

Southern Appalachian Nature Photographers

2023 Nature Photography Competition

Awards Presentation: 2023 SANP Salon Banquet, Friday, November 17th, 2023.

Location: Buddy's Bearden Banquet Hall 5806 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919

Who is Eligible to Enter: Any SANP member current as of August 31, 2023.

Submission Dates: September 10-23, 2023

Rules for Digital Competition

Entries: The acceptance period for *digital* entries is September 10-23, 2023. Digital image files should be submitted electronically via email. Specific instructions are under the "How and When to Submit Entries" heading below.

By submitting images to the competition, you are agreeing to public display of any or all submitted images for SANP-sponsored publications, presentations or events

Digital images will be accepted in the fourteen (14) categories listed below. The first place winners from the categories below will compete for **Best of Show**.

Categories

1. **Scenic.** Photos of landscape, scenery, sky, oceans, or lakes taken in any part of the world. The broad scene is the dominant subject of the image.
2. **Birds.** Photos of birds of all species. Birds in controlled conditions are allowed. Domesticated birds are NOT allowed.
3. **Wildlife (Mammals).** Photos of scientifically categorized mammals photographed in a natural setting. Examples include chipmunks, deer, bears, squirrels, and mice. Subjects in controlled conditions are allowed. Common pets and domesticated mammals are NOT allowed.
4. **Wildlife (Other Animals).** Photos of animals scientifically categorized as other than a mammal or a bird photographed in a natural setting. Examples include insects, spiders, caterpillars, reptiles, snails, crustaceans, amphibians, and fish. Subjects in controlled conditions are allowed. Common pets and domesticated animals are NOT allowed.
5. **Nature Close-up.** A close-up nature photograph shows the detailed and intimate view of a small subject, or a small part of a larger subject, to reveal and examine significantly more detail than the human eye usually perceives. Rather than an expansive view, a close-up image often emphasizes the intricate details and textures to provide a closer perspective on the smaller characteristics of the subject.

6. **Plants.** Images where the plant is the dominant subject, including plants, flowers, fungi, mosses, and lichens. Trees should be in this category if the tree itself, or a part of the tree, is the subject of the photo. Otherwise, trees as part of a landscape are in the scenic category.
7. **Night Photography.** Images that capture nature outdoors at night (the period after sunset and before sunrise). The images can be a long exposure, time-lapse photography, light painting, or astrophotography. Cityscapes or non-nature subjects, when they are dominant, are NOT allowed.
8. **People in Nature.** Images that express the joys and adventures of people doing activities in the natural landscape. Like the Scenic category, these images can include landscapes, seascapes, etc., but must also have at least one person doing something in the outdoors. Manmade objects are allowed. Examples are photographs of people kayaking on a river, people hiking, or people mountain climbing.
9. **Abstracts in Nature.** Images of the natural environment that push the boundaries of creative expression through photography. This category is for creative compositions made in-camera and in-nature without unusual computer processing or manipulations.
10. **Great Smoky Mountains National Park.** Nature photographs that are taken within the boundaries of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and meet the requirements of categories 1 thru 9 above.
11. **Travel & Place 1 (travel images made in the region inside the Continental United States east of the Mississippi River).** Images that express the joys and adventures of travel, showcasing place as an essential part of the photo. Like the Scenic category, this category can include landscapes, seascapes, etc., but it must also include people, manmade objects, or other cultural subjects you might encounter while traveling. The main emphasis for photos in this category is that they express a sense of place.
12. **Travel & Place 2 (travel images made anywhere in the world excluding the region inside the Continental United States east of the Mississippi River).** Images that express the joys and adventures of travel, showcasing place as an essential part of the photo. Like the Scenic category, this category can include landscapes, seascapes, etc., but photos must also include people, manmade objects, or other cultural subjects you might encounter while traveling. The main emphasis for photos in this category is that they express a sense of place in the above area.
13. **Black and White Wildlife.** Conventional B&W and infrared B&W images of subjects that fall within the guidelines of only categories 2 through 4 (the wildlife categories).

