

CAPA 2023 NATURE/WILDLIFE COMPETITION

(information taken from CAPA's website)



Silver Medal – Heather Loewenhardt – Dragonfly Wet Feet – courtesy CAPA website

Please note – the submission sizing requirements are different for CAPA competitions compared to the club requirements for posting to Club Galleries’.

CVCC’s submission deadline is midnight October 11 (Check club website calendar for updates), 2023 – submissions to be sent to cvccduncan@outlook.com

Please indicate which of the 5 themes in which your image should be entered into.

Each Club Member may submit 2 photos for club judging.

Definition of Competition

Important Note

- For this competition, the entrant must preserve the submitted image's original un-retouched (not cropped, or edited) JPEG or camera RAW file. Original file must be easily accessible prior to submitting an image into this competition. **All editing to an image must be undertaken by using a copy of the original image.**
- For potential winning images, the entrant must provide the **"original un-retouched JPEG or camera RAW file"** when requested to do so by the Director of Competitions. Director will request the original file to confirm the authenticity of the submitted image and to ensure the Restricted Editing Criteria has been met.
- A DNG and a PSD file are not recognized as an original file. Only exception will be for images capture on specific cameras: Apple iphone, Lecia, Nokia smartphone, Ricoh, Casio, LG, Panoscan, zsamsun, DxO, MegaVision Pentax and Sinar.
- The potential winning image will be removed from the contest if the original file cannot be provided and the contest results will be re-sorted.
- The provided original file will only be used for our image verification process and will be deleted shortly thereafter.

Definition

- **Botanical** – ONLY wild plants photographed in their natural environment are permitted in this theme such as: flowers, scrubs, bushes, trees, fungi and algae. Human created hybrid plants or **"cultivated plants"** are not permitted. **Cultivated plants** are ones that are planted and maintained by humans as opposed to emerging naturally in the environment. Wild flowers or plants grown in a botanical garden are accepted in this theme.

In cases where a plant species is known to occur in the wild and has been cultivated by humans, the judging panel will give the image the “**benefit-of-the-doubt**” and accept the image as meeting the definition of this theme. “**Hand-of-man**” elements shall not be present, except where those human elements are integral part of the nature story (10% or less of total image area).

- **Insects, Reptiles & Amphibians** – such as: alligators, ants, bees, beetles, butterflies, crickets, crocodiles, dragonflies, frogs, gecko, hornets, iguana, lizard, mantis, mosquitoes, snakes, turtles, wasps, etc... “**Hand-of-man**” elements shall not be present, except where those human elements are integral part of the nature story (10% or less of total image area).

- **Landscape** – subjects such as weather phenomena, geological formations, landscapes, seascapes and natural phenomena, planets, stars and astronomical events. “**Hand-of-man**” elements shall not be present.

- **Nature** – such as living animals (including arthropodes such as: spiders & crustaceans), birds and marine subjects – under the control and feeding of humans if not obvious – such as zoos, game farms, animal preserves, aquarium, etc... No feral or domesticated birds or animals are permitted. “**Hand-of-man**” is permitted in this theme provided that it is deemed as an element of an “**adaptive environment**” (e.g. barn owl) and consists of 10% or less of total image area. “**Adaptive environment**” is defined as:
 - using a man-made structure for nesting or feeding their young or attracting a mate
 - consuming a cultivated plant or flower
 - using a human created structure created for another purpose
 - consuming their kill or food on a human-element such as a sawed log, fence post, telephone pole.

- **Wildlife –ONLY** living and untamed wildlife mammals, birds and marine subjects. No traditional zoo, open-range zoos, game farms or other areas where animals/birds are restrained or confined and must be living free. Nature parks are considered natural environments because animals are not in “**controlled conditions**”. Wild animals and birds are permitted to have scientific bands, tags or radio collars but no tethers or harness attachment. No feral or domesticated birds or animals are permitted – **No hand-of-**

man is permitted.

Wildlife images can also be entered into the Nature theme.

Note: CAPA's definition of **Hand-of-man** – “**devoid of all human elements and impacts of human activities**” – The following are examples of “**hand-of-man**”:

- **Human** – body or portions thereof.
- **Sky** – cables, telephone/power lines, jet streams, aircraft, light pollution, artificial light, etc...
- **Land** – man-made structures or paths, buildings, concrete, man-made stone, telephone poles, fences, posts, sidewalk, domesticated or cultivated plants/food, cut grass, organized or systematic laying out of planted trees, etc...
- **Elements** – cut trees or branches or stems, tree stumps, posts, man-made food, objects or background, etc...
- **Sea** – boats, ships, piers, docks, posts in the water, etc...

Nature Ethics Note

To promote responsible photographing of species, entrants:

- must not do anything to injure or distress any animals or destroy their habitat in an attempt to secure an image
- must maintain an appropriate distance from an active nest, and in most cases, avoid them entirely
- baiting of wildlife should be avoided as it may have long-term impacts
- don't intentionally spook
- don't stress out wildlife by getting too close
- should learn about the species' behaviour and the ecology of the area
- use appropriate lenses and techniques that minimize stress
- should be a naturalist as well as a nature photographer

- should be especially careful and respectful when photographing 'species-at-risk' and threatened species consider avoiding the photography of "**species-at-risk**"

The Canadian federal [Species At Risk Act – Schedule 1](#) provides a listing of "species-at-risk". The Act also outlines that it is an offence to kill, harm or harass a "species-at-risk". A good reference webpage is the [Audubon's Guide To Ethical Bird Photography](#).

