



“My Texas Playground” — Egidio Leitao

— Guest Speaker for June

As a nature photographer, Egidio Leitao travels the local parks and preserves to spend time outdoors. In this presentation, Egidio will do a quick survey of some of Texas's popular parks as well as other hidden gems, including Austin parks and nature trails.



Born and raised in northeast Brazil, Egidio moved to Texas in 1981. Besides music, photography is another hobby of his. He believes that since the appearance of



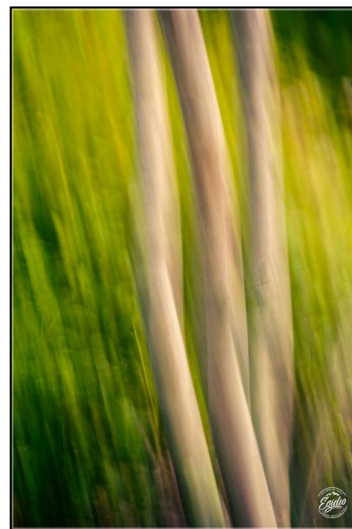
Goliad Park

digital photography, it's become a lot easier to explore and experiment with making photos. Add to that a passion for traveling — whether a short weekend or an extended vacation — and the stars align for a great hobby. All images on his web site are his own.

Egidio is not a professional photographer, nor does he intend to become one. Photography is a hobby. He enjoys carrying his camera around when he travels, hikes, and rides bikes. Besides trying to be creative and make interesting photos, he appreciates the feeling that viewers can live vicariously through photos. My photos also help me revisit places I have been.

Traveling to favorite places in Texas led to a submission of photos to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation's contest, *Focus on the Wild* in 2016. In February 2016 and June 2016, the photos submitted to the contest were picked as the best in those months. At the end of the year, the entry for February 2016 also won the best for 2016.

For more information, email: contact@egidio.photography.



Twisted Sisters

Modern Technology Enables Specialized Photographic Images

by Brian Loflin

The very first wildlife image at night was very startling. It was what I call the “Deer in the Headlight” image. Literally.



“Three white-tailed deer, Michigan” (c 1893)

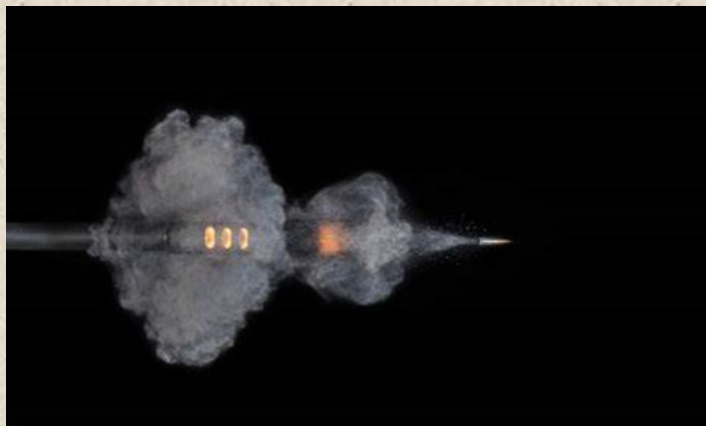
George Shiras shot some of the world’s first nocturnal wildlife photographs. The shock of the bright light exploding from a magnesium powder flash triggered by a tripwire is reflected in the startled deer leaping in all directions of the black-and-white images, which illuminated a previously invisible part of the natural world. Shiras, who perfected his techniques until his death in 1942, is now considered among the first wildlife photographers, and a major influence on American conservation.

Gil Grosvenor, then director of the National Geographic Society and its magazine, reportedly said that, “nobody had ever seen pictures like that of wild animals.”

In the following 130 years photographic technology has taken major leaps. Examples include bullets speeding near the speed of sound and photos of black holes in the stellar universe.

Harold "Doc" Edgerton, also known as Papa Flash, was an American scientist, researcher, and professor at MIT. He commonly experimented with photographing bullets in flight. He is largely credited with transforming the [stroboscope](#) from an obscure laboratory instrument into a commonly used electronic flash device.

Today, astronomers are capable of reaching millions of light years into the past to photograph universe phenomenon like this black hole.



Many early experiments in photographic technology are available to us digital photographers. The advent of the digital camera has made specialized controls possible because of its digital operation and its electronic shutter.

It is now possible to trigger the camera for very long exposures, extremely short exposures, and frame rates of up to 200 frames in one second. Couple that with common electronic flashes with a burst speed of 50 thousandths of a second and

we can make images of things not previously possible.

