Reimagining Expressions

Your courage raises the bar

Why enter a photo contest?

Photo contest or rights grab?

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Conservation

Best in category: Edgar Molina

First runner-up: Corey Ruffel
Judges' choice: Celia Kujala
Judges' choice: Christina Selby

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Top 250

Mammals

Best in category: Tom Ingram

First runner-up: Celia Kujala
Judges' choice: Anita Ross
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Top 100
Top 250

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Best in category: Greg Vaughn

First runner-up: Robb Hirsch
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Best in category: Jeremy Burnham

First runner-up: Cameron Azad
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Judges' choice: Dave Hattori
Judges' choice: Sylvia A. Hosie

Top 100
Top 250

Your courage raises the bar
Reimagining Expressions
Showcase judges

Cover photo by Anita Ross

Expressions is a publication of the North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA®), a nonprofit membership association that helps North America-based nature photographers at all levels of experience grow as artists, citizen scientists, and entrepreneurs through education, networking, and advocacy. Together with our members, we advance conservation and foster ethical field practices for the long-term benefit of all.

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NANPA
North American Nature Photography Association

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Dear Friends,

For 19 years Showcase photographers have steadily raised the bar for this contest, entering images with impact, originality, and photographic skill—the qualities our judges base their scores on. This year’s entries elicited raves from the judges as they talked with one another to finalize the results. Compliments included words like impact, mystical, unexpected, mesmerizing, dynamic, elegance, personality, and beautiful chaos.

But I don’t know any photographer whose sole purpose for taking nature photos is to enter photo contests. If they’re like me, they love nature photography because a camera gives them enjoyment and a purpose to be in nature. Sharing photos with friends and family, and reliving our experiences through photos, are additional rewards. Sometimes our images can even make a difference, like saving a habitat or illustrating a threat to an animal species.

What each photo means to us is personal and meaningful because we witnessed that precise moment in time. It takes courage and confidence to allow our images to be critiqued and judged in a contest. So, thanks to all the NANPA members who entered Showcase, and thanks to the winners who are sharing their special moments with all of us in this edition of *Expressions*.

Warm regards,

Wendy Shattil
Showcase Coordinator
NANPA’s annual Showcase competition recognizes winners in six categories: scapes, birds, mammals, macro/micro/all other wildlife, altered reality, and conservation. You can learn more about the categories and the 2022 winners in those categories throughout this journal. But first, let’s zoom out and take a look at the big picture.

Expressions features the Top 250 images, selected from a total of 3,372 submissions by 377 photographers. The majority of submissions fell into the birds and mammals categories—in fact, together, birds and mammals accounted for more than half of the total entries in the competition. But numbers alone don’t summarize Showcase or Expressions.

This publication is layered with stories. Each of the 250 winning images tells a story. There’s a story behind the capture of every single one of those images as well. Some photographers will tell you it’s a long story with lots of boring parts—like sitting quietly in a blind alone for several hours a day, several days in a row, waiting for the 60 seconds of excitement that was captured in the winning image—but through the perspective of a different lens those “boring parts” tell stories of perseverance, patience, and vision. In its move to a fully digital publication in 2022, NANPA hopes to reveal some of the stories behind the images.

That’s why you’ll find videos alongside the best in category and runner-up winners this year. But viewers add yet another layer. In this edition, you’ll find audio of judges’ conversations about the Top 24 winning images. You’ll hear what made the winning images stand out to the judges, not only from a technical standpoint but the ways in which winning images resonated on a personal level as well.

Additionally, here are a few “story worthy” facts that the Showcase team at NANPA noticed among the 2022 prize winners:

• Celia Kujala had two images place in the Top 24, a feat unmatched at least in recent years if not in the contest’s history.

• Jeremy Burnham had seven images place in the Top 250, including a Best in Category winner.

• Five photographers had five or more images place within the Showcase Top 250.

• Two Top 100 winners are under the age of 25: Julian Jacobs (Conservation) and Sophia Balunek (Mammals).

• Five images in the Top 250 were non-traditional captures made with trail cameras, camera traps, dones, or mobile devices.

NANPA is excited to release its 2022 Expressions to help reveal these stories and allow readers to interact with all 250 winning images, allowing even more stories to grow. Viewers can watch for related “How I Got the Shot” stories about the Showcase Top 24 winners on NANPA’s blog and look for all 250 winning images to be published on our social media platforms throughout 2022. You’re encouraged to comment, like, and share to keep the stories afloat.
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Showcase judges

Mammals, Macro/micro/all other wildlife, Scapes, Birds, Altered reality categories

Darrell Gulin
Darrell has been photographing and marketing his work for over 33 years, 28 of those as a full-time nature/travel photographer. He markets his work through stock agencies (Getty Images, Danita Delimont), editorial/paper product markets, along with photography workshops, tours, seminars, and speaking engagements.

Darrell is one of Canon’s Explorers of Light and also a past president of NANPA. His work has been published in Outdoor Photographer, Newsweek, Audubon, National Wildlife, Popular Photography, Our Daily Bread, most top nature wildlife calendars, and Nature’s Best Photography—to name a few.

An accomplished speaker and teacher, Darrell leads workshops for Joe Van Os and has been featured on the TV program Canon Photo Safaris. He has traveled the world capturing special moments to share with others.

Morgan (Mo) Heim
Mo raises a camera for one purpose—to capture moments in an animal’s life that will make us consider what that life means. Inevitably, those stories involve people as much as wildlife. How we treat them. Why we need them. What we love or hate about them.

Mo used to work as a wildlife ecologist for NOAA on projects like killer whale surveys and the Elwha Dam Removal. She later earned a Master’s in environmental journalism and is a senior fellow of the International League of Conservation Photographers (iLCP). She has covered endangered fishing cats and shrimp farm development as well as the environmental impacts of marijuana grow operations in our nation’s forests. In 2016, she became a National Geographic grantee for her collaboration on urban coyotes. Her work has appeared in outlets including World Wildlife Fund, Smithsonian, Discover, NationalGeographic.com, Nature Conservancy Magazine, and bioGraphic.com. Her films have premiered at Banff Mountain Film, Telluride Mountain Film, Adventure Film, DC Environmental Film Fest, the International Wildlife Film Festival, and COP 23.

Charles Needle
Charles is a Colorado-based fine art photographer, author, and workshop leader. His photographs have been published in Nature’s Best Photography, Outdoor Photographer, Nature Photographer, The Chicago Tribune, and SELF, and are in private and public collections throughout the world.

In 2018 and 2021 Charles earned honorable mentions in the Macro and Visual FX categories of the prestigious Annual International Mobile Photography Awards Contest. He was also a semi-finalist in the 2014 Nature’s Best Photography Windland Smith Rice International Awards contest. In 2011 Charles was selected as a finalist among 15,000 entries in the International Garden Photographer of the Year contest sponsored by The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (London, England). This exhibition traveled throughout the United Kingdom.

Charles has authored three instructional books: Tiny Worlds: Creative Macro Photography Skills (Amherst Media, 2015), Impressionistic Photography: A Field Guide to Using Your Camera as a Paintbrush (2014), and Creative Macro Photography: Professional Tips & Techniques (2011). Internationally, he leads workshops in Monet’s Garden (Giverny, France) with exclusive private access, Keukenhof Gardens (Holland), and The Butchart Gardens (Canada). Charles is a FujiFilm USA Talent Team member and was a NANPA Showcase award winner in 14 separate years.
Clay Bolt

Clay is a natural history and conservation photographer specializing in the world’s smaller creatures and frequently partnering with National Geographic Society and the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. His current major focus is on North American bumble bees. Clay was a leading voice in the fight to protect the rusty-patched bumble bee, which became North America’s first federally protected native bee under the Endangered Species Act in 2017. Two years later Clay became the first photographer to document a living Wallace’s Giant Bee—the world’s largest bee—as a part of a four-person exploration team to rediscover the species in the Indonesian islands of North Maluku. After the rediscovery, he worked closely with Indonesian authorities and TRAFFIC to prohibit sales of the insect on online marketplace and social media sites, and to prohibit non-scientific collection of the species across Indonesia.

