



VIRTUAL CONTEST RULES AND REGULATIONS

GENERAL RULES

- All Texas Master Naturalists and Chapters may submit entries; you do not need to be registered for the annual meeting to submit an entry
- TMN reserves the right to disqualify any entry that does not meet the requirements of the contest rules and regulations. It also reserves the right to change the category in which a photo is submitted
- 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.

Entry Submission

Tuesday, September 1st, 12:00 AM thru Wednesday, September 30th, 11:59 PM CST

Categories

- Individual member submissions categories
 - Photo
 - Plants
 - Wildlife Birds
 - Wildlife Insects
 - Wildlife-Other
 - Chapters at work/play
 - Scenic
 - Digitally Enhanced Photos
 - Art
 - Paintings or Drawings
 - Sculptures or Carvings
 - Sewing or Stitchery
- Chapter submissions categories
 - Newsletter
 - Scrapbooks
 - Brochures

Entries

- Entries **must be submitted** between Wednesday, September 1st, 12:00 a.m. and Thursday, September 30th, 11:59 p.m. CST

- All entries must have been taken in the state of Texas
- One (1) entry per chapter, per subcategory
- Entries will be uploaded using the State TMN website <https://txmn.tamu.edu/2021-annual-meeting/#contests>
Entries MUST be accompanied with a completed entry form.
- **If a category is not selected, on the form, the contest host committee will select a category**
- **Entries will be rejected if** a camera-assigned photo name (e. g. IMG_2345 or DSC_4567, IM342) is used for the file name.
- Submissions files must not exceed 50 MG
- Accepted photo formats; jpeg, jpg, png, raw, pdf
- Accepted video (see Art Categories for details) format: mp3, mp4, cr2, crw, nef, pef, Max
- Accepted Newsletter, Scrapbook, Brochure format: pdf
- Photos including people are restricted to Chapters at Work/Play, Newsletters, Brochures and Scrapbooks.
Entries will be rejected for all other categories if people are included in the photo

Review and Posting

- Entries and associated forms will be checked for errors and completeness
- Adjustments will be made by the committee if needed (e. g. category reassignment)
- Committee will contact submitter if there are any problems or questions regarding the entry
- Entries will be posted to the State Annual Meeting App for voting by registered attendees

Judging and Awards

- First, second and third place awards in each subcategory will be decided by all registered Annual Meeting attendees using the Annual Meeting App
- Awards will be sent to winners using provided postal information
- Best in Show will be decided by the state leadership team
- **Voting 8:00 a.m. Thursday, October 21st - 12:00 p.m. Saturday, October 23rd**
- Winners will be announced on Sunday morning, October 24th at the Annual Meeting Contest Awards Ceremony

CATEGORIES RULES and REGULATIONS

PHOTOGRAPHY

- It is the intent of this contest to focus on plant and animal species seen in the wild
- All subjects must be in their natural habitats within Texas
- Photos taken in your backyard of native plants, birds, butterflies, or other species that 'visit' are accepted
- No digital entries of domestic, farm, ranch or zoo animals are allowed. No digital entries of cultivated vegetable-garden plants are allowed
- Digital entries that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization will be disqualified
- Acceptable 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)
- 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 will not be accepted in this category. 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
1	Plants Images of flowers, trees other flora or fungi, as the main subject
2	Birds Images of birds, in their natural habitat, as the main subject
3	Insects Includes images of insects, in their natural habitat, as the main subject
4	Other Includes images of reptiles, amphibians and mammals, in their natural habitat, as the main subject
5	Chapters at Work/Play Includes images of at least one chapter member working on a chapter approved TMN project or event
6	Scenic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes images in which elements of land, water, sky, or other natural elements 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
7	Digitally Enhanced Photos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This category is intended to show how the elements of nature can be expanded to create unique photographic images that become art • 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. 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 • Also accepted are 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) • The photographer must note the digital techniques used to create the picture. This is the only category in which significant digital manipulation is allowed

ART

The following art categories can be submitted by a TMN member (one entry per/subcategory) as part of this year's contest. The subject matter must represent some aspect of the nature within or seen in Texas.

- Entries must not exceed 50MB
- Single digital image for Drawings or Paintings
- Short video for Sculptures, Carvings, Sewing or Stitchery. Permitting a video allows the voters to see the full beauty of the submission
- Accepted video format: MP3, MP4, RAW
- Accepted photo formats: JPEG and PNG preferred but RAW is accepted

1	Sewing-Stitchery
2	Drawings-Paintings
3	Sculptures-Carvings
MEDIA	
1	<p>Newsletter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only one newsletter issue (i.e. one monthly issue) can be submitted by a chapter • All pages of the brochure must be included and have appropriate resolution for viewing the content • If the PDF format causes loss of newsletter content or otherwise having its presentation format altered, contact the chairperson of the host chapter listed below to discuss alternative formats that might be acceptable • *New rule* If your chapter's newsletter has won in the past two years, it is not eligible for entry this year
2	<p>Scrapbook</p> <p>Chapters may submit a pdf of their scrapbook. This can be created by taking photos of the scrapbook and creating a digital version of it. This is may not be the best way to illustrate the what the scrapbook might look like in-person. This does give chapters an opportunity to show case their scrapbook if they choose to submit it to the contest.</p> <p>`If your chapter's scrapbook has won in the past three years, it is not eligible for entry this year</p>
3	<p>Brochure</p> <p>All pages of the brochure must be included and have appropriate resolution for viewing the content</p>

Contact Committee Chairperson with questions: Betsy Palkowsky, bpalkowsky@outlook.com