

Heard  
Nature

# Photographers

*"In photography there is a reality so subtle  
that it becomes more real than reality."  
— Alfred Stieglitz*

Next meeting March 9th



October Volume 40, Issue 3

<http://www.heardnaturephotographers.com>

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*© Patrick McCormick*

# President's Letter

## Doug Boone



We've had a good start to the year with a couple of fun field trips. (Although we seem to have developed a magic power of suddenly turning the weather extremely cold.) The trip to the Fort Worth Zoo on Saturday was cold

enough that many animals weren't let out until the afternoon, and some didn't go out at all. A group went back on Thursday and had a great time with many more animals being out than there were on Saturday.

Putting something out on our Facebook group to let people know that you're interested in going someplace and seeing if anyone else is interested in riding along or meeting you there worked out for the people who went on Thursday so take advantage.

We're coming up on the March meeting about photographing the solar eclipse. We're getting

a little interest in the Heard Natural Science Museum, and we'll have to see how well that works out. They've put our meeting on their calendar, and we should have a little larger turnout than normal. That's the main reason we're asking everyone to be sure to sign up on our website in advance so we can keep track of how many people are going to be there.

At the February meeting we changed to have coffee and snacks before the meeting and that worked out well. I think everyone appreciated having the social time at the beginning, and the coffee was welcome. We won't have snacks at the March meeting because we'll be up in the SRC and having a number of non-members. In April we'll also need to meet in the SRC because the Heard will be holding their annual plant sale in Laughlin that weekend.

There are only a couple of slots available for the Santa Clara Ranch trip so don't wait longer if you're planning on going. The September

trip to the Wichita Mountains is drawing people, and many spouses are planning to attend, either as photographers, or just to get out of the house.

Be sure to check the field trips on the website, there are now two field trips in March, the 23rd will be a trip to Irwin Lightstone's cacti collection, but we'll go later in the day so that the cacti will be in bloom. The other field trip on March 30th will be to the John Bunker Sands Wetland Center. See you there!



**Anis Ansari**

# Good to Know...

## Meetings:

The Heard Nature Photographers meet every 2nd Saturday at 10:00 AM. We are still trying to arrange a later time. Please be patient.

If you haven't joined the fB page yet, please consider doing so! Share your pictures and arrange meetups!

## At the Heard

**Second Saturday Bird Walks:** 8:00 to 9:30 AM  
*the second Saturday of every month.*

Bird Walks are intended to help beginning and intermediate birders with bird spotting and identification techniques. Prairie, woodland, and wetland habitats are included in these walks.

**Zip Line Day March 2nd and April 27th:** 1:00 PM

Guests climb up the museum's new dual zip platform and then proceed to a 487-ft. zip line. Purchase one ticket (\$12 each) for each time

you would like to travel down the zip line. Pre-registration is required.

Please wear closed toed shoes, and appropriate clothing for the outdoors. For information regarding age and size requirements (and more) visit the FAQ section of the Ropes Course page [here](#).

**Eclipse Photography March 9th:** The museum members have been invited to join us at our March meeting to learn about eclipse photography. Please keep an eye out for visitors and make them welcome!

**Owl Prowl Night March 16th:** This is an annual event. Discover the answer to some commonly asked questions: Can they turn their head all around? How far away can they hear a pin drop? Do they make a lot of noise when they fly? And are they like cats and cough up furballs? We'll also talk about which North Texas their home identify them. After the

live owl presentation, take a guided night hike on the sanctuary and discover if any owls are out and about. Pre-registration required.

**Wetland Canoe Trails March 16th:** Experience the amazing diversity in wetland vegetation and wildlife while learning about the history and basics of wetland ecology. After a safety and canoeing introduction, spend about 40 minutes on a guided trail around the Heard wetlands, followed by free paddle time to explore on your own.

No experience is necessary for any of the paddle programs. All participants will be given an introduction to canoeing that includes basic strokes, boat safety, and flatwater maneuvers.



Ron Varley

# Calendar at a Glance

## March

**3/9/24: David Downs** - Eclipse photography  
- Registration required because the Heard is opening it to their members.