As Communications Lead for World Wildlife Fund’s Northern Great Plains Program, Clay develops communications strategies to fight grasslands biodiversity loss. He is a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, Associate Fellow in the International League of Conservation Photographers (ILCP), a past president of NANPA, and a member of the Livingston, Montana Parks and Trails Committee.

Alison M. Jones

A conservation photographer since 1985, Alison has documented indigenous cultures, wildlife, ecosystems, and development projects in Africa, North and South America, and India. In 2000 she helped establish Kenya’s Mara Conservancy, a model for 120 new African conservancies. In 2006 she studied watershed science at Columbia University and wrote a Management Plan for Ethiopia’s Nech Sar National Park.

In 2007, after flying over 2,000 miles of African waterways, Alison founded No Water No Life.® For this global nonprofit that merges photography and science to highlight freshwater threats and solutions, Alison has led 70 documentary expeditions to Africa, North America, and India and has interviewed over 450 watershed scientists and stewards.

Dave Showalter

Conservation photographer and author Dave Showalter is based in Colorado and focused on the American West. Dave has published two books—Sage Spirit: The American West at a Crossroads (Braided River, 2015) and Prairie Thunder (Skyline Press, 2007). Dave’s photographs and articles have appeared in numerous publications, including Audubon, Conservation Biology, Outside, Outdoor Photographer, High Country News, Wilderness, Colorado Life and elsewhere. In partnership with Braided River, Dave’s exhibit “Colorado: Sage Spirit and Roaring Rivers” was displayed at Denver International Airport 2018-2019 and viewed by over 2 million people.

Dave is a faculty member with the Summit Series of Photo Workshops, a Senior Fellow in the International League of Conservation Photographers (ILCP), and works in partnership with numerous conservation groups, including Audubon Rockies, The Wilderness Society, The Nature Conservancy, and Sierra Club of Wyoming.
NANPA added a sixth category, conservation, to its annual Showcase competition in 2020. Simply put, a conservation image tells a story with an important environmental issue behind it. Its purpose is to raise awareness and evoke emotions that affect human behavior.

The premise of conservation photography is not new, and NANPA members certainly have been using photographs to raise awareness, advocate for nature, and effect change for decades. But as environmental threats continue to mount and an increasing number of species become endangered or extinct, we’ve watched the demand for high quality conservation photographs rise—and the number of NANPA members specializing in this type of nature photography rise in turn.

The difference between a nature photograph and a conservation photograph is often explained something like this: a nature photograph is a lovely photo of a pretty flower. A conservation photograph is the same pretty flower with a bulldozer in the background approaching it. Ideally, conservation photos have an element of impact beyond a typical beautiful image. One shouldn’t have to read the caption to know there’s something different about the image, but the words can add a full understanding about what’s going on, without forcing a story. Elements in a conservation photo cannot be altered, added or removed to affect the meaning or integrity of the scene.

The growing field of conservation photography doesn’t mean beautiful photographs aren’t important or capable of raising awareness or affecting behavior. Quite the opposite, we need images of both kinds to reveal the full story of our natural world—and in Showcase, like in the real world, the beautiful image and the one that may be hard to look at sit side by side for the world to ponder.
A Tule Elk Paces the Eight-foot Fence Line at Point Reyes National Seashore

This section of the fence is a sliver of the approximately two-mile barbed-wire barrier that prohibits the elk from moving freely to forage for food and water. The fences in Point Reyes are put in place to prevent the elk from roaming onto leased farm land.

Point Reyes National Seashore, California

Edgar Molina

I am a photographer living out of Oakley, California, with my wife and three fur babies (Biscuit, Bruce, and Marshmellow). I purchased my first camera in 2017, a Fuji X-T2, as an attempt to identify a creative outlet and photograph family functions. I quickly realized that I was a terrible people photographer but thankfully found refuge in photographing nature-related subjects.

Photographing landscapes and cityscapes taught me the basics, such as camera settings, composition, and light. But, I didn’t identify my passion and love for photography until I started photographing wildlife subjects in my local area. Most of my workdays are spent staring at a computer screen, so getting out in nature and observing all of its critters has been an absolute joy.
Feral Apple Snail Is Gripped Tightly in the Talons of a Snail Kite

As indicated by the bands, these birds are extensively monitored in Florida in the hopes of finding ways to increase their numbers. A recent population increase may be due in part to an apple snail from South America now established in the marshes of the southeastern United States.

Lake Tohopekaliga, Kissimmee, Florida

Corey Raffel

Corey Raffel is an amateur wildlife photographer who entered the hobby in 2016. His favorite subject for photos is parrots in the wild. One of the great things about photographing parrots is that as one wanders around looking for them, one encounters lots of other wildlife! Parrots have more endangered species than any other large family of birds. Corey supports parrot conservation organizations and serves on the Board of Directors of the Macaw Recovery Network. Despite his interest in parrots, Corey is actually very happy to photograph any wildlife that he encounters, and he spends plenty of time looking for subjects close to home. Prior to retirement, Corey was a neurosurgeon, so he has a built-in desire for perfection. Thus, he strives for really scalpel-sharp (not tack-sharp) images. He is greatly looking forward to spending more time capturing images during retirement.

Judges’ insights (audio)

Winner’s video
Conservation

Celia Kujala

Celia Kujala is an international award-winning wildlife and underwater photographer. From the moment she saw California sea lions for the first time at the Prospect Park Zoo when she was fourteen months old, she felt a special bond with them. However, it wasn’t until she got scuba certified and started underwater photography in 2017 that she found her true calling. She is currently working on a project called Seal Peace about all the species of pinnipeds in the world. Through her photography she hopes to engender an appreciation for each individual species as well as their diverse environments and the challenges those environments are facing. A researcher by trade, she strives to learn everything she can about her subjects in order to most accurately and intimately tell their stories.

sealpeace.com

The Dangerous Toy

Everything in a California sea lion pup’s environment is a potential toy. Sadly, sometimes their toys are pieces of garbage that are entering the ocean and arriving at their remote, uninhabited homes on ocean currents.

Coronado Islands, Baja California, Mexico
Christina Selby

Christina Selby is a conservation photographer, writer, and nature guide who uses visual and narrative storytelling to enchant people's hearts and inspire action for wild places and wild things. Christina is the author of the award-winning Best Wildflower Hikes of New Mexico (a Falcon Guide) and New Mexico Family Outdoor Adventures (UNM Press) as well as producer of the documentary film Saving Beauty.

Her work has appeared in publications such as: bioGraphic, Scientific American, National Geographic online, New Mexico Magazine, and Mongabay, among others. When she’s not searching for monkeys in the Amazon, tracking Mexican wolves in the Southwest, or wildflowering in alpine meadows, you can find her at home in Santa Fe or camping with her two boys, husband, and Great Pyrenees "Glacier" in the stunning landscapes of the Southern Rockies.

christinamselby.com

Lean on Me (Captive)

A baby spider monkey clings to the leg of its keeper. Monkeys are hunted for food in the Amazon. I accompanied a scientific expedition on the Juruá River, one of the main tributaries of the Amazon River, in search of a rare species of monkey.

Eirunepé, Brazil
Barry B. Brown
instagram.com/coralreefphotos
Live Dolphin Swimming Under Oil and Trash in the Caribbean
Curacao

Julian Jacobs
julesjacobsphoto.com
Raptors and their Guardian Angels (Captive)
Raptor rehabilitation in Maryland isn’t just about the birds but also the women who get them back to health. Evelyn Lewis, a perennial volunteer at the Owl Moon Raptor Center, flies Michael, a red-shouldered hawk recovering from rodenticide poisoning.
Owl Moon Raptor Center, Boyds, Maryland

Sarah Killingsworth Photography
sarahkillingsworth.com
The Stand-off
A group of cattle challenge an endemic Tule elk bull in a battle over the grass in the pastures. The recent Record of Decision in Point Reyes allows for lethal removal of Tule elk if the herd exceeds a certain size.
Point Reyes National Seashore, California

Shane Morrison
photosinthewild.com
Pronghorn Watches Earthmovers
The pronghorn stood at the newly erected fence for three days watching the earthmovers scrape away the herd’s last refuge. This herd has likely lived here for hundreds of years. Land developers buy up land once in the hands of ranches to build new homes.
Rural El Paso County, Colorado Springs, Colorado
Janeen Sullivan
Trash Owl
Habitat loss is one of the main threats to burrowing owls. As the city expands, this owl's burrow is suddenly in the suburbs. Adaptable in the face of adversity, it has used the trash generated by people around the burrow to disguise the opening.
Casa Grande, Arizona

