

Heard
Nature

Photographers

"Taking pictures is like tiptoeing into the kitchen late at night and stealing Oreo cookies."
— Diane Arbus

Next meeting January 13th



October Volume 40, Issue 1

<http://www.heardnaturephotographers.com>

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President's Letter

Doug Boone



Welcome to the new year! We have some changes coming up that we hope will make the club more interesting and valuable to you, the current members, and encourage new members to join.

We've made the field trip slide shows from the last few years available on Vimeo. We've

also opened up our Facebook page so that the public can view and comment on what our members are putting up there. So please contribute, even if it isn't something that you've done with the Heard Nature Photography Club.

Feel free to share the links with your friends and family to show them exactly why you really NEED that new lens or why you want to go to Iceland in the winter. We also want to encourage everyone to share events on the Facebook page whenever you see an event that members of the club might find interesting,

Finally a reminder that at the new year we need to get your membership fees paid, still \$20/year, before you can go on any of the field trips. For many people the easiest way to take care of that is to go to the club's Membership page and click on the "Renew Your Membership" button at the bottom of the page, but renewing at the next meeting also works.

Thank you

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.

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.

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. We now allow non-members to join on the FB page, hoping that it will encourage people to join the club!



Doug Boone

Good to Know...

At the Heard

Mini Camps

If you have children or grandchildren grades K-6, you might consider registering them for one of the January Mini Camps at the Heard:

January 3: Diggin' Dinos

What dinosaurs lived around here? Did all dinosaurs live at the same time? What other animals lived with the dinosaurs? We'll spend some time digging into these and other dinosaur and fossil questions. We'll go outside and explore the Dinosaurs Live! exhibit and find out about what fossils we find here. Everyone will also get their own fossil to keep.

January 4th: Feathered Friends

What happens to birds in the winter? What is migration and do all birds do it? What do birds eat? And who flies the fastest?

We'll investigate these and other things about birds. Everyone will also get to make a feeder they can take home to share with their feathered friends.

January 5th: Making Tracks

How do we know what animals live here at the Heard? What signs and tracks do they leave for us to find?

We'll take a hike outside and see what evidence of different animals we can find. And we'll make some of our own tracks or signs to take home.

January 6th: Into the Woods Badge Workshop Geared toward Webelos. Are you interested in earning a badge or looking for a fun nature-based activity for your group? Our badge workshops might be just what you need. Each two-hour workshop is specifically geared to meet the requirements for the listed organization's badge, but they are open to any interested groups.

GSCCC 2024 Convention

The 2024 convention is set!

Thursday April 18th to Saturday April 20th

<https://www.gulfstatesccc.org/2024-convention>.



Guy Huntley

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.

Calendar at a Glance

January

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

1/20/24: Field trip to Fossil Rim

February

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

2/17/24: Fort Worth Zoo

March

3/9/24: TBD

3/30/24: John Bunker Sands

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

May Field Trip: TBD

June

6/8/24: Meeting

6/1/24: Lotus Blossoms and wildlife at the Hagerman

July

7/13/24: Meeting

August

8/10/24: Meeting

September

9/14.24: Meeting

October

10/12/24: Kathy Adams Clark - TBD

November

11/9/24: Meeting

December

12/14/24: Members' Choice!



Lee Hatfield

January Speaker - Craig Rowen

David Duckworth

January's speaker is our own Craig Rowen:



I grew up in northwestern Indiana, have been living in north central Texas since 1974. My interest in photography started while in the Army and stationed in Germany where I had an opportunity to take a darkroom-based photography class. I learned to develop black and white film, and played with color photography before being transferred. At the time I could not afford a 35mm SLR, so I was content using a small 110-format film camera with 24 frames per cartridge. After finishing my "extended vacation" with the Army, I attended Purdue University and

graduated with a bachelor degree in engineering and a master degree from University of Texas Dallas. Worked at Texas Instruments starting in 1974. With a real job, I could finally afford 35mm camera, and settled on a Canon AE-1.



I still have that camera and the lenses plus a number of other cameras I inherited including a 8x10 billows camera. At that time I primarily shot color slides, and those were mostly of family. My initial foray into digital photography was with small, early, point-and-shoot cameras back around

the turn of the millennium: first, some flavor or early Nikon Coolpix followed by a Canon PowerShot A95. I eventually got a Canon EOS 70D. I currently shoot with a Canon EOS R5. Now that he is a dyed-in-the-wool digital guy, I prefer to shoot raw images editing in Adobe Lightroom and Adobe Photoshop. I enjoy sharing images electronically, and also enjoy printing my images. My primary photographic interests are nature, landscape, macro/micro, and night photography. I also enjoy walk-arounds and shooting cityscapes.



