



Heard Nature Photographers

“Those who dwell...among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life”.
— Rachel Carson

Winter
Christmas
Hanukkah

Next Meeting Date: Saturday, December 10, 2022
12:00 noon

December 2022
Volume 38 Issue 12

This meeting will be “in person” only

WINTER (almost, at last, finally, will there be a “freezeMAGEDDON”?)
www.heardnaturephotographers.com

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Anita Oakley

Puffin, Anita Oakley

President's Message

Hello Everyone,

It's been quite a year. We've gone from only meeting quarterly online, back to monthly meetings in person. We've visited Honey Grove, Texas Discovery Gardens & Butterfly House, Keith Kridler Daffodil Farm, Penn Farm & Cedar Hill State Park, Breckenridge Park, Chalk Ridge Falls Park, downtown McKinney, Beavers Bend State Park, Mid-America Flight Museum, Ray Roberts State Park, Isle du Bois Unit, the Dallas Zoo, Museum of the American Railroad, Chandor Gardens, Irwin Lightstone's Front Yard for succulent photos, had a great time taking nighttime photos of the Milky Way and star trails at The Rock Church near Cranfills Gap, ... Overall, a very busy year.

Hopefully everyone got to go to at least a couple of these. They were a lot of fun and great opportunities to learn. So many times, I saw the pictures that other people took and said "Where was that? I have to go back and try that." Although I did OK, I saw a lot of work that was much better than I did, and I'll have to work on getting better.

In meetings we learned about taking star photographs, time lapse photography for storm chasing, (including what a "hooboo" is) how to take rather elegant photographs in nature using translucent plastic sheets and multiple flashes, how to take better nature photographs, especially of birds, and recording American history with our photographs.

I'd like to thank all the officers and members for all the efforts of leading the club in 2022. Nancy Mack did a wonderful job on the newsletters, putting up with people missing their deadlines so she could get them out on time.

Anita Oakley who not only led the trip out to Cranfills Gap and helped us all be successful in something I don't think any of us had tried before, but also for all her help and advice as to what I'm supposed to be doing. Jackie Ranney and Steven Earles for organizing our field trips, even though the name tags always fell off. David Duckworth and Craig Rowen getting all our Zoom meetings and finding such great speakers. Brian Clark for keeping the club solvent through a trying year, and Guy Huntley kept adding new members every month. Linda Grigsby arranged refreshments once we went back to in-person meetings. JD Luttmer kept us up to date with the Gulf States Camera Club Council, including several winners from the Heard Camera Club.

I also have to thank Elisabeth Shore for getting me started in the role of president, and Ron Maribito for his slide shows from our field trips. The slide shows give us a chance to show off our work and see what great images other members created.

Next year we'll be back to in person meetings at 10:00 AM on the second Saturday of each month. We have a list of upcoming speakers through the next few months, and we're working on field trips for 2023.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the end of year "Member's Choice" meeting. If you haven't signed up yet be sure to get signed up soon so we know how many people to plan on. And submit your photos by December 8!

See you then!

Doug Boone

dougboone5@gmail.com

Member's Choice & Holiday Gathering

Sign up at: <https://www.heardnaturephotographers.com/meetings>

One guest is welcome

Please bring a salad, vegetable or dessert

Time: 12:00 noon until 3:00 pm

Meeting Place: SRC - Science Resource Center, at the end of the Heard driveway,
past the Museum Entrance

Upload your 5 photos by December 8 to: <https://login.filesanywhere.com/Dropbox/db.aspx?v=8a7067865a5f6eb87266>

Happy Holidays & Happy New Year to everyone!

MEMBERS CHOICE CONTEST

Once again it's almost time for our Members's Choice meeting. We will meet at noon in the Science Resource Center for a potluck for our December meeting. After lunch we'll vote to pick our choice to represent the club for 2023!

Upload up to five of your favorite images to the folder at MembersChoice (<https://1drv.ms/u/s!Asc1vCEOycmLI7Q0N4755XdQ52h54g?e=J44e0H>) for consideration.