Heather Valey
Purple Martins Drawn to Strip Mall Lights
Hundreds of thousands of purple martins flying in to roost for the night in nearby oak trees get drawn into the lights in a strip mall parking lot in Austin, Texas. Birds that are drawn to the parking lot lights can be easily disoriented and become injured.
Capital Plaza, Austin, Texas

R. Craig Wallace
Brave Little Grizzly Bear
The fine line to protect the wildlife and the tourists. Does this help or hurt the overall protection of an endangered species?
Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming
Jeremy Burnham
burnhamoutdoors.com

Waiting for Mother
This brown bear cub eagerly awaits as his mother narrowly escapes being entangled in the fishing net. The mother has learned to swim out to fishing nets placed close to the shore in search of an easy meal.
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, Alaska

Teri Franzen
terifranzenphotography.com

Monarch Love Note (Captive)
Citizen scientist Robyn Elman peels open a folded common milkweed (Asclepias syriaca) leaf to find a monarch caterpillar (Danaus plexippus) has left her a love note, randomly formed by its chew pattern. Robyn carefully locates and counts each monarch every day to ensure all are accounted for.
Long Island, New York

Mark Hendricks
markhendricksphoto.com

Little Brown Bat Checkup
Biologist Dan Feller swabs the muzzle of a little brown bat to detect for white-nose syndrome as part of a large Central Appalachian study. A story on this work was published as an assignment for Chesapeake Bay magazine.
Washington County, Maryland

Irene Hinke-Sacilotto
ospreyphoto.com

Carelessly Tossed Waste Harms Birds
This cigarette butt was lying on the beach near the remains of a campfire. Cigarette filters are made of plastic and leach heavy metals and toxins into the environment.
Assateague Island National Seashore, Maryland
Hooked

I met this California sea lion pup at the beginning of a dive this past fall. He was younger than most pups in the water, but what was most noticeable was the hook embedded in his mouth. He was curious and stayed near me the entire dive.

_Coronado Islands, Baja California, Mexico_

_Celia Kujala_  
_sealpeace.com_

Smoke from Burning Dung Envelopes an Asian Elephant (Captive)

Using domesticated elephants in Nepal is a complex conservation issue. Some elephant rides fund anti-rhino, anti-tiger poaching programs in national parks, which have had tremendous success. Noticing smoke one morning, I walked to see these elephants tied in their area, almost completely enveloped in smoke.

_Nepal_

_Lea Lee-Inoue_  
_lealeephoto.com_

Belted Kingfisher with Wing Snagged on Abandoned Fishing Line

I came across this sad scene while out hiking and looking for birds to photograph at Putah Creek. At first, I didn’t know what I was seeing until the breeze twirled the kingfisher around and I moved closer, using my long lens for viewing.

_Putah Creek, Lake Berryessa, California_

_Jan Lightfoot_  
_jarlightfoot.com_

A Bighorn Ewe Failed to Negotiate the Labyrinth of Barbed Wire Fences That Crisscross Its Territory

Local conservation groups are in the process of having volunteers remove out-of-service fencing. This allows migrating wildlife the freedom to move from area to area without the danger of getting fatally trapped, or having to use roadways and getting struck by oncoming traffic.

_Dubois, Wyoming_

_William Sincavage, Jr._  
_jetakeysforkphoto.com_
On October 14, 2020, a small wild fire started outside of the west entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park in Arapaho National Forest. One week later, high winds through beetle-killed and dry timber caused the fire to grow more than 87,000 acres in one evening. By October 22, the fire grew to 187,964 acres.

Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado

Andy Balinsky carefully shades a two-day-old hatchling from the sun as he ages the baby bird on a sizing chart. Andy keeps track of all of the birds born in his purple martin colonies and submits his data to researchers.

Hornsby Bend, Austin, Texas

Dawn Wilson
dawnwilsonphotography.com

A Young Moose Stands in the Burn Scar of the East Troublesome Fire

On October 14, 2020, a small wild fire started outside of the west entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park in Arapaho National Forest. One week later, high winds through beetle-killed and dry timber caused the fire to grow more than 87,000 acres in one evening. By October 22, the fire grew to 187,964 acres.

Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado
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Mammals

Mammals is the second most popular category for submissions in Showcase and includes both land and sea mammals, big and small.
Growing up in the San Francisco Bay Area, I have always had a special connection with nature and conservation. While in college, I spent a summer as a Hot Shot firefighter and fell in love with photography while carrying a Pentax K1000 in my backpack photographing the wildfires. As life would have it, I ended up graduating in accounting and spent 20 years in corporate finance and business, and only recently have been able to dedicate myself to photography. My initial passion began with a quest to photograph all North American breeding birds but has since expanded to photograph mammals and landscapes. As a conservationist at heart, I hope my photography can inspire others to preserve our natural habitat for all the living creatures that depend on our stewardship.

tomingramphotography.com

Tom Ingram

Long-tailed Weasel Playing Peekaboo in Field of Flowers

Sonoma County, California
Celia Kujala

Celia Kujala is an international award-winning wildlife and underwater photographer. From the moment she saw California sea lions for the first time at the Prospect Park Zoo when she was fourteen months old, she felt a special bond with them. However, it wasn’t until she got scuba certified and started underwater photography in 2017 that she found her true calling. She is currently working on a project called Seal Peace about all the species of pinnipeds in the world. Through her photography she hopes to engender an appreciation for each individual species as well as their diverse environments and the challenges those environments are facing. A researcher by trade, she strives to learn everything she can about her subjects in order to most accurately and intimately tell their stories.

sealpeace.com

Winner’s video

Judges’ insights (audio)
When They Think No One Is Watching, Bears Dance in the Forest

Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, North Carolina

The bears “dancing” in the forest was taken as I was leaving the area. It was getting quite dark and the last rays of sun were casting their light to the end of this “tunnel” area that is heavily forested and quite dark. I was photographing another pair of bears that were close to me but kept looking back at the beautiful light being cast behind me. Suddenly something caught my eye and I spun around to see two young bears run out onto the path far into the tunnel. I only had a split second to catch the moment and the bears were quite far. At first I was really disappointed that the distance and darkness would make for a useless photo but once I got home and started looking at it, the scene and story it told became magical. Two young bears “dancing” in the forest at dusk when they thought no one was around.

jenniferhadleyphotography.com
In 2019 we spent a lot of time with the Topi pride in the Mara. On a rainy day we knew exactly where to find a lion called Doa that spent most of his time with this pride. Our guide told us as soon as he licks his paw, he will shake his head so be ready. Sure enough to my surprise that is exactly what happened.

I was born and raised in Southern California. I took up photography upon retiring in 2012. I tried different types of photography, but I quickly fell in love with wildlife. It’s been such a wonderful journey discovering all the different creatures in our world and how amazing and different they all are.
Mammals

Ken Archer
kenarcherphotos.com
Winter Bighorn Ram
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

Sophia Balunek
A Young Giraffe Stands Tall Beside Family Members
Olerai Conservancy, Kenya

Jeremy Burnham
burnhamoutdoors.com
Cub Breath
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, Alaska

Jeremy Burnham
burnhamoutdoors.com
Scratching an Itch
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, Alaska
Mammals

**Jeremy Burnham**
burnhamoutdoors.com
Pastel Paw Licker
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, Alaska

**Jodi Frediani**
jodifrediani.com
Porpoising Transient Killer Whale
Monterey Bay, California

**Harry Lerner**
harrylernerphotography.com
Mountain Goat Kids Backlit at Sunrise
Mt. Evans, Clear Creek County, Colorado

**Ashfaq Marghoob**
Bison Silhouetted Against Geyser Steam Vent
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming
Mammals

Edgar Molina
Sparring Bulls
Point Reyes National Seashore, California

Kevin Monahan
Prismatic Wolf
Grand Prismatic Spring, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

Shane Morrison
Fox Air
Short-grass Prairie, Southeastern Colorado

Julie Picardi
Annoyed Too Many Times While Searching for Clams, One Bear Decides Other Must Go
Cook Inlet, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, Alaska
Mammals

