

Heard  
Nature

# Photographers

“There is one thing the photograph must contain, the humanity of the moment.”  
— Robert Frank

Next meeting date: July 8, 10:00 AM



July 2023

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Alan Abair

# July 2023 President's Message

So the good weather has apparently come to an end, we're into Texas summer which makes it hard to be outdoors for man and beast. We're going to try to have a couple of field trips anyway. We're investigating locations for July 15, and in August our regular monthly meeting will be at the SRC for a combined meeting/field trip where we'll play with some table-top scenes. Looking for anyone who wants to do a demonstration, create a still-life, experiment with water drops or oils, extreme close up and macro photography.

Speaking of macro photography, I recently picked up a 100mm macro tilt/shift lens made by TtArtisan. It's all manual as far as focus and exposure, but it is fun to play with at \$350 versus the much more expensive Nikon tilt/shift lenses. This is the second lens from TtArtisan I've bought, the other being the 10mm I bought for the Milky Way photography we did last year at Cranfills Gap. Since I probably won't be doing a lot of photography with either of these more extreme lenses, they're good enough to play with and see if there's anything there that inspires me to spend the big bucks on the high-end versions. Both are available through Amazon, B&H, and other vendors with Nikon Z, Canon, Fuji and Sony mirrorless mounts.

# July Speaker

## Kathy Adams Clark

Kathy's photos have been published in hundreds of places including Family Fun,, Nature's Best, New York Times, Birder's World, and Ranger Rick. AAA Journey, Texas Parks & Wildlife and Texas Highways magazines have used Kathy's photos on their cover. Her photos have also appeared in a numerous books and calendars including the Barnes & Noble Ireland Countryside Calendar, the cover of the Arbor Foundation Rainforest Calendar, and the Sierra Engagement Calendar. Kathy's photos of Houston were compiled into a calendar offered in Costco.

Kathy's photography is featured in Portrait of Houston published by Farcountry Press. Photographing Big Bend National Park, published by Texas A&M Press, is written by Kathy and uses her photography throughout.

Kathy is Past-president of the North American Nature Photography Association. She teaches photography and is a popular speaker at local and national events. She leads photo tours through Strabo Tours to countries including Costa Rica, Brazil, Spain, Africa, Italy, Peru, Morocco, and Norway.



# July Speaker, Kathy Adams Clark



# 2023 Speaker Schedule

Date	Speaker	Topic
7/8/23	Kathy Adams Clark	Traveling Today – Options, Pickpockets, Crowds, and Covid
8/12/23	Craig Rowen	Lightroom/Photoshop Useful Tools
9/9/23	Jen Strogon	Above water photography of tidal pools.
10/14/23	Sean Fitzgerald	Prairie Photography
11/11/23	Jason Weingart	Tornado Adventures
12/9/23	Members Choice	

# Field Trips

By Steven Earles

Date	Location	Address	Website
Postponed for heat!	LLELA – See next page (Anita Leading)	201 E. Jones St. Lewisville	<a href="https://www.llela.org/">https://www.llela.org/</a>
July 15	TBD		
August	Tabletop workshop	SRC at the Heard	
September	TBD (Terree Stone leading)		
October 27-29	Petit Jean State Park	1285 Petit Jean Mountain Road, Morrilton, AR	<a href="https://www.arkansasstateparks.com/parks/petit-jean-state-park">https://www.arkansasstateparks.com/parks/petit-jean-state-park</a>

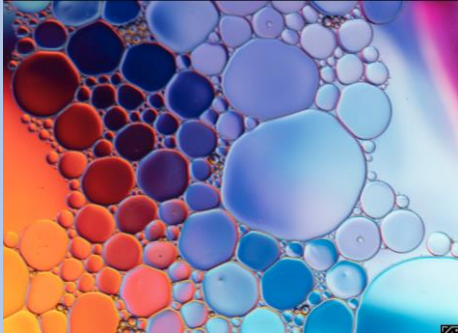


# Postponed! LLELA - Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Center



Unfortunately, the day we were going to go to LLELA was in the middle of a heat advisory. Since none of us need to be exposed to 108 degree heat indexes, we've postponed this field trip. We hope to be able to get it in before fall, but the long range forecast is for a warmer than usual summer. We may have to do this one sometime in September or October. That would give us two field trips for that month, but that's fine.

# August Table-top Workshop



Due to excessive heat, we're planning a table-top workshop in the SRC for August in lieu of a field trip. This would be on our regular meeting day (August . Craig Rowen (our August speaker) will do a session on Lightroom and Photoshop Tools. Terree Stone will do flowers in Ice. Dennis Fritsche will do oil in water. Brian Clark has offered to do backlit fruits and flowers. Other possibilities are still life, mirrors, etc. We will need more activities, so if you have an idea for a table-top station and would be willing to man (or woman) it for the club, please notify Anita Oakley.



# What to Photograph in July

It's hot out there, but there are plenty of nighttime opportunities. Consider photographing the moon and stars! And don't forget Independence day fireworks!

- Fireworks – July 1-4<sup>th</sup>
- The Full Moon – July 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Conjunctions of the Moon with
  - Saturn – July 7<sup>th</sup> with the moon at 81%
  - Jupiter – July 11<sup>th</sup> with the moon at 63%
  - Mercury – July 19<sup>th</sup> with the moon at 2%
  - Venus – July 20<sup>th</sup> With the moon at 5%
  - Mars – July 21<sup>st</sup> with the moon at 10%
- The Delta Aquariids Meteor Shower – July 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>
- The Milky Way with the Galactic Center – the days around July 17<sup>th</sup>
- Sunrise and Sunset – any day! Check for clearing to the east in the morning and the west at night, combined with clouds above the horizon.



