

Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge 14th Annual Nature Photography Contest

Sponsored by the **Friends of Hagerman NWR**

OVERVIEW

All photographers, regardless of age or skill level, are invited to participate in the Friends of Hagerman NWR photography contest. Ribbons will be awarded for First, Second, and Third place in each of four categories and in 2 divisions (Beginner and Advanced/Intermediate). In addition, a cash prize will be awarded for First Place in each category, and the photos judged as “Best of Show” and “Youth Best in Show”. Winners will be determined by a panel of judges, who will review the submitted photos without reference to entrant name.

Winners’ photographs will be displayed at the Refuge Visitor Center (when it opens) and published on the Friends of Hagerman website, Facebook page and other venues. The Nature Photo Contest Committee will coordinate and conduct the contest for the Refuge and the Friends of Hagerman NWR.

RULES

The contest is open to all photographers except those who are judging or coordinating the contest.

- All submitted images must have been taken within the boundaries of the Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge within the last five (5) calendar years (2018-2023). Furthermore, previous winning entries (First, Second or Third Place in any category of previous Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge Photo Contests) are ineligible for entry.
- Photograph entries, except those submitted as Artistic, must accurately reflect the subject matter as it appeared in the viewfinder. Photos that have been altered beyond standard dust removal, minimal cropping, and correction will be disqualified. This includes the addition or deletion of any objects in the photos.
- 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 Refuge to use and publish the submitted entries showing photographer credit without further compensation to the copyright holder.
- Each entrant may submit as many images as desired in any combination of categories for which they are eligible.
- Photographs that have been published for compensation or sold may not be submitted.
- Photos that were taken with a film camera must be scanned to a digital JPG format.
- JPG Images of any size are accepted. However, high-resolution JPG images measuring at least 2000 pixels on the longest side are preferred.
- Photographs where the image itself is labeled with a watermark or copyright tag will be disqualified and will not be judged.
- Entries that do not comply with the rules will be disqualified.

DIVISIONS

Contestant may only submit entries to one of two divisions.

- I. **Beginner** – some knowledge of camera and editing software. Entrant has not been awarded a Ribbon in a prior Hagerman NWR Photography Contest.
- II. **Intermediate/Advanced** – Knows technical aspects of camera, exposure, lighting, composition, and some knowledge of editing images with photography software such as Lightroom, Photoshop, etc.

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CATEGORIES

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

- **Wildlife** – Animals and birds in their natural habitat.
- **Flora and Macro** – Flowers, trees, and shrubs in their natural habitat. This category includes images of insects, plants, and animals taken with specialized macro equipment, settings or close up images taken with a telephoto lens.
- **Landscape** – Expansive and dramatic views of the land and its features. Photographs in this category may include images of people enjoying the Refuge.
- **Artistic** – Artistic compositions in nature, both natural and manipulated in post processing (black and white, infrared, stitched panoramas, multiple-exposure, digital manipulation). Photographs in this category may include images of people enjoying the Refuge. HDR will be judged in this category.

PRIZES

If there are less than 6 entries in any of the 4 main categories (**Wildlife, Flora and Macro, Landscape, and Artistic**), judging will not be conducted in that category. Prizes include:

- **Best in Show** – Special ribbon and cash award in the amount of \$100
- Each category awarded will receive:
 - 1st Place - Ribbon and cash award in the amount of \$50
 - 2nd Place - Ribbon
 - 3rd Place - Ribbon
- **Youth Best in Show** – Special ribbon and cash award in the amount of \$50 if a photograph submitted by a Youth is selected. The Youth Best in Show will only be award if in the judges' option there is a worthy candidate.

PHOTO CONTEST TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Entering the Friends of Hagerman Nature Photo Contest grants the Friends of Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge, the Bluestem Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service the right to reproduce, publish, and publicly display the submitted photographs in print or electronic form for educational and promotional purposes and/or create items for sale in 'The Nature Nook at Hagerman' without further compensation. Reproduction and display of images will include photographer credit. The submitted photographs will become the property of Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge. All other rights to these images will be retained by the photographer.

All photo entries must be produced by the contestant and taken at Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge within the prior five calendar years.

CONTEST TIPS

Visit the Refuge often to take your pictures. The more times you visit, the more likely you will be able to get the photograph you want.

Submit photos to more than one category. You increase your likelihood of winning by entering photos in the less popular categories. Wildlife is the most popular category and is often crowded with similar entries.

Read and follow the contest rules. If you are unsure about something, [Contact Us](#) for clarification.

Try to come up with a unique image and submit your best work, Make sure your entries are in focus, sharp, and have good lighting.

Do not be discouraged if you don't win. Enter other photography contests to gain additional experience.

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CONTEST ENTRY INFORMATION: FEES, DATES AND DEADLINE

- Entries will be accepted from September 1st, through midnight on September 30th, 2023.
- There is no limit to the number of photos submitted per person.
- Entry Fees must be paid via the Friends of Hagerman Website:
\$1.00 Per Photo for active Photo Club Members
\$2.00 Per Photo for Photo Club Guests. Become a [member](#) for as little as \$15 and enjoy the discount!

[**Contest Entry Registration Link**](https://friendsofhagerman.com/event-4727661)

<https://friendsofhagerman.com/event-4727661>

Each image file must be named with the **invoice number** from the payment confirmation email, photographer's first and last name, category and image title. For example:

38526-John-Smith-Wildlife-Cardinal.jpg

- Photographer's name will be removed from the filename and replaced with an identification code prior to judging.
- All entries must be submitted electronically, in digital JPG format, and uploaded via the WeTransfer website (please see below).

USING WETRANSFER: The WeTransfer website allows you to send multiple files to someone using their email address. Once you have identified the photographs you want to submit, we suggest copying them into a new folder to organize them for submission. Below is a checklist of steps you need to take to complete the contest submission.

- 1) Rename each photo using the labeling information above.
- 2) Open the WeTransfer webpage (<https://wetransfer.com/>) and select all the files in your contest folder
- 3) In the title of the email, put [your name] + "Contest Entry"

Example: Jack Smith Contest Entry

- 4) email to: **fohphotoclub@gmail.com**

NOTES:

It is very important that we have your correct e-mail address with your entry so that we can contact you if needed.

Winners will be announced during the November [Second Saturday](#) presentation.

CONTACT US

If you have questions regarding the photography contest, please [Contact Us](#).