If you have trouble following the link to the members' choice, try this. It looks identical, but it works.

<https://login.filesanywhere.com/Dropbox/db.aspx?v=8a7067865a5f6eb87266>

Photos will be accepted until **MIDNIGHT, December 8, 2022**. Images will not be accepted after that time.



2017 Members Choice Winner

Electric News!

**You are invited to
enter the 45th Annual
Heard Nature Photography
Contest - April 25 - May 15**

**Divisions for all ages
Wide range of subjects
Cash prizes
Low entry fees
All proceeds benefit
the Heard Museum**



**Follow QR or go to
<http://tinyurl.com/2p864ewr> for Info!**



CONTEST UPDATE



Anita Oakley (anitaoak@outlook.com) has agreed to lead the contest committee for the 2023 Heard Museum Photo Contest. Jackie Ranney (jackieranney@aol.com) is handling publicity.

If you have any questions about the contest, please feel free to contact either of us. If you belong to photography-oriented Facebook groups, other photo clubs, or have photographically inclined friends please let them know about the contest!

Submissions begin: March 25, 2023

Submissions end: April 15, 2023

Last day to accept payments: April 17, 2023

Judging: Negotiable, but around April 21, 2023

Awards Ceremony: May 14, 2023

We have some exciting new categories in addition to the ones we had last year:

- People and Nature – Images depicting a person or people interacting with nature. May include people enjoying nature or the way people affect nature.
- Seen at the Heard – Images captured anywhere outdoors at the Heard Museum, including along the wildlife trails, in the butterfly exhibit, or at the Dinosaurs Live exhibit.
- Aerial Images – Images captured from a drone, helicopter, or plane. Must be nature-related.

FT. Worth Japanese Gardens



Members Guy Huntley and Irwin Lightstone declare they shot all of the color out of the FT. Worth Japanese Gardens on November 29! They declare this was the best color in many years.

BEAVERS BEND FIELD TRIP

NOVEMBER 4-5-6, 2022

Heard Nature Photographers Michael Farnham, Janice and John Goetz, Jamshed Qureshi, Jackie and Cliff Ranney, Craig Rowan, Martha Taylor, Linda and George Vardas, Yasser Khan, and Steven Earles traveled to Beavers Bend last November. Weather was not our friend on this trip. Friday, an Ef4 tornado passed through Idabel, OK while we were having dinner adding some excitement to our dinner.

Saturday morning, we were able to see wind damage in the park. A few blown over trees, broken limbs and roads carpeted with leaves. The weather did not interfere with our photography. Sunrise and sunset Saturday were not great but Sunday morning gave us a nice sunrise with some fog rising from the water.



Surviving the Tornado Warnings: The Brave Beavers Bend Group





Steven Earles

Meetings

Heard Nature Photographers Meeting Schedule, 2023

DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
December 10, 2022	<u>Members Choice</u>	Meeting Place: Science Resource Center, SRC (at the end of the Heard driveway)
January 14, 2023	<u>Sean Fitzgerald</u>	Photographing Texas Prairies
February 11, 2023	Sy Shahid	Heard Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary
March 8, 2023	<u>Russell Graves</u>	Wildlife Photography
April 8, 2023	<u>Craig Rowen</u>	Photoshop Updates
TBD	TBD	Macro & Still Life Photography
TBD	TBD	
TBD	TBD	
TBD	TBD	
September 9, 2023	Jen Strogon	Above water photography of tidal pools
TBD	TBD	
November 11, 2023	<u>Jason Weingart</u>	Tornado Adventures
December 9, 2023	Members Choice	

The December 2022 meeting will be Members Choice and Holiday Gathering, in person.

Beginning in January 2023, all meetings will be in person, Laughlin Hall, 10:00 am.

