

Heard
Nature

Photographers

Take what nature givss you.
- Lee Hoy

Next meeting April 13th

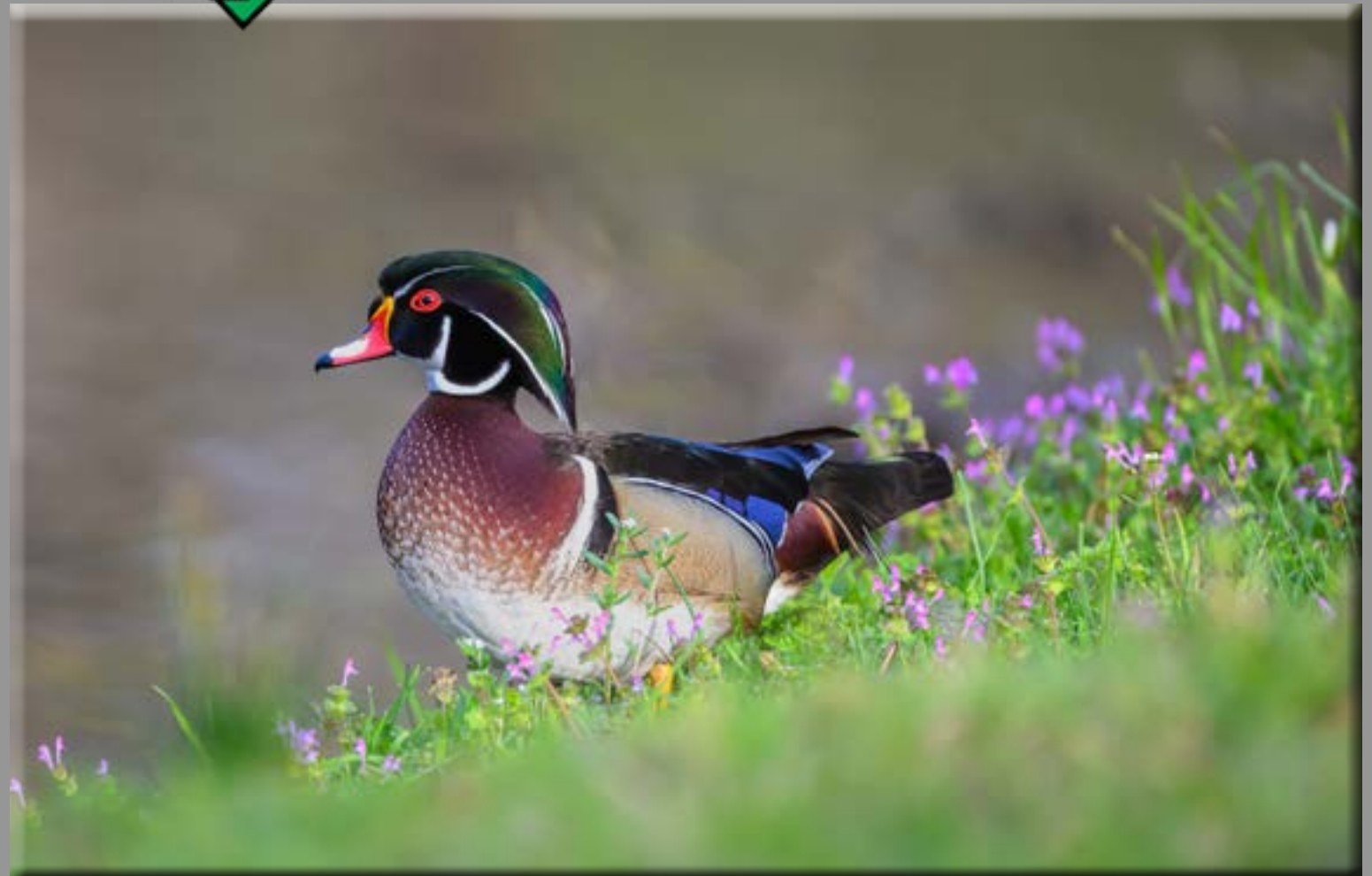


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<http://www.heardnaturephotographers.com>

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In the long-ago past people believed that eclipses were portents of terrible events in the future. I'm sure that the fact that Tax Day, April 15th, is exactly one week after much of Texas will witness a total eclipse on April 8th is just a coincidence.

