



AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER

Contents

- News
- Recent Events
- Event Schedule
- Helpful Information
 - Annual Photo Contest
 - Bird Photo Opportunities
 - Photo Club Facebook Group
 - Photo Club Member Directory
 - Newsletters and Field Trips Archives
 - Membership
 - Workshops Committee
 - Field Trips Committee
 - Contact Info

Mission Statement

The Friends of Hagerman NWR Nature Photography Club promotes interest in Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge and encourages preservation of wildlife and habitats by supporting, assisting and educating nature photographers of all levels.

Showcase Photos from Facebook Group: Friends of Hagerman NWR Nature Photography



Bluebirds by Chris Balsamo

News

- **Bluebird Nestbox.** The Nature Nook gift shop in the Hagerman NWR Visitor Center sells Bluebird nestboxes. In early July, a photo club member, Chris Balsamo, purchased a nestbox and installed it on his property. One week later, a pair of Bluebirds moved in! Chris took some great photos (above) of the new tenants.
- **8/1/23 Night Photo Shoot.** Don't forget that Tuesday night at 8 pm we are meeting at Hagerman NWR for a sunset and evening photo shoot, including a supermoon. This event is limited to FOHNWR Nature Photography Club members only. [Click for Event Details.](#)
- **Annual Photo Contest.** Every year in September, the Friends of Hagerman NWR sponsors a nature-themed photo contest. For a very small fee per photo, photographers may enter as many photos as they wish. Ribbons and cash prizes will be awarded. Photos must have been taken on the HNWR grounds within the last 5 years. Come on out to the refuge to take some winning photos. Start sorting through your past photos to select some photos to submit. [Click here for details.](#)
 - Everyone is welcome to enter the contest. All proceeds go to the Friends of Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge to support environmental education, recreational activities, and programs.
 - Winning photos are displayed in the multi-purpose room in the HNWR Visitor Center.

7/15/23 Photo Club Meeting. We had a great meeting that included two presentations. Murali Hanabe gave a presentation “Beyond Feathers” showcasing his amazing photos of birds in landscapes. David Parsons followed with “Care and Cleaning of Your Camera” workshop and helped attendees clean their cameras on site.



Murali Hanabe



Meeting attendees enjoyed homemade desserts from a member's wife.



David Parsons

Murali's presentation “Beyond Feathers” centered on observing other elements when photographing a bird. Including other elements in the frame can make a photograph dramatic. Composition is important. Here are suggestions from Murali.

Look Beyond the Bird

- Include complementary elements to enhance the beauty of the entire frame.
- Keep the bird small in the frame.
- Tell a story.
- Showcase the bird's habitat.
- Show a sense of scale.

David's presentation “Care and Cleaning of Your Camera” included thorough information on how to clean your camera and lenses. David gave a live demonstration of cleaning a camera and then helped others that brought their camera to the meeting. Here are suggestions from David.

- For cleaning the surface areas of your camera, use distilled water and air. Do not use solvents or detergents.
- For mirrored cameras, never use any type of liquid, even distilled water, on the mirror. Air blower is best to remove dust from mirror.
- For cleaning the sensor, it is your choice to DIY or have it cleaned by a professional.



Attendees



Camera Cleaning

Event Schedule for the Friends of Hagerman NWR Nature Photography Club

The [Photo Club Events website page](#) has a list of the events and details.

<p>August 1, Tuesday 8:00 pm Click for Event Details</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Trip. Location: Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge. • Join us for a sunset and evening photo shoot at Hagerman NWR. This shoot will include sunset shots across the water and moonrise with the August 1st super moon. We will have permission to stay in the refuge after dark and will have opportunity to try out some light painting and other low exposure shots. • This event is limited to FOHNWR Nature Photography Club members only.
<p>September 1 – 30 Click for Event Details</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FOH NWR Nature Photography Club Annual Nature Photography Contest runs from September 1 -30. Submit your best photos taken at Hagerman NWR within the last five years. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Beginner and Intermediate/Advanced Divisions. ○ Four nature categories. ○ Cash and ribbons awarded. ○ Special Youth Best in Show award. • All proceeds go to the Friends of Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge to support environmental education, recreational activities, and programs.
<p>September 16, Saturday 1:00-3:00 pm Click for Event Details</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo club meeting. Location: Visitor Center in HNWR. • Topic: Wildlife Videos with Richard Barnes. • Richard’s presentation will cover the basics of filming wildlife with some tips about how to get started if you've never done it before. He will show videos of some of his more interesting and unusual wildlife observations and he will conclude with a compilation of footage he filmed at Hagerman NWR. • View his videos at Richard EH Barnes YouTube.
<p>October 7, Saturday 1:00-3:00 pm Click for Event Details</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Trip. Location: Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge. • Photo shoot of butterflies in the Butterfly Garden. • Laurie Sheppard and Shawn Stone will be there to identify butterflies.
<p>October 28, Saturday 7:00-11:00 am Click for Event Details</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge. • Photo scavenger hunt. Use your creativity to capture photographs that match a list of categories that will be provided on event day. We will show the photos during the November photo club meeting. • Bring your lunch and we’ll meet for lunch at 11:00 am in the building and talk about your adventures on the scavenger hunt.
<p>November 11, Saturday 10:00 am Click for Event Details</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 11 is the Second Saturday presentation. • Following the presentation, winners of the annual photo contest will be announced, winning photos will be shown, and prizes will be handed out.
<p>November 18, Saturday 1:00-3:00 pm Click for Event Details</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo club meeting. Location: Visitor Center in HNWR. • Winning photos from the annual photo contest will be shown. • Photos from the October photo scavenger hunt will be shown.
<p>November 29, Wednesday 6:30 pm MORE DETAILS TO COME</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Trip. Location: Vitruvian Park in Addison, TX. • Photo shoot of Vitruvian Lights in the park where more than 1.5 million colorful LED lights are wrapped around 555 trees.

