

# HEARD NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS CLUB

SEPTEMBER 2020  
VOLUME 36, ISSUE 9

MEETING DATE \*\*\*SEPTEMBER 12TH - 2PM\*\*\*

• MEETING WILL BE ONLINE ZOOM MEETING

## Presidents Thoughts:

Hi Heard Photographers!

This month we had two training sessions. Fuji presented on macro photography for the Dallas, Plano, and Heard clubs. I had quite a bit of feedback that it was more of an advertisement for Fuji than macro training, so many of us exited early. I promise I'll vet any further invitations more closely. Then Craig Rowen offered to do a session on Blending modes, and though it hasn't been delivered as I write this, I'm sure it will be very beneficial!

We also have begun monthly challenges. I know we are limited by the pandemic, but it's a good idea to stay in practice. I sent in my backyard pix to Ron Marabito right away. Did you?

Planning is getting off the ground for next year's Heard photo contest. I've started a folder to pop likely candidate images into. I do this every year, and it makes submitting my contest entries a snap.

Finally, please start thinking about next year's club board. If you are interested in serving on the board, let us know!

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Speaker: Alan Daniel

Stay safe

*Anita*

SPEAKER: Alan Daniel

**“PHOTOGRAPHY - NO TRAVEL REQUIRED”**

As one of our club officers, you are familiar with our speaker. 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.

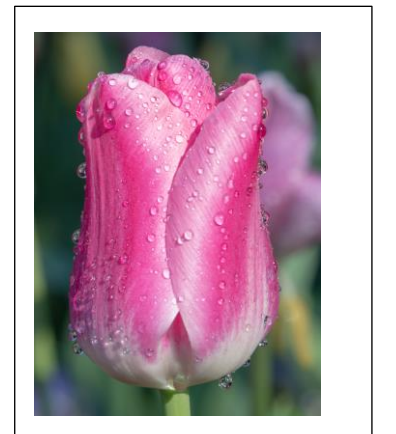
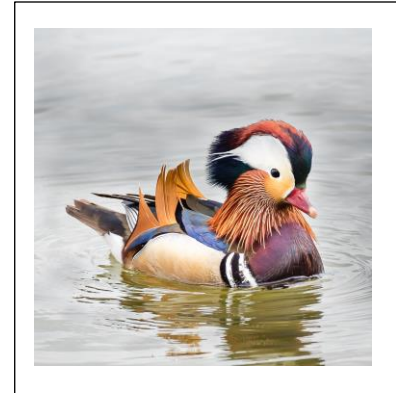
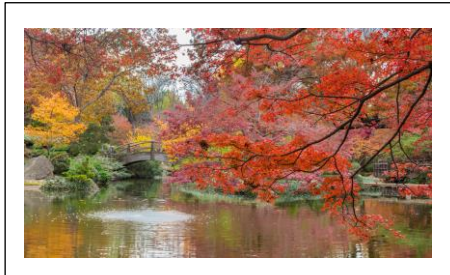
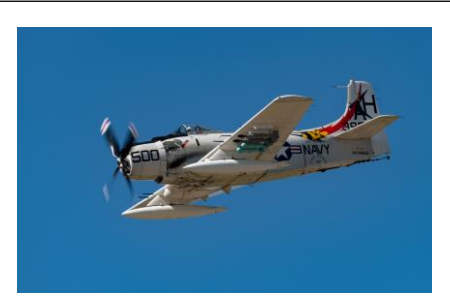
So, the next time you want to get out of the house with your camera, but don’t know where to go? You don’t need to call a travel agent – you are only a few minutes and a short drive from your next photographic destination!

