

HEARD NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS CLUB

APRIL 2020

VOLUME 36, ISSUE 4

MEETING DATE *APRIL MEETING
CANCELLED*****

President's thoughts

Hi Everyone,

These are trying and scary times. We have had to cancel two meetings and the Mowdy Ranch field trip, and the future is uncertain. We all must pull together to get through this pandemic, and I know you are all doing your part.

In the meantime, we have options! Here are some ideas to help us stay connected and busy:

- How about going through your older images and editing? I'm going to reprocess several photos now that I know more about Lightroom and Photoshop.
- We can stay connected on our club Facebook page. Try posting some of your images and asking for critique (or not). We can have some great discussions and learn from each other.
- Take your camera outside and see what creative images you can make in your own yard or neighborhood. If you go to the grocery store, pick up some flowers and do a little table-top photography.
- Elisabeth Shore sent mail recently asking for pictures from our national parks. I talked to her today, and she plans to use them for a club presentation to hold in reserve in case a speaker backs out at the last minute. She asked for some background info on each image, but you really don't have to go to a lot of detail.

Take care everyone and be careful!

Anita

Inside This Issue

President's thoughts	1
Speakers	2
New National Park	3
Field Trips	4, 7-8
Contest Results	5 - 6
National Park Project	9-11
News	12
GSCCC	13
Let's Get Social	14

**2020 DUES ARE
DUE
\$20/YEAR**

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

By Elisabeth Shore

Here is the current list of future speakers:

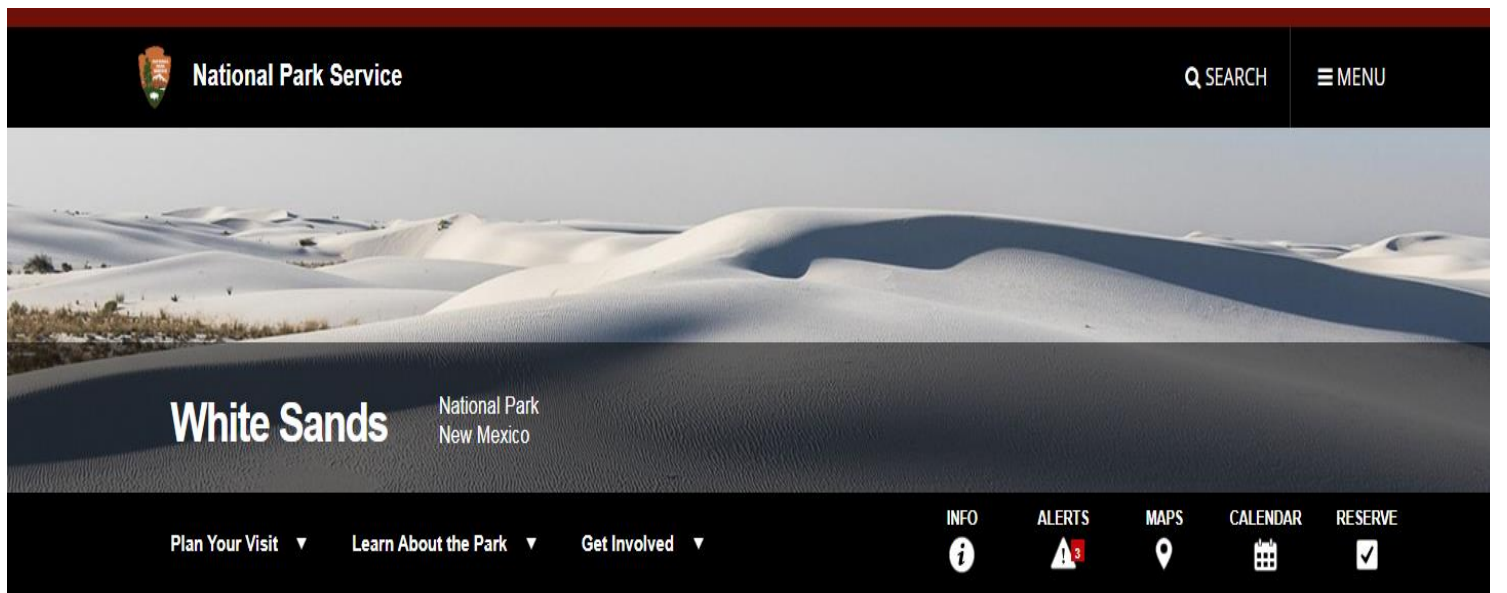
Month	Day	Guest Speaker	Presentation Topic
APRIL	11	CANCELLED	(COVID 19 VIRUS)
MAY	9	PENDING	
JUNE	13	AMY GEORGE HOLMES	TOP 10 CHALLENGES FOR BEGINNING PHOTOGRAPHERS
JULY	11	SHEILA BRAUNING	PET PHOTOGRAPHY
AUGUST	8	ROBERT (CHUCK) SHREVE	LANDSCAPE AND WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY
SEPTEMBER	12	RUSSELL GRAVES	WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE NORTH TEXAS AREA
OCTOBER	10	ALAN DANIEL(TENTATIVE)	PHOTOGRAPHY - NO TRAVEL REQUIRED
NOVEMBER	14	PENDING	
DECEMBER	12	NO GUEST SPEAKER	MEMBERS CHOICE

