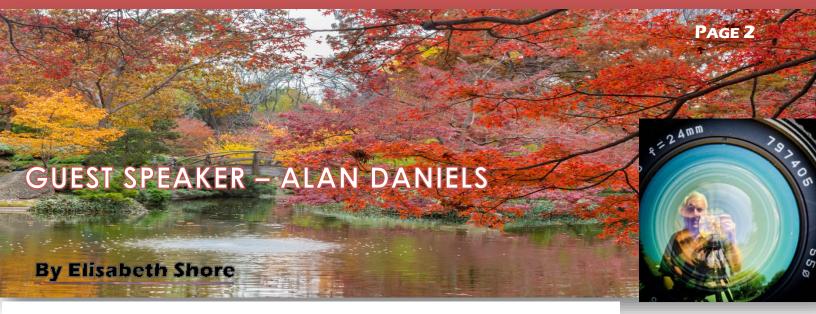
GSCCC 13

Let's Get Social 14

2020 DUES ARE
DUE
\$20/VEAR

Meeting Room:

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



As one of our club officers, you are familiar with our March speaker. He greets you when you arrive at our second Saturday meetings, has your name tags ready and takes your annual membership dues. Have you guessed who it is yet?

You guessed right! It is our very own, "shy and reclusive" Alan Daniels. Alan has been a member of the Heard Nature Photography club since 2016. Alan and his wife, Vallery, have been Plano residents for the past 35 years. They have enjoyed watching their two children grow up and establish their own families (three grandchildren and another one on the way!) here in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex.

Alan's photographic journey started with his family 40 years ago, when he was taking "snapshots" of his children in their younger years. It wasn't until his retirement in 2012 when photography became much more interesting to him. Fast forward to today and he is active in two clubs – The Heard Nature Photography Club and the Plano Photography Club, where he is also an officer, as he is currently serving as their Contest Manager. Alan is certainly enjoying his retirement and being able to get out and take pictures as often as possible, along with participating in club activities and field trips whenever he can.

Alan has made a point of finding local destinations within an hour or so of McKinney to photograph over the years, as it is not always possible to travel and get away for a long-distance photo adventure. He has found many new and interesting subjects in our own backyard. Join us and hear his March program "Photography – No Travel Required", where he will share a few of his favorite images from destinations that range from the Red River to the Trinity River. The picture subjects vary from wildlife to landscapes and from cowboys to airplanes.

So, the next time you want to get out of the house with your camera, but don't know where to go? You don't need to call a travel agent – you are only a few minutes and a short drive from your next photographic destination!







7 Things to Know Before Booking Your Photo Tour

© 2019 ~ Jeff Parker / www.ExploreinFocus.com

1) Tour or workshop?

These terms are sometimes interchanged, but they're really not the same. A **workshop** typically focuses on targeted instruction. During a workshop, the leader's job is to teach you specific skills or techniques. A **tour**, on the other hand, is all about getting images at shot locations. During a tour, the leader's main job is to get you to the right place at the right time. He/she may also offer dedicated instructional time, but it's more likely that he/she teaches individual participants as needed in the field. **Pointer:** use local workshops to learn techniques before spending thousands of dollars traveling to exotic destinations to take the shots!

2) What's included?

In many instances several tour operators offer the exact same itinerary. That's because, for the most part, we use the same ground agents. In spite of this, you'll find a wide variation in the price. Do a little digging to see if the variation is due to differences in lodging, included meals, or length of stay (also see tip #3). **Keep in mind:** just because you're paying more may not mean you're getting more!

3) Group size.

The number of folks on a tour – or in a workshop – can have a bearing on the price. You may pay more for a smaller group size, but that might be worth it. A smaller group size gives you better access to the tour leader when/if you need assistance.

4) Insured? Permits?

To lead a photography tour in a National Park or National Wildlife Refuge, a permit is required. And, in order to procure a permit, the government requires proof of insurance. While it may be tough to ascertain if a company (*or tour leader*) follows the rules regarding procuring needed permits don't hesitate to ask them for proof that they've done so.

5) Physical requirements.