Scheduled Speakers

David Duckworth

Date	Speaker	Subject
1/13/24	Craig Rowen	New Lightroom and Photoshop Features
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

2023 Members' Choice

Patagonia Horses
Alan Abair
2023 Winner



Grand Canyon Sunrise
Anita Oakley
Finalist



Members' Other Top Choices



Alan Daniel



JD Luttmner



Alan Daniel



Alan Daniel



JD Luttmner

Field Trips

Please keep in mind that the field trip schedule is fluid, and just developing. Many of this year's trips are tentative at this point.

January 20, Fossil Rim

Fossil Rim Wildlife Center is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 entity, specializing in captive breeding programs for indigenous and exotic endangered and threatened species. We can drive through the preserve and photograph zebra, giraffes, Black-buck, Oryx, Cheetah and many more. The cost is \$29.95 per person for the self-guided driving tour. At this point we aren't planning a group tour, but there is a public group tour that you can arrange. Currently there are plenty of openings. Buy tickets for the self-guided or group tour online at <https://fossilrim.org/>



February 17th, Fort Worth Zoo

The zoo's Animal Collection Totals: 542 species
The Fort Worth Zoo currently houses 112 species in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Species Survival Plan.
The Fort Worth Zoo is home to 68 endangered and threatened species on the state and federal levels.
The total number of species in the Zoo's animal collection includes 160 fish and invertebrates; Zoo collection numbers vary.

March 30, John Bunker Sands Wetland Center

Set amid a working cattle ranch and an expansive wetland on the East Fork of the Trinity River, the John Bunker Sands Wetland Center is a nature center, an educational destination, a birder's paradise and photographer's dream, and a serene escape to nature like no other in North Texas.

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. Anita Oakley Leading

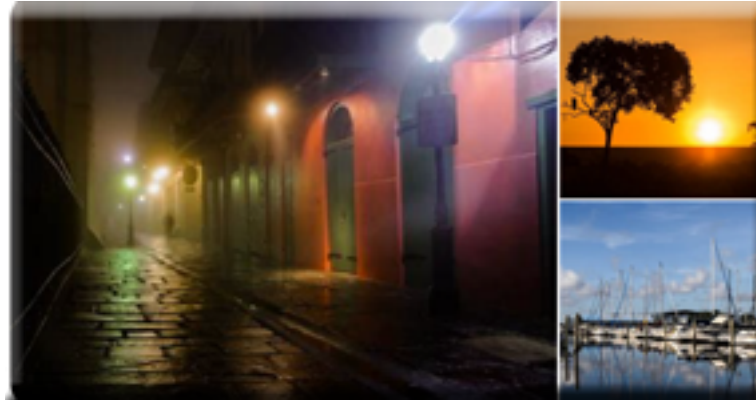
JUNE 1 - Hagerman, the lotus blossoms will be blooming then. Terree Stone, Leading

Guy Huntley is planning a trip to Santa Clara Ranch for wildlife photography. Date TBD



GSCCC

J.D. Luttmer



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.

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. This meeting took place on the occasion of the First Annual Gulf States Camera Club Photographic Exhibition held under the sponsorship of the Louisiana Art Commission. This annual photographic competition was continued by the Louisiana Art Commission until 1966.

The first elected Council president was William G. McClanahan of Lake Charles, LA. L. E. Stagg, Jr. of Beaumont, TX and C. Jerry Derbe of Jackson, MS were elected as vice presidents, with Allen T. Turpin, of Monroe, LA serving as secretary - treasurer.

By the end of the first year, 25 clubs from Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas made up the Council roster. Today 35 clubs from Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas continue the organization and the convention tradition.

Trip Report: Antarctica

Alex Kostro



As part of our journey to visit all 7 continents my wife and I took a cruise to the Antarctic in January 2020. We traveled with Lindblad Expeditions and National Habitat Adventures (NATHAB). Lindblad and NATHAB are partners with National Geographic and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). Their ships sail under the National Geographic trademark.

What we learned is not all Antarctic cruises are the same!

WHY 100 MATTERS.

