

May Competition: Best Image of the Year

This year we thought we would try something a bit different. Many regional clubs have a Best Image of the Year competition so we thought we'd try it.

You can **ONLY** enter images that were submitted in the **September 2017 to April 2018** monthly competitions. In order to compete in any category you **MUST** be in attendance at the May meeting.

There will be four categories as usual: Small Print Color, Large Print Color, Large Print Monochrome, and Digital Projected Images. You can enter up to four (4) images, but no more than 2 in any one category. You must enter in the same category as originally submitted in the September to April competitions.

Ribbons will be given for Honorable Mentions, and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for each of the four categories, and one ribbon for the Best Image of the Year.

Format: In the first round, the three judges will score all the images from 1-5. Approximately the top 20% will be guaranteed at least Honorable Mentions. In the second round the judges will decide between themselves which of the 20% will receive First, Second or Third place honors. In the final round the judges will determine which of the four First place images will be Image of the Year.

For the May 7th competition, there will be three judges: Cheryl Belczak, Christine Heusner and Oliva Kim. Bios of the judges will be emailed to the club next month.

September Competition Assigned Topic

This category will be in addition to the usual categories. It is print only and can be large or small color or monochrome. Images must have been taken between March and September 2018. The assigned topic for September is "**Wildlife**". Below is the definition used by the NFRCC for entries to their wildlife category.

Division Rules for Wildlife Can-Am Expo (PSA Rules):

Subjects: **Images are of animals only in the wild**. Images of captive animals are NOT permitted such as pets, cats, dogs or animals in zoos; rehabilitation refuges; tourist-animal encounters.

Acceptable animals in the wild are: • Mammals • Birds • Fish • Reptiles • Amphibians

Photo Manipulation: Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, are allowed. All allowed adjustments must appear natural. Color images can be converted to grey-scale monochrome. Infrared images, either direct-captures or derivations, are not allowed.

No Hand of Man: No human artifacts can be shown in the photo (hand of man) these include buildings, boats, cars, and any other object created by man. Exception to this rule are images in which a manmade object has become part of the creature's natural habitat, such as a stork in a roof nest or a barn swallow in its nest in a barn, as well as tagged animals in the wild, are acceptable.

Questions: If you need further clarification as to what types of wildlife settings are acceptable contact Michelle at mt1@rochester.rr.com.