

Heard
Nature

Photographers

*"There is one thing the photo must
contain – the humanity of the
moment."
– Robert Frank*

Next meeting November 11th



October Volume 39, Issue 9

<http://www.heardnaturephotographers.com>

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President's Letter

Doug Boone



November 2023 President's letter:

We're coming up to the end of the year which means a couple of things that we need to work on.

December will be our annual Member's Choice, planned for December 9, 2023. We'll have a sign-up and drop location

on the website shortly so we can plan how many people will be attending and where people will be able to upload their photos for the viewer's choice competition.

You can submit up to three photos, please include a title and make sure put your copyright information in the EXIF (properties) of the photograph but not visible on the image. The club will be providing BBQ meats and sauce, but we hope everyone will bring a side dish and/or dessert.

At the end of the year, we'll need to have new officers, we haven't been having formal elections because we've been coasting

with the current volunteers but if we get more than one volunteer, we'll need to do an election. So far as I know we need to fill the Secretary/Treasurer currently held by Brian Clark and David Duckworth would like to step down as vice president in charge of our guest speakers.

You can find the club's by-laws and policies here: <https://www.heardnaturephotographers.com/bylaws-policies>

There are certain offices that we must fill to keep the club in good standing so please help when and where you can. I can't speak for anyone else, but I would estimate that we each spend about 10-15 hours per month on club business, and that's including the meetings and field trips.

I think that having various people host the field trips this year has worked well. We've been more active without placing a lot of stress on the field-trip coordinator each month. I think we want to continue that and if you have a favorite place that the members haven't been to in a while and would like to

act as organizer, please let us know. From talking to the new people who are joining/attending our meetings, a main attraction is our knowledge of places to go for nature photography in the area, so keep your ideas coming in.



Larry and Friend

President's Letter

Continued



One of the areas that takes a lot of time and effort is finding and organizing our speakers. David Duckworth has had some trouble with some of our speakers not communicating which has placed extra work/stress on him so we need to see what we can do to fix that.

Considering how distributing the workload for field trips has helped I'm proposing that we continue to have a speaker coordinator, but we also try to have one other person act as a point of contact for the speakers we schedule keep on top of any requirements from the speaker (Are they remote? Set up a pre-meeting on Zoom to verify everything is going to work? Make sure that the speaker knows where/when to be at the meeting and greet them. Handle getting the gift card we give to the speaker.)

If we can get a few people to help with one or two presenters a year it will make the job

of keeping up with our speakers easier and hopefully be less stressful.

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

Dinosaurs Live is open now through February 19, 2024. If you have kids or grandkids who love dinosaurs, consider taking them to this event!



Stuff for Adults

While most things at Heard are great for all ages to enjoy, here are a few handpicked features we've found to be popular among adults.

- Birding
- Trails
- Animal Encounters
- Ropes Course
- Butterfly Garden (Next spring)
- Night Hikes

Volunteer opportunities are varied and include activities such as working on the sanctuary or in the native plant gardens, guiding trails, car-

ing for Animal Ambassadors, and assisting with classes, fieldtrips, or special events. For more information, check the Heard website or contact volunteers@heardmuseum.org.

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.

About GSCCC

The Gulf States Camera Club Council (GSCCC) was organized at a meeting in Baton Rouge, LA in October, 1954 at the Old Louisiana State Capitol. Today 35 clubs from Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas continue the organization.

In addition to the monthly competitions, in which JD Luttmmer enters our images, there is a yearly convention each spring, including a year-end competition, model shoots, a field trip, etc.

The 2023 convention was in Baton Rouge, LA. Tentatively, the 2024 convention will be in Lafayette, LA on April 18th thru April 20th. Details are being worked out. Pencil in the date if you are interested!

Join our Facebook Page!

If you haven't joined the Heard Nature Photographers Facebook page, consider doing so. It's a great space to share your images, share hints, ask questions, or organize a photo meetup. It is important to answer the questions when you sign up. Otherwise, we think you aren't a club member.

Calendar at a Glance

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.



Sean Fitzgerald



Guy Huntley



Brian Clark

November Speaker - Sean Fitzgerald

David Duckworth

Sean Fitzgerald: "The Blackland Prairie was a wild and legendary tallgrass prairie, 12 millions acres, an immense and mythic canvas of grass and flowers, buffalos, indians, cowboys. It is almost gone now. Worked, plowed, paved and subdivided. Now less than 5000 acres remain.