International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) regulations control the

frequency, duration and number of guests visiting any Antarctic site. No more than 100 guests can land at one site at the same time. As a result larger ships will spend less time ashore or visit fewer sites. Vessels carrying more than 500 passengers onboard are not allowed to land any passengers while in Antarctic waters.

Our ship had approximately 100 passengers and had about 10 landings, 2 of which were continental landings (See map insert). Our cruise, like most to Antarctica embarked from Ushuaia, Argentina. From there we crossed the Drake Passage to the Southern Ocean. We were fortunate to experience the Drake Lake, which



offered beautiful clam seas. Returning we had a "normal" passage across the Drake, which was about 2 days of rough seas, and plenty of sea sickness. We arrived at our first destination 1/2 day early, which allowed the cruise to schedule an extra stop/landing at Spert Island. Spert is usually not accessible due to the rough seas, but our trip experienced unusual calm seas, clear skies and warmer than normal weather.

Preparing for the Trip.

The tour company provides a lot of travel information, packing/clothing recommendations, camera and photography tips and how to deal with the Drake crossing. Following is some tips for a trip to the Antarctic.



Trip Report: Antarctica

Alex Kostro

Camera Gear:

- Since traveling by cruise ship, a rolling camera bag worked well to get gear to/from home.



- Wide angle lens for awesome scenery shots. Zoom lens for on shore excursions and photographing penguins. Onshore the wildlife is very close.
- We primarily used the Canon 70-300 lens and the Tamron 18-400. I would recommend an

additional longer reach lens for photographs of whales and orcas from the ship. Although a lot of whale pictures were taken close up from the Zodiacs.

- Rain Covers and dry sacks for cameras are essential. Excursions are only a couple of hours at a time, and since it's not recommended to swap out lens when on excursion due to the temperature and snow/rain, it's not necessary

to have the larger backpacks.

- Be careful with condensation when entering/exiting the ship with your camera. Let it acclimate to the temperature before turning on.

Photo(s)/Light:

I was concerned about general exposure as I was expecting everything to be "white". We did not make any special adjustments to compensate. We were fortunate to have a lot sun and a contrast. Spot metering did help when shooting penguins, especially the Chipstrap and Adelie penguins.

Activity Level:

Activity level was relatively easy. All excursions were zodiac based,



either for cruising or for landings. There was the opportunity for a couple of longer hikes, but nothing extreme. Kayaking was another activity in a very calm volcano Caldera.

Clothing:

The ship provided bright orange parkas. Rubber boots were pre-rented from the ship. A must for the Zodiac landings. Also, pack a swimsuit if you are up for a polar bear plunge in the Southern ocean. Pack for layers, like you're going skiing. Snow pants, socks, silks, gloves, hats, etc.



Trip Report: Antarctica

Alex Kostro

Ship Staff:

The professional Staff on the ship was incredible, biologists, researchers, National Geographic photographer, and scuba divers. Some of the staff participate in research programs and have wintered in Antarctica. Almost all of them are keen photographers and are willing to help and provide advice. Most have Instagram accounts so that you can follow them. Each night at dinner, there were debriefs and lectures. The staff would join the guests for dinner, rotating between tables. A great opportunity to ask questions about such an incredible place.



Developing your Style

Anita Oakley

I'm sure that as you scroll through Facebook or Instagram, there are times when you see an image and know who the photographer is without looking at the poster's name. The best photographers have a recognizable style - their work stands out.

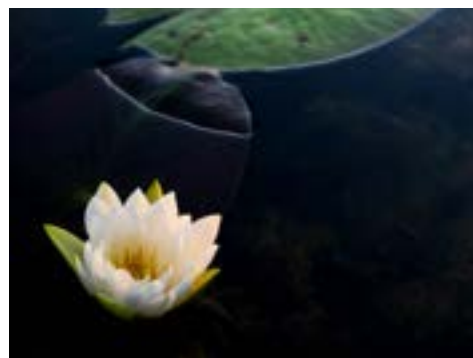


Style results from a mix of variables that come together, making a coherent look across a body of work. Keep in mind that style is not the same as genre. You don't have to pigeon-hole yourself into a genre to carry your style across to different subjects.

Do you have a photographic style all your own? If not, consider consciously developing your own approach to your photography that reflects your personality and preferences.

The first part of a person's photographic journey is discovery. At first you don't know what direction to go, so you sample different subjects and styles. You may try to copy famous photographers' work. You might go to a location and search for the spot where they shot. You might try to duplicate a famous photographer's editing style.