**3/23/24:** Cacti shoot at Irwin Lightstone's

**3/30/24:** John Bnker Sands Wetland Center

## 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

**5/4/24:** Field trip to Scott Bursik's place

**5/11/24:** Ananth Thiagarajan - Bird Photography

**5/19/24:** Contest Awards Ceremony

**5/24-28/24:** Santa Clara Ranch - Guy Huntley leading

## June

**June 1** - Hagerman, pending the lotus bloom.  
Terree Stone, Leading

## 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

**9/20-22/24:** Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge

## October

**10/12/24:** Kathy Adams Clark - TBD

**10/19/24:** Whiteright - A nature plus field trip

## November

**11/9/24:** Meeting

## December

**12/14/24:** Members' Choice!



**Alan Daniel**

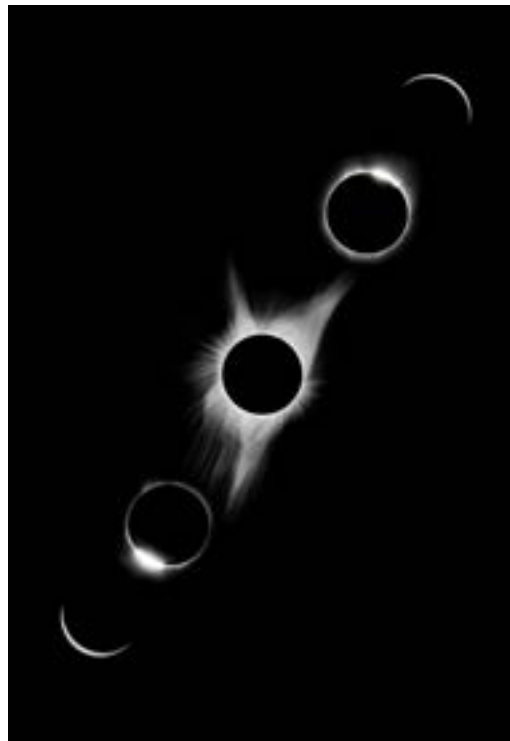
# March Speaker - David Downs

## David Duckworth

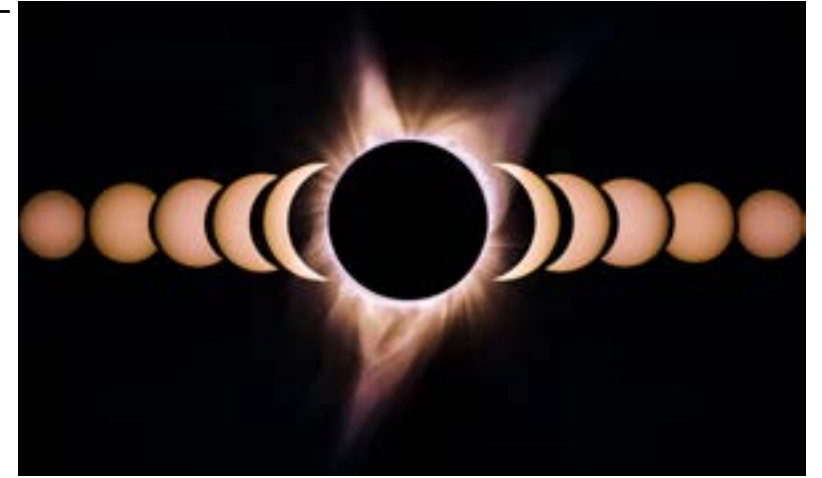


David Downs is a Certified Professional Photographer known locally and across the country for his beautiful landscapes and images of nature. Based out of Plano, David has been capturing images for 12 years and has seen success through the sale of his work as well as his educational programs and workshops. He recently completed a showing of his work and the successful launch of his first book of images called *A Voice Expressed*.

In this 90 minute program, David will cover all the steps, gear and research necessary to capture this incredible astronomical event. He'll discuss the different types of eclipses, the primary photographic options associated with each, resources for making certain you are in the right place at the right time and finally delve into the appropriate gear to use. He'll cover questions such as "Can I use my iPhone?" (yes) and "How long will I need to leave my shutter open?" (it depends). He'll bring



along the gear he will be using and explain the purpose behind each and the variations a photographer may consider when selecting gear. He will also discuss what NOT to do, so that this moment may be memorable regardless of your photographic results. Finally, but certainly not least important, he will focus on safety as a primary consideration as well as protecting your camera.



# Scheduled Speakers

## David Duckworth

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

# March Field Trip

## 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.



Their primary mission is educating the public about water, wetlands and wildlife and the need to conserve these essential resources.

Their boardwalk into the wetland and miles of trails allow visitors of all ages to immerse themselves in diverse habitats that host some 300 species of birds, including bald eagles, and scores of native mammals, insects, amphibians and reptiles.