The March meeting with David Downs on the upcoming eclipse went well and had a lot of participation. We had several new members joining, and some of our members even made it on the Channel 5 News.

Thank you, Jackie Ranney, for all your work getting everything organized and working with the Heard. Like any event, the amount of work that goes into preparing far exceeds the time the event lasts, and Jackie went well above and beyond to organize everything. Rob Hull also spent a lot of time getting the

club's website prepared for this event, including setting up signups from people coming to the event via the Heard Natural Science Museum.

The Heard Nature Photo Contest has officially begun! Time to go through your photos and find the best. The contest is open for submissions until April 13th, and awards will be announced on May 19th.

The April club meeting will be in the SRC at the Heard Natural Science Museum. The Heard will be holding their annual plant sale in the second week of April, so they'll be using Laughlin Hall.

Hope to see you all there!



Doug Boone



Ed Underwood

Good to Know...

Meetings:

The Heard Nature Photographers meet every 2nd Saturday at 10:00 AM.

If you haven't joined the club's 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 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](#).

Want a magnetic name tag?

It's been a while since we ordered magnetic name tags. These are sturdy plastic rectangular badges as shown above. The magnetic back



guarantees that you won't damage your clothing with a pin.

Rather than create a bulk order and deal with collecting everyone's money, We have arranged for you to order your own online. Follow the link to nametagcountry.com, and click Reorder above the Heard Nature Photographers tag. Enter the number of tags you want and click "Begin Order" and then click Next on the following pages. When you get to the page where you can enter the text for Line 1, enter your name. Continue ordering until you get to the shipping information, and add your name and address. Finally, check out.

If you have any problems, please contact me (Anita Oakley) and I'll help you through it.



Anis Ansari

Calendar at a Glance

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

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!



Larry White



Clive Fernando

April Speaker - Karin Saucedo

David Duckworth

Karin Saucedo is a published wildlife conservation photographer born and raised in Dallas. She's always been especially passionate about wild canids and felids and she spends a lot of her time studying their behavior through observation and also remotely through camera traps. Karin's images have been used to educate the public about coexisting with urban wildlife, to document wild canid field research and to create awareness about exotic animal ownership, breeding and exploitation. Most recently she's been published in the book to accompany the film, *Deep in the Heart:*



A Texas Wildlife Story, by Ben Masters and also *Wild DFW: Explore the Amazing Nature Around Dallas Fort Worth*, by Amy Martin. Karin works with The Canid Project as their Texas Outreach Representative and she's been volunteering at In-Sync Exotics Wildlife Rescue for 13 years. Karin serves on the Advisory Committee for Texas Native Cats, she's a Texas Master Naturalist and is a Partner Photographer for Panthera as well as Project Coyote.



Scheduled Speakers

David Duckworth

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

Previous Field Trip - Cacti at Irwin Lightstone's

We had a special presentation at Irwin's during our March 23rd field trip. After lunch, Ron Marabito presented Irwin with a certificate honoring him as our latest Lifetime Member. Irwin has supported the club for many years, sharing his expertise in Macro photography, and inviting the clubmembers to shoot cacti and succulents at his place many times.



Congratulations Irwin!

Thanks Irwin, and congratulations on your award!

We had perfect weather for the day. At previous visits, we shot all morning, had lunch, and went home after lunch. This time Irwin suggested shooting for a while in the morning, having lunch, and shooting again in the afternoon.

He also had a 5 times lifesize setup inside his house, and showed us how that worked, photographing flowers no larger than a head of a pin at full frame. Amazing!



