

## PHOTO NATURALISTS CAMERA CLUB COMPETITION RULES

1. All members, whose dues are currently paid, are eligible to enter competitions.
2. All entries must be the sole work of the contributor.
3. Each member may enter three (3) entries at each regular competition and two (2) entries per subject on nights with both regular competition and an assigned subject.
  - a. Once accepted in a club competition, an entry may not be entered into club competition again.
  - b. A completed entry form must accompany submission of entries. For special assignment, two (2) completed entry forms are needed; one for the assigned subject and one for the regular competition.
  - c. A one-time make-up entry per year will be allowed.
4. The Vice President Competitions will secure a qualified nature judge for each monthly competition. All club members who judge a monthly competition of Photo Naturalists Camera Club shall be permitted to enter an additional three (3) entries in the next regular competition. If a special assignment was also judged, an additional entry may be entered, bringing the total to four (4) entries.
5. At each competition the Judge will select one to three "Photos of the Evening". The Judge may select as many of the entries that he feels qualified for "Acceptances". The score value for each entry will be:
  - 3 points for an Image of the Evening
  - 2 points for an "Accepted" or "Held" image
  - 1 point for entering the competition
6. The entries to be considered for Interclub Competition shall be based on Member's Choice voting from each monthly competition. All accepted digital entries will be copied to a CD or other device for the competition Chairperson to hold for the Year-end competition.
7. Winning entries for any competition may be placed on the club website for purposes of promoting the club. Submission of entries into any Photo Naturalists club competition will be an implied consent to have the entry posted on the club website.
8. A competition of the monthly accepted entries will be held at the end of the year and judged by a qualified nature judge or panel of judges. Annual Award Certificates will be presented for:
  - 1st place - Image of the year (highest rated)
  - 2nd place - Second highest rated
  - 3rd place - Third highest rated
  - Whit Melton Memorial Award - Best Authenticated Wildlife entry
  - R. Van Nostrand Memorial Entry - Best Zoo entry
  - Photo Naturalists Landscape Award - Best Landscape entry
  - High Points Award - Highest total points accumulated during the year.
  - High Points Award - Second highest total points earned for the year.
  - High Points Award - Third highest total points earned for the year.

9. For the purpose of determining the annual High Points Award, the total of points for all entries entered in the monthly competitions shall be considered regardless of whether a particular entry was accepted or not.

10. **Nature Photography**, for competition entries, is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict observations from all branches of natural history, including botany, zoology, physics, chemistry, meteorology, and paleontology, except for anthropology and archeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and to certify to its honest presentation.

**Authenticated Wildlife** is defined as one or more extant zoological or botanical organisms living free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. This includes images of insects, land and marine organisms and botanical organisms (including fungi and algae) taken in the wild as well as carcasses of extant species. It is to be indicated on the entry form with **(W)**. This **(W)** should also appear after the title on the digital entry title. Landscapes, geological formations, photographs of zoo or game farm animals, or of any extant zoological or botanical species taken under controlled conditions are not eligible to be submitted as Authenticated Wildlife. The Nature Photography rules and definitions used by the Photographic Society of America (PSA) are used as the basic guidelines for the Photo Naturalists Camera Club.

11. The **story-telling** value of a photograph should be weighed more than the pictorial quality. Human elements, also referred to as “hand of man”, shall not be present, except where those human elements are integral parts of the nature story such as nature subjects, like barn owls or storks, adapted to an environment modified by humans, or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves.

12. Entries of artificially produced (domesticated) plants or animals, mounted specimens, obviously set arrangements, or achieved through photographic, electronic, or electro-optical manipulation, are **ineligible** and should not be submitted. (Exception: Detailed macro photographs and scientific banding on animals.)

13. No techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted including High Dynamic Range (HDR), focus-stacking and dodging/burning. Adjustments may be made to bring the image back to what was seen through the lens. All results must look natural.

**Allowed (these are ADJUSTMENTS):** resizing; cropping; exposure adjustment; white balance; contrast; saturation; adjust highlight and shadow detail; selective lightening and darkening, including but not limited to shadow/highlight and dodge/burn tools; restoration of the original color of the scene; sharpening (which must appear natural); dust spot removal; digital noise reduction; flare removal; straightening of the horizon; reversing (flipping horizontal). All allowed adjustments must appear natural to the viewer. Color images can be converted to greyscale monochrome. Infrared images, either direct captures or derivations, are not allowed.

**Not Allowed (these are CHANGES):** addition of elements to the scene; removing elements from the scene except by cropping; rearranging items in the scene; special effects filters; combining of images such as stitched panoramas; blurring of the background.

14. Digital Entries - The electronic file dimensions are to be: **no more than 1920** pixels horizontal, or **1080** pixels vertical. Images must be submitted in JPEG format (xxx.jpg). Color space should be **sRGB**.

15. Digital images are to be sent via e-mail to the Competition Chairperson no later than the Friday midnight before the competition in order for him to have them ready for the competition. As a backup they are also to be brought to the meeting on any digital media, preferably a media card (CF, SD, Memory Stick) with nothing else on it.

16. There shall be at least three Assigned Subject competitions each year. The subjects should be geared to encourage members to try new techniques, or to work with different subject matter. It is suggested that at least one of the assignments include Authenticated Wildlife (**W**). Workshops and/or field trips should focus on the assigned subjects.