****See page 9 for a project Elisabeth is working on for a future program. ***** Images/input needed

NEWS

Thanks Tom Heath for sharing this article. I know several of us have enjoyed White Sands National Monument and now it's a National Park! Here is a link to the article in the National Parks Conservation Association Magazine.

<https://www.npca.org/articles/2481-a-national-park-is-born>



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
4/3 through 4/5	Mowdy Mustang Ranch **CANCELLED**
11/6 through 11/8	Caddo Lake Fall Colors

Mowdy Mustang Ranch, Coalgate, OK

****THIS TRIP IS CANCELLED – WE WILL TRY TO RESCHEDULE AT A LATER DATE****

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

ONE MORE FOR THE BOOKS! 2020 CONTEST WRAP-UP

The 42nd Annual Heard Nature Photography contest is now “a wrap” with over 750 entries from multiple states and countries! Most of the submissions were, of course, from Texas with other entries coming from Florida, Alabama, Ohio, New Jersey, Arkansas, Washington, Michigan, Oklahoma and Illinois. We even had international entries this year from Canada, Italy and Scotland! By using Facebook, NextDoor and Instagram, we had much more exposure than in the past. Even more exciting for us is that 22% of our participants were in the Youth Divisions and more club members participated this year than in the past!

We were excited to have the following judges for this year’s contest and it’s our understanding they had some tough decisions to make. There was a lot of excellent competition this year.

- Clark Crenshaw (<http://clarkcrenshaw.photodeck.com/>),
- Don Champlin, CPP (<https://www.donchamplin.photography/>)
- Jim Radcliffe (<https://boxedlight.photoshelter.com/>).

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the award ceremony for this year due to the Covid-19 risk. Because of this, ribbons and awards were mailed on March 20 to those who placed in the contest. Additionally, winners will be pleased to know that their images will be shown on the monitor in the gift store lobby of the Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary for an entire year! As far as the sponsor-provided drawing items, those will be available at next year’s award ceremony!

Check out the winning images on our website:

- Overall Best of Show <https://www.heardnaturephotographers.com/overall-best-of-show>
- Youth Division – Junior <https://www.heardnaturephotographers.com/youth-junior-2>
- Youth Division – Senior <https://www.heardnaturephotographers.com/youth-senior-2>
- Adult Division – Aspiring <https://www.heardnaturephotographers.com/adult-aspiring-2>
- Adult Division – Experienced <https://www.heardnaturephotographers.com/adult-experienced-2>

Our thanks go to this year’s contest committee and others who helped to make this another successful event in support of the Museum:

Anita Oakley	Rob Hull	Terree Stone
Elisabeth Shore	Deb Nielsen	Brian Clark
Mary Binford	Steve Earles	

We hope you will join us for next year – the 43rd year of contest which will be held in February 2021. Specific dates will be announced later in the year.

That’s it! Thanks again to everyone involved in the success of the 42nd annual contest.

Jackie Ranney
2020 Contest Coordinator
214/478-2107

OVERALL BEST OF SHOW

“Vestrahorn Sunset”

by Anis Ansari



Vestrahorn, in the Stokksnes region of SE Iceland, evokes so many emotions and brings back so many memories.

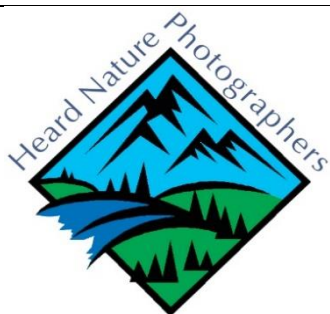
The first time, on that blistering cold day, I laid my eyes on Vestrahorn Mountain being lapped by the North Sea waves, it felt like I had been transported to a distant Alien planet. It felt strange but not scary at all.

I was not sure if I was impressed by the mountain itself or it's frosty reflection in the frozen tidal pool. The surrounding black sand dunes with withered tall grass added to its alien feeling.

