



## JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

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### 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](#)



*American Kestrel by Jonathan Davison*



*Click above for 2023 Wildlife video by Richard Barnes  
Richard was the guest speaker at our  
September 2023 photo club meeting.*

### News

- Our first photo club meeting of 2024 will be on January 20th. We are fortunate to have Russell Graves give a presentation about his wildlife photography and adventures. Russell Graves is the owner of the [Hackberry Farm Photo School](#) that offers workshops and courses to teach aspiring photographers of all skill levels how to capture stunning images of the natural world.
- Our first field trip of 2024 will be on January 27th. We will meet for a photo shoot at Meadow Pond at Hagerman NWR. The Lotus flower stalks form interesting and abstract shapes in winter.

### Trail Closures

- Please note that on the day of our January 20 photo club meeting, there is a feral hog hunt taking place at Hagerman NWR. If you plan to do some hiking or photography before or after the meeting, some trails will be closed.

**Feral Hog Hunt.** For more information, visit [Texas Parks and Wildlife](#) and [US Fish and Wildlife](#).

Jan 18, 2024: Hikes on Haller's Haven, Raasch and Meadow Pond Trails should be completed by 2:30 pm.

Jan 19, 2024 – Jan 21, 2024:

CLOSED Due to Hunt: Haller's Haven, Raasch, and Meadow Pond trails; Big Mineral, Sandy, Godwin, Goode, Meyers, and SE Harris Creek units.

OPEN to Public: Harris Creek and Crow Hill trails; NW Harris Creek Unit.

### Did You Know...

- The National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) is a system of protected areas managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS). NWRS manages six wildlife-dependent recreational uses in accordance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, including 1) hunting, 2) fishing, 3) birding, 4) photography, 5) environmental education, and 6) environmental interpretation.

The volunteers of Friends of Hagerman (FOH) give their time to support and provide the NWRS big six initiatives. Your membership fees help us to offer programs for you. Thank you!

### Membership

- We hope that you will continue to renew your Friends of Hagerman (FOH) membership when it comes due. Your membership sponsors the Friends of Hagerman (FOH) Foundation to offer environmental education, recreational activities, and programs at Hagerman NWR – including our photo club activities.
- Friends of Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge membership that includes the photo club is \$15 for an individual or \$25 for a family. You can start a new membership or renew your membership at <https://friendsofhagerman.com/Membership>.

### Familiar Feathered Friends

Cold temperatures in the north bring some familiar feathered friends to Hagerman NWR. Snow Geese and Ross' Geese migrate from the north to spend a few winter months on the refuge to enjoy feeding on the grounds and Lake Texoma. There have been over 8,000 geese at Hagerman NWR this year.

Here are amazing photos from the [Friends of Hagerman NWR Nature Photography](#) Facebook group that were taken by our photo club members.



*HAPPY NEW YEAR*

*Brenda Kay Edwards*



*Jeffrey Rolinc*



*Cathy Van Bebber*



*Pam Rendall-Bass*



*Lisa Wilkins*



*Mike Petrick*



*Laurie Sheppards*



*Mayve Strong*



*Donnie Simmons*



*Charlene Russell*



*Murali Hanabe*

### 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>January 20, 2024, Saturday 1:00 pm <a href="#">Click here for details.</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photo Club Meeting in Visitor Center at Hagerman NWR.</li> <li>• Russell Graves will give a presentation about A World Full of Wildlife – Traveling the world to capture memorable images. This presentation will be a behind the scenes look at taking dynamic and memorable photos from both near and far. Russell Graves is the owner of the <a href="#">Hackberry Farm Photo School</a>.</li> </ul>
<p>January 27, 2024, Saturday 10:00-11:30 am <a href="#">Click here for details.</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photo Club Field Trip at Hagerman NWR.</li> <li>• Join us for a photo shoot of Lotus flower stalks at Meadow Pond at Hagerman NWR. The Lotus flower stalks form interesting and abstract shapes in winter.</li> <li>• <b>Event is limited to FOHNWR Nature Photography Club members only.</b></li> <li>• You can start a new membership or renew your membership at <a href="https://friendsofhagerman.com/Membership">https://friendsofhagerman.com/Membership</a>.</li> </ul>
<p>March 16, 2024, Saturday 1:00 pm <a href="#">Click here for details.</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photo Club Meeting in Visitor Center at Hagerman NWR.</li> <li>• Larry Petterborg will give a presentation about Abstract Photography. Larry will discuss abstract art in general to lead into an exploration of abstract photography. Learn what abstract photography is and how it may help one become a better photographer.</li> </ul>
<p>May 18, 2024, Saturday 1:00 pm <a href="#">Click here for details.</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photo Club Meeting in Visitor Center at Hagerman NWR.</li> <li>• Ken Scheepers will give a presentation about his South Africa trip. Ken recently returned from an 8-week, 6,451-mile trip across South Africa, where he was fortunate to have photographed 172 bird species. Ken is one of our Hagerman photo club members!</li> </ul>
<p>July 20, 2024, Saturday 1:00 pm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photo Club Meeting.</li> <li>• Topic TBD.</li> </ul>
<p>September 21, 2024, Saturday 1:00 pm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photo Club Meeting.</li> <li>• Topic TBD.</li> </ul>
<p>September 1-30, 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FOHNWR Annual Nature Photo Contest.</li> <li>• Photos can be submitted in September.</li> </ul>
<p>November 9, 2024, Saturday 10:00 am</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FOH Second Saturday program starts at 10 am. After the program, photo contest winners announced, slideshow of winning photographs shown, and awards presented.</li> </ul>
<p>November 16, 2024, Saturday 1:00 pm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photo Club Meeting.</li> <li>• Slideshow of winning photographs from the photo contest.</li> </ul>

## Helpful Information for the Friends of Hagerman NWR Nature Photography Club

### 2023 PHOTO CONTEST BEST OF SHOW



Jeffrey Rolinc

### 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, 2024.
- 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](#) website page.

### 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.

### Contact Info

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

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