

# NATURE'S BEST BACKYARDS PHOTO CONTEST



## ENTRY GUIDELINES

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Start an entry online before midnight (Eastern) on October 24 and you will have until 11:59 pm on October 31, 2011 to complete uploading your images. Enter by mail postmarked no later than October 31, 2011.

The editors of NATURE'S BEST PHOTOGRAPHY invite all photographers to enter the 2011 NATURE'S BEST BACKYARDS PHOTO CONTEST. Enter images made close to home in your own backyard, in a public or private garden, or a nearby park or preserve. The winning images will be published in an upcoming edition of NATURE'S BEST PHOTOGRAPHY magazine and may also be selected for NATURE'S BEST PHOTOGRAPHY Online Galleries such as MSNBC.com, Discovery.com, and others. Contest entries will be judged on technical quality, composition, originality, and artistic merit. Professional photographers, Amateurs, and Youth (18 and under) are welcome to enter. You may enter a total of up to 20 images for one entry fee (\$25 US—*no foreign checks or foreign money orders*). Each submission **MUST** follow the guidelines. If your image is selected as a finalist, we will need the high resolution digital files or original transparencies (slides) for the judging during final rounds.

### SUGGESTED PHOTO SUBJECTS

**This contest is not judged in categories, but here are suggested photo topics:** **PLANT LIFE:** Flowers, trees, and other flora in their natural habitat (please identify exotic or hybrid species). **PRIVATE GARDENS:** Beautiful, dramatic, or unusual perspectives. **PUBLIC GARDENS:** Community parks and gardens, neighborhood parks that are open to the public. **SMALL WORLD:** Close-up images or macro shots of single flowers or parts of a flower, butterflies, caterpillars, insects, etc. **WATER LIFE:** Man-made or natural ponds, waterfalls, streams, and wetlands in a backyard environment; also frogs, fish and aquatic plant life. **WILDLIFE:** Wild animals observed in backyard habitats (no captive animals are accepted)—birds, mammals, etc. **YOUTH:** Photographers 18-years-old and younger. Please specify your age at time of submission.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** All photos must accurately reflect the subject matter as it appeared in the viewfinder. Nothing should be added to an image, and aside from dust spots, nothing should be taken away. Normal processing of RAW image files and minor adjustments to color and contrast are acceptable, as is minimal cropping. HDR and focus stacking are permitted as long as all manipulation is disclosed upon entry. No watermarks or text on photos. Entrants must not infringe on the rights of any other photographer or person, or submit images that involve the willful harassment of wildlife or damage to the environment by the photographer. Failure to comply with all of the contest provisions will lead to the disqualification of your entry.

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## HOW TO SUBMIT DIGITAL PHOTOS ONLINE

Save copies of your photos as low-resolution JPEGs sized at 72 ppi, with an image size of no larger than 500KB, about 750 to 1000 pixels on the longest side, for each of your images. Follow the instructions on the website to pay the Entry Fee and upload your photos. **WHEN ENTERING ONLINE:** Photographers with images chosen to pass into the final rounds of judging will be required to send us high-resolution files (400 ppi Tiffs and RAW files if available), camera specifications and a more detailed caption for the final judging. Failure to supply the requested materials will lead to disqualification.

**NOTE:** Instructions on uploading high-resolution files will be provided later.

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# HOW TO SUBMIT PHOTOS BY MAIL

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## VIA POSTAL SERVICE OR COURIER:

**ENTERING BY MAIL:** Be sure to include BOTH low and high resolution files or your slides or transparencies along with the \$25 entry fee (US dollars only—*NO foreign checks or foreign money orders*) and an Entry Form (on the next page) with ALL the required information clearly filled out. Mail your submission (details below) to:

**2011 BEST BACKYARDS, 11411-C SUNSET HILLS RD, RESTON, VA 20190, PHONE: 703-467-9783**

## PREPARING DIGITAL FILES TO MAIL:

Digital images should be taken with the camera set for the highest possible resolution. Each electronic image must be saved and named with your first and last name, brief image subject, category, and file type. (Example: **JohnDoe\_fox\_wildlife.jpg**). Each CD or DVD must be labeled with your full name and phone number. Keep your own copy of your submission on CDs or DVDs, as they will not be returned after the contest. When mailing digital images as your submission, send discs of BOTH low and high resolution images using the following specifications:

- Low Resolution (72 ppi) JPEG copies of your images, measuring about 1000 pixels on the longest side, must all be burned onto a single CD or DVD and labeled 'LOW RES' and your name for the preliminary judging round.
- High Resolution (300-400 ppi) uncompressed and unsharpened Tiff files, measuring 4800 pixels on the longest side, or largest file available, may be burned to as many CDs or DVDs as necessary for the final rounds of judging, each labeled 'HIGH RES' with your name on the discs. Tiff files, or the original RAW files, will be used for publication if selected as a winner. (Include original RAW files, if available.)