HEARD NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS 2023 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	TRIP/LOCATION	ADDRESS	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
April 21-22-13, 2023		<u>Mowdy Mustang Ranch</u> Coalgate, OK	16280 Oklahoma Hwy 31, Coalgate, Oklahoma 74538 (map)	More information to follow
October 27-28-29, 2023		<u>Petit Jean State Park</u> Morrilton, AR	1285 Petit Jean Mountain Rd, Morrilton, AR 72110 (map)	More information to follow

*****NATURE PLUS** is a designation for a field trip that includes “the hand of man” subject matter, in addition to nature

THE LAND OF FIRE AND ICE

ANITA OAKLEY is this month's featured member.

Anita is a Life Membership Award winner of the Heard Nature Photographers Club. She has been an active contributor since 2008. She has served as President and Coordinator of the Annual Photo Contest. She is also a member of the Plano Photography Club and the Dallas Photography Club.



I've been fortunate enough to travel to several countries on photo trips (and sometimes for work). I loved India, Kenya and Tanzania, Germany, Australia, and Svalbard, but the one place I'd love to go back to over and over is Iceland. I'm captivated by the landscapes and sea birds, the old country churches, the waterfalls and icebergs. While I've never been there during an active eruption, it's apparent that volcanic activity formed and is still forming this land.

I've been to Iceland twice. Once in July 2007 with Joe Van Os Photo Safaris. The other visit was October 2017 with Mike Mezeul II. The two trips were very different, but I came home with great shots from both.

First, the trip in July 2007. The primary reason for going then was that Puffins nest in the summer along the cliffs of NW Iceland. Before looking for puffins we headed to the southeast coast for waterfalls, Jökulsárlón (the Iceberg Lagoon), and black sand beaches. The clientele on this trip was a bit older and less adventurous, so we didn't try to shoot ice on Diamond Beach. But we did visit Skógafoss and Seljalandsfoss, an old farm turned photo op, a beautiful little church dug into the side of a hill. The church and the farm buildings all had sod roofs, something we just don't see here anymore.



Skogafoss, Anita Oakley



Waterfall on the Side, Anita Oakley



Anita Oakley
PHOTOGRAPHY

Farm Buildings, Anita Oakley



Anita Oakley
PHOTOGRAPHY

Ice Sculpture, Anita Oakley



Anita Oakley
PHOTOGRAPHY

Crack in the Rock, Anita Oakley

After seeing the southeast coast, we headed toward the northwest cliffs. We spent one night back in Reykjavik and then drove up to Stykkishólmur and spent the night. Then we took a ferry across to Brjanslaekur. (Please do not ask me to pronounce Stykkishólmur or Brjanslaekur.) The ferry stopped at Flatey Island, so we let it go on picked up the next one.

We had about three hours on Flatey, which was very interesting. There was an old wooden boat on the shore that made a nice image. There is also a small church with a mural of Jesus in an Icelandic sweater behind the altar (smiley face emoji). Flatey is also home to Arctic Terns, which were nesting in a field. We learned not to get too close to their nesting ground. They have a unique way of protecting their nests. (Projectile pooping, and they are quite accurate.) Joe Van Os pushed the limit, and his camera took the brunt of the Terns' wrath.



Flattey Island Wooden Boat, Anita Oakley



Anita Oakley
PHOTOGRAPHY

Arctic Tern, Anita Oakley



Anita Oakley
PHOTOGRAPHY

Bearberry, Anita Oakley



Anita Oakley
PHOTOGRAPHY

Arctic Tern Nesting Area, Anita Oakley

Once we landed in Brjanslaekur, we drove on to our base for the puffins at Breiðavík. Our accommodations were in converted ship containers. Each had a tiny bathroom, two twin beds, and a desk. Surprisingly comfortable, but if you drop the soap in the shower you have to get out to pick it up! Each day we would make the short trip over to Látrabjarg where the puffins nest. They burrow in under the sod at the top of the cliffs.

