



# *Photo, Art & Media Contest*

*Hosted by the Cradle of Texas Chapter*

## **VIRTUAL CONTEST RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **OVERVIEW**

- **Eligibility** – All Texas Master Naturalists and Chapters may submit entries.
- **Entry Period** – All entries must be submitted between Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 12:00 AM and Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 PM CST.
- **Categories** – There are three Contest categories: Photo, Art, and Media. Photo and Art are for TMNs to enter, and Media is for Chapters to enter. Master Naturalists may submit one (1) entry per member subcategory, and chapters may submit one (1) entry per chapter subcategory. Table 1 summarizes the contest categories.

There is one (1) new, member photo subcategory in 2020:

Photo – Digitally Enhanced Nature Photos

Not available in 2020 due to judging difficulties brought about by the *virtual* nature of the meeting are:

Art – ‘Carvings and Sculptures’, and ‘Sewing and Stitchery’

Media – ‘Scrapbooks’

We sincerely regret this inconvenience, but these categories will return when face-to-face meetings resume.

- **Entry Submissions and Forms** – All contest entries for all categories will be uploaded using the State Texas Master Naturalist website <https://txmn.tamu.edu/>. All member entries must be submitted as JPEG or PNG files, and all chapter entries must be submitted as PDF files (With the possible exception of Newsletters. See the detailed Newsletter description for more information.). The upload process includes filling out an entry form that lists all entries per member or per chapter. Each entrant needs to complete only one entry form.
- **Review and Posting** – Contest host committee members will review all entries and forms to check for errors and completeness, and make any needed adjustments (e.g. reassignment to a new category). The reviewed entries will then be posted for voting to the State Annual Meeting App by state TMN personnel.
- **Judging and Awards** – Contest awards for first, second and third place in each subcategory will be decided by all attendees registered for the meeting and using the State Annual Meeting App to vote for their Photo, Art, and Media favorites. Voting begins at the opening of the 2020 Annual Meeting on October 14<sup>th</sup> and ends at 6:00 PM CST on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Winners will be announced on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, at the annual meeting awards ceremony between 3:00 and 5:00 PM CST.

**TABLE 1**

	<b>Photo Category</b>	<b>Submit As</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1	Plant Life (w/no Wildlife)	JPEG or PNG	Keeping with tradition, all photo entries will have an aspect ratio of 10:8 (i.e., 10" x 8" or 8" x 10" image if printed)
2	Wildlife		
3	Birds		
4	Scenic		
5	Photos of Chapter at Work/Play		
6	Digitally Enhanced Nature Photos		
	<b>Art Category</b>	<b>Submit As</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1	Drawings and Paintings	JPEG or PNG	Aspect Ratio (AR) is the same as the Entry AR
	<b>Media Category</b>	<b>Submit As</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1	Chapter Newsletters	PDF (see details for options)	All pages must be included and have appropriate resolution for viewing.
2	Chapter Brochures	PDF	All pages must be included and have appropriate resolution for viewing.

**I. IMPORTANT DATES PERTAINING TO THE PHOTO, ART & MEDIA CONTEST**

<b>DATES</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>COMMENT</b>
<b>August 5 to October 2, at 11:59 PM</b>	<b>State Meeting Registration Dates</b>	<b>Must be a registered meeting attendee to vote for <i>Photo, Art &amp; Media Contest</i> entries</b>
<b>September 1, 12:00 AM to September 30, 11:59 PM</b>	<b>Valid Entry Submission Dates</b>	<b>See Contest Rules and Entry Forms</b>
<b>Wednesday October 14 to Saturday October 17</b>	<b>State Meeting Dates</b>	<b>8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Daily</b>
<b>October 14 (opening day) to October 16, 6:00 PM</b>	<b>Voting Start/Stop times for the <i>Photo, Art &amp; Media Contest</i></b>	<b>Must be a registered meeting attendee to vote.</b>
<b>October 17, 3:00-5:00 PM</b>	<b>Winners Announced at the 2020 Annual Meeting Awards Ceremony</b>	<b>Ribbons and Citations will be mailed to winners</b>

**II. CATEGORIES AND RULES**

For the 2020 virtual *Photo, Art & Media Contest*, there are three (3) main entry categories: Photo, Art, and Media. Photo has six (6) subcategories, Art has one (1), and Media has two (2). Photo and Art categories are for *individual* submissions, while Media submissions are made by *chapters*.