*Elisabeth Shore*

**Here is the current list of future speakers:**

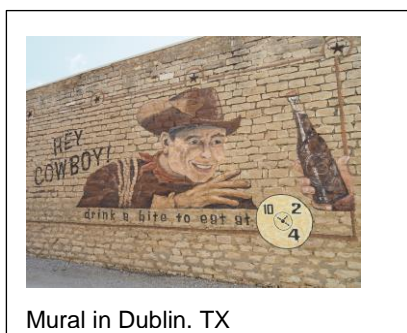
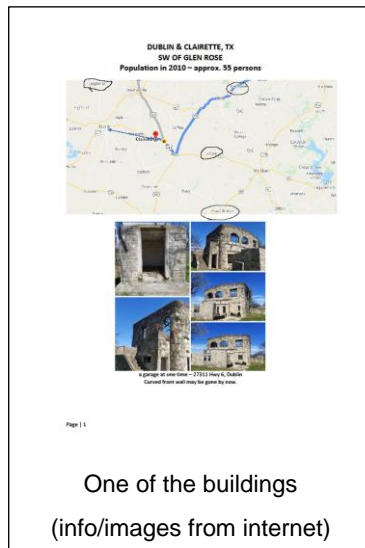
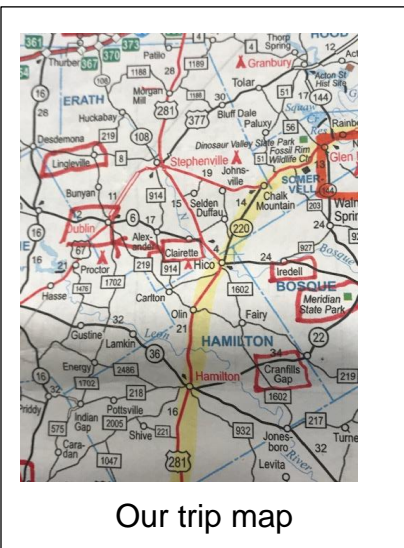
Month	Day	Guest Speaker	Presentation Topic
OCTOBER	10	PENDING	
NOVEMBER	14	PENDING	
DECEMBER	12	NO GUEST SPEAKER	MEMBERS CHOICE

Take off by Alan Daniel



# ROAD TRIP

There is nothing like a road trip – group of friends, wind in your hair, sun on your face, driving the convertible through the countryside.....Ok – back to reality. Road tripping these days is a caravan of vehicles with single occupants in each car; keeping in touch by talking in “conference” mode on the cellphone. Most trips usually have a purpose; ours this day was to visit and photograph some old buildings. Jackie Ranney, Elisabeth Shore, Anita Oakley and I set out on a Saturday a few weeks ago in search of bits of history. Jackie was our planner since she had the wish list of buildings that are near their end and had a story to tell. So we headed out towards Dublin, TX as our first planned stop, but a good road trip always has special finds along the way. We found a wonderful old gas station that was repurposed into an antique and decorative item shop (image below) in Bluff Dale. Good thing it was closed or our wallets would have been a little lighter and our cars stuffed! We stopped in Stephenville to check out the courthouse and the town square. Dublin turned out to be a charming small town with some great murals on some building (image below) and of course we had to stop by the old Dr. Pepper bottling plant. We did find a Celtic Irish store there with some wonderful treasures and an interesting store owner. We had to help out the local economy! From here we made a few stops to photograph our subjects that Jackie had already found in her research. Also drove through Meridian State Park to photograph Lotus blooms. This was a day trip – around two hours to get to Dublin. We are already planning our next adventure.



*By Terree Stone*

# 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](mailto:heardphototrip@gmail.com) or sign up at our meeting.

## 2020 Field Trips

Date	Location
SEPTEMBER	Photo challenge – due October 5th
11/6 through 11/8	Caddo Lake Fall Colors

## Field Trip

I want to thank everyone for the great participation in our first monthly challenge. Ron tells me we will have a good show for the September meeting.

Many of our members are taking day trips around Dallas to take photos. For our September challenge please send 3 or 4 images taken from the Dallas area. The image must be taken in September. Include an image that will reveal where it was taken. Please have your images to Ron Marabito by October 5. Ron's email address is [remarabito@gmail.com](mailto:remarabito@gmail.com).

## Caddo Lake Fall Colors

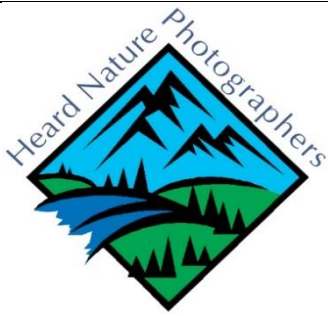
We have 27 members registered for the Lake Caddo trip and it is still on. More updates will be coming.

Our November 6-8 Caddo Lake trip is still on the calendar. We will have to make a decision about that trip early September. There are 20 folks registered to go. If you are interested you may go to our website or email me at [heardphototrip@gmail.com](mailto:heardphototrip@gmail.com) and I will add you to the list.

