

Heard
Nature

Photographers

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

Next meeting January 13th



October Volume 39, Issue 12

<http://www.heardnaturephotographers.com>

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President's Letter

Doug Boone



We've had another year of being able to meet up, share, and learn in 2023, and we still have the annual Member's Choice meeting this month. Another chance to show your work and appreciate what a talented group of people make up the Heard Nature Photographers Club. As you

can see from the newsletter we've already got a good start on speakers for next year, but we need some suggestions on where to go next year.

I know that everyone and their sister will be down by Kerrville for the full eclipse in April, but what else should we do? Last year after our trip to Mowdy Ranch I went over to the Wichita Mountain National Wildlife Refuge and had a good time. Mount Scott offers nice views, the Holy City has some architecture to work with, and there are a lot of Bison roaming, some deer, but I didn't spot any antelope.

The other thing we need is some help with new people to step up and help with some of the offices. The club's by-laws set up that there are certain officers that the club has to have, and we need to make sure those positions are filled. Even if you don't want to take on a role full time, it will be really helpful to have some people helping out with just doing one meeting or one field trip each year and it takes pressure off the people who are currently holding down offices to always be available regardless of health or vacations or family commitments or any of the other reasons.

Looking forward to seeing everyone December 9th for our lunch and Member's Choice.

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.



Alan Abair

Good to Know...

At the Heard

Forest Bathing:

Date: December 16, 2023

9:30 am to 12:00 pm

Inspired by the Japanese practice of shinrin-yoku, or forest bathing, each Nature Connection Walk will be an immersive time spent connecting with nature in our wildlife sanctuary. They will include guided activities done while walking, standing, and/or sitting along our trails. The trails and guided activities will change each month, making each walk a fresh experience. Join us and discover how much spending intentional time connecting with nature can improve your life.

Guided Trail:

January 6th, 2:00 to 3:00 PM

Experience the ecology, geology, flora and fauna of the Heard Sanctuary. Led by our trained guides, your group will spend 45-60 minutes hiking our unique landscape.

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 for now we are leaving the renewal dates as they are.

GSCCC 2024 Convention

The 2024 convention is set!

Thursday April 18th to Saturday April 20th

The Location will be Home2 Suites, 1909 Kaliste Saloom Rd,

Lafayette, LA 70508

337-408-2898

Take advantage of recreation opportunities such as an outdoor pool or take in the view from a terrace and a garden. Additional amenities at this hotel include complimentary wireless Internet access, tour/ticket assistance, and a picnic area.

The convention itself is always a lot of fun. The

year-end contest has all winners from throughout the year competing for the best of the best. Join in the activities, including field trips, educational sessions, etc.

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.



Mary Binford

Calendar at a Glance

January

1/13/24: Dan Bartlett: AI in Photography

February

2/10/24: David Cutts - Attracting and Photographing Backyard Birds

March

3/9/24: TBD

April

4/13/24: Karin Saucedo - Urban Wildlife

4/20/24 - LLELA in the Spring

By this date the Blackland Prairie areas should be blooming and photo opportunities should be limitless! Think birds, flowers, grasslands. More info to come soon!

May

5/11/24: Ananth Thiagarajan - Bird Photography

October

10/12/24: Kathy Adams Clark - TBD



Alan Lusk



Joyce Weaver



Imran Shahab

December - Members' Choice

Members' Choice Images From Years Past



Ron Varley



Jackie Ranney



Denise Remfert

Scheduled Speakers

David Duckworth

Date	Speaker	Subject
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
3/9/24	TBD	
4/13/24	Karen Saucedo	Urban Wildlife
5/11/24	Ananth Thiagarajan	Bird Photography
10/12/24	Kathy Adams clark	TBD

Field Trips

April 20, 2024 - LLELA in the Spring

By this date the Blackland Prairie areas should be blooming and photo opportunities should be limitless! Think birds, flowers, grasslands. More info to come soon!



Sean Fitzgerald

Field Trip Coordinator

Jackie Ranney has graciously offered to coordinate field trips for 2024. Please contact her with any field trip questions, and help her out with either suggestions, or better yet...

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.

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.

Past Field Trips - FW Nature Center and Refuge

Jackie Ranney



Jason King

Winding up the year for field trips, we went to the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge on November 4. Thirteen photographers representing our club wandered the 3,621 acres – one of the largest city-owned nature centers in the United States: Alan Abair, Mary Binford, Doug Boone, Cliff Brandt, Alan Daniel, Guy Huntley, Janice James, Jason King, Irwin Lightstone, Tom Martin, Craig Rowen, Terree Stone and Jackie Ranney.

Without spring and summer blooms to chase down, we found multiple opportunities to keep us busy otherwise!