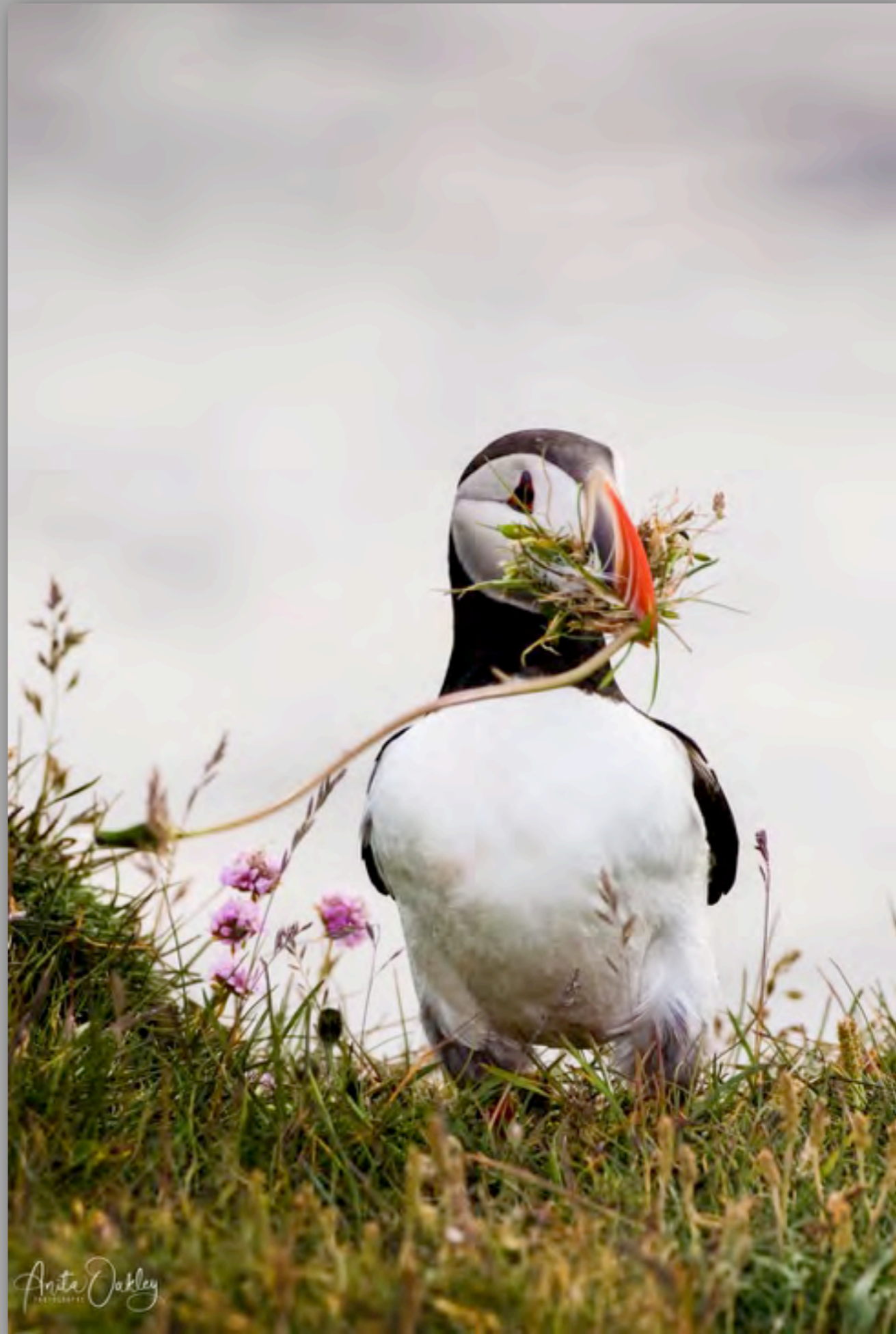
The cliffs there are very high, and you wouldn't stand a chance if you fell off. But they also slope gently and you can stand or lie at one point, shooting toward the next forward point, and be at eye level for the puffins. They have never been hunted there, so are quite trusting. They will practically walk right up to you. Imagine filing the frame with a wild puffin. This was the reason for the trip as far as I was concerned, and I was not disappointed. At one point I turned around, and a puffin with his or her (you can't tell the difference) mouth stuffed with nesting materials was just standing there cocking his or her head at me.



