

August 5 - 12, 2018

The Twelfth Annual Nature Photo Contest & Exhibit

Sponsored jointly by Goose Lake Prairie Partners & Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area

This contest is open to amateur photographers of all ages (those deriving less than 25% of their income from photography).

PHOTOGRAPH CONTEST CATEGORIES:

Adult Division (Age 16 & older)

- 1) Animals
- 2) Birds
- 3) Insects
- 4) Landscape
- 5) Plants

- 6) Reptiles
- 7) Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area

Computer Enhanced

Open to all ages. Will not compete for Best in Show.

Youth Division (Age 15 & under)

- Y1) Animals
- Y2) Birds
- Y3) Insects
- Y4) Landscape
- Y5) Plants

- Y6) Reptiles
- Y7) Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area

This contest is particular to photographs taken in Illinois Public Parks, Lands or Areas and any National Park in Illinois.

ELIGIBILITY: Photos in categories 1 through 6 must depict natural objects and features only, and show no visible human activity or involvement. Examples include, but are not limited to utility poles, mowed grass, pavements, buildings, etc.

Photos in categories 1 through 6 and categories Y1 through Y6 must be taken in State Parks of Illinois, and must depict native or naturalized flora and fauna (i.e. -- no domesticated gardens or landscaping plants, exotic plants from public gardens, pets, livestock, exotic zoo animals, etc.)

Category 7 and in Category Y7 must be taken in Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area, with humans and/or human constructs (such as groomed pathways, shelters, boats, fishing gear, etc) is being acceptable but not required. Submit more than just "record shots," in this category. We wish to capture the essence of how visitors enjoy nature while visiting Goose Lake Prairie. Do not pick or move plants or animals in State Parks. Stay on designated park trails.

*Computer Enhanced Category is the only category where computer assistance is allowed. All ages may enter. This category **Will Not Be** Included in competition for Best in Show.

ADULT AND YOUTH DIVISIONS:

- Adult division is open to persons age 16 or older.
- Youth division is open to persons age 15 or younger.

Prints in all categories but the Computer Enhanced Category will be accepted and judged, but must be the exclusive work of the photographer **without computer enhancement; i.e. there should be no removal (cloning out) of any part of the image, and no superimposing or adding of elements not in original image. Images that are overly processed will be disqualified.**

The GL Prairie Partners Photo Committee will review the eligibility of entries. Decisions of the committee regarding eligibility will be final.

PREPARATION:

- Prints may range in size from 8" X 10" to 11" X 14" but all prints must be securely mounted or matted on an 11" X 14" mount board. One Print per board. The mount shall not be more than 3 mat boards thick.
- Photos mounted on poster board and foam board will be accepted.
- Prints must be marked on the back to indicate "Top" if there is a question on how the photograph should be judged and displayed. Entries with writing on the front side of the photo/mat board will not be accepted.
- All entries must be titled. Ex: "Chicory At Dawn"

- Plastics or other protective covering may be used for transporting photographs, but will be removed when the photo is displayed and may not be restored upon return.
- Be sure to affix the label on the upper right corner on the back of the mat.

SUBMISSIONS: Entrants in both adult and youth divisions may submit up to three prints per category and up to 12 total entries. Feel free to make as many photocopies of the entry form as needed. There is no entry fee. The entrant must have taken the photographs. Photos entered in previous years contest will not be accepted. Photos should have been taken within the last two years.

SELECTION: A committee of qualified photography judges will select First, Second and Third Place in each of the seven categories for Adult, seven categories for Youth, and computerized Enhanced, as well as Best of Show for Adult, Best of Show for Youth Division, and Best of Computer Enhanced. Goose Lake Prairie Partners will select the "Partners' Pick." Two Ribbons for "People's Choice" will be selected from the Adult Category and Youth Category separately by ballot by visitors to the exhibit.

DATES: Bring entries to the Visitor's Center at Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area (5010 N. Jugtown Road, Morris, IL) on Sunday, August 5, 2018 from 12:00 o'clock Noon until 3:00 p.m.

Entry into the photo contest implies permission to use entered photo(s) in Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area and GL Prairie Partners general circulation publications and in non-profit fund-raising activities without compensation to the photographer.

EXHIBIT: Photos will be exhibited August 11 and 12 in the Visitor's Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Display will close at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, August 12 at which time the People's Choice Award will be determined and display will be removed. Photos may be picked up on Sunday, August 12 from 3:30 to 4:00 p.m. If pickup cannot be accomplished on this date, call (815) 942-2899 to arrange a pickup date. After September 1, photos remaining will become the property of GLPSNA.

Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area Staff and Goose Lake Prairie Partners will exercise all reasonable precautions in handling the entries. However, none of the forgoing names, or those associated with said organizations, will assume any responsibility for damages to or loss of any entry.

Instructions & entry forms are on our website
<http://gooselakeprairie.org> [Revised 08-15-2017]