14. **Black and White Other.** Conventional B&W and infrared B&W images of subjects that fall within the guidelines for any of the categories except 2 through 4 and 13.

Conditions

Note: The following conditions apply to all photographs entered in all categories:

- All entries must be nature photographs, unless otherwise stated in the category description. The photograph's main subject cannot be people, architecture, museum exhibits, trains, cars, common pets and domesticated animals, or other subjects that do not inherently occur in nature. These conditions do not apply to the *Travel & Place* and *People in Nature* categories.
- For all categories, except *Travel & Place 1 and 2* and *People in Nature*, any evidence of man or his creations, when included, should not be the main focal point of the image but an incidental part of it.
- An individual cannot enter the same, or nearly identical, images in both the Digital and Print competitions in a given year. Images that have previously won first, second, third, or honorable mention awards in previous SANP Salon competitions are not eligible for entry in either of the current year's Salons.
- Images submitted may be enhanced or changed using any of the tools available in a post-processing graphics editing program, except one cannot copy or significantly alter the primary subject or primary parts of the image in any way, nor can one import items from another image. High dynamic range (HDR), focus stacking, stitching, and other similar techniques are allowed. The intent of the original image must be maintained. Replacing the sky is NOT ACCEPTABLE.
- An entry's acceptability will be determined by SANP Competition personnel, and decisions made are final. Acceptability is dependent on following all the rules and requirements as stated here.

Number of Entries

Each SANP member may enter a maximum of ten (10) digital images. The maximum number of photographs that can be entered in any category is two (2).

How and When to Submit Entries

Digital images should be emailed to sanp.salon@gmail.com at any time between September 10 and 23, 2023.

The format of file names for digital images is used by smart filters in Lightroom to streamline grouping images into categories for judging. Also, the image title and creator imbedded in the file's IPTC metadata are used to automatically create a score sheet for judging. Your help in following the format specified below is appreciated. Filenames (not titles) of each entry should be in the following format:

last name_first name_category abbreviation_number.jpg (e.g., Smith_John_PL_1.jpg)

where the category abbreviation (e.g., PL above) is based on the following assigned abbreviations (generally the first two letters of the category name or the first letter of each major word in a category name):

1. Scenic – SC
2. Birds – BI
3. Wildlife (Mammals) – WM
4. Wildlife (Other Animals) – WO
5. Nature Close-up – NC
6. Plants – PL
7. Night Photography – NP
8. People in Nature – PN
9. Abstracts in Nature – AN
10. Great Smoky Mountains National Park – SM
11. Travel & Place 1 – TP1
12. Travel & Place 2 – TP2
13. Black and White Wildlife – BWW
14. Black and White Other – BWO

No entry forms are needed. Place an entry's title (not the file name) in the file's IPTC metadata under Title/Document Title. Place the creator's name in the file's IPTC metadata under Creator/Author in the following format:

firstname lastname (e.g., John Smith)

After your submitted images are received by the digital images' coordinator, an acknowledgement will be sent confirming receipt of your images. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within 3 days, contact the salon digital images coordinator, Ron Sentell, at 865.441.2937.

Please convert your images to jpeg format in the sRGB color space within the resolution 1920 x 1080 prior to sending by email. If you need any assistance with this procedure, send an email to sanp.salon@gmail.com or call Ron Sentell at 865.441.2937.

Judging

A team of qualified judges will judge the digital images via Zoom. At the judges' discretion, first, second, third, and honorable mention placements for each category that qualifies for judging may be given.

One **Best of Show** award will be selected from the first place winners of each category. All decisions of the judges are final.

Qualifications for Judging

A minimum of six entries and three participants will be required in a category for judging. If there are fewer than six entries or three participants, but at least four entries the photographs will be judge with only a first-place position awarded for that category. Fewer than four entries in a category will result in the prints not being judge. SANP competition personnel will decide all category questions that arise.