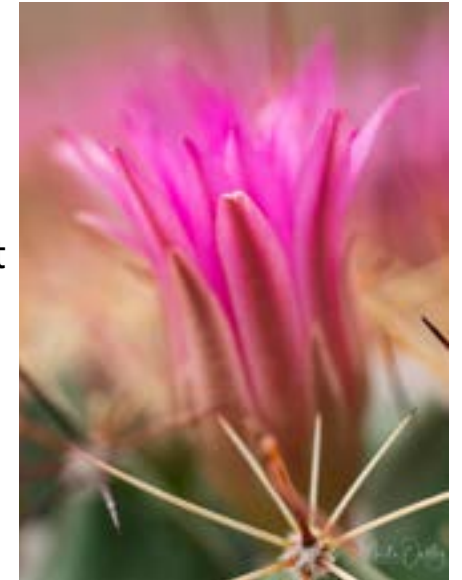
Joe Underwood



Alan Daniel

We had lunch at Mattitos on Forest Ln. It was nice to get to know some of our new members. Joe and Ed Underwood and Sheryn Jones joined recently, and all three attended the field trip. Other attendees included Jackie Ranney, Debbie Conard, Alan Daniel, Mary Binford, Alan Abair, Terree Stone, Doug Boone, Steve Earles, Ron and Shirley Marabito, Rob Hull, Clive Fernando, Lee Hatfield, Guy Huntley, and of course, Irwin Lightstone.

After lunch, it was back to Irwin's for more cacti and succulents. The cactus blossoms open once the afternoon warms, so we got better flowers later in the day. Everyone seemed to enjoy approaching the shoot that way.



Anita Oakley

...Cacti at Irwin Lightstone's



Debbie Conard



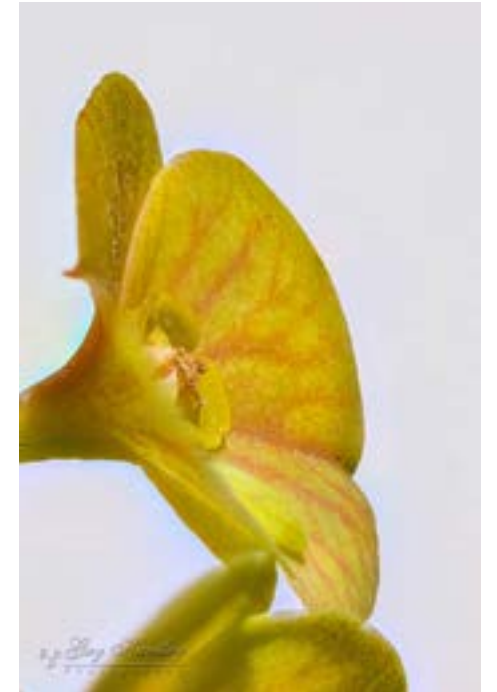
Mary Binford



Joe Underwood



Sheryn Jones



Guy Huntley

Future Field Trips

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

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 information.

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 for the benefit of wildlife and the American people.

October 19: Whiteright

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



Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge



Santa Clara Ranch



Whiteright

Field Trip Courtesy

Jackie Ranney

As we continue with 2024 field trips, let's review a few items that will make our trips 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!

- Register for each field trip on our website (even if you decide to go at the very last minute).
- Registration is only done on-line.
- If your spouse/designated family member is joining you, please list them as your guest.
- If you wish to bring a guest who is not a club member, they must join the Club and pay the membership fee.
- All updates prior to a field trip is done by email.
- It is important to provide your cell phone number when registering so you will be included in group texts that may be issued during the actual activity.
- 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 there for the carpool, let the trip leader know.
- When carpooling, offer to share in the expense whether it be gasoline or parking charges at the destination.
- 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. Due dates are provided with each "Call" and specifics for image preparation are found at the bottom of our home page under "Resources".

- 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 coordinator or trip leader know - preferably by telephone or text.
- If you have questions about any of the above items, please don't hesitate to contact the current Field Trip Coordinator:
2024 Coordinator: Jackie Ranney
Email Jackie through the HNP website contacts page.

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 Jackie Ranney or the club president Doug Boone.



JD Luttmer

Have You HEARD?

**Submissions are
now open for the
46th Annual
Heard Nature Photo Contest**



**Follow QR code for Contest Info
or go to <http://www.heardnaturephotographers.com>**

Entries close April 13th

GSCCC

J.D. Luttmer

Our club judged the March GSCCC competition so none of our images were included in that contest. Many thanks to Terree Stone, Guy Huntley, and Lee Hatfield for Judging this month!

The April year-end GSCCC photo contest competition will include images that have placed in the monthly contests over the prior year. Several HNPC club images are candidates in this annual competition. In lieu of winners this month, we're displaying some other images from members. They are winners in my book!

