

Heard
Nature

Photographers

*"If you are out there shooting,
things will happen for you. If
you're not out there, you'll only
hear about it."*
– Jay Maisel

Next meeting October 14th



October Volume 39, Issue 9

<http://www.heardnaturephotographers.com>

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Alan Daniel

President's Letter

Doug Boone



October has a field trip to the Lewisville Lake Environmental Center on the 7th, our regular meeting on the 14th, and another field trip, this time to Petit Jean State Park in Arkansas the 27th-29th. Pretty busy month. We're also coming up on the end of the year, which means

we all need to start looking through what to submit for the Member's Choice pot-luck in December. Its also a good time to think about how you can help with the club next year. We always need more help with refreshments, field trips, the newsletter, and finding speakers. If you can help out with any of those areas it will be great. Having multiple people manage the field trips this year helped a lot, not only by taking the pressure off having just one person being responsible every month, but also by making it easier for us to have more field trips. By and large the club runs itself, refreshments only needs attention the day before and the day of a meeting. Field trips only need a little time a few days before the field trip, the day of the field trip,

and then a couple of emails to remind everyone to send their photos to Ron Marabito for the slide show.

So, please let people know what/when/where you can help out to keep the club active and growing!

Newsletter 101

This document is an interactive PDF. If you click on an item under "In this issue" it will take you to that page. Hyperlinks will take you to the appropriate website. Clicking the HNP logo button at the bottom of the page will take you back to home.

Headings are color coded by subject. Educational items are tan, general info colbalt, field trips red, etc.

The newsletter is only as valuable as the information in it. Please contribute images, stories, trip reports, and anything you can share.

Vital Info

Meetings:

Our meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month, in Laughlin Hall at the Heard. Any exceptions to the meeting location are announced in the newsletter and email.

Website and Facebook:

There is always good information on the club website. We also have a Facebook page where members are able to share images, meetups, and information.



Good to Know...

At the Heard

On our meeting days you can take advantage of the grounds at the Heard even if you aren't a member.

The Heard sanctuary has five habitats

including Blackland prairie, wetlands, bottomland forest, upland forest and white rock escarpment. Each habitat is unique and offers a variety of plants and animals that live in specific environments.

If you would like to join the Heard and visit the rest of the month, memberships are only \$70 a year, or \$50 for those of us over 60.

Join our Facebook Page!

If you haven't joined the Heard Nature Photographers Facebook page, consider doing so. It's



Terree Stone

a great space to share your images, share hints, ask questions, or organize a photo meetup.

Night Hikes

Did you know that the Heard has guided night hikes now and then? If you have ever been on a hike and the sun set before you finished, you know that experiencing a trail at night can be a completely different experience from hiking during the day. Landmarks change, as can your sense of direction. Even if you've hiked a trail several times, it can feel completely unfamiliar.

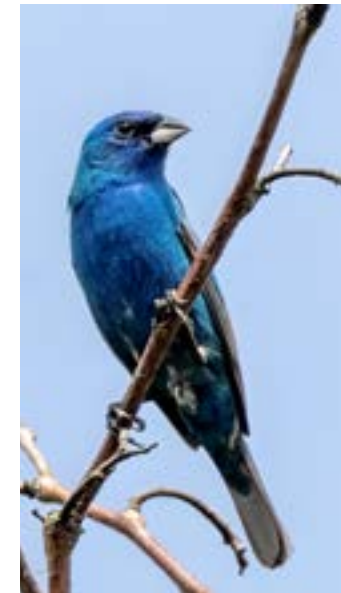
The next night hike is October 7th, registration is required.



Patrick Nowotny

HNP Membership

Dues are \$20 a year, payable on January 1. The grace period is 2 months, so if you haven't paid by March 1st, you will miss out on the newsletters, field trips, etc. until you have renewed your membership. We've had some discussion about changing to renewal on your membership date, but no decision has been made as yet.



Clive Fernando

Calendar at a Glance

October

10/7: Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Center - 7:00 - 201 E. Jones St, Lewisville. Six trails, each with its own ecosystem. Anita Oakley will lead this one

10/14: Meeting - Jason Weingart on Tornado Adventures. "Jason Weingart travels over 50,000 miles each year in search of new and compelling images."

