

**COMPETITION RULES
FOR
RIVERWOODS NATURE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**

(RNPS Rules V11.3 dated March 7, 2011; effective October, 2011)

1. CLUB AFFILIATION

The Riverwoods Nature Photographic Society shall be a member of the Chicago Area Camera Clubs Association (CACCA), and may compete as a club.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING CLUB DIVISIONS

A. Divisions

- 1) Large Prints: Any size color or monochrome print mounted on a 16 x 20" board. The mounting board may be of any color, though black generally works best and is recommended. Several images may be placed on one board to create a story.
- 2) Small Prints: Any size color or monochrome print mounted on an 11 x 14" board. The mounting board may be of any color, though black generally works best and is recommended. Several images may be placed on one board to create a story.
- 3) For both large and small prints, the image must be attached to the appropriate size mounting board without a spacer. An overmat in any color is allowed.
- 4) Pictorial Slides: 35 mm or smaller slides in 2 x 2" mounts.
- 5) Digital Projected Images:
 - a) Maximum resolution is 1024 (horizontal) x 768 (vertical)
 - b) sRGB color space is recommended.
 - c) JPG format.
 - d) No maximum file size.
- 6) The four divisions are divided into two categories: Prints and Projected Images.

B. Class Assignments

- 1) There are three levels or designations of photographers: Class B, Class A and Master.
- 2) Class A will have the stronger photographers (higher average score), while Class B will have photographers with a lower average score. The goal of splitting the division into two classes is

to identify classes of approximately equal size and to maintain a viable competition in both Class A and Class B.

- 3) Transfers between classes are not allowed during the competition year.
- 4) Any club member who has not previously participated in competition may elect to compete in either class. Members of the club who are new to competition are encouraged to enter Class B, if available.
- 5) Master Photographer Designation. Any member whose photographic images consistently surpass those of the other members may elect to join this class. The Master Class is established to allow less skilled photographers to compete and earn honors. A Master Photographer may compete in any division (highest class) and earn points. The Master Photographer's images will not earn club honors, but those images will be eligible for selection for CACCA competition. If there are a sufficient number of club members electing to join the Master class, then honors will be established. Images in a Master class may only compete for End of Year honors against images from others in the Master class.
- 6) Prior to the start of each competition year, the Vice-Chairman for Competitions, in consultation with the board, if possible, shall determine which divisions will be held as one class and which divisions will be held in two classes, based upon the anticipated number of members who enter the competition.
- 7) To establish classes the average score from the preceding year will be used.

C. Frequency of Competitions

- 1) The club shall conduct five competitions each year, generally in October, December, February, April and May. Subsequent to the last competition, a special competition will be scheduled in June to determine the Best of the Year and Members' Choice awards.

D. Judging

- 1) Three judges shall be present at each competition.
- 2) Whenever possible, two outside judges and one in-club judge shall preside at the first four regular club competitions.
- 3) Whenever possible, three outside judges shall be present at the last regular club competition and the End of Year competition.
- 4) Each judge will evaluate entries on the basis of composition, technique and impact, using the standard CACCA scoring system.

E. Honors

- 1) At least ten percent of all entries in each division will receive awards and at least twenty percent of all entries in each division will receive honorable mentions.
- 2) Honors will be given provided there are at least three members and seven images competing. In the event there are not enough images, or too few members competing, images will be scored but honors will not be assigned.
- 3) For the purpose of running the competition smoothly, the Vice-Chairman for Competitions (or a substitute) may make minor adjustments to the number of honors.
- 4) All entries winning an award will be eligible for Print, Slide or DPI of the Month honors in the following categories. Divisions which are run in two classes will have separate Print, Slide or DPI of the Month.
 - a) Large Print
 - b) Small Print
 - c) Slide
 - d) DPI

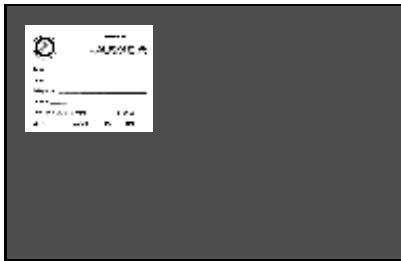
3. RULES GOVERNING ENTRIES FOR IN-CLUB COMPETITIONS

- A. All entries and entry forms must be submitted no later than 7:15 PM on the night of competition. All DPI entries must be emailed to the Vice-Chairman for Competitions by the Saturday prior to the competition.
- B. Competitions are open only to members who have paid their dues.
- C. Members may submit up to three entries in each division, **for a maximum of 15 entries in each division per year (including make-ups)**.
- D. All images must be eligible to be submitted to CACCA. The sole exception to this rule is when the club asks a member for an image to be submitted to CACCA to fill out our total number of entries prior to the next club competition. This image may then be submitted in intra-club competition at the next competition.
- E. Same/similar prints, DPI or slides previously entered in CACCA inter-club competition on behalf of ANY other affiliated club are ineligible for competition at Riverwoods in that division.
- F. Computer software such as Photoshop, Photoshop Elements, Lightroom or other photo editing programs or plug-ins (including HDR) may be used to prepare the image for competition. The final edited image must appear as a reasonable representation of the scene the photographer saw. Any form of photographic manipulation that creates a false or misleading impression of the natural history subject is not allowed.