### Fees:

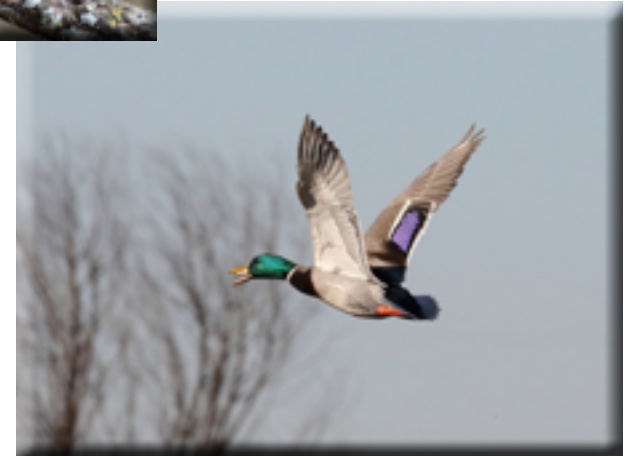
Adults (13-59): \$5

Seniors (60+): \$4

Children (12 and under): FREE

Members: FREE

Parking is free



Images Courtesy of the John Bunker Sands Wetland Center



# Previous Field Trip - Fort Worth Zoo

## Jackie Ranney

Our outing to the Fort Worth Zoo got off to a rocky start on February 17th due to winter poking its frigid head over the horizon. The temperature was 30 degrees when we arrived at the zoo only to discover that the majority of the animals are held inside until the thermometer registers 50. It never topped 50 that day, so we compensated by shooting the few



**Mary Binford**

animals that were out along with the signs and other decorative sets around the zoo.

Several of us returned the following Thursday, and others picked different days, but in the end we had great turnout, and got some wonderful shots. All told, Paul and Melba Chance, Lee and Gary Hatfield, Anita Oakley, Patrick McCormick, Jackie Ranney, Terree Stone, Doug Boone, Mary Binford, Guy Huntley, Alan Daniel, Steve Earles, Andy and Kim Franklin, Bes-



**Doug Boone**

sie Hollinger, Craig Rowen, Elisabeth Shore, Brigitte Kiba, Victor Stamp, and George Vardas made the trip.

This zoo is really a cut above. It's clean and very well designed. To top it off, there are a lion cub and baby gorilla on exhibit. We all enjoyed the flamingos. They would mill around fairly quietly until they stretched their necks up and they all started a noisy stampede to the left and then back to the right. Very strange behavior, but entertaining.

Lunch was at the Bluebonnet Cafe in the zoo's Texas Hill Country. On the 17th we were limited to hamburgers and hot dogs, but the full menu was available the other days.



**Terree Stone**



**Lee Hatfield**



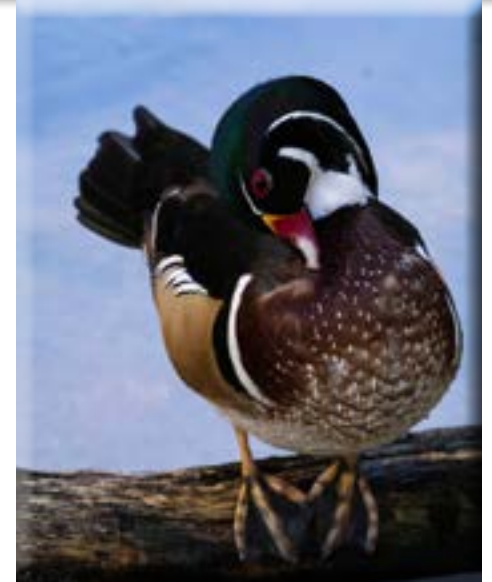
# Previous Field Trip - Fort Worth Zoo



**Terree Stone**



**Paul Chance**



**Anita Oakley**



**Jackie Ranney**



**Lee Hattfield**



**Pat McCormick**

# Future 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.**

## **March 23: Cacti at Irwin Lightstone's**

We will be doing the bulk of our photography after a shared lunch, because the cacti bloom after the sun warms up.

## **March 30: John Bunker Sands Wetland Center**

See March Field Trip page.



**Credit; North Texas Municipal Water District**

## **April 20:**

### **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

## **May 11th: Visit to Scott Bursik's land.**

Wooded areas, wildflowers, etc.

## **May 24th - 28th: Santa Clara Ranch (Limit 8)**

See next page for informaton.