But tiny fractions do persist, thankfully. Dedicated conservation groups, ranchers, landowners and other dedicated folks have kept it alive and growing. Groups like the Texas Nature Conservancy, Connemara, Texas Native Prairie Association and Texas Parks and Wildlife all do what they can.

As a North Texan, prairie is my identity, my history, the little bit of earth and sky to which I anchor. I have a longterm project to document and celebrate our prairies. Join me on my journey November 11th."



Scheduled Speakers

David Duckworth

| Date | Speaker | Subject |
|----------|--------------------|--|
| 11/11/23 | Sean Fitzgerald | Prairie Photography |
| 12/9/23 | None | Members' Choice |
| 1/13/24 | Dan Bartlett | AI in Photography |
| 2/10/24 | David Cutts | How to attract and photograph backyard birds |
| 4/13/24 | Karen Saucedo | Urban Wildlife |
| 5/11/24 | Ananth Thiagarajan | Bird Photography |
| 10/12/24 | Kathy Adams clark | TBD |

Field Trips

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.



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 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.



Past Field Trips - LLELA

Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area

Twelve club members met at LLELA on October 7th. Alan Daniel got there early to shoot birds down by the dam, and met the rest of us at the pavillion at 8:00. It was a bit chilly at first, but warmed up rapidly once we got out on the trails.

After everyone had trail descriptions and maps, we broke for a hike and photography. Most of us started on the Bittern Marsh trail.



It landed on Alan Abair's lens, on Larry Petterborg's hat, and hung around the people for about an hour. My theory is that it was a young bird that had been hand-raised after losing its mother.

Several members tried out Cottonwood trail, too, before it was time to head out for lunch. We had to wait a while to be seated at the 7 Mile Cafe, but the food was excellent, and they were still serving breakfast.

I think everyone was on board for another visit to LLELA in the spring when the wild-lowers are blooming and our chances of seeing more wildlife are better.



It follows the river for a little while, but you really can't see the river from the trail. Instead, it's a very pleasant walk through the woods terminating at Bittern Marsh. Several members encountered a very friendly Eastern Phoebe.



Past Field Trips - LLELA



Workshop Opportunities

The Eclipse -

Russell Graves

20 people

April 8, 2024 (filling up fast!)

The next total eclipse to hit the United States

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

Creative Photography Retreat

with Kathy Adams Clark

December 7-9, 2023 | 10AM-4:30PM

204 S Austin St, Rockport, TX 78382

\$300 For Members, \$360 For Nonmembers.
Please bring lunch.

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.

Big Bend

Muensch Workshops

June 3-9, 2024

[Emphasis on the stars](#)

\$5995

Caddo Lake

Muensch Workshops

November 9-13, 2023

[One spot left](#)

About Muench Workshops:

Muench Workshops was founded on the friendship and common love of photography shared by Marc Muench, Andy Williams, and David Rosenthal. We are passionate about photography and teaching, and along with our pros, we bring many decades of experience in shooting, printing, publishing, instructing, and traveling. We are proud of the depth of experience we have. Drop us a note, we'd love to hear from you, and we answer every email we receive.

We lead photo workshops—not photo tours, and there's a big difference! Expect to be immersed in photography daily with group and individual instruction, and trust us: you can sleep in at home! Our workshops provide instruction and inspiration for composition, camera use, post-processing, and more.

GSCCC

J.D. Luttmer

In the Gulf States Camera Club Council's October Competition, Ron Marabito received 1st Honorable Mention for his Monochrome image "Brown Pelican". In the Nature category, Ron Varley won 1st place for his image "Nemo & Friend" and Mary Binford won 3rd place for her image "The Fly". In Photojournalism, Alan Daniel won 3rd place for his image "Parting Ways". Congratulations to all!

Our GSCCC representative, JD Luttmer, needs additional images from club members for future contests. He has images suitable for the Photojournalism category from only two 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



Alan Daniel



Mary Binford



Ron Marabito

Members Choice Time

Rob Hull

Every December, we dedicate our meeting time to celebrating the talents and accomplishments of our members. This members-only meeting is a great time to show off our images.

MEMBERS CHOICE SHOW

All members are encouraged to submit images for our Members Choice slide show. It's a way to share your photos with other club members in a risk-free environment. From the pool of images entered in the show, club members will vote on one image that best represents the club for the upcoming year. That image will be designated as the Members Choice Award winner.