The frozen tidal pool was only about 4 inches deep, so no fear of breaking through the ice and drowning! However, it was like a brushed ice rink. Very slippery. More scared of falling and breaking the camera than my legs.

The clouds started drifting over the peaks and all of a sudden, the intense Alpen glow of the sunset covered the peaks, as if Mother Nature had turned on a light switch.

It was an awe-inspiring moment that will forever be etched in my memory.



**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

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

Alaska	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1917 • 1980 • 1980 • 1980 • 1980 • 1980 • 1980 • 1980 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denali National Park • Gates of the Arctic National Park • Glacier Bay National Park • Katmai National Park • Kenai Fjords National Park • Kobuk Valley National Park • Lake Clark National Park • Wrangell – St Elias National Park
Arizona	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1919 • 1962 • 1994 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grand Canyon National Park • Petrified Forest National Park • Saguaro National Park
Arkansas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1921 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hot Springs National Park
California	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1980 • 1994 • 1994 • 1940 • 1916 • 2013 • 1968 • 1890 • 1890 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel Islands National Park • Death Valley National Park • Joshua Tree National Park • Kings Canyon National Park • Lassen Volcanic National Park • Pinnacles National Park • Redwood National Park • Sequoia National Park • Yosemite National Park
Colorado	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1999 • 2004 • 1906 • 1915 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park • Great Sand Dunes National Park • Mesa Verde National Park • Rocky Mountain National Park
Florida	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1980 • 1992 • 1947 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biscayne National Park • Dry Tortugas National Park • Everglades National Park
Hawaii	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1916 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haleakala National Park • Hawaii Volcanoes National Park
Idaho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1872 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowstone National Park
Indiana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana Dunes National Park
Kentucky	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1941 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mammoth Cave National Park
Maine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1919 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acadia National Park
Michigan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1940 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isle Royale National Park
Minnesota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1975 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voyageurs National Park
Missouri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gateway Arch National Park
Montana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1910 • 1872 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glacier National Park • Yellowstone National Park
Nevada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1994 • 1986 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Death Valley National Park • Great Basin National Park
New Mexico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1930 • 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carlsbad Caverns National Park • White Sands National Park
North Carolina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1934 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Smoky Mountains National Park
North Dakota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1978 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Ohio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuyahoga Valley National Park
Oregon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1902 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crater Lake National Park
South Carolina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2003 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congaree National Park
South Dakota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1978 • 1903 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Badlands National Park • Wind Cave National Park
Tennessee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1934 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Texas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1944 • 1966 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Bend National Park • Guadalupe Mountains National Park
Utah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1971 • 1928 • 1971 • 1964 • 1919 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arches National Park • Bryce Canyon National Park • Capitol Reef National Park • Canyonlands National Park • Zion National Park
Virginia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1935 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shenandoah National Park
Washington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1899 • 1968 • 1938 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount Rainier National Park • North Cascades National Park • Olympic National Park
Wyoming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1929 • 1872 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grand Teton National Park • Yellowstone National Park
American Samoa (American territory)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1988 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Samoa National Park
US Virgin Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1956 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.



As Anita noted in the Presidents thoughts; with our “new” normal there is time to do some of those things we keep putting off. Here are some ideas for you to help pass the time:

1. Set up/organize your images
2. Create a “contest” folder and keep a copy of your best images – time saver when you are ready to enter contests
3. Create photo books of your trips - or order mug, blankets, etc from some of your favorite images – great as gifts
4. Brush up on photo editing software like Lightroom and Photoshop. There are lots of YouTube videos and free classes on the internet
5. If you want feedback on images – post on our Facebook site and ask for critiques
6. Create a list of places you want to go for future trips. Research the areas and best places to be and best time of day
7. Clean and check all your equipment – great time to take inventory – is there something that you need or do you have extra equipment that you need to sell
8. Learn about your equipment – take images using all the settings – learn what you can and can’t do with each of your lenses
9. Next time you’re at the store/nursery buy a plant/flowers and practice with different lighting, etc

Send me a couple of your images on what you are doing to make the best of this time. I’ll put together a slide show for a future meeting.

Send them to:

t.stone3@sbcglobal.net

Put “Slide show” in the subject line

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!

APRIL Refreshment Volunteers:

NOT NEEDED DUE TO MEETING BEING CANCELLED

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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MONTHLY MEETING

11 APRIL 2020

*****MEETING CANCELLED*****

HEARD NATURAL SCIENCE MUSEUM

1 NATURE PLACE

MCKINNEY, TX 75069

<http://www.heardnaturephotographers.com>