All entries must be the original work of, and submitted by, a Texas Master Naturalist. For the Photo and Art categories, a TMN may submit one (1) entry per subcategory (max 7 entries total). For the Media category, a chapter may submit one (1) entry per subcategory (max 2 entries total). ***The deadline for all entries is 11:59pm, September 30<sup>th</sup> CST.***

## PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORIES

All digital entries must have been taken in the state of Texas. No digital entries of domestic, farm, ranch or zoo animals are allowed. No digital entries of cultivated vegetable-garden plants are allowed. It is the intent of this contest to focus on plant and animal species seen in the wild. Digital entries taken in your backyard of native plants, birds, butterflies, or other species that 'visit' are acceptable.

1	<b>Plant Life with No Wildlife.</b> Includes images of flowers, trees, and other flora in their natural habitats or images of mushrooms or other fungi as the primary photographic subject. Does not include broad landscape or scenery entries.
2	<b>Wildlife.</b> Includes images of vertebrates and invertebrates, except birds and humans. Does not include broad landscape or scenery entries.
3	<b>Birds.</b> Includes images of birds as the main subject, photographed in their natural habitats. Does not include broad landscape or scenery entries.
4	<b>Photos of Chapter at Work or Play. -</b> Includes images that included at least one Texas Master Naturalist member. Examples are members performing service hours, conducting advance training, showcasing the results of their hard work, enjoying each other's company, and or being recognized for their service.
5	<b>Scenic.</b> Includes images in which elements of land, water, sky, or other <b>natural elements</b> are the primary subject. Excludes close-ups or small focal points of nature. Ships, buildings, or other man-made structures should not provide the main focus in this category.
6	<b>Nature-themed Photo/Digital Art.</b> Includes nature as art, a single or composite image that has been digitally manipulated, or an image greatly manipulated with digital filters, HDR digital imaging, etc. The photographer must note the digital techniques used to create the picture. This category is intended to show how the elements of nature can be expanded to create unique photographic images that become art. <b>Note: This is the only category in which significant digital manipulation is allowed.</b>

## PHOTO CONTEST RULES

Requirements	Notes
1. Limits on entries	A maximum of six (6) digital photographs per entrant. Only one (1) photograph per subcategory, per entrant.
2. Photo alterations, Categories 1-5	All photographs should accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appeared. Digital entries that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization will be disqualified. <b>Acceptable</b> digital alterations are adjustments to color, contrast, brightness and sharpness; removal of dust and scratches; cropping; black and white conversions; and use of HDRI/HDR (high dynamic range imaging). <b>Not acceptable</b> are photo composites (combination of two or more digital entries that are not of the same scene; the addition, duplication, deletion or moving of objects in the digital entries; or the use of artistic digital filters and effects. Examples of artistic filters and effects NOT acceptable are watercolor, neon glow, posturizing, stained glass, and others that do not show the scene in its natural way.
3. Photo alterations, Category 6	Entries digitally manipulated with post-processing techniques are acceptable. Images may be greatly manipulated with digital filters, HDR techniques, etc., to create a graphic or artistic effect. Examples of artistic filters and effects that ARE acceptable are watercolor, neon glow, posturizing, stained glass. These effects may alter how the image would look naturally. You may also use photo composites or double exposures such as the combination of two or more digital entries that are not of the same scene (in this case, all locations must be stated).

4. Aspect Ratio	Aspect ratio 10:8 (i.e., if printed, would produce a 10"x8" or 8"x10" image).
5. Disqualifications/ changes	TMN reserves the right to disqualify any entry that does not meet the requirements of these rules. It also reserves the right to change a category in which a photo is submitted.
5. Entry format	Submit files as JPEGs or PNGs. No watermarks or other text on the photos. Rename each digital photo. Preferred digital file name format is: <b>[Photo name], [Category name]</b> . Do <i>not</i> use your camera-assigned photo name such as IMG_2345 or DSC_4567. No mounted photos are accepted. This is an all-digital event.
6. Submit electronically	Submit photos and entry form electronically using the form on the Texas Master Naturalist website: <a href="https://txmn.tamu.edu/">https://txmn.tamu.edu/</a> .
7. Awards	Awards will be announced at the Annual Meeting Awards Ceremony on October 17 <sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. Ribbons and Citations will be mailed to contest winners.