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



**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](https://www.google.com/maps) 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](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](http://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**

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](http://www.kahnsaloon.com) or contact: Melanie 903/601-4434.

### **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
- Call Steve Earles (713)898-5204
- Email [heardphototrip@gmail.com](mailto:heardphototrip@gmail.com)

That's it! If you have questions, as always call me.



## Good news!

The Gulf States Camera Club Council has decided to resume contests starting in July, with strictly digital submissions. They have also increased the allowable pixel dimensions going forward, and they are asking for images to be at least 1400 x 1050 pixels. Most of the images I have available to submit are too small because they conform to the former requirements. Please send me a new selection of any images you want me to consider for submission to contests. Remember, they no longer must be strictly nature images. I can submit in other categories for you as well.

Don't worry if your images are too big for the GSCCC contests, because the submission website will downsize them if necessary.

Thanks,  
Anita

[anitaoak@outlook.com](mailto:anitaoak@outlook.com)



Electric Sunset by Anita Oakley

3<sup>rd</sup> Place



John Wayne of NM by Linda Grigsby

Honorable mention - Monochrome

# Contest Committee

## Volunteers Needed

The Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary supports the Heard Nature Photographers by providing the club with a place to meet. This is a big savings that allows the club to maintain its low dues. Every year the club sponsors a photo contest with the profit from the contest donated to the museum. This year we donated \$7,000 at a time when the museum really needed it due to the impact COVID-19 had on their revenue. Debbie Nielsen and Steven Earles are co-chairing the committee for the 2021 contest. We are looking for volunteers to help us. The contest is early next year. If you are interested, please contact one of us at [debn654@gmail.com](mailto:debn654@gmail.com) or [steven.earles@yahoo.com](mailto:steven.earles@yahoo.com).

## Get involved

We are looking for people who want to be more involved with the club. If anyone is interested in an officer position – we have a few that are going to be available next year. We'll have more information at our next meeting. There is time to “shadow” the current person before the new year starts.

## Share

Need more “road trip” adventures to put into the newsletter. Send me your images and a few sentences and I'll add it to the next newsletter. There is still a lot to see out there – let us know what you've found!



# Zoom

For those of you not familiar with Zoom meetings here is a short “how to” for you to access our meeting. Current members will receive an email invite from Anita with the link and any other directions a few days before the meeting. It works best on a desktop or laptop computer, but you can also use an Ipad or smart phone. I would recommend trying to connect to the meeting 5 or 10 minutes before the meeting start time. Looking forward to seeing everyone on Zoom!

When in a Zoom meeting please remember to mute your audio and if you are going to move around or nap – please also stop your “video”, you will still be able to watch the meeting but we won’t see you.

## How to join a Zoom meeting on desktop via meeting invite link

1. Click on the meeting invite URL that the host shared via email or text.
2. Open the Zoom app.
3. Approve the request for permission to use your computer's audio and camera.

Depending on the meeting's set-up, you may enter the meeting right away, you may need to wait for the host to arrive first or you may be placed into a waiting room that the host controls.

## SEPTEMBER Refreshment

### Volunteers:

## VIRTUAL SNACKS

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

President: Anita Oakley	<a href="mailto:anitaoak@outlook.com">anitaoak@outlook.com</a>
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Secretary/Treasurer: Brian Clark	<a href="mailto:brian@emporiummax.com">brian@emporiummax.com</a>
Membership: Alan Daniel	<a href="mailto:alan.w.daniel@icloud.com">alan.w.daniel@icloud.com</a>
Refreshments: Ed Pierce	<a href="mailto:ed.pierce1@att.net">ed.pierce1@att.net</a>
Field Trips: Steven Earles	<a href="mailto:steven.earles@yahoo.com">steven.earles@yahoo.com</a>
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Contest Co-Coordinator: Debbie Nielson	<a href="mailto:debn654@gmail.com">debn654@gmail.com</a>
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GSCCC Representative: Anita Oakley	<a href="mailto:anitaoak@outlook.com">anitaoak@outlook.com</a>

## MONTHLY MEETING

12 SEPTEMBER 2020

\*\*\*ZOOM MEETING\*\*\*

HEARD NATURAL SCIENCE MUSEUM

1 NATURE PLACE

MCKINNEY, TX 75069

<http://www.heardnaturephotographers.com>