Nap Time,
Anita Oakley



Best Side, Anita Oakley



Puffin, Anita Oakley



Charlie Chaplin, Anita Oakley



Anita Oakley
PHOTOGRAPHY

Balancing Act,
Anita Oakley



Anita Oakley

Helicopter Mode, Anita Oakley

My second trip was in October and my goal was primarily Aurora Borealis. From that standpoint it was almost a bust. Every evening Mike said he'd call us if the sky cleared enough for the aurora, and every night we got a full night's sleep. More about that in a bit.

We spent the entire trip on the southeast side of the island, but we saw much more of it than I did on the first trip. We photographed the ice at Diamond Beach (treacherous but exciting). We did a little hike at Vatnajökull Glacier. We visited several lesser-known waterfalls. This trip was less touristy, and I got some very nice shots. My favorite place was perhaps Vestrahorn. I'm sure you have seen pictures of this beautiful mountain perched right at the end of the Stokksnes Peninsula. Almost everyone headed for the shore, but I was intrigued by the grass-covered black sand dunes and managed to capture one of my all-time favorite images – Vestrahorn under a pink sunrise with the dunes in the foreground. I didn't realize people were worried when I disappeared for too long, but they were very happy to see me eventually make it to the beach. We also spent an evening in Vik and photographed the sea stacks and black sand beach at sunset, and again at sunrise.



Vestrahorn At Dawn,
Anita Oakley



Anita Oakley
PHOTOGRAPHY

Vik, Anita Oakley



Anita Oakley
PHOTOGRAPHY

Chunk of Ice on Diamond Beach, Anita Oakley



Anita Oakley
PHOTOGRAPHY

Diamond Beach,
Anita Oakley

The last evening of that trip was supposed to be a nice farewell dinner in Reykjavik. But since we hadn't seen the Aurora, we all voted to stay later and take a slow drive back to the city, hoping to get the Aurora at the last minute. The skies cleared about 10:00 in the evening, and we got about 20 minutes of a weak show. Better than no show at all, of course. (I am going to Lofoten in February 2023 to try for better Aurora Borealis images. Wish me luck!)

On both trips we had the chance to visit with a few Icelandic horses. They are very different from other breeds. Their legs are shorter, manes and tails are longer. They are very sweet and gentle, both with each other and humans. They also have a gait unlike any other kind of horse. The rider doesn't bounce up and down at all. The horse takes all the impact with its legs, giving its rider a very smooth trip.

Lessons learned:

- Puffins are the second cutest birds in the world behind baby Emperor Penguins.
- You can't count on the Aurora. You pay your money and take your chances.
- 10 years made a huge difference in the size of the glaciers. They lost so much volume in that time. Global climate change is real.
- Never fail to look for the unexpected. Great shots are found in the most unusual places.
- If you ever get the chance to go, do!
- Iceland is an amazing place, full of some of the most beautiful scenery in the world, and I want to go back!



Anita Oakley
PHOTOGRAPHER

Aurora Borealis, Anita Oakley



Anita Oakley
PHOTOGRAPHY

As the Aurora Turns,
Anita Oakley



Mike and His New Friends, Anita Oakley



Anita Oakley
PHOTOGRAPHY

Horse Buddies, Anita Oakley



Anita Oakley

Windswept, Anita Oakley



Anita Oakley

Waterfall: one of the many waterfalls along the Ring Road in southern Iceland, Anita Oakley

GULF STATES CAMERA CLUB

In the Gulf States Camera Club Council's November Competition, Alan Daniel received First Alternate for his nature image "Mandarin Duck". Congratulations!