# Gulf States Camera Club Council Update



In the Gulf States Camera Club Council's June Competition, Alan Abair received 1st Place for his Color image "Predawn over Torres del Paine". JD Luttmmer won 1<sup>st</sup> Honorable Mention for his image "Pancake Formation with Blowhole" in the Color category. Anita Oakley received 2<sup>nd</sup> Honorable Mention for her Monochrome image "Nostalgia". Dennis Fritsche received 1st Alternate for his Monochrome image "Bison". And Robert Green received 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate for his Photojournalism image "Street of Flowers". Congratulations to all!

Keep the images coming!

# 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Gulf States Camera Club Alan Abair



"Predawn over Torres del Paine".

# Other Gulf States Camera Club Council Winners



# Featured Member – Alan Abair

In early May 2023, I attended Lisa Langell's 4-day workshop, "The Magic of Hummingbirds" in Madera Canyon, Arizona. During the workshop, Lisa and her teaching partner Kim Gray show photographers how to use off-camera flashes to photograph hummingbirds in-flight and stop the motion of their beating wings. The workshops are offered 4 times per year — twice in the spring and twice in the fall — timed to coincide with the natural migration patterns of the hummingbirds.





## Requirements

Each workshop has a maximum of 8 participants. The fitness level is “easy,” as there are no hikes or long walks.

Each participant should have their own DSLR or mirrorless camera with a hot-shoe to attach the flash trigger, a sturdy tripod, a remote shutter release, and a lens in the 100-400mm range (I shot exclusively with a 100-500mm lens, and was normally in the 250-350mm range.)





## **The Location**

At the lodge, there is a bird viewing area open to the public. Besides hummingbirds, the area attracts wild turkeys, coatimundi, and a wide variety of other birds; over 250 species of birds have been spotted in Madera Canyon.

Most of the hummingbird photography for the workshop is done in a small courtyard area right outside the doors of the cabins. This is very convenient if you are booked in one of the cabins; it's slightly less convenient if you're in one of the casitas, which are about a 100 yard walk away.

## **The Workshop**

There are a total of 6 photography sessions: one on the afternoon of arrival; morning and afternoon session on the second and third days; and a morning session on the day of departure/check out.

Workshop attendees rotate through the stations, moving to the next one for each subsequent shooting session. This helps assure that no one person gets the "hot" station; hummingbirds are wild animals after all, and where they decide to go at any given time is a bit of a luck-of-the-draw. That said, there were plenty of hummingbirds in the area, and none of stations were wanting for subjects (usually). I did have one afternoon when it seemed that the birds were actively avoiding the station I was at. This could have been due to the large number of bees attracted to the feeder at that particular station. There are "bee proof" feeders available to help combat this, but they are far from perfect, and the birds seemed to be very cautious about feeding when bees were present and in the way.

## Price

As of this writing, the price for the 4 days, including lodging, is \$2695 for a shared room, or \$2895 for a private room. Meals and transportation are not provided. The nearest town (Green Valley) is about 25 minutes away, and there are a few hours between the morning and afternoon sessions if students want to go into town.

## Conclusion

Overall I enjoyed the experience quite a bit. I was very interested in learning the technique that Lisa and Kim taught, and I feel the workshop accomplished that very well. Given the equipment and time to set it up, I am confident I could accomplish the technique on my own.

However, I feel like most of the photos I took feel too artificial for my taste. I definitely prefer the more “natural” shots I took, and while there is a place for high-key photography in virtually anyone’s portfolio, it’s up to the photographer to decide if that is the type of shots they want.

Also, I think that for accomplished photographers, the workshop could be shorter (with a matching reduction in price.) Some of the time I felt like I was taking the same shot over and over, and thought that perhaps four sessions would have been adequate to learn the nuances of the three styles.

## Pros

Plenty of opportunity to learn and practice the stop-motion flash technique  
Nice location, with plenty of hummingbirds

## Cons

Might be longer and more expensive than necessary  
Some might not consider the photos “nature” since they are in a fairly artificial environment



# Our Heard Contest Winners!

Last month we saw all of the Heard Contest Winners from the club except one. I owe Mary Binford an apology, but here is her prize winner, and it's stunning!



Mary Binford,  
Hummingbird Moth

# Final Report on the Heard Contest

Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, Jackie Ranney, Brian Clark, and Anita Oakley presented Sy Shahid with a check for \$6100 the director of the Heard Museum. We also gave him the framed overall BOS winner. The 2023 Heard Photo Contest is officially over.

The committee will have a post-mortem soon to discuss dates and category changes for next year. In the meantime, here are photos of the presentation:



# ***Got Snacks?***

After the meeting is a great time to socialize and share a snack. We would like for members sign up to bring a snack to share one meeting a year. Sign up sheets are available at the meeting.





# Who's Who at the HNPC



Position	Contact
President	Doug Boone
VP	David Duckworth
Equipment coordinator and backup VP	Craig Rowen
Secretary/Treasurer	Brian Clark
Membership/Marketing Coordinator	Guy Huntley
Field trip Coordinator	Steven Earles
Webmaster	Rob Hull
Newsletter Editor	Anita Oakley
GSCCC Representative	J. D. Luttmer
Photo Contest Coordinator	Anita Oakley
Refreshments	Linda Grigsby
Slide Show Coordinator	Ron Marabito

If you need to contact anyone, fill out an email form at  
<https://www.heardnaturephotographers.com/contacts-summary>.  
If there isn't a specific link to email your contact, email Doug, and he'll forward.