**June 1: Hagerman,** Dependent on whether the lotus blossoms are blooming then. Terree Stone, Leading  
**September 20-22nd: Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge**

Situated just outside the Lawton/Ft. Sill area, Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge preserves approximately 60,000 acres of mixed grass prairie, ancient granite mountains, and fresh water lakes and streams



**Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge**



**Whiteright**

for the benefit of wildlife and the American people.

## **October 19: Whiteright**

Historic small town Texas with old buldings, rusty stuff, and interesting compositions.

# Santa Clara Ranch - 4 days in May

## May 24 - 28

This is a big one, folks!

Total cost for the trip is \$1560, with half (\$780) due when you register, and the balance when you arrive at the ranch. While this seems expensive, it's well worth the price. The fee includes use of the ranch, a guide, lodging, and meals. Pay the deposit by PayPal, using the Friends and Family option. If you do not use Friends and Family, you will be charged \$23.40 to cover the PayPal business fee.

On past trips we have captured Roadrunners, Painted Buntings, Thrashers, Woodpeckers, Cowbirds, Titmouse, Cardinals, Pyrrhuloxia, hawks, Caracara, rabbits, bobcats, deer, javelina, frogs, snakes, butterflies and more.



There are four sunken blinds, with ponds and feeders to draw in wildlife. Two are situated for morning light, and two for evening light. You are at pond level while shooting, which puts you in the perfect location to capture the birds and animals that frequent the ranch.

Santa Clara also has two elevated photo blinds devoted solely to shooting raptors. These blinds have exceeded expectations with numerous raptors coming to perch at 35-40 feet away and the photographer getting his images at eye level with the birds. The background is not a bright sky but a muted green setting, far enough away from the perches to provide very soft focus.



Suggested equipment:

- A long lens is preferable, but you can still capture very nice shots with a 200mm lens.
- A shorter lens for large animals
- Tripod
- If you have a gimble, it would be helpful, but it is not necessary.



# 46th Annual Heard Nature Photography Contest

Youth and Adult Divisions  
Wide choice of nature-related categories  
\$100 cash prize for Best of Show in each division  
Certificates awarded for all winners



<http://www.heardnaturephotographers.com>

**Submit your images between March 23rd and April 13th**

# GSCCC

## J.D. Luttmer

In the Gulf States Camera Club Council's February Competition, Dennis Fritsche received 1st place for his image "Egret and Moss" in the Monochrome category. Larry Petterborg received 1st Alternate for his image "Prom Dress Rugby (4)" in the Photojournalism category. Congratulations to both! The Heard club will judge the March GSCCC competition, and the April competition will consist of winning entries from the prior year, May 2023 – March 2024.

The GSCCC 2024 Convention will be held in Lafayette, LA on April 11-13. The convention will include a free competition, various sessions, an awards banquet, field trips and vendor exhibits. More information is available at <https://www.gulfstatesccc.org/2024-convention>.

Our GSCCC representative needs additional images from club members for the May contest. Please send your images to him at [JDLuttmer@gmail.com](mailto:JDLuttmer@gmail.com). Detailed information about GSCCC was published in the September 2022 newsletter. Likewise, more information can be found at the GSCCC website, <https://www.gulfstatesccc.org/>.



# Setting Up Lightroom to Make Life Easier

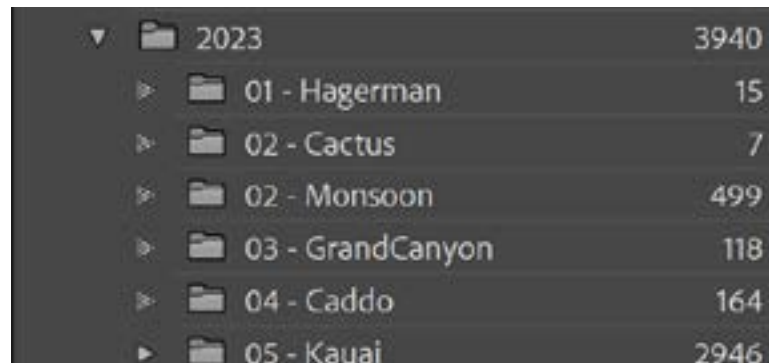
Anita Oakley

When I first started using Lightroom, I didn't understand the value of some of the features, or of organizing my catalogues efficiently. In other words, I made life much harder than it had to be. At the beginning of the Covid lockdown, I was determined to rectify that. I organized my folder structure and rebuilt my catalog from scratch. Then I modified my Lightroom interface and keyworded everything. Life has been much better since.

If your catalog is a bit of a mess, you might consider doing the same. Setting up Lightroom in an organized way, including the interface as well as the folders, lets you work more efficiently and with fewer headaches.