10/27-29: Petit Jean State Park - 1285 Petit Jean Mountain Rd, Morrilton, AR

November

11/4: Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge - Forests, prairies, and wetlands make this a great place for nature photography. Step back in time and experience what the Fort Worth/Dallas Metroplex was like in the early 20th century. Leader: Jackie Ranney

11/11: Meeting - JSean Fitzgerald presents Prairie Photography.

11/15 - 12/5: Submit images for Members' Choice - Watch for upload instructions for the images you want to enter!

December

12/9: Meeting - This is our annual Members' Choice meeting. The club buys BBQ meats, and everyone brings a favorite side or desert. After lunch we vote on the image we choose to represent the club for 2024.



Jason Weingart



Sean Fitzgerald

October Speaker - Jason Weingart

David Duckworth

Jason Weingart travels over 50,000 miles each year in search of new and compelling images. From vast landscapes, to the edge of molten lava, beneath spinning supercell thunderstorms, and the darkest places on Earth, no situation is too adventurous for him.

He graduated from the Southeast Center for Photographic Studies and has worked as a freelance photojournalist for eight years. His award-winning images, timelapses, and videos have been featured by a wide array of well-known media and educational outlets across the globe.

Jason is the co-author of *The Anatomy of Severe Weather*. The comprehensive visual guide to understanding the mechanisms of severe thunderstorms hit the shelves in January 2016. He also recently led a lightning research project for the BBC series *Wild Weather* with Richard Hammond and appeared on The Weather Channel's *Heroes and Survivors*.



Scheduled Speakers

David Duckworth

Date	Speaker	Subject
Nov. 11, 2023	Jason Weingart	Tornado Adventures
Oct. 14, 2023	Sean Fitzgerald	Prairie Photography
Dec. 9, 2023	N/A	Members' Choice

Field Trips

October 7th

We will make up the postponed June field trip to [Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Center](#). Anita Oakley leading. Meet at 8:00 by the pavillion. *With over 6 miles of hiking trails, LLELA is positioned where the Blackland Prairie mingles with the dry upland forests of the Eastern Cross Timbers. The Elm Fork of the Trinity River, with its surrounding bottomland forests, winds through the middle of these two ecosystems.*

There are 6 trails at LLELA, and currently all of them are in good condition. For a description of the trails and the habitats they provide, check their website.

October 27-29

Petit Jean State Park - If you haven't signed up yet, be sure to do that and find accomodations soon! Here is the [park's website](#). If you haven't been to Petit Jean in the fall, you will be amazed at the scenery and photo opportunities!

The canyon and bluffs were created by Cedar Creek, which cascades into the canyon in an impressive 95-foot (29 m) waterfall. Above the falls, Cedar Creek has been dammed to create the 100-acre Lake Bailey which is used for pedal-boating and fishing.

November 4th

Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge - Meet in the parking lot of the Hardwicke Interpretive Center at 8:00 AM. Jackie Ranney is the leader on this one.

Forests, prairies, and wetlands, oh my! Step back in time and experience what the Fort Worth/Dallas Metroplex was like in the early 20th century. At its current state, the FWNC&R covers 3,621 acres and includes over 20 miles of hiking trails, making the park one of the largest city-owned nature centers in the United States.



Field Trips

Wanted - Field Trip Leaders

Hopefully you have noticed that the club has had more field trips and photo opportunities recently. That's because several of our members have stepped up to help lead trips. We are set through November, but we need more people to take a turn leading just ONE field trip in the coming year. Here's what it would involve:

1. Find a cool place for the club to go. It could be somewhere new, but it doesn't have to be. Some places are worth repeat visits!
2. Set a date. Coordinate it with Anita Oakley or Steven Earles.
3. Write up a short explanation of the trip for the newsletter, and send it to Anita. Include some pictures as a teaser.
4. Send the same notice to Rob for the website.
5. Get a list of those who are registered for the trip a week before the date and send reminder email with suggested equipment, meeting place, lunch plans, etc.
6. Go on the trip to make sure things go smoothly.

