

Volo Bog's Peatland Poetry Challenge

In celebration of International Bog Day, July 28, 2024

International Bog Day celebrates bogs & fens around the world, providing an opportunity to raise awareness of peatlands – the benefits they provide, the threats they face, and the ways we can all help protect them (Bogday.org)

Submission Categories:

1. *Bog Landscape and Vegetation* (Sample poem: [Bogland](#), by Seamus Heaney)
2. *Bog Culture*: How humans interact with bogs: turf cutting, peatland preservation/restoration efforts, carbon storage/ sequestration, bog bodies, etc. (Sample poem: [Digging](#), Seamus Heaney)
3. *Ekphrastic*: Poetry inspired by art work displayed at Volo Bog SNA starting June 8 & on www.FriendsofVoloBog.org shortly after. (Sample poem: [Winter Landscape](#), John Barryman)

Submission Guidelines (Any submission that does not follow all guidelines will be disqualified.)

- Submit a maximum of one poem per category and each poem in only one category.
- Previously published works are accepted but please indicate where and when the work appeared.
- Email submissions to dnr.volobog@illinois.gov
- Subject line: "Poetry Submission" + submission category
- In the body of the email include your name, home town, and age if a minor.
- Include poem within the body of the email, or as a Word.doc
 - Do not include your name on the poem itself.
 - Times New Roman, 14 pt. font, 1.5 line spacing
 - 60-line limit (All text and blank lines count except the title and one blank line following the title.)
- Submit each poem in a separate email.
- Submissions must be received by 3:00 pm on July 10, 2024.
- Receipt of poems will be acknowledged by within 4 days.
- Selected authors will be notified on or before July 19, 2024
- No submission fees.

Two Age Categories:

- Adult & Youth (ages 12 -17, must have parent/guardian approval and signature)

Awards:

- First-place winners will be invited to read their poems aloud during the IBD celebration at Volo Bog.
- First-, second-, and third-place poems will...
 - receive a ribbon
 - be displayed at Volo Bog State Natural Area
 - be published in a pdf booklet made available on the Friends of Volo Bog website. Writers retain all rights to their work.

Originality and Permissions Statements (copy/paste into emails)

I certify that this poem is my original work and has not been copied in whole or part from any other author's poem and is not created using AI at any level. I give Volo Bog State Natural Area and Friends of Volo Bog permission now and in the future to display the poem publicly and to include it in their publications, though I retain all future rights for my poem.

Poet's Name: _____ Age if Minor: _____

Parent's Signature (if poet is a minor) _____

Links above are on the electronic version of this document. Find it on our Friends' website or request it through contacts below.
Volo Bog State Natural Area is an Illinois Department of Natural Resources site located at 28478 W. Brandenburg Road, Ingleside, IL 60041.
Phone 815-344-1294, email dnr.volobog@illinois.gov Friends of Volo Bog is a 501(c)(3) membership organization. FriendsofVoloBog.org