Before you start, it's a good idea to save all metadata to files, so you don't lose your edits. It's easy - just click on the top catalog folder and Control (Command) click --> Control (Command)+A to select all images --> Control (Command)+S to save. Now when you import the files, your edits will import with them. You probably have your images stored in some

kind of hierarchy that makes sense to you. If not, this is the time to get them organized. You can take care of this in Windows Explorer or Finder, or you can do it right in Lightroom. I have mine stored by year, then trip. So the folder structure looks like:



Then you can drag your images into the appropriate folders. Of course, you can organize them however makes sense to you.

If you organized inside Lightroom, you can delete any folders that are now empty, and clean up the folder list. If you organized in the OS,

you may want to simply create a new catalog and import the whole darned thing. You may have to rebuild your previews to show your edits in the grid view, but that's easy. Soooo... Now what?

Decide how you want to use the features of Lightroom. These include star ratings, color flags, keywords, and collections.

Then take a look at the View Options for each view. Do you

want file information at the top of the Loope or Develop views? Ex-

panded Grid View cells? Do you use

star ratings? If not, you can save some room by turning off the ratings footer. There are a bunch of options you can use to customize your workspace to fit your preferences. For the longest time, I wasn't even aware they existed.

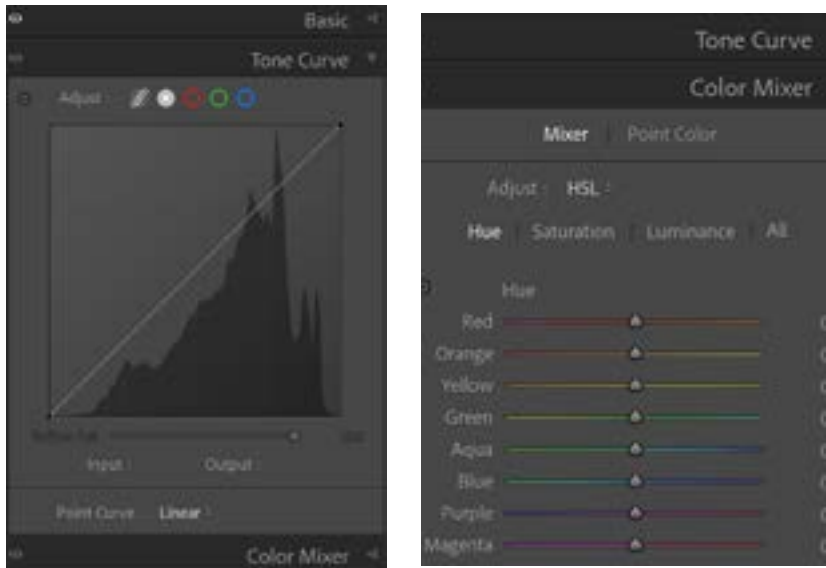


## ...Setting Up Lightroom to Make Life Easier

You can also hide parts of the interface that you don't use. For instance, I never use presets. Why have them clogging up the interface? You can find that under Window --> Panels.

I also usually hide the film strip at the bottom of the screen. I frequently edit on my laptop, which has a small screen and real estate is important.

One real improvement to the Lightroom interface is to turn on Solo Mode in the Develop Module. That way when you click on a section header, it hides everything but that section.



Otherwise, you may end up looking down through Basic, Tone Curve, Color Mixer and Color Grading just to get to the Details options. It saves a lot of time and effort.

Personally, when I import a new batch of images, I'll go through and flag all obvious rejects with an X. If there are multiple images that are very close to duplicates I pick the best and reject the others. Then delete all rejected photos in a batch. (Photo --> Delete rejected photos) This gives me a second chance to look at them before they are gone.

Next I will go through them again, and rate the ones I really like, either as a 4 or 5. These I will keyword so I can find them easily. I generally keyword by location and subject. For instance, an image might carry keywords for "Hawaii, Kauai, Kilauea Lighthouse, ocean, Pacific, Sunrise."

Finally, I'll start editing. I always save both my RAW file and the PSD. You never know when you will learn a new editing technique and want to re-edit an image or two to improve it.

If I have a set of images that will make up a panorama, I color code them purple. That helps insure that I don't inadvertently delete some of them. If I have two photos that I've combined for exposure correction they are coded green. If I've combined images for composition, like waves or swirling water, they will be coded blue.

If I plan a book or presentation I'll create a collection for the images I plan to use. As I write the text, I'll insert the images, and remove them from the collection. That ensures that I use each image only once.

