

# HEARD NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS CLUB

**MEETING DATE \*\*\*DECEMBER 14TH\*\*\***

- **MEETING WILL BE IN SRC BUILDING \*\* 1 PM\*\***

## President's thoughts

Happy Thanksgiving to all our members! On behalf of your Club officers, we hope you have a safe and joyous Thanksgiving with your loved ones.

And of course, because this will be my last message this year (hold the applause...) Nancy and I wish you all Happy Holidays!

Members voted in November for our slate of officers for 2020 – and we welcome Deb Nielsen and Steve Earles to our ranks! Deb and Steve will be working alongside Jackie in 2020 for the Photo Contest, and Steve will be taking over the Field Trip Coordinator position starting in January. We will be having an officers meeting in January to plan for 2020 activities and events. If anyone has any ideas for field trips, Saturday morning classes, or other activities (e.g. a swap meet) please let me know.

I would like to take this time also to thank all officers for their hard work and dedication in 2019 to make the Club the success it is. It takes a village as they say, and your officers really came through in 2019. Thank You all!

December means – Members Choice! Rob has added a registration/signup sheet to our Club webpage, along with the mechanism to upload your (5 or fewer) images for the Members Choice. Here is the link

<https://www.heardnaturephotographers.com/members-choice>

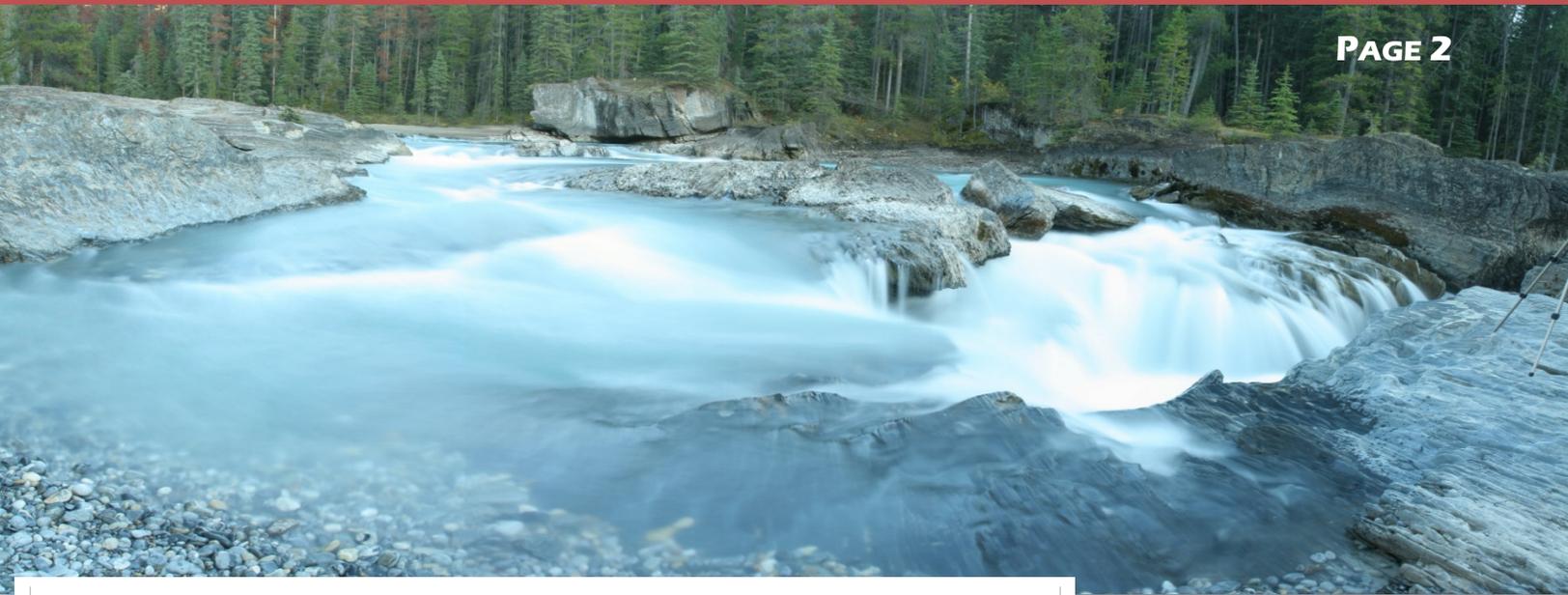
A big shout out to Rob for creating this signup sheet to make life easier for Elisabeth and me! Note that attendance at the Members Choice in the SRC is limited to around 100 for safety reasons; so please register early. Also note that you need to register for all in your party (i.e. husband and wife is 2 people) so that we can get an accurate headcount for the BBQ meats (that will be paid for from Club funds).

Good shooting everyone,

Peter

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## **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.

### WHO CAN ENTER IMAGES?

Any current member of the Heard Nature Photographers Club may enter. *The link to submit your images on our web page.*

### HOW MANY IMAGES CAN BE ENTERED?

We want to see the best of your images so limit your entries to about 5 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 interpretation 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.



## Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

What a wonderful year we have had in a very talented pool of speakers! I hope you feel the same, and that with each speaker, you have been able to learn a little something new to try, think about, or even new places to travel for your own photographic endeavors.

I am busy working on the schedule for next year – is it almost 2020 already?!?! I have received a few suggestions that I am following up on, and really appreciate those that I received over the past year. As I have said in previous meetings, we have a large membership, and I am sure you have read, seen, or heard about local people that could be potential speakers. I think it is important for you to have a voice in the things that are being brought to you, so don't be afraid to let me know!

I do have our February guest speaker lined up and confirmed and think you will like it! You will be traveling to a new country, one we have not been exposed to yet, so get those notepads ready!

As the speakers are confirmed, I will be working with Rob to get them put out on our website (Events > Monthly Meeting Speakers) under the following link:

<https://www.heardnaturephotographers.com/monthly-meeting-speakers>

I have a couple more Trip Resource Planning documents in the works and am starting to work on one from the trip to Big Bend. For those of you who went down there and want to contribute your ideas and comments about where you stayed, ate, went, what you saw, etc., I am taking submissions for input. A few of us have already made plans to return in 2020, and I would love to be able to offer this up for use for that trip.

I am definitely looking forward to seeing all of your submissions for the Member's Choice meeting, and tasting all the good food at our end of year meal! Remember to start dusting off those images to enter into the Heard Photo Contest, as well. The countdown clock is ticking away, and it will be here before you know it!

As we wrap up the year, I want to say "Thank You" for the camaraderie and friendships that exist in our club membership. It feels like extended family, and I am always looking forward to seeing all of you at each meeting.

*Elisabeth*

# VITRUVIAN MAGICAL NIGHT OF LIGHTS FIELD TRIP

Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

## WHY ARE GOING???

Vitruvian Park is a billion-dollar multi-family, retail and commercial development in Addison. In addition, it has a lovely 12-acre park with a creek wandering through it lined by hundreds of trees. The highlights of the park during the “Magical Night of Lights” are the multiple trees each lighted in a single color – red, blue, orange, green white....!!

Although it is available from Thanksgiving through Christmas, we’ve chosen a weeknight (December 5) to avoid the crowds. So, if you haven’t already signed up, please go to the website to register. If you can’t come with us, really consider taking the time to visit over the holiday period, especially if you have small children or grandchildren. Dress warmly since it really gets cold out there!

Details for participants will be provided as the event date gets closer.





*"Night Skies" by Clive Fernando*

## **October 2019 Field Trip To The Big Bend Country**

**by  
Jackie Ranney  
2019 Field Trip Coordinator**

Destination – Far West Texas! And what a destination it is! Not only did we find things to photograph along the way and in the National Park, but at least one of our members that I know of shot over 1,000 images on this adventure.

Twenty-four of us participated in this field trip and most of us departed the north Texas area on Saturday, October 19 ..... some even left earlier (talk about anticipation?!!!).

Our first official overnight stop was Indian Lodge in the Davis Mountains State Park. Fun knowing that we had occupied a large portion of their rooms! Dinner in Fort Davis at various locations was followed by a trip to the McDonald Observatory for a Star Party under some of the darkest night skies in the continental United States! For those who haven't enjoyed this experience, it's a fun way to learn about our universe. On-line tickets were purchased ahead of time then once exchanged for an orange sticker (indicating paid admission), many of us took advantage of their gift shop before joining the rest of our group waiting to be admitted into the seating area. After finding our chosen locations in the amphitheater, a park ranger introduced us to the program objectives then using a powerful laser, pointed to different constellations while giving specific information about each. We were told that there were 300 persons in attendance that evening – quite a crowd. And oh – I forgot to mention how very COLD it was in that crisp night air near the top of Mount Locke's 6,800 ft. elevation!

After the Star Party, several of our participants took advantage of the telescopes viewing targets pre-selected by the rangers and a few of our folks returned to the Davis Mountains State Park's Skyline Drive for chances to enjoy some astrophotography.

Sunday morning the drive continued through Marfa - for some, including the "Giant" display on Hwy 90, Shafter ghost town (lots of architectural photo ops!) and turning south at Presidio continuing from there on the spectacular FM 170 following alongside the Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River (a US Biosphere Reserve). The ooh's and aah's just kept coming with stops at El Polvo (an abandoned cavalry fort), Closed Canyon, The Contrabando on the banks of the river (once a movie set for eight or nine movies), the Hoodoos, Crow Town (the remains of a filming area for parts of the "Streets of Laredo", the sequel to "Lonesome Dove") surrounded by a stunning rock formation).

Cont'd



***Photography by Alan Daniel. Look for the sphinxlike formation when coming from Lajitas via FM 170.***

Our ultimate destination was the Big Bend National Park, the only national park in our system to have its own mountain range completely within the park - the Chisos Mountains. Comprised of 1,252 square miles of land (880,000 acres!), the park also encompasses the largest tracts of protected area of the Chihuahuan Desert topography and ecology in the United States.