Helpful Information for the Friends of Hagerman NWR Nature Photography Club

2022 PHOTO CONTEST WINNER



(Photo credit: Pam Rendall-Bass)

Annual Photo Contest

Every September, the FOH NWR Nature Photography Club sponsors a nature-themed photo contest.

- All photos entered in the contest must have been taken within Hagerman NWR boundaries within the past five years.
- Entries will be accepted from September 1 – September 30, 2023.
- Divisions: Beginner and Intermediate/Advanced.
- Categories: Landscapes, Flora and Macro, Artistic, and Wildlife.

Details at <https://friendsofhagerman.com/Photo-Club-Contest>. Come on out to Hagerman NWR and take some winning photographs!

Bird Photo Opportunities

For photographers interested in birds, HNWR has various scheduled events that may give you a great opportunity to locate and photograph birds. All are free and open for everyone to attend. Bring your camera!

- [The Little Sit](#). First Saturdays beginning 30 minutes before sunrise. Dedicated birders conduct a bird count as multiple species fly to the water and surrounding land to feed. Leaders will provide tips for identification of the species. This is not a hike, it a “sit” and participants are advised to bring a chair.
- [Early Bird Walk](#). Second Saturdays at 8:00 am. Lead by Master Naturalist Jack Chiles.
- [Birding with Jack](#). Tuesdays. Experienced birders, including Master Naturalist Jack Chiles, traverse 35 miles of refuge roads and hiking trails, documenting every bird they encounter. Each week they provide a link to their Bird Census Results that lists species and quantity of birds seen at the refuge.

Photo Club Facebook Group

The [Friends of Hagerman NWR Nature Photography Group](#) on Facebook is aimed to support, assist and educate nature photographers of all levels. Post your photos taken on the Hagerman NWR refuge. You can also ask how to improve a photo, share a technique or tip, ask about camera equipment.

Photo Club Member Directory

Want to connect with photo club members to ask questions, share information, see camera equipment? You can share and see contact info in the photo club member directory on the [Friends of Hagerman NWR website](#).

Newsletters and Field Trips Archives

Newsletters and photos from field trips will be posted on the [Photo Club Newsletters Page](#) on the [Friends of Hagerman NWR website](#).

Membership

Interested in joining the Friends of Hagerman NWR and Photo Club or have a friend that is interested? Go to the website at <https://friendsofhagerman.com/Membership> to sign up for a membership.

Workshops Committee

The Photo Club Workshops Committee organizes workshops on photography and processing skills. Workshops will be held on days/times other than our regular photo club meetings. Committee members are: Sheryn Jones (srj65@outlook.com), Sherry Howard (sherryehoward2@gmail.com), and Larry Howard (larryhoward070@gmail.com).

Field Trips Committee

The Photo Club Field Trips Committee organizes field trips for photo shoots on HNWR grounds and at venues outside of the refuge. Committee members are: Linda Glass (lindajosieglass@gmail.com), Shawn Stone (shawn@stonelink.com), Jeff Gladden (gladden.jeffrey@att.net), and Lisa Wilkins (fohphotoclub@gmail.com).

Contact Info

Lisa Wilkins, Photo Club Leader
Friends of Hagerman NWR Nature Photography Club
Email: fohphotoclub@gmail.com
Website: <https://friendsofhagerman.com/Photo-Club>
Facebook: [Friends of Hagerman NWR Nature Photography Group](#)

Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge
6465 Refuge Road
Sherman, TX 75092
Website: www.friendsofhagerman.com