**Dave Ryan**
Bear In Flight: Grizzly Bear Cub Running on Snow
Togwotee Pass, Bridger-Teton National Forest, Wyoming

**Yaron Schmid**
yswildlifephotography.com
Tower of Giraffes Looking Towards a Leopard
Masai Mara National Reserve, Kenya

**Deena Sveinsson**
Moose Drinking with Reflection of the Tetons
Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming

**Marcia Walters**
whyworryphotography.smugmug.com
Besties
Friday Harbor, Washington
**Mammals**

**Marcia Walters**
whyworryphotography.smugmug.com
Sparring Into the Night: Red Fox Kits Backlit at Sundown
Friday Harbor, Washington

**Dawn Wilson**
dawnwilsonphotography.com
Long-tailed Weasel Pops Out of Ground Squirrel Hole on a Snowy Day
Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge, Colorado

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*All included, except international flight*
Mammals

Hector D. Astorga
hectorastorga.com

Lioness with Cub, Late Afternoon at Sunset
Samburu Game Reserve, Kenya

Peter Batty
batty.photos

Snow Monkey after Fresh Snowfall
Jigokudani, Japan

Peter Batty
batty.photos

Bison in the Badlands at Sunset
Badlands National Park, South Dakota

Alyce Bender
abenderphotography.com

Ezo Red Fox Caught Stealing Fish Scraps by Sea Eagle
Hokkaido, Japan

Eagle
Hokkaido, Japan

Bison in the Badlands at Sunset
Badlands National Park, South Dakota

Snow Monkey after Fresh Snowfall
Jigokudani, Japan

Lioness with Cub, Late Afternoon at Sunset
Samburu Game Reserve, Kenya

Eagle
Hokkaido, Japan
Savannah Burgess
Night of the Hunter: Mountain Lion and Cub Approaching through Snow
Non-traditional capture, Remote Activated/Trail Camera
Jackson, Wyoming

Savannah Burgess
Bandit: Raccoon Kit Peeking through Tree
Jackson, Wyoming

Jeremy Burnham
burnhamoutdoors.com
Shake it Off: Bull Elk Shakes Water Off His Coat after Heavy Downpour
Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado

Jeremy Burnham
burnhamoutdoors.com
Dripping Cub
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, Alaska
Mammals

**Michael Cohen**
[link](flickr.com/photos/mykeyc)
**Black Kit with a Mouse**
Washington

**Michael Cohen**
[link](flickr.com/photos/mykeyc)
**Wild Stallion Battle**
Dugway, Utah

**Daniel Dietrich**
[link](pointreyessafaris.com)
**Long-tailed Weasel**
Northern California

**Jeffrey Goudy**
**A Battle of Wits Is Won**
Foothills west of Denver, Colorado
Mammals

Jeffrey Goudy
Down The Hatch! Humpback Whale Lunge-feeding on Anchovies
Monterey Bay, California

Carol Grenier
Wolf Half-napping after Feeding (Captive)
West Yellowstone, Montana

Jennifer Hadley
jenniferhadleyphotography.com
What Could Baby Bears Be Thinking About?
Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, North Carolina

Tom Ingram
tomingramphotography.com
American Badger Bringing Ground Squirrel Back to Den
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming
Mammals

Celia Kujala
sealpeace.com
Two Inquisitive Friends
Jurien Bay Marine Park, Australia

Celia Kujala
sealpeace.com
My New Toy: A Steller Sea Lion Presents Her Beautiful Starfish Toy to Me
Hornby Island, British Columbia, Canada

Karin Leperi
travelprism.com
Polar Bear Walking with Backlit Light in Alaska
Kaktovik, Alaska

Harry Lerner
harrylernerphotography.com
Moose Calf in Early Morning Light
Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado
Mammals

Jenny Loren
Pronghorn Sitting Pretty in Unexpected Snow Storm
Wyoming

Matthew Meier
California Sea Lion Pup
La Jolla, California

Jane Scott Norris
Collared Peccary Family
South Texas

Ted Orwig
Humpback Whale’s Tail, a Ballerina in the Ocean
Lahaina Harbor, Maui, Hawaii
Mammals

Melissa Rowell
Kits Devoted To Their Mother
Apalachin, New York

Vicki Santello
Frolicking Fluke
Charlotte Bay, Antarctica

Yaron Schmid
Red Fox in a Blizzard
New York, New York

William Sincavage, Jr.
Two Red Dog Bison Learning about Bison Rut at Young Age
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming
**Trent Sizemore**
trentsizemore.com

Coyote Carrying the Body of a Red Fox He Chased Down and Killed

*Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming*

**Jennifer Smith**

Alaskan Brown Bear Cub Looks to Mom for Assurance and To Check Out What She Is Eating

*Katmai National Park and Preserve, Alaska*

**Jeanne Sparks**

Otter Stretches to the Sky

*Morro Bay, California*

**Donald Van Horn**
donvanhorn.gallery

I Wanna See

*Johnstown, Colorado*
Mammals

Jeff Vanuga
jeffvanuga.com
Morning Has Broken
Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming

Scott Wilson
wilsonaxpe.com
Doe in Wild Poppies at Dusk
Morrison, Colorado

Sandra Lee Photography
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InvestInNature.org
760-749-2174  slzphoto@sbcglobal.net
Macro/Micro/All other wildlife

The Macro/Micro/All other wildlife category includes images all non-bird and non-mammal wildlife as well as close-ups of any subject. Close-ups are intimate views, tightly framed, or close examinations of subjects in nature. The category often includes underwater life, insects, amphibians, reptiles, and flowers as well as unexpected views of frost, ice, and snow.
Barry B. Brown

Barry B. Brown is an Ikelite Ambassador and Smithsonian Institution deep-sea photographer who has spent 15 years and 6,000 plus dives recording Caribbean life underwater. Now living in Santa Fe, New Mexico, he travels back and forth to Curacao and Bonaire on a yearly basis hoping to find a new fish or creature each time.

instagram.com/coralreefphotos

- Judges’ insights (audio)
- Winner’s video

Fireworm Seen Under Blue Light

Something Special, Bonaire
Arriving just before sunrise, I headed down one of my favorite trails in the pine rocklands of Everglades National Park looking for something interesting to shoot. After walking a short distance, I came upon a group of Thorn Bugs on a branch of a small Wild Tamarind tree.

I am a south Florida native who travels to numerous locations in search of great shots and adventure. I have been a nature photographer for many years and love to photograph everything in the natural world, from the smallest of insects to the grandest landscape. My work has been widely published, and magazine credits include Blue Ridge Country, Defenders, Florida Wildlife, LIFE, Natural History, Nature Conservancy, Popular Photography, and Texas Highways.

Ultimately, I hope my photos inspire others to develop a greater appreciation of nature, and to care enough to want to save what remains of the real world.

kevinbarryphotos.com
School of Sardines Enveloped the Island of Los Islotes and then Parted, Exposing a Diver

*Sea of Cortez, Mexico*

**Alex Rose**

Alex Rose is the Science Editor for *Ocean Geographic* magazine, and the Managing Editor for *Ocean Geographic Explorers*. Alex is also a professional photographer, violinist, Explorers Club Fellow, PADI Divemaster, and lover of all things aquatic. She founded ocean conservation company, Blue Ring, at the beginning of 2017 in an effort to create a new method of ocean conservation accessible to and inclusive of everyone. Rose is also a co-founder of Wave Film Fest, a Chicago-based video celebration of our world’s waters that saw its inaugural event in 2020, and is the Secretary of Deep Hope, a nonprofit founded by Dr. Sylvia Earle to build citizen submarines. Her driving goal is to find ways to protect our world’s precious marine habitats through diving, writing, photography, education, and research.

[bluering.blue](#)

**Judges’ insights**
James Zablotny

James Zablotny is an entomologist and part-time professional nature photographer living in Fenton, Michigan. Jim earned an MSc in zoology and doctorate in entomology from Michigan State University. While pursuing his college degrees, he also produced scientific and anatomical illustrations for several Zoology Department faculty members at MSU. He specializes in macro or close-up photography but also incorporates the photography of birds, botanical subjects, and occasional wildlife images in his portfolio.