The common Speedlight manufactured by Nikon, Canon, Nissin, Godox, and others is capable of very high flash rates. With electronic flash dialed down in power, the burst increases in speed to over 1/60,000 second. Some specialized units go over 1/200,000 second.

This is a common technique used in hummingbird photography. Placed in the shade, the setup may use two flashes for the bird and two for the background. All set to 1/16 power, the flashes will stop the wing beats.

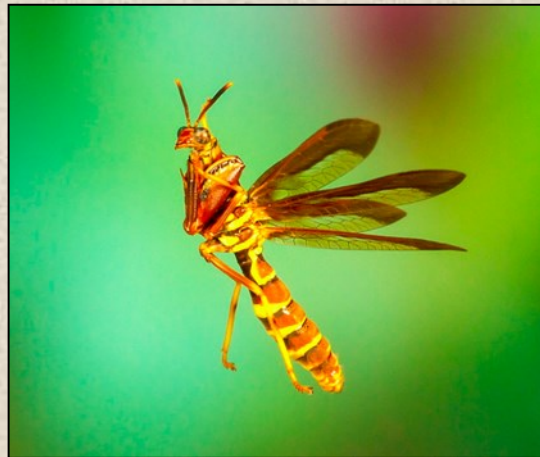


Hummingbirds may be captured in flight with wing feathers clearly delineated at a beating rate of over 50 times per second.

Another use of high-speed flash is the analysis the flight characteristics of insects in flight. High speed flash at low power and high flash speeds enable images that capture details not visible by the human eye or video capture. An image with a common speedlight define a wasp in flight.

The use of a triggering device is often required to capture the image at the proper moment. An electronic trigger system using ultraviolet, infrared, laser, or lidar triggers flashes or shutters as a subject breaks the beam. This is hardly possible without such an electronic aid.

The chameleon is capturing a cricket at 1/25,000 second. A flash and beam sensor made this shot possible in a controlled environment.



Electronic sensors, or triggers, come in many varieties. Some use a common laser beam that when broken by a subject passing through the broken beam triggers a flash, camera shutter or both.

Some triggers are active; a continuous beam must be broken for the trigger to actuate. Some are passive. Some triggers are set to sense an infrared or heat signature to set it off. For those, a continuous beam is not required.

A lidar trigger (above, right) uses a combination of laser and radar to sense movement in the plane in front of the sensing unit. The



images below were triggered by a lidar sensor.



Last week in Arizona, I put technology to the test photographing wildlife at night. A pallid bat (left) was photographed drinking at a pond using an electronic sensor that triggered four speedlights as it broke the beam. A western screech owl (right) returns to the nest with prey for its young. A lidar electronic sensor triggered the off-camera flash as it approached the nest box.



Not all moving nature and wildlife photographs require triggers or flashes. The modern digital cameras, especially the mirrorless digital camera with its electronic shutter, are capable of shutter frame rates as fast as 200 frames in one second. That is simply not possible by a mechanical shutter.

The image (below) of a striking rattlesnake was taken at a frame rate of 60 frames per second and a shutter speed of 1/1500 second. No flash was required here because of the high frame rate and shutter speed in daylight.

So, we have come a long way since Shiras and his box camera and magnesium flash powder.

Today, even with minimal equipment and some electronic controls, we photographers are enabled to produce some amazing images of things not possible even 10 years ago.