When our day finished, we met at the Spring Creek BBQ on Lake Worth Blvd. for fun conversation and friendship.

Miscellaneous notes

In addition to those nature-related things that caught our attention,

there are several remnants of CCC construction elsewhere in the Refuge (mostly on the upper levels above the main road) for those who may be interested. Below are a couple of these structures although the photos were taken some time ago. I did not hike the trails this time!



Janice James

Past Field Trips - FW Nature Center and Refuge



Terree Stone



Jackie Ranney



Alan Daniel

Workshop Opportunities

Hackberry Farm Photo School -

Russell Graves

Upcoming day camps at Russell's place include Advanced Lightroom, Lighting, Drone Flight and Photography, Full Moon Night Photography, and more. [Register online](#). His new improved [Website](#) is worth a look, too.

Creative Photography Retreat -

with Kathy Adams Clark

Spots still available! December 7-9, 2023 | 10AM-4:30PM

204 S Austin St, Rockport, TX 78382

\$300 For Members, \$360 For Nonmembers.

Please bring lunch.

Horseback Photo Workshops -

The Art of Seeing with Ken Lee

- Wild Mustangs - May 31-June 3, or June 5-8
- High Sierra - July 30-Aug 3, or Aug 5-9
- Fall Colors - October 1-4

[Register](#)



"What an amazing opportunity! Daily sessions around the camp were full of incredible information, and to be able to practice what we just learned allowed the information to really sink in. Each topic and photography opportunity were well thought out and executed. I feel each photographer received ample time one on one to really address individual questions and needs."

Canadian Rockies -

with Jennifer King

January 4-10, \$4300 USD *INCLUSIVE*

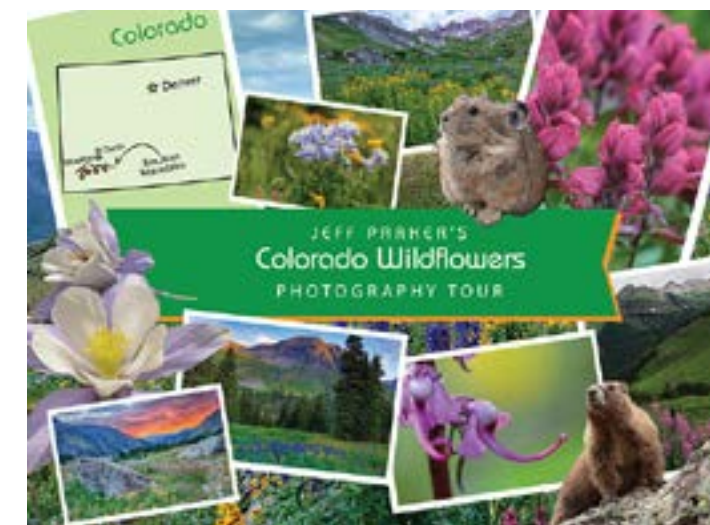
[Snowy landscapes and frozen bubbles!](#)

Colorado Wildflowers -

with Jeff Parker

July 22-26

The mountain landscapes and fields of wildflowers around Silverton in Colorado are incredible, and each day you will head out to the San Juan Mountains and their flower-filled basins for landscape, wildlife and macro photography. [Register](#)



Why Do We Ask?

Jackie Ranney

For your email address

The club communicates with members via email. Newsletters, updates, contest information and other important details are shared this way. Should your email address change, please notify the Membership Coordinator as soon as possible. As of this December 2023 newsletter publication, the "Contact" section of the club website is in the process of being updated. <https://www.heardnature-photographers.com/contacts-summary>

For your cell phone number

This is requested when a member registers for a field trip. Often-times during the actual trip, plans may change (lunch location or time, something coming up during the trip, an unexpected photo op, etc.) Once the field trip is in progress, the cell phone is the only way we will be able to reach participating members.

For your emergency contact details

This is only requested when a member registers for a field trip. Should an accident occur, contact information is carried by the trip leader to reduce any delay in providing care.

For your home address

This is only asked for when a member joins the club should we need to correspond with you if telephone contact has not been successful regarding your membership.

IMPORTANT: None of the above information is shared outside of the club.

If you have concerns about our requests, please contact our club president.



Retha Moulder

GSCCC

J.D. Luttmer

In the Gulf States Camera Club Council's November Competition, Ron Varley received 2nd Honorable Mention for his image "Hooks & Gear Down". In the Photojournalism category. Victor Stamp won 1st Alternate for his image "Sunset at the Falls in the Color category. Congratulations!

Our GSCCC representative, JD Luttmer, needs additional images from club members for the January contest. GSCCC does not have a club competition in December. Please send your images to him at JDLuttmer@gmail.com. Detailed information about GSCCC was published in the September 2022 newsletter.



