



EyeOnNature

Celebrating the beauty of nature through the eyes of students

In celebration of Endangered Species Day, May 18, 2012, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Alabama Field Office is holding a nature photography and digital art contest for all high school and middle school aged students in Mobile and Baldwin Counties.



The Who, What, When, Where, & Why's

Endangered Species Day is a day set aside in May by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to bring awareness of the "national conservation effort to protect our nation's endangered species and their habitats." To learn more about our federal endangered species please visit the USFWS Endangered Species website (www.fws.gov/endangered).

The *EyeOnNature* photo contest is a celebration of nature through the eyes of our students, for it is in part through our younger generation that the existence of our wildlife, plants and the habitats they live in will survive. Since many of us, will not have the good fortune of seeing, let alone photograph, an endangered species in the wild, the *EyeOnNature* contest is a celebration of nature. We recognize that if it were not for those non-endangered places we would have many more species on the brink of extinction.

Through this contest we seek to have our future leaders show us what captivates their hearts and minds in nature (a delicate flower, a beautiful sunrise/sunset, an insect or a vision of nature they create in their mind's eye through the digital processing world). This is a chance for all you shutterbugs, you computer geeks (don't worry some of us are too) to show us your talent. So grab your camera, fire up your computer and let your creative side show.

Oh, guess you may want to know some more details about the contest before you get too caught up in the fun of photographing or photo manipulating. Scroll down for all the details.



Photographs by Paul
A. Lang/USFWS

WHO CAN ENTER THIS CONTEST

All 6-12th grade students attending public, private, tribal, home schools, or other non-formal education group within Mobile and Baldwin County, Alabama. Family members of employees of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Alabama Field Office are not eligible. The USFWS reserves the right to verify, in its sole judgment, entrant eligibility.

WHAT PHOTOS CAN BE ENTERED & IN WHAT CATEGORIES

Only **original** digital, high-resolution images taken or created by the entrant are eligible. That means you have to take the picture or create the digital artwork. You cannot submit any image that infringes on or violate the copyright laws of any other photographer or artist.

We are looking for well composed, in focus images of nature in the state of Alabama. These images may show plants and animals in their natural setting, portraits of plants or wildlife in natural habitat or your backyard, natural landscapes, or people interacting with nature.

CATEGORIES

Photographers/Artist must enter each image in one of the following categories. No photo can be entered into more than one category. Judges reserve the right to switch images to other categories.

1. **Digital Art**
Original nature related digital image/art created or manipulated by photo processing or illustration software.
2. **Landscape**
Scenic views of natural areas.
3. **People in Nature**
People in nature, working or participating in recreation (hiking, fishing, bird watching, etc.)
4. **Wildlife or Plants**
Portraits/Close-ups of wildlife or plants, including animal behavior

***** A signed model release form must be included with the submission of any image containing identifiable minors in order to be considered. Model release form must be signed by the minor's parent or legal guardian. See Model Release form at end of this document.**

Please **do not** submit pictures containing the following:

- i. *Pets or domestic animals.* So, as cute as Fluffy may be, please save those pictures for your Facebook page, photo album, or some other photo contest.
- ii. *Activities destructive or harmful to the environment.* So, don't send any images of 4-wheeling, dirt biking, etc. even though they may seem to fall under the category of People and Nature.

- iii. *Alcohol, obscenity, nudity, or any inappropriate material*
- iv. *Copyright material.* As easy as it is these days, don't grab an image(s) off the internet that is not yours and submit it or use it as the basis for your digital art.



Photographs by Paul
A. Tang/USFWS

WHEN DO PHOTOS HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED BY

The contest begins April 26, 2012 at 10:00 am Central Standard Time (CST) and ends on **Endangered Species Day**, May 18, 2012 at 11:59 p.m. CST.

WHERE & HOW'S OF SUBMITTING MY PHOTOS

You may submit up to **five (5)** photos. Images cannot exceed 15MB in size.

Please **Email** submissions to aphotocontest@fws.gov as attachments with the following information corresponding to each image submitted.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. File name of the entry | <i>(e.g. sunset.jpg or IMG0413.jpg)</i> |
| 2. Name of the entrant | <i>(e.g. John/Jane Doe)</i> |
| 3. Category of image | <i>(e.g. Landscape)</i> |
| 4. Location of photograph | <i>(e.g. St. Andrews State Park)</i> |
| 5. Subject of submission | <i>(e.g. Sunset over the Gulf of Mexico)</i> |
| 6. School you are enrolled | <i>(e.g. Panama City High School, Homeschool, etc)</i> |
| 7. Grade in school | <i>(e.g. 9th grade)</i> |

All photos must have the above information included within the email

Not providing full information may hurt your chances of winning.