Judges’ insights

Love Knot: Calico Pennants Photographed on Equisetum

Shiawassee County, Michigan
Macro/Micro/All other wildlife

**Rick Beldegreen**  
wildimage.photography

Emerald Glass Frog with Crossed Fingers  
Costa Rica

**Peter Brannon**  
www.peterbrannon.com

A Green Lynx Spider Captures a Fly  
Temple Terrace, Florida

**Peter Brannon**  
www.peterbrannon.com

A Tiny Regal Jumping Spider Feasts on a Small Fly  
Tampa, Florida

**Barry B. Brown**  
instagram.com/coralreefphotos

Two Southern Smoothhead Glass Blennies (Emblemariopsis bottomei) Sleeping in a Brain Coral  
Something Special, Bonaire
Barry B. Brown
instagram.com/coralreefphotos
Giant Anemone Seen Under Blue Light
Something Special, Bonaire

Ray Bulson
raybulson.com
Icicles Hanging from Ice Ledge Over River’s Edge
Eagle River, Alaska

Marie Bush
Frost on Window Pane
Seeley Lake, Montana

Judith Malloch
Two Swallowtail Butterflies Seemed to be Engaged in a Race
Oxford, Florida
Mary Louise Ravese
shop.BellaVistaPhotography.com

Center of a Lotus Blossom Reveals Interesting Juxtaposition of Colors, Shapes and Textures (Captive)

Water & Garden Creations, Raleigh, North Carolina

Deborah Roy
deborahroyphotography.com

Blue Dasher Dragonfly
Charlotte, North Carolina

Michael Shane
photographybymikeshanecom

Leafcutter Ant Carrying Leaf and Hitchhiker
Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica

Jim Squires

Universe in a Tridacna Clam
Solomon Islands
A Goby’s Meadow: Soft Coral Goby Surrounded by Polyps Blooming in the Current
Halmahera, Indonesia

Tiny Fish, Big Home: A Pink Anemonefish Skirts the Edge of Its Magnificent Sea Anemone
Halmahera, Indonesia
Macro/Micro/All other wildlife

Lori A. Cash
loriacash.com
American Bullfrog Under a Pine Tree on Late Summer Morning
Norfolk Botanical Garden, Norfolk, Virginia

Rick Beldegreen
wildimagephotography
Red-eyed Tree Frog
Costa Rica

Jim Burns
jimburnsphotos.com
Digger Bee Reconnaissance
Scottsdale, Arizona

Laura M. Eppig
laurameppigphotography.smugmug.com
Spring Peeper Calling
Bay Shore, New York
Macro/Micro/All other wildlife

**Susanna Euston**  
susannaeustonphotography.com  
Eye on the Prize (Captive)  
*Magnolia Tree, Asheville, North Carolina*

**Joseph Ferraro**  
joseph-ferraro.com  
Dorsal View of Jagged Ambush Bug Nymph on a Blanketflower  
*Ferndale, Michigan*

**Lea Foster**  
Assassin Fly Looking Straight into My Camera Lens  
*Lafayette, Indiana*

**Heidi Gauthreaux**  
Bush Katydid Nymph on a Flower  
*Oceanside, California*
Macro/Micro/All other wildlife

Carol Grenier
Ghost Crab Collecting and Sifting Sand for Food
Galapagos Islands, Ecuador

David Hammond
Abstract Patterns in a Small Pool of Frozen Water
Cades Cove, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee

Robb Hirsch
Crab Spider Eating Fritillary with Skipper
Yosemite National Park, California

James Johnston
Honey Bee on Flower at North Tonawanda Botanical Gardens
North Tonawanda, New York
Macro/Micro/All other wildlife

Kaitlin Klingbeil  
kaitlinklingbeil.com
Red-spotted Purple Butterfly Reflected in Chrome Bumper  
Great Smoky Mountains National Park, North Carolina

Kaitlin Klingbeil  
kaitlinklingbeil.com
Red-spotted Purple Butterfly on a Chrome Bumper  
Great Smoky Mountains National Park, North Carolina

Kathy Lichtendahl  
lightinthevalley.net
Fast Food: Green-eyed Robber Fly Rests after Grabbing Prey out of Air  
Clark, Wyoming

Chuck Maas  
imagingnorth.com
Lingonberries and Lichen  
Denali Highway, Alaska


Macro/Micro/All other wildlife

Lisa Manifold
lisa-manifold.pixels.com
Western Diamondback Territorial Dispute
Tonto National Forest, Arizona

Cami Marculescu
The Turtle and the Dragonfly
Charleston, South Carolina

Tom Nicholson
Rufous-beaked Snake Suffocates Mouse while Holding Its Tail to Prevent Escape
Manyara Ranch Conservancy, Tanzania

William Pohley
pohleyphoto.smugmug.com
17-year Cicada on Baptisia
Franklin, Indiana
Corey Raffel
Lubber Grasshopper Perches on Leaf of Grass, Preparing to Eat
Sierpe River, Sierpe, Costa Rica

Diana Rebman
dianarebmanphotography.com
Two Butterflies Share a Leaf (Captive)
Butterfly Conservatory, American Museum of Natural History, New York City

Alex Rose
bluering.blue
Barnacle Blennies May Be Tiny, But They Have Huge Personalities
Sea of Cortez, Mexico

Alex Rose
bluering.blue
Blue Lightning: Striped Marlins Swim Ridiculously Fast When Hunting
Magdalena Bay, Baja California, Mexico
Macro/Micro/All other wildlife

Deborah Roy
deborahroyphotography.com
Spicebush Swallowtail Larva (Final Instar) Glowing in a Beam of Sunlight
Charlotte, North Carolina

Russell Satterthwaite
russellsfotos.com
Tuna On The Flats
Bimini, Bahamas

Michael Shane
photographybymikesbane.com
Honey Bee Landing on Flowers
Carlsbad, California

Michael Shane
photographybymikesbane.com
Costa Rican Tree Frog
Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica
Macro/Micro/All other wildlife

**Michael Shane**  
photographybymikeshane.com  
**Andy Smith**  
andysmithphotography.com  
**Jim Squires**  
Schooling Snappers  
**Tom Trogdon**  
trogography.com

**Cockscomb Nudibranch (Captive)**  
Carlsbad, California

Collage of Broken Thin Ice Gives a Rainbow of Colors in January  
Swartswood Lake, New Jersey

Schooling Snappers  
Cabo Pulmo, Mexico

Clearwing Hummingbird Sphinx Moth in Pollination Mode  
Kane County, Illinois
Donald Van Horn  
donvanhorn.gallery

The Crown Jewel of Winter Sparkles on the Background of a Wool Scarf  
Estes Park, Colorado

James Zablotny  

Checkered Skipper on Salvia  
Fenton, Michigan

James Zablotny  

Hanging On: Teneral Magicicada Septemdecim of Brood X Waiting for Exoskeleton to Harden  
Washtenaw County, Michigan
Scapes

The broad Scapes category encompasses landscapes, plantscapes, seascapes, cloudscapes, atmosphere, and weather. These may include astrophotography, panoramas, long exposure, and star trail images as well as traditional fine art scapes.
Scapes

Balsamroot at Sunrise at The Nature Conservancy’s Tom McCall Preserve

Columbia River Gorge, Oregon

Greg Vaughn

Greg Vaughn is a professional photographer specializing in recreational travel and the natural world. Greg is the author of the award-winning guidebooks Photographing Oregon and Photographing Washington, and he leads photography workshops as a member of the Muench Workshops pro team.

gregvaughn.com

Judges’ insights
Robb Hirsch

Biologist by training, naturalist by heart and photographer by passion, Robb Hirsch has an intimate relationship with the natural world. This connection was established early during childhood visits to Yosemite, forging a bond with this magical place. Following an undergraduate degree from UC Irvine, he began a career as a field biologist, working on projects for California State Parks, USGS, and several private firms. His love for traveling and exploration led him through Africa, Central America, and the Western United States.