## MAILING TRANSPARENCIES:

Original slides, or large format transparencies must be sent to us in protective plastic sheets (PrintFile brand, etc.). Each slide or transparency mount must bear the photographer's contact information: name, phone number, e-mail, and state or country.

- NO PRINTS, NEGATIVES, or GLASS MOUNTS!
- High quality duplicate slides will be accepted for preliminary judging only.
- Digital scans of original slides or transparencies will be accepted for preliminary judging only (follow the specifications for low resolution digital images above).
- Original film images or high resolution drum scans must be made available for final round judging.

**SPECIFY METHOD OF RETURN:** For returns of transparencies (slides) include an self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) of adequate size for the safe return of your materials, with sufficient postage. For courier returns, include a completed shipping form with a courier account or credit card number, expiration date, and security code for payment. Check or charge information for the amount of return postage for the return method you request is acceptable in place of a SASE. Photos with insufficient return information will not be returned. Images on CDs and DVDs will not be returned (see above).

## ENTRY FEE AND ENTRY FORM:

If mailed, a check or money order for \$25 (US dollars only—*NO foreign checks or foreign money orders*) must be included with your entry, made out to: NATURE'S BEST PHOTOGRAPHY. Or you may use a Visa, MasterCard, or American Express charge card on your entry form, or phone in your information to 703-467-9783. Each submission must be accompanied by an entry form with all information clearly filled out.

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**QUESTIONS? Call 703-467-9783 or e-mail: [Backyards@NaturesBestPhotography.com](mailto:Backyards@NaturesBestPhotography.com)**

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IF YOU ARE ENTERING BY MAIL, PLEASE USE THIS FORM



ENTRY FORM

FIRST NAME / MIDDLE INITIAL / LAST NAME DATE

BUSINESS NAME [ ] PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER [ ] AMATEUR [ ] YOUTH (UNDER 18) / BIRTHDATE

STREET ADDRESS APARTMENT NO.

CITY STATE / PROVINCE ZIP / POSTAL CODE COUNTRY

HOME PHONE OFFICE PHONE CELL PHONE

FAX E-MAIL ADDRESS / WEB SITE

ENTRY FEE \$25 (US) METHOD OF PAYMENT

[ ] CHECK NUMBER (NO FOREIGN CHECKS) [ ] CALL OUR OFFICE TO CHARGE OVER THE PHONE 703-467-9783

DO NOT STAPLE OR TAPE CHECKS TO ENTRY FORM.

CREDIT CARD NUMBER [ ] VISA [ ] MASTERCARD [ ] AMEX EXPIRATION DATE SECURITY CODE (3 OR 4 DIGITS ON BACK OF CARD)

NUMBER OF IMAGES IN ENTRY (SUBMISSION IS LIMITED TO 20 IMAGES TOTAL PER PERSON / ENTRY)

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL NUMBER OF FILM IMAGES [ ] 35MM [ ] LARGE FORMAT

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL NUMBER OF DIGITAL IMAGES [ ] ON CD/DVD (PLEASE SAVE YOUR IMAGE WITH YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAME IN TITLE)

I UNDERSTAND THAT CONTENT IN MY CDS OR DVDS WILL NOT BE RETURNED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE COMPETITION.

RETURN INFORMATION \* NOTE: WE CANNOT RETURN SLIDE SUBMISSIONS WITHOUT THE PROPER RETURN POSTAGE.

[ ] YES I WANT MY SLIDE SUBMISSION RETURNED AT THE END OF CONTEST. A SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE IS ENCLOSED WITH PROPER POSTAGE AND FORMS ATTACHED, OR A PREPAID COURIER FORM FILLED OUT WITH RETURN INFORMATION IS INCLUDED.

