



FRIENDS OF PRIME HOOK, NWR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOP PHOTO WINNERS NAMED--PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT OPENS AT PRIME HOOK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

PRIME HOOK - The winners of the Prime Hook Nature Photography Contest were announced at a special awards reception on Sunday, October 18 in the refuge auditorium. The reception was the first public viewing of hundreds of entries in this year's contest. The photographs are now on public display in the refuge auditorium until November 30.

The annual photography contest showcases some of the most dramatic and beautiful natural resources on Delmarva. This year's grand prize winner is a stunning photograph of a heron against an almost black backdrop. The best of show winner entitled "Walking Heron" was taken by Jack Foley of Dover.

A panel of three professional photographers judged the entries and prizes were awarded. Judges were Kevin Fleming, David Koster and Jeff Gordon, who graciously donated their time and expertise.

A variety of categories meant every photographer had a chance to exhibit their work and possibly take home a prize. Inclusion of student photographer categories helped encourage the shutterbugs of the future.

Foley won this year's grand prize, which is participation in a "Wild Delaware" photography workshop with Kevin Fleming, one of the most acclaimed and best known photographers in the region. The four-hour workshop will include both time in the field and in the studio with Fleming. The grand prize also included a \$100 cash award.

Photographers competed in Native Wildlife, Native Plants and Flowers, The Beauty of Prime Hook and Delmarva Scenery categories. There were also two categories for students under age 18.

Foley also won first place in the Delmarva Scenery category, making him the biggest winner of the contest. His photo "Heron in Moon" featured a heron set against a full moon as it roosted in a tree.

But there were plenty of other winners and plenty of other memorable images captured by both amateur and professional photographers. Ron MacArthur won first place in the Native Wildlife Category. Tony Pratt was second and Kevin Schnoover was third.

Earning honorable mentions in the class were Amy Lynn Huff, Georgeanne Rhoads, Steven L. Hess, Tony Pratt and Bill Parris.

In the Native Plants and Flowers class, the winning photograph was by Sue Eberhart. Jane Melhorn Mruk was second and Peggy Douglas finished third. Jeff Booth earned an honorable mention for his photo.

Tony Pratt won first prize in The Beauty of Prime Hook competition. Sandy Dimke was second and Georgeanne Rhoads was third. Peggy Douglas earned two honorable mentions in the category.

Students competed in two different categories. Among those aged 13 and up, Jared Dickey of Dover completed a near sweep by winning the top three spots. His first prize photograph of a lightning storm genuinely impressed the panel of judges. Bethany Campbell won an honorable mention in the category.

In the junior category, seven-year-old Sarah Alois's photo of a blue crab holding a fish also dazzled the judges, who were particularly impressed with Sarah's young age. Sara Figurski earned second prize in the junior student category.

In the Delmarva Scenery category, Jack Foley was the winner. Kenneth Arni placed second and Scott Figurski was third while Sue Eberhart earned an honorable mention for her work behind the shutter.

Viewing hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekends, depending on volunteer availability. The Refuge is located at 11978 Turtle Pond Road, Milton (just off Broadkill Road). For more information, please call the Refuge office at 684-8419.

Attention Media: We hope your news organization will find this worthy of coverage. For additional information, please call Bill Jones at 684-8419 or Michael Short at 645-7327.

The mission of the Friends of Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Inc. is to support environmental, educational, and recreational activities and programs that increase the public understanding of the history, habitats, and heritage of Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge and of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