Photography was originally a means to document his work and travels but became the focus. His photography has been featured in international competitions, calendars, magazines, and gallery showings. He leads customized, small group photography workshops in Yosemite and surrounding Sierra Nevada. Robb's book, The Nature of Yosemite: A Visual Journey, published in 2019 by the Yosemite Conservancy combines imagery of the park with text teaching about the natural history.

robbhirschphoto.com

Judges’ insights
Scapes

Lenticular Cloud over Volcán de Fuego
Guatemala

Hector D. Astorga
Hector D. Astorga is a full-time wildlife photographer based in South Texas. His love of nature and the outdoors began as a child in his native country, Honduras. He is the ranch manager at the Santa Clara Ranch, a photography ranch that hosts wildlife photographers from all over the globe. He leads and conducts photography tours and workshops at multiple locations in North, Central, and South America, Scandinavia, and Africa.

hectorastorga.com

Judges’ choice

Judges’ insights
I am a photographic artist based on the Central Coast of California in Morro Bay. I am inspired by all the wildness, colors, designs and moods of the natural world. I believe that nature is a healing force and a refuge from the chaos of daily life, and I strive to share that feeling in my photographs. Most recently, I have taken to exploring the wonders of the night sky.

Since I first became interested in photography in 1993, I have been honored to receive a number of awards for my photography including wins in Nature’s Best International Photography contest, Audubon, and multiple NANPA Showcase contests.

alice-cahill.pixels.com
Scapes

Hans Arnold
Nature's Evening Paint Brush
Sasagiu Rapids, Thompson, Manitoba, Canada

Patricia Bauchman
Whelk on the Beach Enveloped by a Wave
Outer Banks, North Carolina

Alyce Bender
Spring Flow Through Oirase Gorge
Aomori, Japan

Russ Bishop
The Flow: Lava Entering the Ocean at Dawn
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Hawaii
Russ Bishop
russbishop.com
Sentinels of the West: Giant Sequoia in the Congress Grove in Winter
Sequoia National Park, California

Judy Kramer
earthwitnessphoto.com
Fall Aspens
Parks Highway near Fairbanks, Alaska

Cynthia Lockwood
cynthialockwood.zenfolio.com
The Twisting Branches and Autumn Canopy of the Sourwood Tree
Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee

Peter Nestler
peternestler.com
Sunset from Under a Glacier Ice Arch
Juneau, Alaska
Scapes

Dave Ryan
Star Trails over Granite Creek
Gros Ventre Mountains, Wyoming

William Sutton
Falls Creek Falls
Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Washington

Jeff Vanuga
jeffvanuga.com
Diamond Beach, Iceland: Famous for Diamond-appearing Icebergs on a Black Sand Beach
Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon, Iceland

Naona Wallin
peachespics.com
Rare Astral Phenomena STEVE Swirling above Aurora Borealis and the Big Dipper
Settlers Cove State Recreation Site, near Ketchikan, Alaska
Bob Watson  
bobwatsonphotography.com  
**Smoky Mountains Autumn Sunrise**  
Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee

Bob Watson  
bobwatsonphotography.com  
**The Sun’s Rays Break through the Morning Fog**  
Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, California

Andrea Wolcott  
andywolcottphotography.com  
**The Mask: Cracked Lava Tube**  
Geldingadalur, Reykjanes Peninsula, Iceland

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**Contents**  
Conservation  
Birds  
Scapes  
Macro/micro/all other wildlife  
Mammals  
Altered reality

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Top 100
Scapes

**Peter Batty**
batty.photos

*Comet Neowise over Bisti Badlands*
*Bisti Badlands, New Mexico*

**Keith Bauer**
keithbauerphotography.com

*Star Trails over the Snow Geese*
*Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, New Mexico*

**Russ Bishop**
russbishop.com

*Ahwahnee Winter: El Capitan above the Merced River in Winter*
*Yosemite National Park, California*

**Russ Bishop**
russbishop.com

*New Zealand Bounty: Dawn Light on Lupine at Lake Tekapo*
*Canterbury, South Island, New Zealand*
Scapes

Charlotte Caldwell
carlottecaldwell.com
Sculpted Tranquility: Boneyard Beach
Bulls Island, South Carolina

Bob Coates
successful-photographer.com
Windswept
Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area, California

Bob Coates
successful-photographer.com
Milky Way Under Full Moon
Village of Oak Creek, Arizona

Michael Cohen
flickr.com/photos/mykeyc
Stormy Pier
Deerfield Beach, Florida
Scapes

**Carol Grenier**
*Lone Tree under Threatening Winter Sky*
*Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming*

**Dave Ficke**
*Sunrise with Joshua Tree*
*Joshua Tree National Park, California*

**Bill Gozansky**
*Grogan Creek Falls, Butter Gap Trail*
*Pisgah National Forest, North Carolina*

**Greg Duncan**
*Fagradalsfjall, New Earth*
*Fagradalsfjall Volcano, Reykjanes Peninsula, Iceland*
Scapes

David Hammond
davehammondphoto.com

Early Morning Light and Misty Fog Highlight an Autumn Mountainside and Valley
Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee

Dave Hattori
davehattoriphotoart.com

Olympic Sunrise
Hurricane Ridge, Olympic National Park, Washington

Tom Haxby
tomhaxbyphotos.com

Forest Stars: Trillium Blanket the Forest Floor
Elberta, Michigan

Robb Hirsch
robbhirschphoto.com

Fall Meets Winter
San Juan Mountains, Colorado
Scapes

Robb Hirsch
robbhirschphoto.com

Cathedral Range, Yosemite Backcountry
Yosemite National Park, California

Robb Hirsch
robbhirschphoto.com

Llanos de Cortés Waterfall
Guanacaste, Costa Rica

Tom Ingram
tomtingramphotography.com

Sunset During Clearing Storm
Ka‘anapali Beach, Maui, Hawaii

David Johnston
pbase.com/dsjtecserv

Sunset Grazing Blueberries
Bear Rocks Preserve, West Virginia
Scapes

Judy Kramer
earthwitnessphoto.com
Orange and Black Reflection
Murillo Park, San Jose, California

Dee Langevin
Torres del Paine’s Striking Angular Peaks Surrounded by Icy Glacial Waters
Torres del Paine National Park, Chile

Geoffrey Schmid
geoffreyschmidphotography.com
Alien Tidelands in Wildfire Haze
Olympic National Park, Washington

Jiayu Su
The “Moment” and the “Eternity”
Cavendish area, Prince Edward Island National Park, Canada
Scapes

John Thomas
johnsphotos.pictures
Misty Sunrise
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

Jeff Vanuga
jeffvanuga.com
Night Scene of Grand Prismatic Spring in Midway Geyser Basin
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

Greg Vaughn
gregvaughn.com
Aspen Grove in Winter
Fort Klamath, Oregon

Mike Walker
mikewalkerphotography.com
Morning at Reflection Lake
Mount Rainier National Park, Washington
Naona Wallin
peachespics.com
Rare Astral Phenomenon STEVE and Picket Fence Aurora Borealis
Settlers Cove State Recreation Site, near Ketchikan, Alaska

Scott Wilson
wilsonaxpe.com
Azkorri: The Wild and Rugged Coast of Basque Country in Northern Spain
Azkorri, Basque Country, Spain

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Birds are a favorite subject among nature photographers, and the number of entries in this category in the 2022 Showcase competition is certainly evidence of that. Photographers submitted more than 1,200 bird images—that’s 38% of the total submissions received!
Jeremy Burnham

Jeremy Burnham’s passion for wildlife photography stems from his appreciation for nature and his love of the outdoors. As a child, his grandfathers taught him about the plants and animals they encountered. His father hiked the Rocky and Smoky Mountains with him and educated him about the impact of outdoor activities on mental and physical health. These formative experiences molded his belief in the harmonious and synergistic relationship between humans and nature. It is this emotional connection between people and the natural world, Jeremy aims to recreate with photographs.