Ron Varley



Victor Stamp

Weather Forecasting for Nature Photography

Anita Oakley

I think we have all been there... You plan a photo excursion, and you have three or four shots in mind that you really, REALLY want. But when you get there, the weather doesn't cooperate. The sunrise or sunset fails to light up the sky. It starts raining, You planned to shoot the Milky Way, but clouds cover the sky.

To a large extent, you can overcome these problems by changing your expectations. Cloudy? Shoot macros in the soft light. Raining? Shoot reflections in the puddles.

But you can also hedge your bets by doing some research before you go. Say you are planning a trip to the Grand Canyon. You would love to get rainbows over the canyon. Plan your trip during monsoon (August) when you are most likely to get storms. Want to shoot pelicans on White Rock Lake? Don't go in the summer - they aren't there. (Experience talking here.)

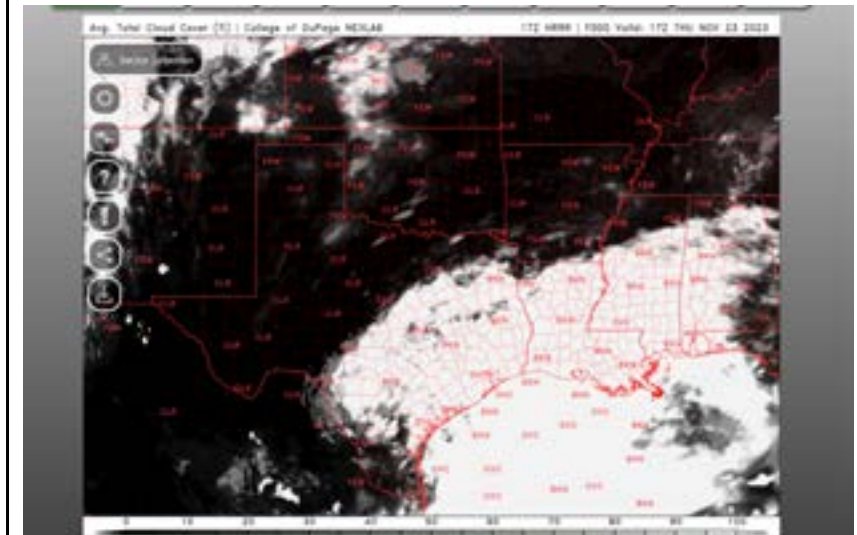
You can check the detailed forecast for

your location on <https://www.spc.noaa.gov/products/outlook/>. On the top left, Type in the nearest city and state, and click "Go."

Say you want to shoot sunrise or sunset, and you will be on location for the next four days. First, check the forecast. You need some clouds, but not full cloud cover. A great tool for that is a phone app called Clear Outside. It's remarkably accurate. Just set your location and the date you are planning to shoot, and it will give you total, low, medium, and high cloud cover, visibility, fog, and all that down to the hour.

But wait - for sunrise you need clouds overhead and clear skies in the direction the sun rises, and that's not usually due east. For sunset, you need clear skies where the sun is setting. You can use the website meteorologists and storm chasers use for forecasting to see what to expect for cloud distribution. Go to <https://weather.cod.edu/> and click on Weather Data, and then Numerical

Models. Pick the HRRR model at the top, and select your location. On the left you will find an option to show average cloud cover. Click the drop-down for Run, and choose the most recent of the 12, 06, 00, and 18 runs. That gives you a two day spread. Use the slider along the bottom to scroll forward in time. Remember, the website shows everything in Zulu time, so you need to do a little math.



The Photographer's Ephemeral is another great tool. It will tell you exactly where the sun or moon will rise and set. That way you know where you need that clear spot at the horizon.

Featured Member - Retha Moulder



My interest in photography has been since childhood, but everything had been just “point and shoot” until I retired from teaching students and went to work for McGraw-Hill, traveling and teaching teachers and administrators how to use the SRA reading program. I tried using my phone, but the

pictures were horrible, so I borrowed my husband’s camera for my trips. I started watching videos about photography and I came across the Photoshop Guys: Scott Kelby, Matt Kloskowski, Corey Barker, Ben Wilmore, and Dave Cross. For those of you that are “video junkies like me,” might enjoy visiting their sites.

scottkelby.com

Courses: Lindsay Adler Fashion photography, Joe McNally: Landscape, Julieanne Kost: Photoshop,lightroom; Jennifer WU: Astrophotography; Plus many more.