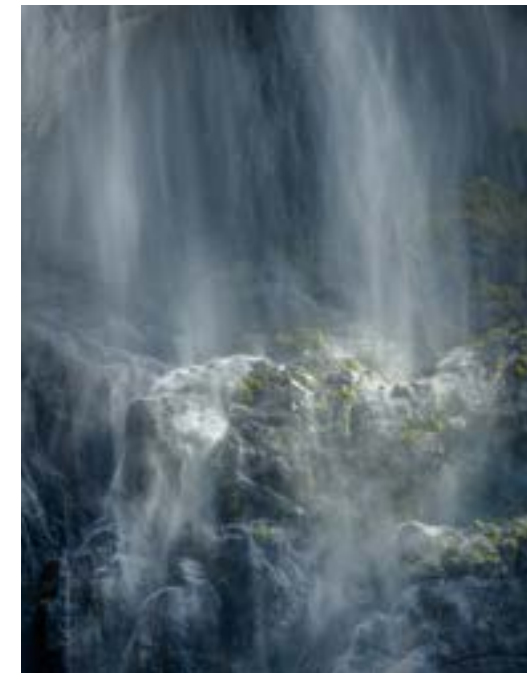
Our GSCCC representative, JD Luttmer, needs additional images for the May contest particularly in the Photojournalism category. Please send your images to him at JDLuttmer@gmail.com.



Irwin Lightstone



Lee Hatfield



Dennis Fritsche

...GSCCC

The 2024 convention dates are April 11-13, 2024 and the location is HOME2 SUITES, 1909 KALISTE SALOOM ROAD, LAFAYETTE, LA 70508 337.408.2898

The agenda has been posted on the [GSCCC website](#). The days are filled with great photography opportunities and learning.

Doug Hansgate and Padma Inguva are offering pre and post conference workshops for convention attendees. Spots for these are limited.

Thursday evening will be the end of the year judging for all GSCCC winning images. Everyone is welcome to come and watch. The judges have been selected. Be sure to come early for the judging and hang around because Doug Hansgate will have a photoshoot afterwards.

There will be local field trips on Friday and Saturday mornings. We will have five different options to choose from. After the field trips, there will be classroom sessions before and after lunch on both days.

Friday will be an image critique. Start looking for a few photos you would like to have critiqued. Details will be posted soon. Friday night will be our Extravaganza at Vermilionville Historic Village in Lafayette (<https://bayouvermiliondistrict.org/vermilionville/>). This will include your admission to Vermilionville, Dinner and photoshoots (models will be present).

Saturday night will be our end of the year awards dinner at Fezzo's, with Ted Jackson as our keynote speaker. Along with lots of really great door prizes!!!!



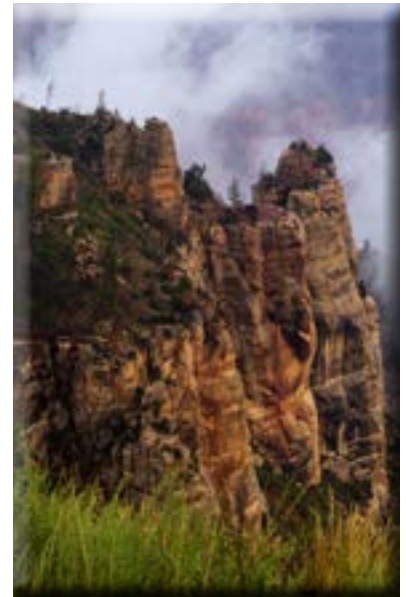
Are We Going to Have a Good Sunset?

Anita Oakley

Have you ever been on a trip, just itching for a beautiful sunrise or sunset, only to be disappointed by grey skies, or clear skies? Even worse, have you ever gone out for sunset and given up too soon? You are back in your car, driving away from your composition of choice, when the sky lights up and you miss the shot of your life!



The Cheetah that didn't get away



**Crummy weather?
Great photo ops!**

...Take what Nature Gives You



Being Grateful



The P Word - Patience!



Never Lose the Wonder

While Anticipating Spring

Nancy Mack

While we are at the “in-between” mark – winter to spring – and days are unpredictable, it is a good time to take stock both of equipment and trends. Looking at our gear is always a necessity.