- 1) Images may be combined to increase the dynamic range (HDR), to increase size of the image (panorama) or to increase the depth of field. In each case the final image must look natural and the images that are combined must have been taken in the same series with the intent to combine.
 - 2) Only minor cleanup (spot removal) or gardening is allowed, either in the field or after image capture. Small elements of the image may be removed in the computer to mimic gardening in the field, but no new elements may be introduced.
 - 3) An image may be “enhanced” to improve its artistic appeal. For example, this includes rotation, flipping, cropping, dodging and burning, color and saturation adjustments and improvement in the image sharpness.
- G. The works of man (i.e., roads, structures, cultivated fields, or domestic animals or plants) shall not be evident in the print or projected image except (1) when animals naturally inhabit man-made structures or environments, or (2) when this rule is waived. In the latter case, the waiver will be announced in advance of the competition. Even in those instances where animals inhabit man-made structures, the man-made elements should be unobtrusive and only ancillary to the image. Images violating this rule will be disqualified. Another image can be entered in the next competition as a make-up. Any member may point out evidence of the works of man during the competition, but only after the image has been scored by the judges. The decision to disqualify an image will reside with the Vice-Chairman for Competitions (or a substitute.)
- 1) A member may say why (s)he believes a challenged image should be allowed either during the competition or afterwards.
 - 2) In the case when an image is challenged and then, subsequent to the meeting allowed, the member may either accept the score and honors if warranted by the score (competition chair and club president decide), or resubmit the image. In the case of the last competition of the year, since the image cannot be resubmitted for that competition year, the score will be accepted.
- H. An entry, or one similar to it, which has previously won an award or honorable mention shall not be submitted by the maker again in the same division. Any entry is considered similar if it is almost identical in subject matter, composition, lighting, and technique. All entries must be the work of the individual submitting them. The Vice-Chairman for Competitions shall resolve any questions concerning similarity and originality.
- I. An entry receiving an award or honorable mention in a print division cannot be entered in a different print division, but may be entered in a projected division (e.g. slide or DPI.) Similarly, an entry receiving an award or honorable mention in a projected division cannot be entered in a different projected division, but may be entered in a print division, either large or small prints. Once an image has won honors in both a print and projected division, it must be retired from competition.
- J. Make-ups are entries submitted by a member for competitions in which they have not been or will not be able to participate. A maximum of three make-ups in each division may be submitted by an individual for a competition. Entries intended as make-ups must be so designated and will be eligible for point scores only. Make-up images may be submitted either prior to or after the missed

competition. The Vice-Chairman for Competitions has the right to grant relief from this rule to any member.

- K. A member must compete in a minimum of four out of five competitions to be eligible for year-end awards.
- L. Members acting as in-club judges may not submit entries for the competition that they are judging. They may submit up to three extra entries (“judge’s make-ups”) in each division in another competition that year. These entries are not considered make-ups, are eligible for honors, and may be counted toward satisfying the requirement to participate in four out of five competitions to be eligible for year-end awards. They may not be entered in addition to make-ups.
- M. All prints submitted for competition must have the official club label filled out and placed in the upper left hand corner on the back of the mounting board, as shown in the illustration below. (A sheet of labels is provided following this section. These may be printed on Avery label sheets — #5164 for laser printers or #8254 for inkjets — with each sheet containing six labels, sized 3½” × 4”). It is recommended that prints be placed on black mounting boards and contain a white border/tape edging of no more than 1/8 inch in width.



← Mounting board is positioned so that the print is facing away from you, right side up.

- N. All slides submitted must be spotted and numbered in the upper right-hand corner as seen when the slide is held with the image upside down and with the emulsion side facing away from you, as shown in the illustration below. The maker’s name, the title, and the club name must be legibly printed on the slide mount, as shown. Slides must be mounted in 2 x 2” mounts, but may be cropped to any size. Mounts which cause jamming of the projector because of warping or thickness may be ruled ineligible.



← Slide image is upside down. Emulsion side of slide is away from you; glossy side is toward you. The numbered spot is as it will be seen when the slide is in the projector. Spots should be large enough to be seen easily.

4. SPECIAL AWARDS

- A. Certificates shall be awarded annually for Large Print of the Year, Small Print of the Year, Digital Projected Image of the Year and Slide of the Year in each class.
- B. To be eligible for print, DPI or slide of the year, an entry must have received either an award or honorable mention or 23 points or greater in a regular competition of that year.
- C. A minimum of three members must submit entries in order for there to be an annual award in any division.
- D. Two Honorable Mentions will be awarded in each division.
- E. Members' Choice Awards, to be voted on by the membership, will be awarded annually in Large Print, Small Print, Digital Projected Image and Slide for each class.
- F. A Certificate shall be awarded annually for the Exhibitor of the Year in each division in which the minimum number of prescribed entries is satisfied.
- G. Exhibitor of the Year in any division will be the member with the highest total point score for any twelve images entered in competition in that division during the year, regardless of the total number of images entered. In the case of a tie, duplicate awards will be issued and this will not impact lower placed awards (e.g. if eight members complete a competition and two tie for first place, both will win first place awards and there will be a second place award.)
- H. The number of Exhibitor of the Year Awards given will be determined on the basis of the following criteria:
 - 1) One to four qualifiers – First Place only.
 - 2) Five to nine qualifiers – First and Second Place.
 - 3) Ten or more qualifiers – First, Second and Third Place.

5. GRACE DEWOLF AWARD

- A. The Grace DeWolf Most Improved Award will be granted to the photographer who has improved the most during the past year based on competitions. A committee will be formed made up of the Vice-Chairman for Competitions and the two most recent winners of the award.