It honestly doesn't take a lot of time or energy to lead just one trip. We've had several people step up this fall, but if we don't have others who are willing to carry on, this club will die.

I hate to be that blunt or negative, but this is just the way it is. It takes all of us working together to make a great organization.



Mary Binford

Past Field Trips

Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge - September 16th



Anita Oakley

We had a good turnout for the Hagerman field trip, led by Terree Stone. We met at the end of the Plover turnout for sunrise. Sunrise itself was a bit understated, but pretty.

After that, everyone split up to shoot wherever

they wanted to. Many of us concentrated on birds with varying levels of success. (I found that I should have used a much faster shutter speed, but still got a few keepers.) The Tern turnout was chock full of egrets, herons, pelicans, sandpipers, and even a few ibis. Fortunately, the roadside vegetation had grown to the point where it made a great blind, and we could



Mary Binford

shoot without disturbing the birds.

We reunited at the butterfly garden about 10:00 to shoot macros of flowers and insects. There were several caterpillars just ready to spin their cocoons, bumble and honey bees, dragonflies and the like.

Finally several of us went to a late breakfast or early lunch at Mom's Cafe in Pottsboro.

Slideshow to come at the October meeting!



Mary Binford



Anita Oakley

Workshop Opportunities

Cowboys and Canyonlands of the Texas Panhandle

Russell Graves

November 27 - December 1, 2023.



The Eclipse -

Russell Graves

20 people

April 8, 2024 (filling up fast!)

The next total eclipse to hit the United States is coming to Hackberry Farm in Dodd City, Texas, and we're hosting an eclipse party!

If you are a photographer looking for instructions on photographing the eclipse and need some post-processing strategies, this is the workshop for you. Join us for this once-in-a-lifetime event that will happen in our own backyard!

To keep our event small and for the maximum learning experience, we are limiting this workshop to twenty (20) people.

<https://www.wildlifephotoshow.com/camp>

If you have any questions, send me an email or call Russell Graves at 806.280.8007

Magic of Alaska: 2024

Lisa Langel

June 2-7

Lisa Langel's "Magic of Alaska" photography experiences are completely unique, one-of-a-kind, small and very private. No other tour exists like it!

You will have access to several unique locations that other tours do not offer and will be carefully and joyfully guided through the best wildlife and nature along the Kenai Peninsula, Gulf of Alaska, and Lake Clark National Park.



Moab Off-Road Photography

Dan Ballard

Nov 17-19, 2023

\$1,400

4WD JEEPS INCLUDED! Moab is one of the most intriguing places on earth, with countless red rock formations and mystic landscapes ...yet most people only see a small part of it. In partnership with a local jeep guide, we will take the path less traveled in search of unique photographs in this 3-day workshop.

GSCCC

J.D. Luttmer

In the Gulf States Camera Club Council's September Competition, Ron Varley received 2nd Place for his Monochrome image "White Sands Minimalism". Ron Marabito received 3rd place for his Monochrome image "Golf Course in Death Valley". Congratulations, Ron and Ron!

Our GSCCC representative, JD Luttmer, needs additional images from club members for future contests. He has images suitable for the Photo-journalism category from only a couple of members, so those in particular are needed. Please send your images to him at JDLuttmer@gmail.com. Detailed information about GSCCC was published in the September 2022 newsletter.



Ron Varley



Ron Marabito

Jewels in Flight

Anita Oakley

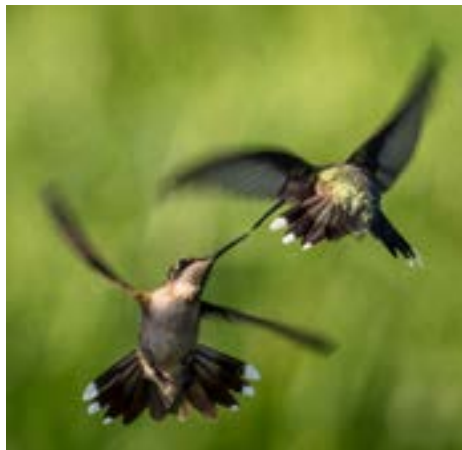
Thanks to Russell Graves and his nature photography workshop series, I had the chance to photograph hummingbirds for the first time in August. I fell in love, bought two feeders, and started trying to attract my own little feathered friends.