May 2025 Assignment – *Motion*



Barbara Hunley



Brian Loflin

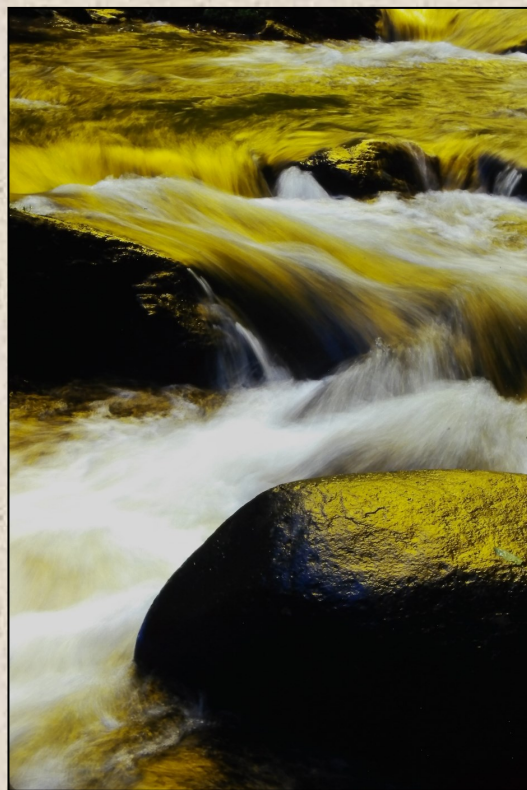


Clarence Ranzau

May 2025 Assignment – *Motion*



Jill McLain



Clarence Ranzau



Dave Wolter



John Terwilliger

May 2025 Assignment – *Motion*



Mike Stys



Jill McLain



Pete Holland



Therese Beck



Bob Kerr



May 2025 Assignment – *Motion*



Pete Holland



Mike Stys



John Terwilliger

May 2025 Assignment – *Motion*



Bob Kerr



Therese Beck

May 2025 – General



Barbara Hunley



Brian Loflin



Dennis Ellis

May 2025 – General



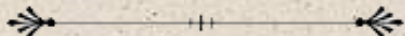
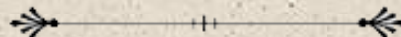
Dave Wolter



John Davis



Dennis Ellis



John Davis



June Workshop

Process Images Like a Pro

Saturday, June 14
10:00 am to 12:30 pm

The next ASC club workshop will feature a seven-step method for near-perfect photos. Every time!

Regardless, whether you prefer Lightroom or Photoshop, the steps are the same.

Also demonstrated will be the best process of importing images into Lightroom.

Bring your laptop and your most difficult image and work along as the process is unveiled for you.
We will meet:

Where:

John Gillum North Village Branch Library
2505 Steck Ave.
Austin, TX 78757

Everyone is invited to lunch nearby following the workshop.



Assignment Topics for 2025 - 2026

January 2025

Evaluation and review

Doors and Windows - An image where the primary subject is a door(s) and/or window(s) of a building or structure. Composition is the key. Any process. Color or monochrome.

March 2025

Tryptic - Tryptic. A group of three images side by side in one frame that tells a story or sequence. Color.

May 2025

Motion - the passage of time. Long or short. Color or monochrome.

July 2025

Unusual Vantage Point - An unusual perspective of your subject. Monochrome.

September 2025

Significant Detail - An in-focus image that reveals not just detail, but significant detail within the whole. Color.

November 2025

Insect in Flight - Simply that. Color.

January 2026

An Iconic Austin Mural - Must include the architecture that supports the painting. Color.



To me, photography is an art of observation. It's about finding something interesting in an ordinary place... I've found it has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them.

- Elliott Erwitt -

Austin Shutterbug Club

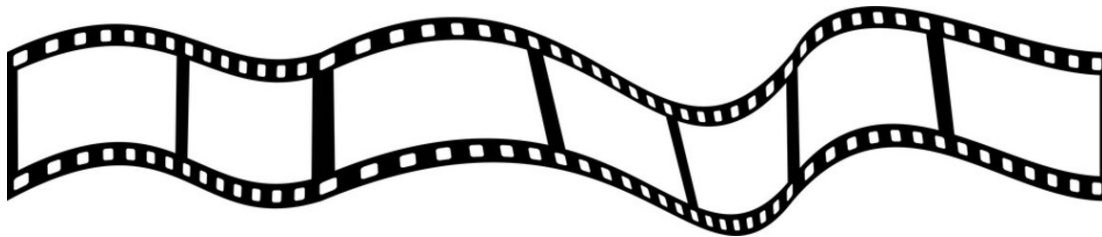
Northwest Recreation Center

Meeting Minutes for May 1, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Brian Loflin at 7:00 pm. Brian reminded the members that a workshop is scheduled for Saturday, May 10 at 10 am at the [John Gillum Branch](#) 2505 Steck Ave. The subject matter is AI processes in Photoshop and Lightroom. Brian will also discuss best practices in importing and storing images. Lightroom was developed for Digital Asset Management control, to make images easy to catalog and locate. There was some discussion about the causes of computers being slow to process, and how to correct the issues. Dennis Ellis mentioned that he has a SONY AI that he would like to sell if there is a member interested in buying it.

Photo critique was then commenced for 17 assignment images and 7 general category images. Member questions and input were encouraged. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Jill McLain
Secretary



NEXT MEETING DATE!

Thursday, June 5, 2025

7:00pm

Northwest Recreation Center

2913 Northland Dr, Austin, TX 78757

Visitors welcome!



We are on Facebook!

