



2021 Photo Contest Rules & Guidelines

Wild Ones wants to see what native plants mean to you. The annual Wild Ones Photo Contest is the perfect opportunity for you to show off your creativity and photographic talents while inviting us in for a look at your unique view of native plants and natural landscaping. You don't have to be a professional photographer, you don't have to have a fancy camera, and you don't even have to be an expert on native plants. All you must do is follow the rules and guidelines listed below, snap some good shots, and send in your entries.

By entering your photographs in our photo contest, you are helping Wild Ones further our mission. Wild Ones may use your photos in Wild Ones publications, promotional materials, presentations and on the Wild Ones web sites so that others may be inspired to learn about native plants and natural landscaping.

After the contest, members will be able to view the entries online and vote for the people's choice award. Additionally, winning photographs will be published in the Wild Ones Journal and displayed on social media where anyone can view them.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The Wild Ones Digital Photo Contest is open to amateur photographers of all ages who earn less than 51 percent of their income from photography. Only Wild Ones members and employees of our Business members, whose membership is (and will be) current during this contest are eligible. Household memberships include everyone who lives within the same household.

ENTRY PERIOD

Entries will be accepted from 12:00 a.m. CT on July 1st through 11:59 p.m. CT on August 31st, 2021. Entries submitted before or after the Entry Period will not be eligible.

CATEGORIES

Categories include:

- 1. Fauna with Flora** Photo must feature native plants as well as other non-pollinator wildlife.
- 2. Flora** Subject of the photo must be plant species native to the United States or Canada and native to the area in which the photo was taken. Plant species include forbs, grasses, vines, ferns, trees and shrubs; any native plant from any ecoregion.
- 3. It's Alive!** Photo must feature organisms living on or with native plant species.
- 4. Natural Landscaping** Photo must feature native plants and natural landscaping around buildings or facilities, or elements of non-residential or residential developments as part of the subject. Examples might include businesses, shopping areas, non-profit facilities, or private residences that are landscaped using native plants. Emphasis must be on the natural landscaping but include some element of a man-made structure.

5. **Photos by Kids** Photo must fit into one of the listed categories and be taken by a child 18-years-old or younger. Regardless of the contest category, these photos will be judged as part of the kid's category. Children can enter up to four photos, but no more than two entries from any of the listed contest categories. For example, a child might enter two photos into the Flora category, one photo into the Landscaping category, and one photo into the Scenery category.
6. **Pollinators–Insects, Butterflies, Bats or Birds** Photos of pollinators, especially monarch butterflies. The pollinator and native plant must be native to the United States or Canada. If the pollinator is on a plant, the plant must be a native species.
7. **Scenery** Subject of the photo must feature an aspect of native woodland, savanna, prairie, and wetlands. Photo may include landscaping amenities such as stone walls and sculptures, and wildlife as part of the natural landscape, but these objects should not be the central focus of the photo. Emphasis must be on the natural landscape.
8. **Wild Ones Projects** Photo of chapter projects such as community native plant gardens or Wild Ones members eradicating invasive species in public spaces. Members restoring the ecology as part of Wild Ones events. The photo must contain native plants.

RULES

Your entering this contest signifies your acceptance of all terms and rules of the contest.

- The subject of all entries must be native plant species, native species landscape, or native plant ecology found in the USA or Canada. Be sure the plants are true natives and native to where the photo was taken. A native plant species is one that occurs naturally in a region, ecosystem and/or habitat, and was present prior to European settlement. A photo of a nativar, hybrid or cultivar of a native plant as the main subject is not acceptable.
- A photo montage will be considered a single entry, and all images in the montage must fit into one of the categories and collectively portray a single theme. Before and after images of native plant landscaping could be considered for montage entries.
- All photographs should accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appeared. Photos that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization (removal of dust, cropping, reasonable adjustments to exposure, color, and contrast, etc.) will be disqualified.
- Entries may originate in any format but must be submitted electronically as a .JPEG, .jpg, or .png file. No physical photos will be accepted. Please submit files no larger than 5MB at the time of entry. Should higher quality versions be needed, Wild Ones will contact you directly.
- All digital files must be 5 megabytes or smaller and must be at least 1,600 pixels wide or tall. Please rename your digital file to include your full name, the title of the picture that you used on the entry form and the 4 digit year. Example: John-Doe-Monarchs-at-Play-2021.jpg
- No name, title, date, or text is to be on the photo itself.
- A photo may be entered in only one category. Wild Ones reserves the right to reassign entries to the proper category.
- Each qualified entrant may enter no more than two entries per category, and no more than ten entries per member.