- Clean camera bodies, sensors, lenses and filters
- Check and reformat memory cards
- Is all equipment in good repair?
- What needs to be replaced?
- What have you not used in a long time?
- Should you trade-in, trade-up, swap, or make a purchase?
- Make a wish list: for new equipment, travel, learning workshops
- Budget and prioritize
- Check photo inventory; edit, delete, create a project
- Update your website and/or photo-sharing sites
- Look at all your subscriptions – are they still cost-effective for your photo interests?

Despite the weather, spring days are also a good opportunity to look outside of your own body of work and photo interests and see what is going on in the broader world of image making.

Following the world of photography outside lo-

cal clubs can be intimidating. The “starving artist” concept is long gone. Everyone is a photographer. Individual print sales are down. Everyone is offering workshops and tutorials. The savvy photographer (like his friends –the painter, sculptor, etc.) has learned marketing tools and commercial tactics to promote his livelihood. It is hard to separate the hype from the art. Just looking at what is available in the photo world is a good exercise. It can sharpen our ability to evaluate what can stand the test of time and what is a passing fad. In the past two years food photography, frozen flowers, drone views, pandemic and political topics and alternative processes, to name a few, have taken center stage. The cycle will repeat next year with different topics. What inspires you and what you pass over depends upon your point of view. What can you learn? How can your ideas change? What will you have the courage to try?

You may not be ready for international competition, but looking at winning images and judges’

comments are often great inspiration. Here are a few suggestions for looking at the world around you through photography:

Landscape Photographer of the Year: <https://www.lpoty.co.uk/>

Travel Photographer of the Year: <https://www.tpoty.com/>

Bird Photographer of the Year: <https://www.birdpoty.com/>

Garden Photographer of the Year: <https://igpoty.com/>

Wildlife Photographer of the Year: <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/wpy>

[International Photo Awards](#)

[Ocean Photographer of the Year](#)

[Astronomy Photographer of the Year](#)



Featured Member - Terree Stone

I became interested in photography after high school. I saved and bought my first camera with changeable lenses – a Canon A1 (a film camera), then the journey began. The internet wasn't invented at that time, so I read books on how to take pictures and studied the camera manual to figure out how to use it. I found photography classes at Dallas County Community College and enrolled in several courses teaching various subjects like black and white photography, developing film, product photography and model photography. I loved learning about different types of photography and the different techniques used. One of the classes had us shooting landscape shots in our neighborhood. That

is when I realized that what interested me most was being outside and the challenge of the continually changing conditions, ie. light, etc. Like most hobbies, I put it on the shelf for several years and when I moved to McKinney, I found the Heard Nature Photography Club and it rekindled my love of nature photography. I loved hearing from



different speakers and learning new tips from them. Field trips are my favorite part of being a member of the club, I enjoy meeting new people with common interests. I have also attended some photography workshops which really helped my photography. Since I love traveling and some of the photography workshops are in out of town locations, it has given me the opportunity to do both. I'm continually trying to change my point of view in my images. I sometimes challenge myself to isolate objects or shoot wide vs zoomed in. Being around fellow photographers has also helped



Death Valley

my photography, the sharing of our different points of view while we are photographing at a location are invaluable. I've made some lifelong friends that I've met on field trips and workshops – a huge plus.



Glacier National Park



Grand Canyon

...Terree Stone



Moulton Barn, Grand Tetons



Gray Bird Grasshopper Nymph



Badlands National Park

What to Photograph in April

The Rookery at UT Southwestern is just getting going. Birds are nesting - no eggs yet, so you have plenty of time to enjoy shooting there. The garage is open on Saturdays and Sundays!

The White Rock eagles are nesting next to the rugby fields at Lake Highlands Park.

This month is great for flowers. Dallas Blooms is in full swing at the arboretum, the wildflowers are blooming, and the weather is beautiful.

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.

Likewise, the Milky Way is low in the sky, and you can capture the full arch. You just need to get out of town.

In case you haven't heard... The total eclipse of the sun is April 8th. Shoot it or just watch and enjoy it. This won't happen in the U.S again until 2044!

Comet Pons-Brooks is in the sky now - If we are lucky it might be visible during the eclipse!

Got Snacks?

We have a time-honored tradition at the Heard of sharing a bite to eat and some great conversation before 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
- Irwin Lightstone

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 Luttmmer**
- **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 Debbie Nielson