Determining a tour's physical requirements is especially important if you have mobility issues or specific health problems. Some tours require hikes to shot locations, while others get you to where you need by vehicle. Also consider elevation, slopes, and expected temperatures when deciding which tour to choose.

6) How long at shot locations?

To be able to work a scene or capture keepers of wildlife behavior you need to slow down and take your time. It may be difficult to determine ahead of time how your leader works, but you can ask others who've taken the tour if they felt rushed through shot locations. If staying until you're satisfied with your captures is important to you make sure the leader will allow you the time you need at each shot spot.

7) Availability of the tour leader.

Ask questions – and don't hesitate to do so *before* you sign up! Don't be shy! A leader who's responsive to your needs before a tour starts is a good sign that he/she will be responsive during the tour. You may even want to give him/her a call and see what kind of vibe you get over the phone. **Keep in mind:** tour leaders spend a lot of time on the road so they may not be able to get back to you immediately.

Award-winning naturalist photographer, Jeff Parker, leads friendly & informative photo tours & workshops focused on the flora & fauna of North, Central, & South America, in addition to India.

Call (512) 378-3355 ~ Or ~ Click www.ExploreinFocus.com to learn more



Jeff is a past speaker for the club and continually sends out helpful information. Several members have been on his tours/workshops.

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	
3/7	Caldwell Zoo - Tyler	
4/3 through 4/5	Mowdy Mustang Ranch	
11/6 through 11/8	Caddo Lake Fall Colors	

Heard Museum Trout Lilies

Our Heard Museum trip to photograph trout lilies didn't work out as planned. Maybe they will show up later this month. I want to thank Tom Heath for coordinating the trip while I was away.

Caldwell Zoo - Tyler

We have a trip planned for Saturday March 7, for the Caldwell Zoo in Tyler. Photographing zoo animals is a good opportunity for us to practice shooting through fences and glass. Even though they are captive animals you never know how they will behave.

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.

Steven Earles

Field Trip Coordinator



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 Colgate 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), coined 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.

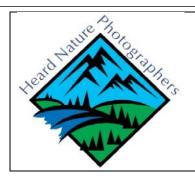
Registration option for this field trip

• 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 <u>NO LATER</u> <u>THAN AUGUST 14 (our August meeting)</u> 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

<u>How far is it?</u> 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?

<u>The Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge</u> 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

<u>Historic downtown Jefferson</u> – 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

WANTED: YOUR National Park Images!

By Elisabeth Shore

I am working on a NEW PROJECT! I am looking for our members who have traveled to ANY of the below listed National Parks to submit up to three (3) images per park to become part of a presentation that will showcase our membership's talent AND give us all ideas of places to go and see in the future. I know many of you have traveled to a number of these, so it should be fun to see what comes in!

1. Please include the following information with each image submitted:

Name of Photographer

Park Name

Location within the Park (if known)

Time of Year

Time of Day (if known)

Challenges in getting the image

Equipment Used

Settings Used

A fun fact from the Park.

- 2. Please DO NOT WATERMARK your images or put them into frames. I will go through and do this for you so that everything looks the same for the presentation.
- 3. Images should be names and sized as follows:
- 4. Naming convention: EXAMPLES: 01.ELS.BigBend; 02.ELS.BigBend; 03.ELS.BigBend

Where the "01" indicates it is the first of your images;

Where the "ELS" indicates your initials;

Where the "BigBend" indicates the name of the park where the picture was taken

- 5. Please send JPG files ONLY, and no more than 2000 ppi on the long dimension with medium compression giving a file from about 500kb to 1500 kb.
- 6. Images should be set to use the sRGB color space.

Deadline to send your images to me is: May 31. This should give you time to look through your images and process them if needed.

Send Images/info to: eshore738@gmail.com

Please put "National Park Images" in the subject line.