Mandarin Duck,
Alan Daniel

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA



<https://psa-photo.org/>

The Photographic Society of America (PSA), founded in 1934, is a world-wide organization providing abundant resources for photographers, from the novice to the professional. PSA offers on-line learning, webinars, study groups, competitions, mentors and consultants. Membership is in over 80 countries, 5,000 members, 460 Camera Clubs and 12 Chapters across the United States.



FALL, Nancy Mack



HEARD NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS

If you are a new member, or are renewing a long standing membership, you may want to visit our [“About”](#) Page. The Club is an auxiliary group hosted by the Heard Natural Science Museum in McKinney, TX. Here you will read the history of the club and see a map of the in-person (when available) meeting location on the Heard Natural Science Museum grounds.

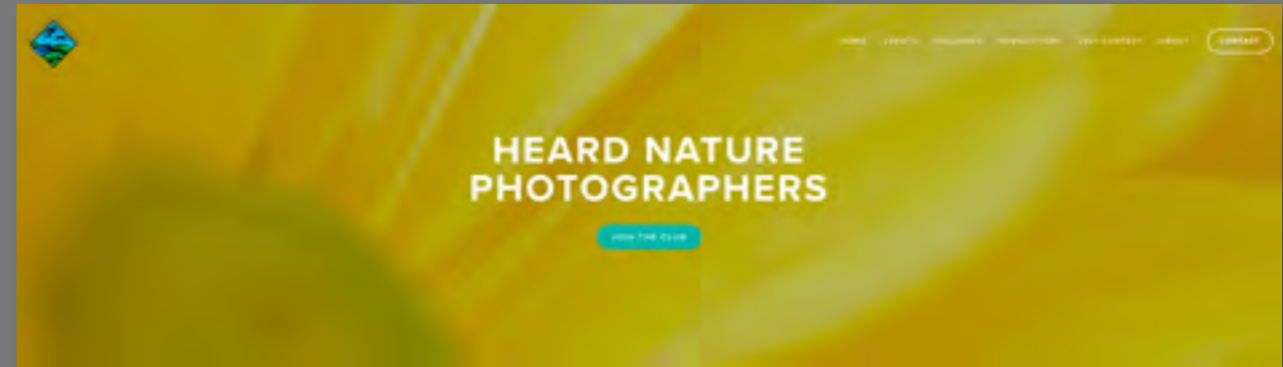
The club was established in 1981 and has served the nature photography enthusiast ever since. We are an affiliate of the [Photographic Society of America](#) and focus our attention on nature photography.

We have a distinguished list of [Honorary Life Members](#) and all [Past Presidents](#) are listed.

The [Bylaws and Policies](#) are also available.

Although meetings cannot be in person at this time, the [Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary](#) is currently open and we encourage you to grab your camera and take a winter walk! Visit their [FACEBOOK](#) page for updated activities.

[Membership to the Heard](#) is available at different price levels, as well as activities for all ages.



CLUB WEBSITE

The [Club website](#) has a wealth of information for both the new member and longstanding membership.

The [Meetings Page](#) has videos of the guest speakers who have presented on ZOOM since March 2020. Commentary and often photos are noted as well as contact information for speakers. Since most speakers are unable to lead workshops in the field, many of these professionals are offering free and/or subscription workshops online for the time being.

Under the [Videos: Educational Presentations](#) you will find a wealth of video clips and resources for the photographer.

[Galleries](#) features member photos from a variety of contests and events.

[Newsletters](#) are archived from 2015 through 2020.

