

2020 Migration Celebration Nature Photography Contest Official Rules and Requirements

The Nature Photography Contest is a Migration Celebration program, which is a Fish and Wildlife Service event from the Texas Mid-coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex and is underwritten by Friends of the Brazoria Wildlife Refuges.

Nature photography is one of six legislated public uses of National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) along with wildlife observation, interpretation, environmental education, hunting, and fishing.

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2020 PHOTO CONTEST SCHEDULE		
March 20, 2020	Contest deadline; all digital entries and forms must be submitted by this date	See Contest Rules, pages 1-3
April 17, 5:30 pm	Kickoff dinner, Freeport RiverPlace, City Park Road at Old River St., Freeport	Entries will be exhibited for visitors as indicated, page 3
April 25-26	Migration Celebration, San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge	Entries will be exhibited for visitors, see page 3

Categories

Texas Nature Photography Categories	
<p>For categories 1-6 below, all digital entries must have been taken in the state of Texas. No digital entries of domestic, farm, ranch or zoo animals are allowed. No digital entries of cultivated vegetable garden plants are allowed. It is the intent of this contest to focus on plant and animal species seen in <u>the wild</u>. Digital entries taken in your backyard of native plants, or bird, butterfly or other species that 'visit' are acceptable.</p> <p>See rules for category 7.</p>	
1	Wildlife Vertebrates of Texas. Includes images of mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles or other vertebrates photographed in their natural habitats. Does not include digital entries where birds are the primary subject.
2	Wildlife Invertebrates of Texas. Includes images of insects, mollusks, crustaceans, millipedes, worms, or other invertebrates photographed in their natural habitats.
3	Birds of Texas. Includes images of birds photographed in their natural habitats.
4	Plant Life or Fungi of Texas. Includes images of flowers, trees, and other flora in their natural habitats or images of mushrooms or other fungi. Does not include broad landscape or scenery digital entries.
5	Landscape/Scenery of Texas. Includes images of landscapes, scenery, skylines (such as sunsets, sunrise, or night sky), seascapes, or ponds in Texas where elements of land, water, sky or other natural elements are the primary subject. Excludes close-ups or small focal points of nature. Ships, buildings or other man-made structures should not provide the main focus in this category.
6	Nature-themed Photo/Digital Art. Includes nature as art, a single or composite image that has been digitally manipulated, or an image greatly manipulated with digital filters, HDR digital entries, etc. The photographer must note the digital techniques used to create the picture. This category is intended to show how the elements of nature can be expanded to create unique photographic images that become art. Note – this is the only category in which significant digital manipulation is allowed.
7	Photos from around the World. The digital entries in this category must comply with all the Rules stated in categories 1-6 above, and the rest of these Rules, but can be taken anywhere in the world, <i>except</i> Texas. The digital entries will be judged for the best submitted entries in this category.

Contest Rules

Requirements	Notes
1. Limits on entries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A maximum of nine digital photographs per entrant. 2. A maximum of three photographs per category, per entrant.
2. Photo Alterations Categories 1-6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All photographs should accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appeared. 2. Digital entries that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization will be disqualified. Acceptable digital alterations are adjustments to color, contrast, brightness and sharpness; removal of dust and scratches; cropping; black and white conversions; and use of HDR/HDR (high dynamic range imaging). 3. Focus stacked images will be accepted for close-up or macro digital entries, e.g., in plant or invertebrate categories. 4. Not acceptable are photo composites (combination of two or more digital entries that are not of the same scene; the addition, duplication, deletion or moving of objects in the digital entries; or the use of artistic digital filters and effects. Examples of artistic filters and effects NOT accepted are watercolor, neon glow, posterizing, stained glass, and others which do not show the scene in its natural way.
3. Photo Alterations Category 7	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Digital entries digitally manipulated with post-processing techniques are acceptable. Images may be greatly manipulated with digital filters, HDR techniques, etc., to create a graphic or artistic effect. 2. Examples of artistic filters and effects that ARE accepted are watercolor, neon glow, posterizing, stained glass. These effects may alter how the image would look in its natural way. You may also use photo composites or double exposures such as the combination of two or more digital entries that are not of the same scene (in this case, all locations must be stated).
4. Dates when digital entries may be taken	Digital entries entered in the 2020 contest may be taken between April 1, 2019 to March 15, 2020.
5. Size of digital entry for printing	Each photo shall be cropped so that it will be 8x12 inches when printed.
6. Digital copies of digital entries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Save all digital entries in jpeg format no larger than 8 megabytes, at 300 ppi, and the longest side shall be at least 1800 pixels long. Submitted jpeg files should be for the photo as printed. No water marks or other text on the photos. 2. Rename each digital photo. Preferred digital file name format is: [Photo name], [Category name]. Do not use your camera-assigned photo name such as IMG_2345 or DSC_4567. 3. No mounted photos are accepted.
7. Advertising Rule	No addition of any advertisement, such as business cards, shall be added to any event photographs or displays. Anything added will be removed and not returned to the entrant.
8. Email electronically	Email your photos and entry form electrically to lawfirm1@sbcglobal.net . You may send your photos by multiple emails with attachments if necessary.

Other Rules:

- Use of Digital entries: Entries may be used by Texas Mid-coast NWR Complex or the Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges according to the uses described in these rules. By entering digital entries in the Migration Celebration photo contest, entrants grant Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges and the Texas Mid-coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex royalty-free and non-exclusive right to use with full credit given to the photographer, as follows: (i) on Migration Celebration, Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges, or refuge publications, websites, display panels, or promotional products, (ii) in promoting the Migration Celebration photo contest, and (iii) for display at refuge facilities or other displays that promote the contest. Entrants waive the right to inspect or approve the final use of their photographs by the entities and for the uses

stated above. Additional permission will be requested for using photographs for purposes other than listed above.

- All submitted digital photographs remain the property of the photographer unless otherwise indicated on the entry form.
- Judging: The contest will be judged by a professional nature photographer(s). Photographs will be evaluated on image impact, technical excellence, and originality/creativity.
- The Migration Celebration Photo Committee has the right to disqualify entries not complying with the Official Contest Rules and Requirements.
- All photos that place: Honorably mentioned and assorted photographs (up to 50 photographs) will be printed and displayed at the Migration Celebration kick-off dinner, Migration Celebration event, at US Fish and Wildlife offices, electronically, and possibly other events that promote Migration Celebration and/or this contest.

Awards and Recognition

All entries that win best of show, or first, second or third places or honorable mention will be on display at the Migration Celebration kick-off dinner on April 17 and at Migration Celebration, San Bernard NWR, on April 25-26. Other photographs may be also be displayed as selected by the Photograph Contest Committee based on available space.

Winning entries are awarded custom contest ribbons as follows:

- Best of Show
- Contest Category Awards—first place, second place, third place, and honorable mentions
- Youth Participation Awards—a ribbon is awarded to all youth participants.

In addition, the winner of Best of Show will be awarded a \$250.00 Visa or Master Card gift card.

Privacy Statement

Address, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses collected on the contest entry form will be used only for purposes related to the photo contest and for contacting photographers about use of digital entries.