

Call for Entries: Natural Expressions Competition



The Alpharetta Arts Center will host a Photography Competition and Exhibit organized by the Alpharetta Chapter of Georgia Nature Photographer's Association (GNPA) to promote the arts in our community.

In partnership with the Alpharetta Arts Center, the Georgia Nature Photography Association - Alpharetta Chapter is organizing a 2ND Natural Expressions Competition and Exhibit. The categories for this competition are:

- Fine Art
- Birds
- Macro/Close-up
- Wildlife
- Scapes

The competition is open to GNPA members only. This exhibit will highlight nature and wildlife to educate people about the natural world. This competition includes an exhibition at the Alpharetta Arts Center and a reception.

DATES:

Submissions Open:	August 5
Submissions Close:	August 26
Exhibiting Images Announced:	August 31
Framed Images due at Alpharetta Arts Center:	September 21
Reception and Winners Announced:	October 8 5PM at the Alpharetta Arts Center
Exhibit:	September 26- October 28

DIVISIONS:

In order to make the competition much more inclusive for less experienced photographers, we have three classifications of entrants:

- **Advanced Division:** A more experienced member who has **PLACED** in the top 3 or Best of Show awards in 3 or more photography competitions, not just GNPA competitions!
- **Enthusiast Division:** A member who considers themselves as a photographer hobbyist. May have competed in previous photographic competitions but has **NOT PLACED** in the top 3 or Best of Show awards in 1 or 2 photography competitions, not just GNPA competitions!
- **Novice Division:** A less experienced member, a beginner, who may have competed in but has never placed in any photographic competition, not just GNPA competitions!

Any photographer has the OPTION to compete in a division above their experience level. For example, a Novice member can choose to compete in either the Enthusiast or Advanced Division.

CATEGORIES:

- **Fine Art*:** Images in this category will be more interpretive than photo realistic. You have full freedom to use any in camera or post capture processing techniques. Subjects may include any naturally occurring element. Example: composites, kaledescopes, effects images, etc...
- **Birds*:** Includes all birds.
- **Macro/Micro*:** Includes images of close-ups of any subject (for example: insect, animal, plant life, fungus...). Close-ups are intimate views, tightly framed, or close examinations of subjects in nature.
- **Wildlife*:** Includes both land and sea animals.
- **Scapes:** Includes landscape, intimate landscapes, plantscape, seascape, atmosphere, weather, astro etc.

**Domestic and captive birds, animals and sealife are not permitted.*

Winners in each category will have a Novice, Enthusiast and Advanced 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner and may include some honorable mentions.

OUR JUDGE:



We are honored to have this year's judge, Kathy Adams Clarke.

Kathy's photos have been published in hundreds of places including *Family Fun*, *Nature's Best*, *New York Times*, *Birder's World*, and *Ranger Rick*. *AAA Journey*, *Texas Parks & Wildlife* and *Texas Highways* magazines have used Kathy's photos on their cover. Her photos have also appeared in a numerous books and calendars including the Barnes & Noble Ireland Countryside Calendar, the cover of the Arbor Foundation Rainforest Calendar, and the Sierra Engagement Calendar. Kathy's photos of Houston were compiled into a calendar offered in Costco in 2016.

Kathy is Past-president of the North American Nature Photography Association. She teaches photography and is a popular speaker at local and national events, including GNPA.

To Enter the Contest:

- Log In to [GNPA Members Portal](#) and
- Look for a Link to **"2ND Natural Expressions Exhibit and Competition"**.

SUBMISSION RULES:

1. Submit entries through the Members' Page on the GNPA website between August 1, 2022 and August 26, 2022 at 11pm EDT.
2. Submissions must be finalized before the closing time, meaning you should allow plenty of time for your uploads to be processed.
3. The entry fee is \$5 per. For each member, there is a limit of 2 images per category for a potential total of 12 images (2 x 6 categories).
4. Each image must be entirely the work of the GNPA member submitting the image. Note to Family GNPA Members: Each member in a Family Membership must have an individual login account for GNPA's website and must login using his/her own personal account to submit entries. Images are credited (and prizes are awarded) to the account submitting the images. GNPA is not responsible for incorrect attribution when photos are submitted under the wrong account.
5. There are two stages of judging. The first is to decide which images will make it to the exhibit. There is a limit of 124 spots. Entrants will be notified on August 31ST. The second are for the winners selected from among the images chosen to exhibit at the Alpharetta Arts Center.
6. All judging will be done anonymously via the GNPA website. Entries will be judged on impact, originality and photographic skill. The quality of the image file is critical, so be careful when using Photoshop or other enhancing tools. Many otherwise outstanding images are scored down because they are over-saturated, over-sharpened, off-color or excessively manipulated.
7. No names, watermarks, text, logos, borders or other differentiating marks may appear on your images. Images with such marks will be disqualified without refund.
8. Photographs of animals in the wild are favored over those in controlled conditions. Images of game farm animals are not accepted. Game farms are defined as private for-profit operations whose primary income is generated from hiring out captive animals for photography, videography and filmmaking. Use of live bait to attract or control subjects is not allowed.
9. Images should represent truthful behavior and natural events. GNPA follows NANPA's [principles of ethical field practices](#). See this for a reference.
10. No elements may be added to an image except in the Fine Arts category.
11. Images appropriate for Natural Expressions entries must include nature subjects. People in nature, indigenous people and hand of man are acceptable, but nature must be the primary point of interest.
12. Images submitted in previous GNPA competitions may be entered as long as they were not selected for awards or honorable mentions. Judging is subjective, so it is possible these judges may score images differently.
13. GNPA may ask for additional information regarding images or circumstances of creating images before finalizing the results. RAW or original files or original slides or negatives may be required for examination before finalizing an award. If requested, the source image and information must

be provided within one week of notification or the contending image may be demoted or disqualified.

14. Submission is not a guarantee of selection for exhibition. All entrants will be notified of the reviewers' decisions by August 31ST , whether or not their images are selected. *Only images selected for exhibition will be considered for an award.*
15. If your image is chosen for exhibition, a document with instructions for framing and delivery to the Alpharetta Arts Center will be made available.
16. Images must be in JPEG format, without watermarks, text, logos, borders or other identifying marks.
17. Any aspect ratio is acceptable. Submitted images should be sized to 1200 pixels on the longest side, minimum of 96ppi. JPEG file format only for submissions.
18. There is no naming convention for the files you upload. Use whatever filename you'd like. Do not use your name or any specific identifiers pointing back to your identity to maintain anonymity.
19. On the entry page, you will be required to check one category for your image. Pick carefully to ensure it is judged appropriately.
20. By entering the contest, each applicant accepts the rules as stated and guarantees that all the information provided is correct and truthful and the capture of images complied with local, state, federal and FAA regulations related to photography. Entries not accurately represented or not abiding by contest rules will be disqualified. Refunds will not be given in case of disqualification. It is the entrant's responsibility to provide accurate information including a correct email address for notification.
21. GNPA assumes no responsibility for submissions. Winning entrants agree that GNPA has the right to use their photographs, without compensation, on the GNPA website as well as in video show of the exhibition and critique videos
22. Very important: Save a full resolution copy of your submitted image to use as the source for presentation in a slide show and critique if you are a winner. You may add a watermark or copyright including your name to this full resolution file after saving the smaller version for submission.
23. Direct questions to alphagnpa@lqfriedman.net

Good luck to all