For the following several days we would encounter each other at the Cottonwood Market (groceries!), various restaurants including High Sierra, the Starlight, and the restaurant in the Basin plus geographic sites within the park. We were unable to traverse the park as one "very large" group since parking for more than three or four cars at most of the locations just isn't available. Not to worry....there are plenty of hiking trails to enjoy, bumpy roads to explore, the fascinating Fossil Exhibit to investigate and scenic areas to photograph....the Santa Elena Canyon, Grapevine Hills, Hot Springs, the Sierra del Carmen range, Boquillas Canyon, the Dorgan-Sublett ruins, Mule Ears and Ernst Tinaja.

Comments since returning mention more than once – "I have to come back!" The Big Bend part of Texas is definitely worth a return visit.



***"In the Distance" by Clif Ranney***



## 42nd Annual Heard Nature Photography Contest

**2020 SUBMISSION DATES:  
February 1-23, 2020**

- ❖ Four contest divisions:
  - ❖ Youth - Junior (14 and under)
  - ❖ Youth - Senior (15-18)
  - ❖ Adult – Aspiring (Beginner/Intermediate)
  - ❖ Adult - Experienced (Advanced Amateur or Professional)
- ❖ Contest categories for nature-related digital images.
- ❖ Entry fees: \$5/photo for youth, \$10/photo for adults.
- ❖ \$100 cash prize to Best of Show winners in each of the four contest divisions!
- ❖ Ribbons awarded for Best of Show in each Division and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners in each contest category for each division.
- ❖ All contest profits to benefit the Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary in McKinney, TX.
- ❖ Please see these websites for contest details and instructions for preparing and submitting entries:

*[www.heardmuseum.org/events/](http://www.heardmuseum.org/events/)*

*[www.heardnaturephotographers.com/about-the-contest-1](http://www.heardnaturephotographers.com/about-the-contest-1)*

- ❖ Questions? Please contact:

Jackie Ranney, 2020 Contest Coordinator

Heard Nature Photographers - 214/478-2107 or

[contest@heardnaturephotographers.com](mailto:contest@heardnaturephotographers.com)



## NEW PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES!

Hello Nature Photography Enthusiasts!

Your Heard Nature Photography Club Photo Contest Board is very excited to announce that we now have TWO NEW Social Media pages to help spread the word about our upcoming 2020 Photography Contest!

Our Facebook page address is:

<https://www.facebook.com/Heard-Natural-Science-Museum-Photography-Contest-100142291356177/>

Our Instagram page address is: <https://www.instagram.com/heardcontest/>

We will be featuring image posts from our 2018 and 2019 contest entries with the photographer's name listed on/with the image, so you never know when your image(s) will be put up there for all to see! Feel free to invite your family and friends to LIKE/SHARE our page so they can see your work as well as generate greater and broader awareness about the contest.

The contest is hosted by our affiliated photography club (Heard Nature Photographers), but you do not have to be a member of either the museum or the photography club to participate. The proceeds from the Photography Contest go back to support the Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary ([www.HeardMuseum.org](http://www.HeardMuseum.org)). This contest is open to ALL photographers worldwide.

We appreciate your on-going support and look forward to many new and beautiful contest entries this year.

Thank you!

Elisabeth Shore (Facebook manager)

Anita Oakley (Instagram manager)



**HAVE YOU SEEN IT ????** We have another addition to our website! “Galleries” is where you’ll find images from our field trips and other photographic activities in which the club participates! Thanks go to our webmaster, Rob Hull, for keeping our website fun and exciting for everyone!!

## **WEBSITE UPDATES FOR CONTEST TIME:**



Check out the 2020 Contest tab for information about the contest, ie. Divisions, Categories, How to submit your images, how to pay, etc.



## Sponsors for the 2020 Heard Nature Photography Contest



For your camera and other equipment needs, just talk to Steve Wright.

1401 Northwest Highway @ Saturn  
Garland, TX. 75041  
972/278-0717  
info@garlandcamera.net



2025 Irving Blvd, Suite 107  
Dallas, TX 75207  
214-744-5511  
sales@competitivecameras.com

December Refreshment Volunteers:

. **EVERYONE**

This month the club will be providing the main dish – BBQ and everyone is asked to bring a side dish to share. So, pull out the recipes and dust off the cooking utensils – or you can pick up something from the local grocery store; we need some veggies and salads as well as some awesome desserts to share.





<http://www.psa-photo.org/>

<http://www.gulfstatesccc.org/>

### **2019 CLUB OFFICERS**

President: Peter Gilbert	<a href="mailto:peter.gilbert@att.net">peter.gilbert@att.net</a>
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## **MONTHLY MEETING**

**14 DECEMBER 2019**

**1 PM**

**HEARD NATURAL SCIENCE MUSEUM**

**1 NATURE PLACE**

**MCKINNEY, TX 75069**

<http://www.heardnaturephotographers.com>