Volo Bog State Natural Area & Friends of Volo Bog invite you to
Enter the 37th Annual Volo Bog
NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Contest is open to all Amateur Nature Photographers (deriving less than $5,000 of their gross annual income from the sale of nature photographs).

THE TEN CATEGORIES1: All photos must be exclusive work of the maker.  2023 – 2024

1) Color Plant  2) Color Birds  3) Color Vertebrates OTB  4) Color Invertebrates  5) Color Landscape
6) Black & White Plant/Landscape  7) Black & White Animals  8) Beyond the Midwest Plant/Landscape  9) Beyond the Midwest Animals
10) Nature in My Neighborhood

1At least two photographers must enter a given category for category to be viable. Contest curator reserves the right to add additional categories, eliminate categories, and shift entries to alternate categories.  ^OTB = Other Than Birds

ELIGIBILITY: Entries in categories 1 – 9 must depict NATURAL OBJECTS AND FEATURES ONLY and show no signs of human influence (“hand of man”).  Examples of human influence include, but are not limited to people, cultivars & nativars, domestic animals/pets, utility poles, fences, cut stumps, mowed grass, groomed trails, pavement, etc...

Categories 1 - 7 must be REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MIDWEST, i.e., IL, ND, SD, NE, KS, MN, IA, MO, WI, MI, IN, and OH, and depict only NATIVE or NATURALIZED flora and/or fauna - (i.e.; NO domesticated garden or landscaping plants, exotic plants from public gardens, pets, livestock, exotic zoo animals, etc...).  Category 8 & 9 MUST be of subject(s) not found in the Midwest.  This can include zoo animals and botanic garden exotics, but still no human influence.  B&W or color are accepted.

Category 10 Nature in My Neighborhood celebrates nature nearby and how we live with and interact with the natural world where we live.  It requires “hand of man” in the form of humans, pets, or human-made structures such as paths, roads, fences, buildings, etc. to be visible in the image.  Nature must still be the main theme in Category 10.

Eligibility of entries will be reviewed by a committee of Volo Bog Staff and Friends of Volo Bog.  Decisions of the committee regarding eligibility will be final.

PREPARATION:  All photos must be mounted to not exceed a single window, top mat (sandwiched mats tend to fall apart – loose portions may be discarded; surface mounted photos curl off the mat).  Mats must measure 11”x14” outer dimension.  Window/photo may be square, rectangular or oval; its smaller dimension must be at least 7”, and its larger dimension must not be more than 12”.

On the back of each photo, securely tape the completed ENTRY FORM ONLY (the bottom of this form) in such a way that it indicates number of submissions: ________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Do not write on the front of the mat or the photograph or mat.  No entry will be accepted with writing upon its face.

NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS:  Entrants may submit up to three photos per category but not more than 15 total entries.

Each entry must be accompanied by a separate entry form.  Please make as many photocopies of the entry form as needed.

FEE:  $20.00 per photographer covers up to 15 entries.  Make check to Friends of Volo Bog.  Cash is okay too.

ENTRY DEADLINE:  Entries will be accepted beginning at 10:00 a.m. Friday, September 1, through 3:00 p.m., SUNDAY, October 15, 2023.  Entries may be brought to the Visitor Center (Wed - Sun; 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.) at Volo Bog State Natural Area, 28478 W. Brandenburg Rd., Ingleside, IL 60041 - or mailed to that address.

The first 150 qualifying entries are guaranteed acceptance.  (Rules continue on the reverse side.)

up ↑

VBSNA ENTRY FORM 2023 - 2024 ↑ up

Please make individual copies of this form for each photo and attach to back.  Read ALL rules on complete form.

Name: ___________________________________________  Age if under 18: _______  Special youth prizes may be awarded.

Address: ___________________________________________  Alternate phone: ______________________

City: __________________ State: ___ Zip: __________ Email: __________________________

Cell Phone: ___________________________

Category (check only):  Limit three entries per category; 15 entries total

6) Black & White Plant/Landscape ___  7) Black & White Animals ___  8) Beyond the Midwest Plant/Landscape ___  9) Beyond the Midwest Animals ___
10) Nature in My Neighborhood  ^OTB = Other Than Birds

Contest curator reserves the right to shift entries to alternate categories as appropriate.