List of US National Parks organized by states

A	101-	
Alaska	• 1917	Denali National Park
	• 1980	Gates of the Arctic National Park
	• 1980	Glacier Bay National Park
	• 1980	Katmai National Park
	• 1980	Kenai Fjords National Park
	• 1980	Kobuk Valley National Park
	• 1980	Lake Clark National Park
	• 1980	Wrangell – St Elias National Park
Arizona	• 1919	Grand Canyon National Park
	• 1962	Petrified Forest National Park
	• 1994	Saguaro National Park
Arkansas	• 1921	Hot Springs National Park
California	• 1980	Channel Islands National Park
	• 1994	Death Valley National Park
	• 1994	Joshua Tree National Park
	• 1940	Kings Canyon National Park
	• 1916	Lassen Volcanic National Park
	• 2013	Pinnacles National Park
	• 1968	Redwood National Park
	• 1890	Sequoia National Park
	• 1890	Yosemite National Park
Colorado	• 1999	Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park
	• 2004	 Great Sand Dunes National Park
	• 1906	Mesa Verde National Park
	• 1915	Rocky Mountain National Park
Florida	• 1980	Biscayne National Park
	• 1992	 Dry Tortugas National Park
	• 1947	Everglades National Park
Hawaii	• 1916	Haleakala National Park
		Hawaii Volcanoes National Park
Idaho	• 1872	Yellowstone National Park
Indiana	• 2019	Indiana Dunes National Park
Kentucky	• 1941	Mammoth Cave National Park
Maine	• 1919	Acadia National Park
Michigan	• 1940	Isle Royale National Park
Minnesota	• 1975	Voyageurs National Park
Missouri	• 2018	Gateway Arch National Park
Montana	• 1910	Glacier National Park
	• 1872	Yellowstone National Park
Nevada	• 1994	Death Valley National Park
	• 1986	Great Basin National Park
New Mexico	• 1930	Carlsbad Caverns National Park
	• 2019	White Sands National Park
North Carolina	• 1934	Great Smoky Mountains National Park
North Dakota	• 1978	 Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Ohio	• 2000	Cuyahoga Valley National Park
Oregon	• 1902	Crater Lake National Park
South Carolina	• 2003	Congaree National Park
South Dakota	• 1978	Badlands National Park
	• 1903	 Wind Cave National Park
Tennessee	• 1934	Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Texas	• 1944	Big Bend National Park
	• 1966	 Guadalupe Mountains National Park
Utah	• 1971	Arches National Park
	• 1928	Bryce Canyon National Park
	• 1971	 Capitol Reef National Park
	• 1964	 Canyonlands National Park
	• 1919	Zion National Park
Virginia	• 1935	Shenandoah National Park
Washington	• 1899	 Mount Rainier National Park
	• 1968	 North Cascades National Park
	• 1938	 Olympic National Park
Wyoming	• 1929	 Grand Teton National Park
	• 1872	 Yellowstone National Park
American Samoa	• 1988	American Samoa National Park
(American territory)		
US Virgin Islands	1956	 Virgin Islands National Park

The following states do not have National Parks:

Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, DC, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.



For Sale

Canon 5D Mark III body in good condition in the original box

Included with the body are the following:

Battery charger and battery

Instruction book

Eyecup with a screen protector

OP/TECH padded strap

'L' bracket

Asking price: \$950 or best offer

Contact Linda Grigsby, <u>Ilg4444@yahoo.com</u>; 972-231-2773 or 214-794-3465.

CONTEST

To the members of the Heard Nature Photography Club:

In exchange for support from the DeWitt County Shutterbugs for our 2020 digital contest, they requested that we share information about their annual print contest. Fortunately, our submission dates aren't conflicting!

Participants in the DeWitt County Shutterbugs contest can mail or drop off photos at the Cuero Public Library starting February 26-March 18. Entry forms can be found on their website https://dewittcshutterbugs.com/annual-photo-contest/

or

participants can email dcshutterbugs@yahoo.com or diannabartosh@icloud.com with questions.

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.



<u>Contests</u>: 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!

MARCH Refreshment Volunteers:

- Linda Grigsby
- George Vardas
- Clif Ranney

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 <u>4-5 folks</u> 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.gulfstatesccc.org/

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MONTHLY MEETING

14 MARCH 2020

2 PM

HEARD NATURAL SCIENCE MUSEUM

1 NATURE PLACE MCKINNEY, TX 75069

http://www.heardnaturephotographers.com