

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

2025 – 2026

- 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*

OR... Please keep my photo through March 13, 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 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.**

[illegible]

**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!

↑ **up**

↑ **up**

↑ up

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