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

Our Facebook page (Members Only):

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HeardNP>

Instagram page:

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/heardnaturephotographers/>

DEWITTCSHUTTERBUGS.COM

**2023 DEWITT
COUNTY
SHUTTERBUGS**

**25th Annual
Photography Contest
and Exhibition**

**CUERO MUNICIPAL LIBRARY
ALL PHOTOS WELCOME**

For rules and information contact:
Michele Bennett
dcshutterbugs@yahoo.com
Dianna Bartosh
diannabartosh@icloud.com

Accepting Entries
Feb. 8-March 22, 2023

Judging March 25, 2023

Display March 27-April 28,
2023

[Contest Website](#)

2023 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL \$20 PER YEAR

Thank You!! Thank you for being a supportive member of the Heard Nature Photographers Club. We really appreciate having you as a part of our growing family. Our association is better because of you.

Membership in the club is only \$10 this year. Use the [link](#) on this page to renew your membership.

Remember that, as a member, you can participate in some awesome field trips when the club once again meets in person. Our meeting speakers provide incredible insight into photography and our host, the [Heard Natural Science Museum](#), is an incredible facility.

Currently, members are able to take advantage of excellent speakers via ZOOM meetings and the club often meets in conjunction with area photography clubs while meetings are canceled.

If you are a first time member, you may want to read about the club. The [Heard Nature Photographers Club](#) is an auxiliary group of the [Heard Natural Science Museum](#), McKinney, Texas. [Click here for club bylaws and policies and procedures.](#)

[To renew, click on this link which will take you to the website.](#)

Membership is \$10. per year for 2022 and reverts to \$20. per year for 2023. You will be able to pay by credit card.

Dues can be paid via PayPal directly to membership@heardnaturephotographers.com

Other options are to send a check made payable to:
Heard Nature Photographers to:
Treasurer, Brian Clark
Heard Nature Photographers
441 Cherry Spring Drive
McKinney, TX 75072

Happy Holidays

Thanks to all who contributed feature stories to the Newsletter

2022

January... **Michael Farnham**: Katmai National Park

February... **Anita Oakley & Terree Stone**: Yellowstone & Grand Tetons

March... **JD Luttmer**: New Zealand

April... **Guy Huntley**: Spain

June... **Guy Huntley**: Big Bend

July... **Alan Daniel**: Birds in Flight

August... **Larry Petterborg**: Oregon

September... **Anita Oakley**: Monsoon Chasing

October... **Craig Rowen**: Indiana

November... **Nancy Mack**: The Accidental Flower Photographer

December... **Anita Oakley**: The Land of Fire and Ice

2021

February... **Ron & Charlotte Hasty**: Winter Wildlife in Japan

March... **Ron Marabito**: White Sands National Park, New Mexico

April... **Brian Clark, Larry Petterborg & Bud Mallar**: Trout Lilies in North Texas

May... **Anita Oakley**: Storm Chasing in the Central Plains

June... **Mary Binford**: Birds of the Pandemic

July... **Clive Fernando**: Birds of High Island, Bolivar Peninsula

August... **Linda Grigsby**: Patagonia

September... **Barbara Stone**: 6000 Miles

October... **Janice Goetz**: Pond Stories

November... **Bud Mallar**: All Subjects Interest Me

December... **Wen-Chi Lee**: My National Park Journey

OFFICERS 2022

OFFICER POSITION	REPRESENTATIVE	REPRESENTATIVE	REPRESENTATIVE
President	Anita Oakley - MARCH	Elisabeth Shore - JUNE	Doug Boone - AUGUST - DECEMBER
Vice President	David Duckworth - PRIMARY	Craig Rowen - Equipment Coordinator/ Back-Up	
Secretary/Treasurer	Brian Clark		
Membership/Marketing Coordinator	Guy Huntley		
Field Trip Coordinators - Co-Chairs	Steven Earles	Jackie Ranney	
Webmaster	<u>Rob Hull</u>		
Newsletter Editor	Nancy Mack		
GSCCC Representative	JD Luttmer		
Photo Contest Coordinator	Debbie Nielsen - 2022		
Refreshments	Linda Grigsby - once we are back in-person		
Slide-Show Coordinator	Ron Maribito		



Anita Oakley
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Fjallsarlon Glacier, Anita Oakley