- Photo entries must not have been entered in any previous Wild Ones Photo Contest and must not have been published as a winner in any other photo contest.
- Photo entries must have been shot within three years of current year's contest.
- Photo entries must have been shot by the contest entrant.
- Wild Ones has the right to use all photos for informational and promotional purposes with photographer credit.
- Photos that involve harassment of wildlife, damage to the environment by the photographer, or putting animals or humans in danger are ineligible. Wild Ones shall determine entry eligibility in its sole and absolute discretion.
- Photos that contain sexually explicit, nude, obscene, violent, or other objectionable or inappropriate content are ineligible. Wild Ones shall determine entry eligibility in its sole and absolute discretion.
- If you choose to include people in your submission, you are responsible for obtaining the necessary permission from the individuals depicted such as a photo release.
- Members of the photo contest committee, Wild Ones staff, photo judges and members of their households may not enter the contest.
- Photo entries that do not conform to the contest categories listed above will be disqualified.

HOW TO ENTER

All image files must be no larger than 5MB, must be in .jpeg, .jpg, or .png format, and must be submitted via the online form on the Wild Ones website: wildones.org/photo-submit. Please do NOT submit entries by email. Each photo entry will need to be submitted on a separate web form. You must include the following information for each photo that you submit:

- Name
- Email Address
- Address
- Phone Number
- Chapter Name
- Title of the photo
- Category in which you are entering the photo
- Place where the photo was taken
- Name of native flora, fungi, algae, etc. in the photo
- Detailed caption of the subject matter
- Equipment use to take the photo

JUDGING CRITERIA

Prior to judging, photos will be approved by the photo contest committee. Entries will then be judged by a photographer(s) of stature. Here are some of the points the committee and judge will consider:

Native to the Area: Are you sure the subject of your photo is a true native to the area where the photo was taken? If a plant is not native to your area, even if you take a photo of it growing in your yard, the photo will not be acceptable.

Authenticity: The goal of the contest is to gather beautiful digital images of native plants, natural landscapes and related subjects in their natural state. Photos that have been altered beyond reasonable optimization, such as cropping, exposure, contrast, and color adjustments, will be disqualified. However, high dynamic range (HDR) images that are made of multiple exposures or focus stacking where multiple images are combined into a single image to increase depth of field, are acceptable. The judging committee reserves the right to determine if images meet these requirements.

Category: Does your photo entry conform to the category? Considering the category descriptions, does the photo include and emphasize the required subjects?

Composition: Be sure that the composition of your photo is interesting enough to attract attention and show off the subject of the photo.

Color: If your entry is a color photo, be sure that the colors look true to life without any distracting color cast. Unless you deliberately shot the photo for a certain effect, it's best that the photo has a normal color balance.

Creativity Matters: Keep in mind that creativity is important. A straight-ahead, perfectly exposed, and tack-sharp photo of a coneflower may display the flower very well for identification purposes – but another photo of the same coneflower taken from a different angle, with different lighting, and maybe with the background blurred out, may show the flower “in a new light.” And it's this new light that photo contest judges often look for and reward.

Sharpness: Is your photo appropriately sharp and in focus? It's not necessary (or even possible or desirable sometimes) for every part of every photo to be sharp and in focus but be sure that the parts of your photos that should be sharp are sharp and in focus.

Exposure: Is your photo properly exposed? Is there detail in the highlights and the shadow areas? Is it too dark or too light? Unless you deliberately shot the photo for a certain effect, it's best that the photo has a normal balance of light, dark, and contrast.

Wild Ones Mission: Consider how your entries fit in with the mission of Wild Ones. If the subject of your photo is an insect, be sure that the photo also includes a reasonable amount of emphasis on native plants or natural landscaping. Otherwise, the photo has nothing to do with the mission of Wild Ones.

PRIZES

The judge(s) will evaluate all valid entries and pick one Best of Show winner who will be awarded a \$50 prize. One adult winner and one youth winner will be awarded a \$50 prize in the following categories (Fauna with Flora, Flora, It's Alive, Natural Landscaping, Pollinators, Scenery and Wild Ones Projects.) Youth winner will be determined by entries from Photos by Kids category. After the initial judging, the photos will then be displayed on Wild Ones web site and members will be invited by email to vote for their favorite photo to determine the People's Choice Award. All winners will be announced on Tuesday, Sept. 21st, 2021 on social media, by email and on the Wild Ones website. Wild Ones will notify winners via the contact information they provided at the time of entry.

COPYRIGHT

By entering the contest, you certify that there are no conflicting claims against your copyright and that nothing related to your entry violates or infringes upon another person's copyright. By entering the contest, you agree that Wild Ones may use your photos in Wild Ones publications, promotional materials, presentations, and on the Wild Ones web site. Further, you agree that Wild Ones may also use your entries in conjunction with fulfilling its partnership obligations with other environmental organizations. You retain copyright and all other rights related to your photographs. By entering this contest, you agree to release and hold harmless Wild Ones and its employees, officers, affiliates, agents, and advertising, design and promotional agencies from any and all damages, injuries, claims, causes of actions, or losses of any kind resulting from your participation in this contest, including infringement of intellectual property rights. Wild Ones and its employees, officers, affiliates, agents, and advertising, design and promotional agencies assume no responsibility or liability for any damages, injuries, claims, causes of actions, or losses of any kind arising in whole or in part from this contest.

QUESTIONS

Questions and inquiries about contest rules can be e-mailed to support@wildones.org. Please do not submit entries to this email address.