

PRESS RELEASE August 21, 2009
Goose Lake Prairie state Natural Area
3rd Annual Nature Photo Contest Results.

Nature Photo Contest Winners Announced

The winners of the annual Goose Lake Prairie Nature Photo Contest were announced over the weekend.

William Porter of Bourbonnais won the coveted Best of Show Award, as well as Best Color Print, with his entry entitled "Wild Rose". Regina Peterson of Morris was judged to have submitted the Best Black and White Print with her entry "Prickly Landing". Beth Dhunyisha of New Town Square, Pennsylvania received the Prairie Partners' Pick Award for her entry "Forgotten". The Viewers Choice Award, as determined by balloting of the numerous visitors to the exhibit over the weekend, was awarded to Denise Rogers of Seneca for her entry "Good Morning".

The amateur Photo Contest is held every August at the State Natural Area on Pine Bluff Road at Jugtown Road in east Grundy County. It is orchestrated by the volunteer organization Goose Lake Prairie Partners, with a great deal of assistance from the Morris Camera Club. Photo entries are to depict the flora, fauna, and natural environment in the state of Illinois.

Eighty-six entries were submitted on Sunday August 16 at the Goose Lake Prairie Visitors Center on Jugtown Road. The majority of participants were from Grundy and Will counties, although some entries were received from as far away as Pennsylvania.

Judging was held Friday evening by a panel of experts assembled by the Morris Camera Club. Winners were announced Saturday morning, and all of the photos were on display at the Visitors Center through the weekend.

"We are excited by the response to the contest this year", said Goose Lake Partners' President Susie Johnson. "Not only were the 86 entries the most we have received in the three-year history of the competition, but the quality of the entries was outstanding."

The response by the public was also very positive, as the visitor count at the Center was up 50% over a normal August weekend. Volunteer Mike Bily, who tended the exhibit Sunday afternoon, said "most of our visitors were amazed at the professional quality produced by our local amateur artists. Many commented that the photos looked as though they had been lifted from 'National Geographic' magazine".

The Fourth Annual Nature Photo Contest will be held in August 2010.

By Mike Bily, Chairman.