Photo MUST BE TITLED!  Title: _________________________________________________

Initial below to acknowledge and accept that…

…Entry into Volo Bog’s Photo Contest implies permission for IDNR, VBSNA, FOVB & affiliated groups to use entered photo(s).  ✖ ✖ ✖ OR…

After the show, please donate my photo to the Tamarack Shop for fundraising purposes ✖ ✖ ✖ OR…

OR… Please keep my photo through April 14, so I can retrieve them.  If I do not, I agree to donate it to the Tamarack Shop for fundraising.  ✖ ✖ ✖
By participating, the entrant agrees to grant the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Volo Bog State Natural Area Staff & Volunteers, and the Friends of Volo Bog (the “Sponsors”) the right to display the artwork, and to reproduce the entrant’s name, likeness, copies of the artwork, or any other image or information for purposes of promotion, publicity and/or display, either now or in the future. Sponsors are under no obligation to provide compensation or notice for any such use. The Sponsors, their agents and assigns, shall not be liable for any injury to the artist or any damage or loss of the artist’s work or other personal property arising out of this exhibit or other activities.

Photographs will be displayed for judging in the Visitor Center, Wednesday – Sunday from October 21, 2023, to January 12, 2024.

During this time, visitors to Volo Bog State Natural Area will be asked to cast a ballot for the best entry in each category, plus their choice for Best-Of-Show. The photograph receiving the most votes in a category will be the first prize winner in that category. Likewise, the entry receiving the most votes for best-of-show will be awarded Best-of-Show Peoples’ Choice. Best-of-Show Judges’ Award will be determined by a panel of judges.

LIST OF PRIZES:

**BEST OF SHOW PEOPLE’S CHOICE**: Best-of-Show Ribbon & Plaque

**BEST OF SHOW JUDGES’ AWARD**: Best-of-Show Ribbon & Plaque

**IN EACH CATEGORY - PEOPLE’S CHOICE**:

First place--Blue Ribbon  Second place--Red Ribbon  Third place--White Ribbon

Winners will be displayed in the Volo Bog Visitor Center from January 20 – March 3, 2024

We will request digital versions of the Best of Show and First Place winners.

Winning photos may be picked up on or after Sunday, March 3.

All other photographs may be picked up at after awards presentation on January 14, 2024, and 9 am – 3 pm Wednesdays – Sundays afterwards.

All photos not picked up by 3:00 p.m., Sunday, April 14, 2024, will become the property of Friends of Volo Bog.

Prizes will be awarded on Sunday, January 14, 2024, during *WinterFest.*

When cutting the entry form from the other side, please keep the top portion as a reminder of the Awards Presentation!

Mark your calendar - we’ll see you then!

Entries will be received
Beginning 9:00 a.m. Friday, September 1, 2023

Entry Deadline
Entries must be received no later than 3:00p.m. Sunday, October 15, 2023

SPACE IS LIMITED!

First 150 Qualifying Entries Are Guaranteed Acceptance!
VBSNA ENTRY FORM 2023 - 2024

Please make individual copies of this form for each photo and attach to back. Read ALL rules on complete form.

Name: ___________________________ Age if under 18: _____ Special youth prizes may be awarded.

Address: ___________________________ State: __________ Zip: __________ Email: ______________________

City: ___________________________ Alternate phone: ______________________

Category (check only): Limit three entries per category; 15 entries total

1) Color Plant ___ 2) Color Birds ___ 3) Color Vertebrates OTB* ___ 4) Color Invertebrates ___
5) Color Landscape ___ 6) Black & White Plant/Landscape ___ 7) Black & White Animals ___
8) Beyond the Midwest Plant/Landscape ___ 9) Beyond the Midwest Animals ___
10) Nature in My Neighborhood ___

*OTB = Other Than Birds

Contest curator reserves the right to shift entries to alternate categories as appropriate.

Photo MUST BE TITLED! Title: ___________________________

Location where photo was taken: ___________________________

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