I also have been captivated watching YouTube videos about hummers and learning all I can about them. Here are some facts you might not know:

- Hummingbirds live only in the western hemisphere. There are none in Europe, Africa, or Asia, let alone the Antarctic
- Their range is from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, but most species live in Central and South America.
- Hummers are the only bird that can truly hover, fly backwards, and even upside-down.

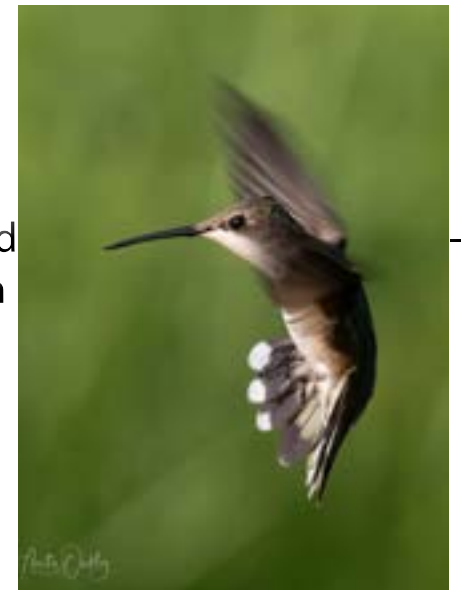
- The average hummingbird weighs only .1 to .2 ounces.
- They rely on flower nectar for energy, and unlike all other animals, the sugar they eat goes directly to their muscles to fuel flight.
- They supplement nectar with small insects for protein.
- They drink 1.5 to 2 times their weight in nectar every day.
- Their wings beat as fast as 62 beats per second. The smallest species' (Bee Hummingbirds) wings may beat up to 80 times a second.
- When hummingbirds are in full flight, their heart may beat over 1200 times a minute.



- They sleep in a state called Torpor, which is a short-term hibernative state. Their heartbeat drops to 40-50 beats a minute; their temperature

drops. If they are on a slick perch, they may flip upside down without waking them.

- If it weren't for torpor, they would starve to death overnight. It may take them half an hour to wake. If you see an unresponsive hummer, just leave it alone. It'll wake up eventually.
- The female hummer builds her nest alone, and raises the chicks without male assistance.
- Hummers are solitary birds, and very territorial. They also migrate alone across huge distances.
- The eastern part of the U.S. has only one kind of hummingbird - the Ruby Throated while the western U.S. has several.



My Garden - Creating Your Own Photography Destination

Janice Goetz

It's a lot of fun to travel and explore new places, but we aren't able to be on the road as often as we wish.

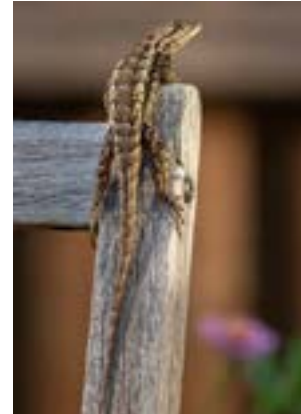
In 2014, I became a certified Texas Master Gardener for Denton County. Two years later, I decided to become a Texas Master Naturalist. My husband John joined me on this new adventure. We became certified with the Elm Fork Chapter in 2016. Both organizations provide education from college professors and many other very knowledgeable instructors. As a result, I created my own destination right in my backyard. I added bird feeders, water features and a LOT of native plants to attract birds, insects and mammals.

My yard is now certified as a Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation. Certification requires



an area for Food, Water, Cover, Places to Raise Young, and the use of Sustainable Practices. To improve my habitat, I completed Levels 1-3 of the Native Landscape Certification Program offered by NPSOT, the Native Plant Society of Texas.