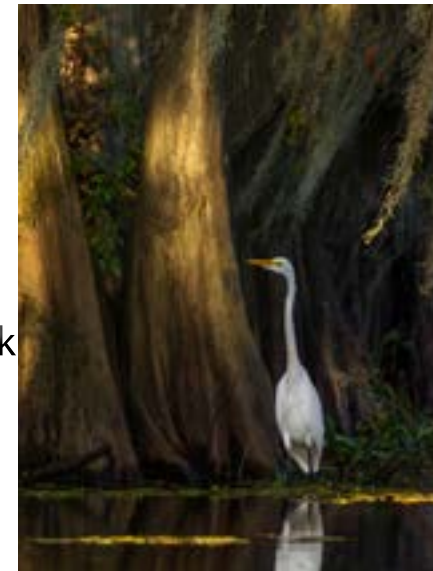
So, how do you start? One of the best ways is to look for patterns in your images. Go through your last three years' images and export the ones you really love to a portfolio folder. Look for what they have in common. Is there a theme? Is there a particular editing style? Are they muted or saturated? Are they high



or low contrast? Are they dramatic? Are there similarities in lighting?

Once you know what your best images have in common, look for opportunities to follow that pattern when you are out shooting. Pay attention to your editing processes to bring out the best in those images and project your vision. That continuity is reliant on a number of factors including focal length, camera position, aperture, movement, lighting, etc.

Of course, not all images will reflect that style, and it is bound to evolve with time and experience. But above all, be intentional about your shots and develop your personal style.



Featured Member - Anis Ansari



Originally Anis was not so much a photographer as a hiker. This was his hobby and release when he was in college in Mumbai, hiking mountains not only around Mumbai but also in the Himalayas with his friends from school. It was on one of these trips that he captured a photograph of Mount Everest that absolutely captivated him, and sparked a lifelong love of photography.

Back in those days, he was shooting film, and black and white at that. Some of his images were printed in local newspapers, which gave him a sense of achievement.

The pressures of medical school and family left little time for his hobby, but after graduation he was able to pick it back up. He began photographing around the world, improving his skills.



In 2015 Anis started taking group workshops, giving him the benefit of input from the leaders and other participants. Over the years, he's developed long-standing friendships with like-minded fellow pho-

tographers both from his photo clubs and workshops.

Anis has also earned honors for his photographs. In 2020 he took a First and Second in Landscapes, and a Third Place in Skies in the Heard annual contest, to say nothing of the overall Best of Show that year. He's continued to do well in subsequent years.

Even more impressive, Anis took two first place awards in the 2020 International Audubon Nature Photography Contest. He deserves all the success he's had, and I look forward to seeing what he captures in 2024!



Featured Member - Anis Ansari



New Members

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!

Scott Bursik

Scott has 100 wooded acres near Quinlan and is building a pond and bird blind on the property. He has graciously offered host members of the club who want to go out and shoot. Jackie is talking to him about a possible field trip there. In the meantime, keep eye out for him and welcome him to the club when you see him!



Senthill Subramaniam

As soon as I have some information on Senthill, I'll share it.

Changes

Club Officers

The following people have generously volunteered to serve in 2024.

President: Doug Boone

- **Vice President: David Duckworth**
- **A/V Coordinator: Craig Rowen / Patrick McCormick**
- **Secretary/Treasurer: Lee Hatfield**
- **Membership/Marketing: Guy Huntley**
- **Field Trip Coordinator: Jackie Ranney**
- **Webmaster: Rob Hull**
- **Newsletter Editor: Anita Oakley**
- **GSCCC Representative: JD Luttmer**
- **Photo Contest Coordinator: Anita Oakley**
- **Refreshments: Linda Grigsby**
- **Slideshows: Mary Binford / Terree Stone**



Terree Stone

What to Photograph in January

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

The trees are bare, and their branches are just crying out to be featured against a dramatic sky or even star trails!

Frost... Look for a very cold morning and some leaves to feature in a macro shot.

Speaking of macros, consider some nature abstracts. Look for patterns or reflections and have a ball.

Sunrise and Sunset - With the low trajectory of the sun at this time of the year, sunrises and sunsets last much longer than the few minutes of high summer.

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 (Updating Next Month)

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.



COLORADO AUTUMN SNOW

The last word... This month's final image was captured by Paul Chance