Photoshop Guys and Lightroom:

[Dave Cross:](#)

Ben Wilmore:

Digital Mastery | wisdom + clarity + vision

[Digital Mastery](#)

Matt Kloskowski | Lightroom, Photoshop, Photography Training

[Matt Kloskowski](#)



Featured Member - Retha Moulder

While on a training visit for SRA in New York, I spied a camera shop. Since I had been studying the kind of entry camera that I wanted, I just couldn't resist checking it out. Sure enough, I came out with a Canon 50D and a 18-250 kit lens. Knowing nothing about the camera I asked the salesman to set it up for pictures of New York so I wouldn't end up with a blank slate. Out of the 619 pictures that I took that day on the tour, one of my firsts was the horse. I have taken so many pictures with that camera that I had to send it back to Canon to have it refurbished.



One of my first and my best trips was to Fort Griffin for Astrophotography with Mike Mezuel II.

<https://www.mikemezphotography.com> He not only conducts his own workshops but he is also a Nikon Ambassador
<https://digitalsilverimaging.com/dsi-event/free-webinar-with-nikon-ambassador-mike-mezeul-ii/>

Throughout my photography days, I have continued to take work-



shops and I have bought almost every photographic object available. I bought a 5D Mark III from Guy Huntley, who is a member of the Heard Photography Club. It was great to have two cameras available for pictures, but very heavy carrying, sometimes 2 tripods, 2 cameras, 2-4 lenses, canon speedlight flashes, oh, yes, and a set of Lee filters. I just had to have an iMac27 to run Lightroom, Photoshop, Topaz, ON One, and Luminar Neo. I am on my second iMac27 now with 32 gb of memory and I have accumulated 10 terabytes of files and pictures. We made trips to South Dakota, Iowa, Oregon, Nebraska, and to Tennessee in our motorhome. As my husband drove, I practiced taking pictures to learn the settings on my phone for day, night, storms, animals, and landscapes.

Featured Member - Retha Moulder

I have found so many wonderful things to focus on in our wonderful state of Texas—Stars, night skies, flowers, historical sights, animals, birds, mountains, plains, prairies, oceans, parks, lakes, trees, people, and events.

You guessed it, I have added a Canon Eos M6 mirrorless and a Canon Eos R7 mirrorless camera to my arsenal.

Now the good news for those of you that are just getting involved with photography! If your goal is to be a hobbyist, all that stuff isn't necessary. My husband is now elated to see that I have not totally filled the back of his truck with my photography stuff. Sometimes I only have one lens and one camera on a trip. Also, for those of you that don't like tripods, my suggestion is check into the Platypod stuff. Spend your time and energy on enjoying the taking of the pictures and learn early to DELETE the unnecessary ones by the first or second week after the trip. I didn't delete anything for years and first I paid the price of needing more storage for pictures. Now I'm speeding hours deleting them.

I enjoy taking pictures in my neighborhood, such as the Waterfalls at Prairie Creek.

At my age now, I am learning more about compositing photos. I have always enjoyed the art side of Photography rather than making sure that I have followed all the photography rules. After all I have plenty of elements to use from my pictures and purchases from others. My other hobby is creating colored pencil paintings by using my photographs in color to trace the drawing, and black and white photographs for Highlights and Shadows.

Two of my favorite Compositing Gurus Are:

My Photo Artistic Life :

[Sebastian Michaels](#)

[Ricard Rodin Nuclý](#)

- Photoshop and Creative Design Training



My first composite

New Members - New Feature

Changes

It can be hard to get to know people in a new group, especially when the other people have known each other for years. I'd like to introduce you to one of our newer members, keep an eye out for him at the meetings and welcome him to the HNP family!

Jason King

Hello,

I was born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas and I picked up photography in high school around 1987. That soon transitioned into moving images and I've spent the last 20 or so years working in the film industry as a lighting director and camera man in Los Angeles. In 2020 I decided to move back to Texas and take up still photography again. I love traveling the back roads of Texas shooting the unique places and people I find. I almost exclusively work with film these days using Pentax 67 and Toyo 45A cameras. You can connect with me on Instagram @jasonlamarking



It was great meeting everyone.

The following people have generously volunteered to serve in 2024:

Board Members

- Jackie Ranney - Field Trip Coordinator
- Lee Hatfield - Treasurer
- Mary Binford and Terree Stone - Slideshows

Contest Committee

- Rob Hull, Elisabeth Shore and Patrick McCormick have agreed to stay on.
- David Duckworth and Barbara Stone are joining the committee

What to Photograph in December

Birds! The pelicans are back at White Rock Lake, Bald Eagles are on the lakes, and the geese have returned to Hagerman.

Christmas! Lights will be up all over town. For a different shot, go out when it's raining and shoot Christmas lights reflected in the street and puddles. Vitruvian Park, Clyde Warren, and downtown Grapevine are always good.

Watch the weather for snow in the Quanah/Childress area. There are bison at Caprock Canyon just begging to be photographed in the snow. Failing that, there's always Wichita Mountains Wildlife Preserve...

Try deep space photos. It's a good month for the Orion Nebula.

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