My little ecosystem provides many photo opportunities. I recently had a wren family build their nest right in front of my official "Wildlife Habitat" sign! From my recliner, I have seen a variety of hawk species, woodpeckers, herons, Mississippi Kites, roadrunners, and many species of song birds. Butterflies love having their very own host plants, and dragonflies enjoy hanging out by the pool. I usually have several bunny families during the year, lots of squirrels, anoles, and even Texas Spiny Lizards.



You don't need a lot of space to create your own wildlife destination. I'm a naturalist at heart, and love watching and photographing these beautiful critters. As a naturalist, I enjoy participating in the iNaturalist program. It's a Citizen Science program where every observation can contribute to biodiversity science, from the rarest butterfly to the most common backyard weed.



What to Photograph in October

- Oct. 6 - Austin City Limits Music Festival
- Oct. 14 - Annular eclipse of the sun. Best seen from the Hill Country
- Oct. 14 - New Moon, Milky Way time!
- Oct. 20-21 - Orionids Meteor Shower.
- Late October into November - Fall color. Check out Lost Maples, Piney Woods, Caddo Lake, the Guadalupe River, Tyler State Park.
- Sept. 29 through Oct. 22 - Texas State Fair
- Late October - Halloween events like pumpkin patches, mazes, etc.

Featured Member - Alan Daniel

I first became interested in photography in the late '70s. The first twenty years of photos were primarily snapshots of my family, holidays, and a few vacation trips. After a gap of thirty years, I purchased a DSLR camera in 2010 and haven't looked back. I enjoy photographing nature and wildlife - which includes my grandchildren playing sports or just having fun.

I joined Heard Nature Photographers in 2017. My interest in birds also began about that time with rental of a long focal length lens and a trip to Sunset Bay at White Rock Lake, where I photographed my first egret. I was hooked. Thousands of images later, I still enjoy photographing birds.

Why birds? Birds are everywhere and you don't have to travel a great distance to enjoy them. Whether it's a backyard feeder or your local park. Birds come in all sizes, shapes, and colors. Large birds are my favorites, although lately I am learning to capture the small ones. I love the seeing the details that a long focal length lens can capture. Patience is the key to photographing wildlife, especially birds. Birds rarely show up, pose, or perform just for the photographer. On the other hand, they never complain about the way they look in the final image. Add to that their unique behaviors and there are plenty for photographic opportunities. And that is before they take to the sky. Birds in flight are a special treat. I am a little envious of

their ability to fly. Capturing birds in flight is a skill that requires a lot of practice and patience. It also means I need to get out of the house and into the great outdoors.

Most mornings you can find me out on a walk with my camera at a local park or nature refuge. Favorite locations include Heard Nature Sanctuary, Hagerman Wildlife Refuge and White Rock Lake. Trips to High Island and Bosque del Apache have also yielded some of my favorite images. Just to reiterate my point about birds are everywhere, on a recent vacation with friends to Maine, I was lucky enough to photograph a loon family at the lake where we stayed. "Doesn't get better than that."

You can find more photos (not all birds) on Flickr on [my Flickr page](#).



Featured Member

Alan Daniel



Featured Member

Alan Daniel



Got Snacks?

We have a time-honored tradition at the Heard of sharing a bite to eat and some great conversation after the meeting. Won't you sign up to bring something to share next month? There's a signup sheet by the food.



Lifetime Members

Several decades ago our club established the Honorary Lifetime Membership award to recognize and honor members who had made substantial (out of the ordinary) contributions to the photo club and to nature photography, spanning over a number years.

Since its inception, we have honored the following people with this award:

- Ernestine Freeman
- Dr. Harold Laughlin
- Harold Green
- Kay Griffith
- Rob Hull
- Ron Marabito
- Jim Ross
- Ed Pierce
- Larry Petterborg
- Terree Stone
- Anita Oakley
- Jackie Ranney
- Peter Gilbert

There are details about each person's service on our website.

Who's Who

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

There are links to email board members on the club website. If the person you need to reach isn't listed there, reach out to any board member who is listed.



David Downs
PHOTOGRAPHY

The last word... This month's final image was captured by David Downs