Volo Bog State Natural Area & Friends of Volo Bog invite you to Enter the 39th 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.

2025 - 2026

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) Patterns & Textures

¹At least two photographers must enter a given category for category to be viable. Contest curator reserves the right to combine categories, 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 Patterns & Textures invites photographers and viewers alike to take a closer look at the intricate patterns in the plants, animals, landscapes, and even skyscapes all around us. 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 the top of the photo. Plastic or other protective covering may be used for transporting photographs, but it will be removed when the photo is displayed and will not be restored upon return. No framed photographs will be accepted.

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 two photos per category but not more than 10 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 10 entries. Make check to Friends of Volo Bog. Cash is okay too.

ENTRY DEADLINE: Entries will be accepted beginning at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 3, through 3:00 p.m., SUNDAY, October 12, 2025. 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.)

×××××	<u>*************************************</u>	<u> </u>
up ↑	VBSNA ENTRY FORM 2025 - 2026	↑ 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:	Youth (8 – 12) & You	ung Adult (13 – 17) prizes may be d	ıwarded.
Address:						
City:						
Cell Phone:			Alternate phone:			_
6) Black & White Plant/Landscape A gi	olor Birds _ 7) Black	3) Color Verteb & White Animals 10) Text y fit more than one cate	orates OTB [^] 4) Co	olor Invertebrates est Plant/Landscape ered once (i.e., no duplic	^OTB = Other Than Bird ates).	nimals
Photo MUST BE TITLED! Title: _						
Location where photo was taken: _				Initial below	to acknowledge and accept t	that
Entry into Volo Bog's Photo Cor After the show, please donate my ploor Please keep my photo through	hoto to the T	amarack Shop for fu	undraising purposes 🔊		•	
JK Flease keep my photo uhough	March 15, S	o i can feuleve mem.	ii i do not, i agree to doi	iate it to the Talliarack	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 18, 2025, to January 9, 2026.

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 16 – March 6, 2026

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

Winning photos may be picked up on or after Saturday, March 7.

All non-winning photographs may be picked up at awards presentation on January 11, 2026, or 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Wednesdays – Sundays afterwards.

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

Prizes will be awarded on Sunday, January 11, 2026, 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. Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Entry Deadline

Entries must be received no later than 3:00 p.m. Sunday, October 12, 2025 SPACE IS LIMITED!

First 150 Qualifying Entries Are Guaranteed Acceptance!

V~B~S~N~A~~E~N~T~R~Y~F~O~R~M~~2025~-~2026 Please make individual copies of this form for each photo and attach to back. Read ALL rules on complete form.

Name:		A	ge if under 18:	Youth $(8-12)$ & Young Adult $(13-17)$ prizes may be award
Address:				
City:	State:2	Zip:	Email:	
Cell Phone:		Alterna	ate phone:	
6) Black & White Plant/Landsca	2) Color Birds ape 7) Black & V	3) Color Vertebrates White Animals 8) 10) Textures 8	OTB [^] 4) Co Beyond the Midw & Patterns	total olor Invertebrates 5) Color Landscape vest Plant/Landscape 9) Beyond the Midwest Animal ^OTB = Other Than Birds tered once (i.e., no duplicates). rnate categories as appropriate.
Photo MUST BE TITLED! Ti	tle:			
Location where photo was take	en:			Initial below to acknowledge and accept that
After the show, please donate of OR Please keep my photo thr	my photo to the Tamough March 13, so I o	arack Shop for fundrate can retrieve them. If I d	sing purposes > o not, I agree to do	nate it to the Tamarack Shop for fundraising.
******				<u> </u>
up ↑ Please make				2025 - 2026 ↑ uj ack. Read ALL rules on complete form.
Name:		A	ge if under 18:	Youth $(8-12)$ & Young Adult $(13-17)$ prizes may be award
Address:				
City:	State:2	Zip:	Email:	
Cell Phone:		Alterna	ate phone:	
	Contest curator/commi	ttee reserves the right to	shift entries to alter	tered once (i.e., no duplicates). rnate categories as appropriate.
Location where photo was taken:				Initial below to acknowledge and accept that
After the show, please donate	my photo to the Tam	arack Shop for fundrai	sing purposes 🖎	ffiliated groups to use entered photo(s).
	_		_	*****
up ↑	VBSNA	ENTRY	FORM	2025 - 2026 ↑ up
Name:		A	ge if under 18:	Youth $(8-12)$ & Young Adult $(13-17)$ prizes may be award
Address:				
City:	State: 2	Zip:	Email:	
Cell Phone:		Alterna	ate phone:	
Category (check only or 1) Color Plant 6) Black & White Plant/Landsca	ne): Limit two e 2) Color Birds ape 7) Black & V A given photo may fit Contest curator/commi	ntries per catego 3) Color Vertebrates White Animals 8) 10) Textures 8 more than one category ttee reserves the right to	ry; 10 entries OTB [^] 4) Co Beyond the Midw & Patterns but must only be ent shift entries to alter	total olor Invertebrates 5) Color Landscape vest Plant/Landscape 9) Beyond the Midwest Animal ^OTB = Other Than Birds tered once (i.e., no duplicates). rnate categories as appropriate.
				Initial below to acknowledge and accept that
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				ffiliated groups to use entered photo(s). 🖎
After the show, please donate of OR Please keep my photo thr		-		