Larry Petterborg

WHO CAN ENTER IMAGES?

Any current member of the Heard Nature Photographers Club may enter.

HOW MANY IMAGES CAN BE ENTERED?

We want to see the best of your images so limit your entries to about 4 images.

DO THEY HAVE TO BE "NATURE" PHOTOS?

This is a Nature photography club so, sure. If you have a really great unique non-nature image that you just want to share with folks then by all means, send it in. But remember, only Nature images will be considered for the Members Choice award.

WHAT ABOUT THE "HAND OF MAN" AND ALL THAT OTHER CONTEST STUFF?

This isn't a contest, so there are no categories or strict interpretations of nature scenics. It doesn't matter if the image includes man-made objects, but the image should still be considered a "nature" image by the layman.

HOW DO I PREPARE THE PHOTO?



Alan Daniel

You really don't have to do too much at all. You will want to retouch the image so that it is the best quality you can provide. After that, you don't need to resize or rename the image at all. Just save it as a JPG file and upload it. **DO NOT INCLUDE ANY WATERMARK ON THE IMAGE.** We don't want any

identifying mark visible during the slide show.

HOW DO I UPLOAD THE FILE?

Just click on the Upload Images button below and follow the on-screen directions. Be sure to enter your name when asked.

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WHEN ARE THE IMAGES DUE?

Photos will be accepted until MIDNIGHT, December 7, 2023. Images will not be accepted after that time.



Alan Abair

Courtesies of Field Trip Travel

Jackie Ranney

As we complete another year of field trips and look forward to 2024, let's review a few items that will make our trips even more successful both for the leaders and the participants. It's a time to share our love of nature photography while strengthening our relationships with each other in pursuit of our passion!



Doug Boone

- Sign up for the field trip (even if you decide to go at the very last minute). Sign up can be done on our website! Frequently our field trip destinations request group size or other information about our group. Without adequate information, making arrangements for large groups can be tricky.

- When signing up for a trip, provide your name, your cell number and your email address. If your spouse/designated family member is joining you, please list them as a guest. Complete information is essential since all correspondence/notifications with field trip participants is by email.

- Reminder that anyone going on our field trips is required join our club (which includes acknowl-

edgement of the Waiver of Liability) and pay the membership fee.

- If your plans change and you are unable to go on the trip (local or out of town), don't just not show up. Let the Field Trip Coordinator or Leader know - preferably by telephone or text.
- Carpooling – offer to share in the expense whether it be gasoline or parking charges at the destination.
- If carpooling is offered, (it isn't always), please let the trip leader know you wish to participate. Again, should your plans change and you will not be participating, let the trip leader know.
- After each field trip, participants are encouraged to participate in the "Call for Images" from which a video is made for the next club meeting.



Scott Bursik

Due dates are provided with each "Call" and specifics for image preparation are found at the bottom of our home page under "Resources".

- If you have questions about any of the above items, please don't hesitate to contact the Field Trip Coordinator:

Steven Earles
713/898-5204
steven.earles@yahoo.com

If you have questions about a specific field trip in which you are interested, please contact that trip's leader.

If at any point you are willing to coordinate and lead a field trip, please contact either Steven Earles or the club president! It takes all of us to make our club a success.



Alan Abair

Photograph Caddo Lake

Anita Oakley

If you have never been to Caddo Lake in the fall, you have missed a wonderful experience.



But never fear; it's not too late to rectify the situation. Cypress trees are about to put on a show this month, and you can be there to enjoy it!

Truly, the only way to make the best of this Texas treasure is by boat.

There are several companies that run pontoon boat tours, so that's probably the easiest option. You can also book a workshop - Mike Mezeul, Muench Workshops, Benton Downs, Gary Randall and others lead fall workshops in the swamp, and there are some openings even at this late date. Then there are a few independent boat operators licenced to lead tours on the lake. The advantage of that option is that they will go where you ask, and stop when you want.

The best options for lodging are in nearby Jefferson or through Airbnb, though some workshops include lodging already.

On to the photography tips...

Of course, the best times to go out are at sunrise and sunset. It's usually quite comfortable on the water in the evening, but can be very chilly in the morning, so bring a warm coat, gloves and a hat.

At Sunset

Watch for isolated trees lit by the warm evening sun, but with the background in shadow.

Also look for areas of dense trees

with a canal path deeper into the swamp. As the light falls, look for mirror reflections



of silhouetted trees against the sunset. Gorgeous!

