

Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge 35th Annual Photography Contest

Sponsored by The Friends of the Loxahatchee Refuge

For additional information please visit <http://www.evergladesphotosociety.org/loxcontest/>

Deadline: Entries will be accepted from Monday, **January 8, 2018** to Sunday, **April 1, 2018**. Entries can be dropped off or mailed to the Refuge Visitor Center. Entries sent by mail must be received no later than Saturday, **March 31, 2018**. The awards ceremony will be at the Refuge Visitor Center on **Sunday, May 6, 2018**. All entrants will be notified.

Rules: Entries that do not comply with the rules will be disqualified.

- The contest is open to all photographers except members of the Everglades Photographic Society.
- All entries must be taken within boundaries of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (LNWR), Stormwater Treatment Area 1 (STA-1W and STA-1E), Wellington Environmental Park, Strazzulla Tract Wetlands, and Water Conservation Area 2 (WCA 2A and WCA 2B).
- Each submission is limited to a total of no more than 5 images. **No more than 2 submissions per photographer.**
- Submitted entries must be the original work of the photographer, and the photographer must own the copyright to the image. The photographer retains the copyright of the submitted images but must agree to allow the LNWR to use and publish the submitted entries without further compensation to the copyright holder.
- Photos that have won awards in previous LNWR photo contests may not be resubmitted. Photos that have been published or sold may not be submitted.
- Photos containing recognizable images of people must be accompanied by a model release. More information about the model release and the release form can be obtained at the contest web site: <http://www.evergladesphotosociety.org/loxcontest/>
- Submissions must be digital, and they must be submitted on a CD, DVD, or USB flash drive. Photos that were taken with a film camera must be scanned in and submitted on a CD, DVD, or USB flash drive. Digital support is available if needed by contacting the Everglades Photographic Society at loxcontest@evergladesphotosociety.org
- High-resolution JPEG images, measuring *at least* 2000 pixels on the longest side, may be copied on as many CDs, DVDs, or USB flash drives as needed. These will be the images used for final judging and publication/exhibition. If you prefer, you may simply submit the original JPEG image as taken by the camera.
- Each image must be labeled with your first and last name, image title, and category it is to enter. For example: FirstLast-Title-Category.jpg. *If you know the common name of the species photographed, please include it in your title.*
- Each CD, DVD, or USB flash drive must bear the photographer's name, phone number, and e-mail address. Media used to submit entries will not be returned.
- **Photos bearing the photographers name or watermark as part of the actual image will be disqualified.**

All photographs, except those submitted as Artistic, should accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appeared. Photos that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization will be disqualified. Acceptable: adjustments to color, contrast, brightness and sharpness; removal of dust and scratches; cropping; black and white conversions. High Dynamic Range imaging is acceptable in all categories. Stitching is acceptable in Landscapes. Unacceptable, except for Artistic: composites (combination of two or more photos, not of the same scene); the addition, duplication, deletion or moving of objects in the photos; digital effects that do not show the scene in its natural way.¹ People may be included in photos in all categories except Avian, Fauna, and Flora.

Categories: Entries will be judged on technical excellence, originality, creativity, visual impact, and artistic merit. All decisions of the judges are final.

- **Avian** – Birds in their natural habitat.
- **Fauna** – Animals (other than Birds) in their natural habitat, including close-ups of invertebrates.
- **Flora** – Plants in their natural habitat, including close-ups of flowers, fungi, lichen, and algae.
- **Landscapes** – Expansive and dramatic views of the land and its features.
- **Artistic** – Artistic compositions in nature both natural and manipulated in post processing (infrared, unlimited digital manipulation).
- **Youth** – Any entry of up to 5 photographs by photographers under 18 years of age. Each photograph must fit into one of the categories above.

Entry Fee: A check or money order in the amount of \$20 (US) must be included with your entry and made out to Friends of the Loxahatchee Refuge. Friends of the Loxahatchee Refuge members and Refuge Staff may enter the contest for \$15 (US). Participants in the youth category may enter the contest for free.

Entry Form: Each submission MUST be accompanied by a completed entry form with ALL information clearly filled out.

Submission: Entries can be dropped off or mailed to the Refuge Visitor Center at:

Loxahatchee Photo Contest
Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
10216 Lee Road
Boynton Beach, Florida 33473-4797

Prizes: *If there are less than ten entries in any category, the judges may choose not to award prizes in that category.* One grand prize of \$150 (US) will be awarded. Awards for each category:

- 1st Place - \$75
- 2nd Place - \$50
- 3rd Place - \$25

Winning images may be cropped to 8x10 or other sizes for exhibition at the Refuge Visitor Center and other venues.

¹ As stated by the National Wildlife Federation Photo Contest, with small modifications.