How you use Lightroom organization is entirely up to you. Do whatever makes sense to you, but it's important to have a plan and work smart.

# Featured Member - Melanie Brigante

My first camera was something akin to a 1960's Kodak Brownie box camera discarded by my dad when I was about eight. From that point on I became the unofficial "family historian" snapping pictures of family, pets and nature during holidays and vacations.

More recently I began working to learn the "art of photography," and this endeavor complements my love for experiencing nature, seeking out historic architecture, and taking in the grandeur of cityscapes.



shooting in the Lofoten Islands.

I grew up in New Jersey and later moved to Texas where I became a Texas Tech Red Raider. I currently live in Lucas, and I operate Delahn Realty based in Allen. As President of the Plano Art Association, I promote local artists find opportunities for them to share their work and network with other artists. I plan to submit some of my work in our upcoming exhibitions.



Leknes, Norway



South Africa

Photography workshops are a wonderful excuse for taking "solo" trips to places I might never have reserved time to visit. My photography workshop adventures include trips to Big Bend, White Sands, the Grand Canyon, and I just returned from Norway where we spent a week

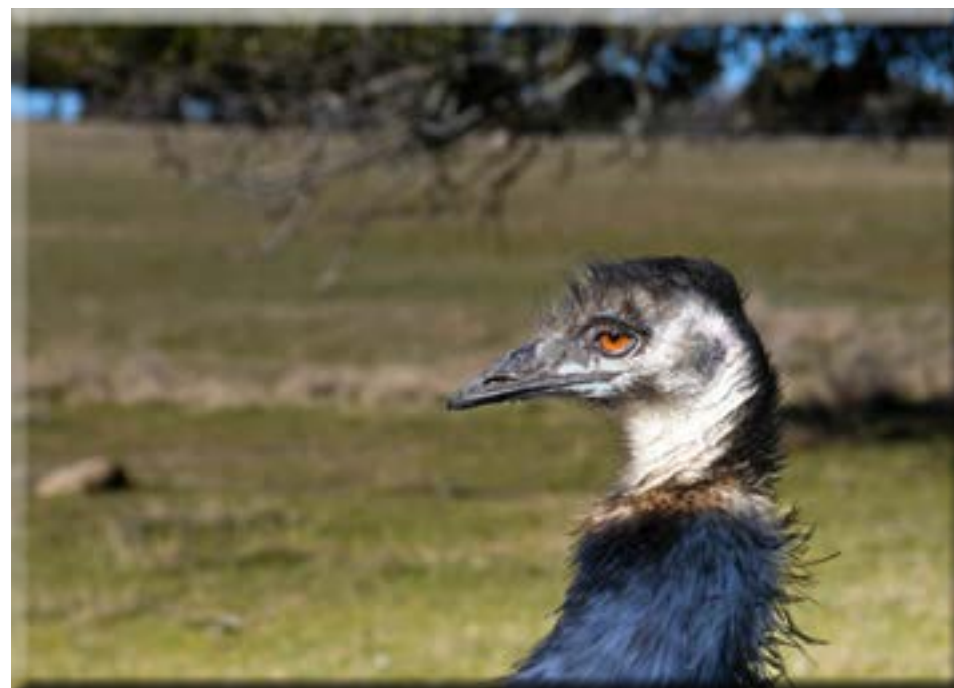
When I learned about the Heard Nature Photographers, I joined immediately. The field trip to Fossil Rim was my first outing, and I look forward to many more adventures with the group.



## ...Melanie Brigante



Red Barn in Leknes, Norway



Fossil Rim, Glen Rose



Lofoten, Norway

# What to Photograph in March

This is your last chance to get Snow Geese at the Hagerman until next winter. They will be heading north any day.

This month is great for flowers. Dallas Blooms is in full swing at the arboretum, and the weather is getting warm enough to enjoy being out for extended periods

Trout lillies are blooming at the Heard. But get out there quickly - they don't last long!

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 they last in high summer.

The sun - while the eclipse isn't until next month, if you intend to photograph it, you will want to practice your setup now. Grab your solar filter and ensure that you can aim high in the sky with your tripod, and practice focusing on our star.

Saint Patricks Day - there's a parade on Greenville Avenue on March 16th, the Dallas Irish Festival is March 1-3. The Sherman Celtic Festival is March 23rd. Great fun, good music, and lots of photo ops.

# 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

- **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**

**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.**



**The last word... This month's final image was captured by Brenda Clark**