As a sports medicine surgeon, he finds the attention to detail and respect for nature fundamental to surgical care also transfer readily to wildlife photography. Jeremy hopes his photography can provide even a small glimpse into the beauty and wonders of the great outdoors which Muir eloquently referred to as “varied expressions of God’s love” and “a window opening into heaven.”

burnhamoutdoors.com

Royal Tern Preening Its Tail Feathers on the Beach

Grayton Beach, Florida

Judges’ insights (audio)

Winner’s video
Cameron Azad

I'm a career Financial Advisor for a large Swiss bank and a hobbyist nature photographer. I do most types of nature photography, including storms, weather, infrared, birds, landscape, and wildlife, but my first love is underwater. I think underwater nature photography is the most challenging, due to the difficulty in capturing light through the filter of water.

flickr.com/photos/macdaza/albums

Judges’ insights (audio)

Winner’s video
Birds

Cuteness Overload: Clark’s Grebes Comfortably Hanging with Dad

Lake Hodges, Escondido, California

Brian Caldwell

Photographer, musician, emcee, tour guide, engineer, conservationist, surfer, windsurfer, mountain biker. Take your pick. Having grown up in Glasgow, Scotland, Brian now lives on Lake Hodges in Southern California where he has been for the last 30 years. An avid outdoorsman and nature enthusiast—and having run the Lake Hodges Aquatic Center and Concession for 12 years—Brian is the ultimate Lake Hodges local. He’s comfortable on both sides of the camera, whether playing music live to eight million people worldwide from the MGM Grand in Las Vegas or 1-on-1 in his boat with clients at the Lake. Coupled with his understanding of photography, light, and grebe behavior, Brian is THE guide when in pursuit of the shot at Lake Hodges. You can usually find Brian walking the shores of Lake Hodges with his two best friends: his wife Kim and his dog Angus.

lakehodgesphototours.com

Judges’ choice

Judges’ insights
Dana Henry

I started photographing nature “for real” in 2007—bought a Panasonic point-and-shoot to take along on a climb of Mt. Rainier. From then...I was hooked! I shoot both wildlife and landscapes, though I’m most drawn to wildlife.

danahenryphotography.com

Judges’ choice

Juanita Bay Park, Kirkland, Washington
Birds

Hector D. Astorga
hectorastorga.com

Lilac-breasted Roller with Scorpion
Samburu Game Reserve, Kenya

Jim Burns
jimburnsphotos.com

A “Goat Rodeo”
Papago Park, Phoenix, Arizona

Michael Cohen
flickr.com/photos/mykeyc

Barred Owl Affection
Dade County, Florida

Rajan Desai

Juvenile Least Tern, Waiting for Breakfast
Essex County, Massachusetts
**Charles Gangas**  
charlesgangas.com  
Chestnut-breasted Coronets Jockey for Position Around a Single Flower  
*Casa Simpson, Reserva Tapichalaca, Ecuador*

**David Hammond**  
davehammondphoto.com  
Northern Cardinal Pair Perch in the Top of a Pine Tree During a Snow Shower  
*Johnson County, Illinois*

**Tom Ingram**  
tomingramphotography.com  
Couch's Kingbird Performing Breeding Display  
*Rio Grande Valley, Texas*

**Harry Lerner**  
harrylernerphotography.com  
Snowy Plover Chick Calling Out for Parents within 24 Hours of Hatching  
*Fort De Soto Park, St. Petersburg, Florida*
Birds

Kelley Luikey
naturemuseimagery.smugmug.com

Tricolored Heron on the Hunt as the Sun Rises
Beaufort, South Carolina

Glenn Nelson
trailposse.com

Hanging On for Dear Life: A Great Blue Heron Captures a Gopher, which Struggles for Its Life
Fir Island Farm Reserve, Mt. Vernon, Washington

Janice Rosner
rosnerpics.com

Snow Geese Blast Off
Central Valley, California

Anita Ross

Dressed to Impress: Snowy Egret Showing Off His Breeding Plumage
Escondido, California
Elizabeth Yicheng Shen
American White Pelican Bathing as the Setting Sun Hits the Water, Creating a Fire-like Orange Reflection
Baylands Nature Preserve, Palo Alto, California

Janeen Sullivan
Ruby Eyes: A Male Bronzed Cowbird Takes a Break from Looking for a Mate and Enjoys a Drink at a Waterhole
South Texas

Sharon Wada
Mirror, Mirror: A Male Wood Duck Seems to Sneak a Peek at His Beautiful Self
Juanita Bay Park, Kirkland, Washington

Barbara White
Willet Watching the Waves Coming In
Emerald Bay Beach, Laguna Beach, California
**Eyes on the Prize: Western Grebe Chicks and Parent Heading for Another Parent with Fish**
Lake Hodges, Escondido, California

**Burrowing Owl Family Support System**
Plainview, Texas

**Red-crowned Crane Courtship in the Snow**
Hokkaido, Japan

**Invasive Catch**
Davie, Florida

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**Alyce Bender**
abenderphotography.com

**Brian Caldwell**
lakehodgesphototours.com

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**Top 250**
David Cook
Spoonbill Rinse Cycle
South Padre Island, Texas

Rick Derevan
Western Grebes Up Close and Personal
Santa Margarita Lake, San Luis Obispo County, California

Rajan Desai
Mating Least Terns
Essex County, Massachusetts

Rajan Desai
Symphony in the Sky
Essex County, Massachusetts
Rajan Desai
Red-necked Grebes Display
Nome, Alaska

Daniel Dietrich
Great Horned Owlet
Northern California

Garry Everett
Crane Choreography: Pair of Sandhill Cranes Dancing Together in the Colorful Sunrise Light
Staten Island Road, Walnut Grove, California

Charles Gangas
Blue-footed Boobies Plunge Diving Early Morning
Isla Isabela, Galapagos, Ecuador
Charles Gangas
charlesgangas.com

Two Fiery-throated Hummingbirds Squabble Over Position
Paraiso de Quetzal, Cordillera de Talamanca, Costa Rica

Jeffrey Goudy

Too Colorful For Words: Wood Duck Drake in Fall Color Reflection
Littleton, Colorado

Jeffrey Goudy

Grouse Gone Wild!
Colorado

Carol Grenier

Male Hooded Mergansers Extended their Hoods and Chased Each Other or Displayed in Front of Females
Reno, Nevada
**Tom Ingram**  
tomingramphotography.com  
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**Keith Kennedy**  
keithkennedyphoto.com  
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**Kelley Lukey**  
naturemuseumglory.smugmug.com  
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**Johnathan Peal**

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*flickr.com/photos/photoapeal*

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*jmrnaturephotos.com*
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*Will County, Illinois*

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*Juanita Bay Park, Kirkland, Washington*
Kathy West
kathyweststudios.com

White-faced Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*), Monogamous Pair Preening Each Other
Madagascar

Deborah Winchester
winchesterphoto.com

Prairie Chickens
*Burchard, Nebraska*

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This unconventional category may be confusing to some. NANPA’s definition of altered reality is images that display a change in natural color, form, shape, or any combination of these that deny the photographic process. The image is enhanced or transformed beyond the way the subject appears in nature.
I currently live in Buckeye, AZ and have been a member of NANPA since 2004. My images are represented in the Jaynes Gallery at The Danita Delimont Stock Photography Agency and have been published nationally and internationally. I also co-lead photography tours to Namibia, allowing me to share my passion for photography with others.

wendykaveney.smugmug.com

Wendy Kaveney

The Badlands—Flipped and Reflected

Death Valley National Park, California
Cheryl Medow

Santa Barbara artist and nature photographer Cheryl Medow creates images that entice the viewer to enter the natural world and envision her wild birds, in imaginary and real environments. Using classical and contemporary tools, Medow layers her photographs to create visual narratives.

Medow studied ceramics at the Chouinard Institute and received a BA in Art from UCLA, concentrating on life drawing. She studied printmaking at Hand Graphics in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and digital printmaking with Mac Holbert and John Paul Caponigro in Santa Barbara.