Editing Criteria

Eligibility Criteria

By virtue of submitting an image into a CAPA Competition, the photographer asserts and agrees that:

- all components of the submitted image are their original work and does not contain the elements created or captured by someone else; and as such they hold and will retain the copyright for the image. For example: it is okay to take inspiration from other photographers or artists. However, if the inspiration contains the same colour, composition, element(s), perspective, angle, subject, and tone of the original then the inspiration is not deemed to be the original work of the photographer. Another example – **A photographer will NOT capture a screen image or photograph an image found on the internet and incorporate it in a composite image that is later submitted into a CAPA competition.**
- **all aspects of the post-processing for their submitted image were undertaken by themselves with the exception of scanning of their negatives and printing of the image.**
- their submitted image does not violate or infringe upon any Canadian law or regulation nor any material that could be conceived as a Canadian criminal offence.
- CAPA and corporations that are providing prizes, neither or both are responsible for any claims or liabilities related to the outcome of a competition or the violation or infringement of any Canadian law or regulation.
- if the copyright or other intellectual property rights of any third party are infringed then the photographer indemnifies and hold harmless CAPA and

any associated sponsors against any claim for any losses arising as a result of such infringement.

- CAPA accepts no liability for any breach of copyright or trademark by myself as an entrant.
- CAPA is permitted to use and reproduce my copyright-protected image for non-commercial purposes such as: exhibitions, publications, promotions and for educational purposes.
- CAPA will seek my permission prior to including my image, if selected, in the annual international Four Nations competition and in the 2022 Canadian Salon.
- they will NOT enter an identical or substantially the same image into both a Club submission and an Individual submission into the same Competition.
- they will NOT enter an identical or substantially the same image into a CAPA competition in which the image has previously received a CAPA Award. Images in a series with only slight variations will be considered substantially the same image. An image rotated, flipped, re-formatted or converted to monochrome will be deemed substantially the same image.
- the image will not contain any watermarks such as: name of the image or name of the photographer and/or the name of the camera club.
- Trademarks are permitted in an image. However, the trademark cannot be accepted if a 'fair-minded-individual' is likely to mistakenly believe that the trademark owner sponsored a photograph.

By the act of submitting an image into a CAPA competition, the photographer also agrees that:

- they will retain and make available the original un-retouched JPEG or the RAW file for a potential winning image in a 'restricted editing' criteria competition (nature, wildlife or photo journalism).
- the Director of Competitions has the right to request and receive the original un-retouched JPEG or the RAW file for a potential winning image in a competition for the purposes of verifying competition compliance.
- failure to provide the original un-retouched JPEG or the RAW file in a 'restricted editing' criteria competition will result in the image being withdrawn from the competition and the competition results will be re-sorted.

- CAPA reserves the right to withdraw their image before, during and shortly after the 'day-of-judging' if it has been found to have failed to meet the conditions of the competition.
- the decisions and scores provided by the Judging Panel are final and cannot be appealed.
- CAPA has the right, via a non-appealable decision of the CAPA Board of Directors, to suspend their membership in CAPA for any period of time if it so decides.
- no replacement image will be permitted after the commencement of the judging process.

Restricted Editing

- No techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted.
- Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning.
- Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches are allowed.
- Stitched images are not permitted. All allowed adjustments must appear natural.
- Colour images can be converted to greyscale monochrome.
- Infrared images, either direct – captures or derivations, are not allowed.
- Submitted images must not contain any type of border or digital frame.

Image Size - Dimensions

You must ensure your image is re-sized to meet the following two parameters:

- Saved as a jpg image with a maximum file size of 1.8 MB.
- Dimensions: Maximum horizontal size: 1400 pixels and maximum vertical size: 1050 pixels.
- Note: Images smaller than the maximum dimensions will ONLY be accepted when one of the image edges has a horizontal size is 1400 pixels or the

vertical size is 1050 pixels. For example: square image – 1050 x 1050 pixels; landscape 1400 x 800 pixels; or portrait 700 x 1050 pixels.

- Suggestion – Use sRGB colour space for your image. For colour accuracy: we strongly recommend that you calibrate your monitor to ensure colour accuracy.

Image Titles

- When images are uploaded into a competition – you are required to enter the title of your image into the Title field. Title can be in either English or French or both.
- An image title should be simple and introduce or set the mood or perspective for your image.
- **An image title should be simple and introduce or set the mood or perspective for your image. Alternatively, you may wish to use the scientific or common-name title for an image submitted into all Nature/Wildlife themes with the exception of Landscape.**
- **A weak image title, such as ‘pretty flower,’ will fail to stimulate the judge’s interest in the image and may result in a lower score than expected.**

Do NOT:

- **enter the name of the photographer or club name in the title field**
- **include punctuation or symbols (such as / – _ , ; : “ ” ‘ ’ ! ? & \$ % * { } [] @ # &) or quotation marks in the title (For example: “Running_the_Roads-in/style**
- **include punctuation or symbols in the filename (for example: dave/smith-“red rose!!!”.jpg)**

Judging Criteria

- An Image’s title may be used by the judges in evaluating a submission, so entrants should take care in selecting a title that complements or contributes to the vision or message being presented in the image.
- Judges will award their scoring primarily based on the ‘Emotional’ components of the image, that is its creative vision and the story telling value (e.g. quality of mood, impact, subject, execution, innovation,

creativity, and the 'wow' factor) and the degree that the image is within the Scope of a sub-theme.

- Technical and Organizational factors, such as exposure, sharpness, focus, space, and composition, will be taken into account solely to the degree they do or do not support or reinforce the creative vision and storytelling. Images will not be penalized in scoring for so-called technical rule infractions, such as focus, if that is immaterial to the creative vision and storytelling.

Likewise, judges take into consideration in their scoring the degree to which the entrant's use of techniques such as colour, monochrome, duo and multi-tone, and infra-red, contributes to or supports the creative vision and the story telling value of the image.