DEADLINE: START AN ENTRY BY OCTOBER 24 AND UPLOAD OR POSTMARK NO LATER THAN 11:59 PM OCTOBER 31, 2011

SEND THIS FORM WITH YOUR ENTRY FEE AND IMAGES TO:

Nature's Best Backyards
11411-C Sunset Hills Road
Reston, VA 20190 USA

QUESTIONS?

Call 703-467-9783 or E-mail Backyards@NaturesBestPhotography.com

FOR NBP OFFICE USE



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## NATURE'S BEST BACKYARDS PHOTO COMPETITION

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### PHOTO USE & RIGHTS

The winning photographs will be published in NATURE'S BEST PHOTOGRAPHY magazine and may be selected for gallery exhibitions and other NATURE'S BEST BACKYARDS (NBB) photography competition promotion opportunities, including, but not limited to, a compilation book or calendar, electronic collection of winners and web pages providing NBB information, updates, rules and ongoing photography tips.

The NBB competition is open to ALL photographers except employees of NATURE'S BEST PHOTOGRAPHY magazine. Your entry to this contest constitutes your agreement to allow your photographs, your name, occupation, city and state of residence to be published as selected award winners in NATURE'S BEST PHOTOGRAPHY magazines, print and digital exhibitions, events, and other public venues, published on websites owned by or in alliance with NBB as award winners; and used for promotions of the NBB. **Entrants retain ownership and all other rights to future use of their photographs.** NATURE'S BEST PHOTOGRAPHY shall have the right to verify, in their sole judgment, winner eligibility.

**LEGAL CONDITIONS:** By entering this awards competition, you agree to certain legal conditions. By entering, participants release and hold harmless Nature's Best Publishing LLC (the Company), its respective subsidiaries, affiliates, directors, officers, employees, attorneys, agents and representatives from any and all liability for any injuries, loss, claim, action, demand or damage of any kind arising from or in connection with the NBB, or any prize won, any misuse or malfunction of any prize awarded, participation in any NBB-related activity, or participation in the NBB.

Participant agrees that any and all disputes that cannot be resolved with the Company, and causes of action arising out of or connected with the NBB, shall be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action, before a court of competent jurisdiction located in Virginia, which court shall apply the laws of the commonwealth of Virginia without regard for rules of conflicts of law. In any such dispute, participant shall, under no circumstances, be entitled to claim punitive, incidental or consequential damages, or any other damages, including attorneys' fees, other than participant's actual out-of-pocket expenses (if any) associated with participating in the NBB. Participant hereby waives all rights to have damages multiplied or increased.

Any attempt by an entrant or other individual to deliberately damage any website or undermine the legitimate operation of the NBB is a violation of criminal and civil laws, and should such an attempt be made, the Company reserves the right to seek damages to the fullest extent permitted by law.

The Company is not responsible for any incorrect or inaccurate information, whether caused by website users or by any equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the NBB, or by any technical or human error that may occur in the processing of submissions to the NBB, including but not limited to any misprints or typographical errors. The Company assumes no responsibility for any error, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, delay in operation or transmission, communications line failure, theft or destruction or unauthorized access to, or alteration of, entries. The Company is not responsible for any problems or technical malfunction of any telephone network or lines, computer equipment, servers, providers, computer on-line systems, software, or failure of email on account of technical problems or traffic congestion on the Internet, including injury or damage to participant's or to any other person's computer related to or resulting from participating or uploading images or information in the NBB.

If, for any reason, the NBB is not capable of completion as planned, including by reason of infection by computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorized intervention, fraud, technical failures or any other causes beyond the control of the Company that corrupts or affects the administration, security, fairness, integrity or proper conduct of the Awards, the Company reserves the right at their sole discretion to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the NBB.

In no event will the Company, its subsidiaries, affiliates and related companies, their advertising and promotional agencies, or their directors, officers, employees, attorneys, agents and representatives be responsible or liable for any damages or losses of any kind, including direct indirect, incidental, consequential or punitive damages arising out of participant's access to and use of the Company website or the downloading or uploading and/or printing of material from said sites. Without limiting the foregoing, everything on the Company site is provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, either express or implied. Some jurisdictions may not allow the limitation or exclusion of liability for incidental or consequential damages, so some of the foregoing limitations or exclusions may not apply to you. Check your local laws for any restrictions or limitations regarding these limitations or exclusions.

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### VOID WHERE PROHIBITED