Since first exhibiting her work in 2006, Medow has received many accolades and her work is held in numerous private collections. In 2018 her work was featured in NANPA Expressions journal for Best in Category and Judges' Choice Awards. In 2019, ZOOM magazine #256 published her work in English and Italian. Her prints are sold through PDNB Gallery, Photographs Do Not Bend, in Dallas, Texas.

cherylmmedow.com

Northern Carmine Bee-eater and Grevy’s Zebras

Manda Bay and Laikipia, Kenya
I am an avid nature photographer based in Apex, North Carolina, who loves to spend time outdoors exploring new places and observing wildlife. After a professional corporate career, I am now focusing on more creative endeavors, dedicating a good deal of my time to photography and photo art. The photo art that I create, based on images that I have captured with my camera, allow me to use my imagination and creativity to express the beauty, mystery, and humor I find in my subjects. I enjoy learning new techniques, improving my craft, and exploring more of our amazing natural world as I continue my photography journey.

davehattoriphotoart.com
Out of the Mist of Time: American Bison Re-emerging from Near Extinction

Non-traditional capture, smartphone

Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

Sylvia A. Hosie

I am a fine art photographer living on the Oregon Coast. My work includes nature, travel, and equine images. The American West, its history and legacy, are of particular interest. I am represented in two Oregon galleries.

sylviahosiephotography.com

Judges’ insights
Marie Bush
*Summer Swirl (Captive)*
*Monet’s Garden, Giverny, France*

David Cook
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Wendy Kaveney
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Marty Purdy
martypurdy.com
Roseate Spoonbill Coming In for a Landing
Fellsmere, Florida

Betty Sederquist
sederquist.com
Bald Eagle on Iceberg
Endicott Arm, Southeast Alaska

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Email: nbuchanan@huntsphoto.com
Altered reality

Bob Coates
successful-photographer.com
Foggy Morning Flight
Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, New Mexico

Dave Hattori
davehattoriphotoart.com
Don’t Mess with Me (Captive)
North Carolina Zoo, Asheboro, North Carolina

Dave Hattori
davehattoriphotoart.com
Carried Away
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Julie Picardi
juliepicardiphotography.com
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Kathy Raffel
Great Egret Ascends
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Thomas Yackley
thomasyackley.com
Singing in the Rain
Alpharetta, Georgia

Thomas Yackley
thomasyackley.com
Like Memory, Like Prayer (from poem "White Egrets" by Derek Walcott)
Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, North Charleston, South Carolina

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Why enter a photo contest?

Winning a photo contest can elevate a nature photographer’s credibility and visibility. But winning isn’t everything.

Entering photo contests puts your images in front of audiences. Images can influence and affect people, change opinions, or make a difference. It isn’t unusual for photographers participating in photo contests to be contacted about licensing their images for publication.

Contests also allow you to see how your work measures up to others. They are an opportunity to learn what makes one image unique in a field of thousands, what moves viewers or resonates with them, and—perhaps frustratingly—that no two judges are completely alike. Contests are, in short, one way to publish your work.

Participating in NANPA’s Showcase is also a way to use your images to support NANPA and help the organization attract and engage new nature photography enthusiasts. The annual photo competition raises money not only to provide cash prizes for the Top 24 winners but also to support the ongoing education, networking, conservation, and advocacy efforts of NANPA.

Mark your calendars. The 2023 Showcase competition will open for submissions on August 1, 2022.
Photo contest or rights grab?

The difference in the fine print is subtle

by Sean Fitzgerald and Julie Patterson

Once upon a time, photographers may have been reasonably safe barely scanning a photography contest’s fine print, relying instead on more casual forms of vetting—like knowing another photographer who has entered or won the same contest, or relying on the sponsoring organization’s popularity and reputation—but friends, those days are long gone. If you aren’t reading contest terms before you decide whether or not to enter, you could easily make a costly mistake.

Broadly speaking, to avoid contests that are surreptitiously rights grabs, you want to be certain that the following two statements are true:

• Entrants retain copyright to their images.
• Contest explicitly states how winning images may be used.

Entrants should never be surprised to learn that someone unexpected is using their image, or that their image is being used in an unexpected way.

Best practices protect entrants and contest administrators

Whether you’re evaluating a contest as a potential entrant or designing a photo contest you plan to administer, there are a number of best practices you’ll want to follow.

Contest terms

In short, contest terms should be:

• Visible before entries begin
• Unchanging
• Transparent

Contest terms must be made readily available to entrants before the submission process starts, including any terms applicable only to winning entries. Contests should not alter contest terms after the first submission is received or impose additional requirements.
and agreements upon contest winners after their images are selected. All sponsors/partners and affiliates should be disclosed to entrants in advance of the submission process, or, if they aren’t known in advance, disclosed as soon as they are known.

The terms should also clearly state that if revisions to terms are required after receipt of the first contest submission, all entrants will be notified and allowed to easily withdraw their submissions.

**Copyright and licensing**

Best practices in terms of copyright and licensing include:

- No copyright transfer to contest or sponsors
- Limited license specified
- No exclusivity

Contests should never require the blanket transfer or assignment of copyright ownership to the contest operator or its sponsors. Instead, contests should ask for a limited license to use the image and clearly specify the terms of its use. Contests should not require entrants to grant the contest operator or sponsors exclusivity or impose any limitation on the continued use of the images by entrant unless this is for a substantial prize and this exclusivity is prominently spelled out in plain language.

**Image use**

Generally speaking, contests should only have rights to use winning images, and their use should be clearly spelled out and ideally limited to the context of promoting the contest and its winners. If commercial use is explicitly intended, terms should be specific and for a limited time frame.

Other important criteria include:

1. All winning entrants should be notified that they won.
2. Contests should not ask for rights to use submitted images that do not win an award.
3. Contests may use winning images to directly promote the contest and the contest winners in specified media. (e.g. in print, on websites, and in social media).
4. Contests should explicitly state who may use winning images under the specified terms.
5. Contests should not give any party blanket permission to use images for generic commercial purposes that are not directly related to contest promotion, such as in ads, publications, or products offered for sale.
6. Where winning images are explicitly intended to be used for specific commercial purposes, the contest should make the fact very clear to every entrant and explicitly

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**Examples of problematic contest terms**

Want more concrete examples of problematic contest terms? NANPA strives to notify its followers when it becomes aware of contests that aren’t built with protection of photographers’ intellectual property rights in mind. See the following blog posts for more information:

- **Calendars, Competitions and Copyright Concerns** delves into problematic terms for The Blissful Birder calendar project.
- **New Copyright Grab…by a Museum** examines the terms of the Museum of Modern Art’s “Photo Club.”
- **The Fine Print of Photo Contest Rules** looks closely at a small sample of contemporary contests’ terms.
- **Warning: Photo Rights Grab by New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife** describes a problematic “photo campaign.”
- **Think Twice about Uploading to Free Microstock Sites** invites photographers to think critically about the risks and benefits of posting to popular photography websites.
- **Copyright Controversy** provides insight into rights associated with memorials and iconic structures, brought to our attention by The Vessel in Manhattan’s Hudson Yards.

In at least one instance, NANPA’s efforts helped educate contest administrators and led to positive change. That, ultimately, is always our goal.
specify the commercial usage (e.g. "Winning images will be used on product cans, and in related product advertising...").

7. Contests should clearly specify who may use images, such as contest operator and specifically identified sponsors. Contests should not ask for the broad right to "sublicense" or assign any rights to third parties, except as necessary to facilitate direct contest promotion.

8. Contests should clearly state the time period in which the winning images may be used. If perpetual, this should be clearly specified. After expiration of this term, images should be deleted and/or destroyed.

9. Contests wishing to use images for any use other than those expressly permitted by contest terms must get additional express permission of the entrant.

**Copyright protection**

When winning images are used, they should appear with the entrant’s photo credit or appropriate byline. The contest should preserve user-embedded metadata in all electronic reproductions to the extent it is technologically possible and take reasonable measures to protect entrants from copyright theft and security breaches.

**Other legal considerations**

Last but not least, look for the following:

- No broad hold harmless clauses
- Compliance with federal, state, and local laws

Contests should not include broad release, indemnity, or hold harmless clauses that hold the contest operator or sponsors “harmless” from liability associated with use of winning images by contest operator or sponsors. Contests may include such clauses for liability caused by an entrant providing false information or representations as to image ownership. Contests should ensure compliance with federal, state and local laws, including gambling laws as they relate to “contests of skill.”

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**More resources**

NANPA is a proud supporter of the *Bill of Rights for all Creative People* and a member of the Coalition of Visual Artists.
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About NANPA

NANPA is a nonprofit membership association that helps North America-based nature photographers at all levels of experience grow as artists, citizen scientists, and entrepreneurs through education, networking, and advocacy. Together with our members, we advance conservation and foster ethical field practices for the long-term benefit of all.

Mission

NANPA promotes the art and science of nature photography as a medium of communication, nature appreciation, and environmental protection.

NANPA provides information, education, inspiration, and opportunity for all persons interested in nature photography.

NANPA fosters excellence and ethical conduct in all aspects of our endeavors and especially encourages responsible photography in the wild.

Learn more about NANPA and how to get involved at nanpa.org.

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