At Dawn

If conditions are right you might even get fog rising

from the lake in the morning, which makes for some beautiful moody images. Early mornings are a prime time for fishermen casting from their boats or shots of a pontoon boat full of tourists to add human interest.

Once the sun is higher you should have an opportunity to catch some wildlife shots. The place is full of water birds, turtles, owls, river otters, etc.



Featured Member - Alex Kostro



This year Mary and I had the opportunity to travel to Uganda to sit with families of endangered mountain Gorillas. We traveled with Natural Habitat Adventures (NATHAB) a travel company known for their small groups, dedication to the preservation for wildlife, and their partnership with the World Wildlife Fund. We traveled with NATHAB many

times before, both in and outside of the US. We are on a journey to visit all 7 Continents. Mary is done but I still have Australia & New Zealand to visit, hopefully in 2025.

Preparation for this type of trip starts months before departure. Since the physical rating of the trip was listed as moderate to difficult and with restricted baggage weight limits preparation was going to be essential. I needed to narrow down what camera equipment to include in my bag. When traveling to new places, I find that YouTube is a great source of information. NATHAB and other travelers post lots of hints, experiences and suggestions for photographers and travelers. I had recently moved from a Canon 90D DSLR to a Canon R7

mirrorless camera. This would be my first major trip with the mirrorless camera and was excited to try the new tracking features. Our trip included, chimpanzee Treks in Kibale National Park, traditional safari drives through Queen Elizabeth II National Park, and Gorilla Treks in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. The terrain and light conditions were expected to vary significantly at each location. Based on suggestions the lens I settled on was the Canon EF 70-200L 2.8 for the Chimpanzee and Gorilla Treks. I would need the faster lens for low light conditions and because we would be rather close to the wildlife a moderate reach lens. For the drive through Queen Elizabeth Park we will be in strong light and would require the additional reach, the Canon EF 100-400L 4.5 would work well.

This was our second trip to Africa. Our first was a traditional safari in Botswana driving in open vehicles through the bush. In Uganda, we were hiking through heavily wooded jungles/rainforest



Featured Member

Alex Kostro

Uganda is where they filmed the old zanzibar movies. Light was good for our second chimpanzee trek, so we opted for the 100-Lens. Our chimpanzee brought us to a troop of chimps on the ground, and we were able to come within 20 feet of the chimps.



Tar- was I 400 trek male rest- each to

paved, and extremely bumpy.

After a 3 hour rough ride on unpaved roads, we reached our final destination, the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. Mountain gorillas are critically endangered and there are an estimated 1000 remaining. The conservation and protection of Mountain gorillas is an example of successful tourism resulting in population growth from 600



The next couple of days were spent in Queen Elizabeth II National Park. The light was strong, and we were able to see and photograph a wide variety of wildlife, including Elephants, Warthogs, Hyena, Leopards, and a large variety of birds. Traveling through the park is not easy, as roads are not

to 1000+ over the past 20 years. Mountain gorillas live high in the mountains at elevations of 8,000 to 10,000 feet in Uganda, Rwanda, and the Congo. To protect the gorillas the government strictly regulates access. Small groups of 6, with government guides and porters trek up to 8 hours to visit an assigned habituated gorilla family. We were only allowed to stay for 1 hour, masked, and must keep 6 meters distance. The gorillas don't abide by the 6-meter rule (LOL). The hike

Featured Member

Alex Kostro

One of the gorilla families we visited was the Katwe Family. The Family consisted of a Silver Back male, a Black Back (Younger Adult) male, 3 adult females and 2 infants. The adults were docile, relaxing, and eating, while the infants bounced around. The light was incredible, as the gorilla family was positioned at the edge of the ridge. We were only about 3+ meters away. It was incredible to photograph but we also enjoyed putting the camera down and soaking in the experience.



What to Photograph in November

Caddo Lake Fall Color - Book a boat tour!

Until November 5th - Autumn in the Arboretum at Dallas Arboretum

Nov. 8 through New Years - Holiday at the Arboretum

Nov. 13 new moon - Last chance to capture the core of the Milky Way until next year

All month - Sunrises and sunsets, fog . This time of year the ground is warm and the air turns cool. That creates the best conditions for fog at dawn, particularly around the lakes. Get out and shoot some landscapes!

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.



r.e. marabito - 2013

The last word... This month's final image was captured by Ron Marabito