### ART CATEGORIES

For 2020, two Art subcategories: 'Sculpture and Carvings' and 'Sewing and Stitchery' are not available due to judging difficulties brought about by the *virtual* nature of the contest, but will return when we resume face-to-face annual meetings. We sincerely regret this inconvenience.

The only subcategory in 2020's Art Category is 'Drawings and Paintings'. Entries must be Texas specific and nature themed. You must take a photograph of the item (as mounted) and submit the photo of the entry digitally.

### ART CONTEST RULES

1. Aspect Ratio	Use the best aspect ratio for your submission.
2. Disqualifications/ changes	TMN reserves the right to disqualify any entry that does not meet the requirements of these rules. It also reserves the right to change a category in which an entry is submitted
3. Entry format	Submit JPEG or PNG files. No watermarks or other text on the entries. Rename each digital entry. Preferred digital file name format is: <b>[Name of entry], [Category name]</b> . Do not use your camera-assigned name such as IMG_2345 or DSC_4567.
4. Submit electronically	Submit your entry and entry form electronically on the Texas Master Naturalist website: <a href="https://txmn.tamu.edu/">https://txmn.tamu.edu/</a> .
5. Awards	Awards will be announced at the Annual Meeting Awards Ceremony on October 17 <sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. Ribbons and Citations will be mailed to contest winners.

### MEDIA ENTRIES

For 2020, the 'Scrapbook' category is eliminated but will return when we resume face-to-face meetings in the future, so keep updating those Scrapbooks. The 2020 categories are 'Brochures' and 'Newsletters'.

### MEDIA CONTEST RULES

1. Number of entries	Only one newsletter issue and/or one brochure shall be submitted per chapter.
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2. Disqualifications/ changes	TMN reserves the right to disqualify any entry that does not meet the requirements of these rules. It also reserves the right to change a category in which an entry is submitted.
3. Entry format	Submit PDF files for newsletter and brochures.  <b>Exception</b> - if a Newsletter is in a format that does not lend itself to being submitted in a PDF format without suffering a loss of content or otherwise having its presentation format altered, then contact the chairperson of the host chapter listed in this document to see if there are alternate submission methods available. We will work with the chapters as best we can to get their Newsletters into the contest in a format that preserves their product.
4. Submit electronically	Submit your entry and entry form electronically on the Texas Master Naturalist website: <a href="https://txmn.tamu.edu/">https://txmn.tamu.edu/</a> .
Awards	Awards will be announced at the Annual Meeting Awards Ceremony on October 17 <sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. Ribbons and Citations will be mailed to contest winners.

### GENERAL RULES

**Use of Digital Entries.** Digital entries may be used by Texas Master Naturalists according to the uses described in these rules. By entering digital entries in this photo contest, entrants grant Texas Master Naturalists royalty-free and non-exclusive right to use, with full credit given to the photographer except during judging, at Texas Master Naturalist events during the contest, and to promote this and future contests in publications, websites, display panels, or promotional products for the contest. Entrants waive the right to inspect or approve the final use of their photographs by Texas Master Naturalists and for the uses stated above. Additional permission will be requested to use photographs for purposes other than listed above. All submitted digital photographs remain the property of the photographer. Texas Master Naturalists has the right to disqualify entries not complying with the official Virtual Contest Rules and Regulations.

### III. JUDGING and AWARDS

All judging will be hosted through the Texas Master Naturalist's Annual Meeting App. Only those registered for the 2020 Annual Meeting will be able to vote in the contests.

A **Best of Show** winner will be selected by the committee members of the Cradle of Texas Chapter who are hosting the 2020 Photo, Art, & Media Contest. Members of the host committee are not eligible to receive the Best of Show Award, however, all non-committee members of the COT chapter that submit entries are eligible.

Voting begins on the opening day of the meeting, October 14<sup>th</sup>, and ends on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM Central Standard Time. Contest winners will be announced on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at the State Annual Meeting Awards and Special Presentations Ceremony (between 3:00 and 5:00 PM CST). First place in each category, and the Best of Show winner will receive ribbons. Second and third place winners in each category will receive certificates.

Awards and citations will be mailed to the individual and chapter winners for each contest.