No single image can be submitted under multiple categories; however, multiple images may be entered by the entrant into a single category. Submissions may be color or black & white. You do not need to submit all photos at once. You may submit multiple email entries, up to 5 images total, at any time up to the deadline.

Images/artwork may not to exceed 15MB per image/artwork

EMAIL SUBMISSION DETAILS

Please include in the subject line **EyeOnNature Photo Contest Submission**

Within the body of the email list the above required information. For emails containing multiple submissions you don't need to restate your School and Grade for each attached file, we will assume you are still in the same school and grade.

If you have any technical problems uploading or sending your entries please contact us, contact information is listed below under the Questions section of this document.

WHERE CAN THE SUBMITTED PHOTOGRAPHS & ARTWORK BE SEEN

FACEBOOK

Tell all your friends and family and join us on our Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/#!/usfwsalabama>
Submissions will be posted daily.

“Like” our page and join in on the conversation about your favorite photographs!



© Ted
Martin



Vivian Negrón-
Ortiz/USFWS



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Prepare Your Photos:

- Digital images (camera made, digital art) or scans of slides/prints must be uploaded as jpg, gif or png files.
- Images should be the highest resolution possible (saved at the maximum quality setting) not to exceed 15MB.
- There is a maximum file size of 15 megabytes per image.
- Original sizes of camera-made digital photos must be 3 megapixels or larger.
- Digital art images must be at least 8x10 inch, original size. If file size exceeds 15MB a lower resolution copy can be uploaded. If lower resolution copy is provided please keep a copy of the original size file if it is requested for printing.
- Images should be in RGB format. For maximum color rendition online, the preferred color profile is sRGB, but Adobe RGB and similar common profiles are acceptable.

JUDGING

We will judge photographs and art on their **originality, technical excellence, composition, overall impact and artistic merit.**

Judges will be photographers and staff members of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Alabama Field Office. All decisions by the judges are final.

Winners will be contacted via email using the address the entrant used to submit their entries.

Winning images may be viewed beginning late May 2012 at <http://www.fws.gov/daphne> .

PRIZES

Now for what you really are wondering, “What do I get if I win this contest?”

We will be awarding one Grand Prize and 1st – 3rd places in each of the 4 categories. See list below for prizes. We will also award Honorable Mentions from the finalists as the judges deem appropriate.

All Winners and Honorable Mentions will appear on the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s, Alabama Field Office website at <http://www.fws.gov/daphne>.

1. **Grand Prize:** \$300.00 Amazon gift card, framed print of their winning image, & a ribbon
2. **First Place, category:** \$50 Amazon gift card, framed print of their winning image & a ribbon
3. **Second Place, category:** Framed print of their winning image & a ribbon
4. **Third Place, category:** Framed print of their winning image & a ribbon

5. **Honorable Mentions:** certificate

The USFWS reserves the right to substitute a prize of equal or greater value in the event the offered prize is unavailable. No substitution or transfer of prizes permitted except as provided herein.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions or technical issues related to the contest please contact us via email. We will check email during normal business hours, Monday – Friday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Our email addresses are listed below.

We will respond to your email as soon as possible. If we are not available due to being out of the office, we will get back with you as soon as possible.

Denise Rowell: denise_rowell@fws.gov



SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND
Hillbrand/ITSP



Paul A.
Lang/ITSPFWS



Ryan
Hagerty/ITSPFWS

By participating in the EyeOnNature contest, each student and legal guardian acknowledges the following rights and authorities and willingly agrees to each of these conditions:

The Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1. Reserves the exclusive right to display all entries on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alabama Field Office website and Facebook pages without compensation to the student.
2. Reserves the right to use the winning photographs/artwork in various office outreach materials licensed without compensation to the student.
3. Will not retain the rights to the photos. All rights will remain with the photographer/artist.
4. Will provide credit, in accordance with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's guidelines, for use of any submitted entry.
5. Has the right to use the name, photograph/artwork, and photographs of the student for promotional purposes without compensation to the student.
6. May disqualify any entry submitted to the EyeOnNature contest that has the appearance of a plagiarized submission.
7. Will not insure the entries it receives, or be responsible for loss, late or misdirected entries.
8. Will not be responsible for providing upload connections or for technical malfunctions.
9. May display winning photographs/artwork at public facility and at the student's school, if applicable. Artwork on display may be handled by a third party.
10. In the event of an address change, it is the student's responsibility to inform the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the address change.

The Student Entrant

1. Certifies that the entry is their original work and not taken, created, or copied from any other sources (person, internet, published book, magazine, etc.) or other materials protected by copyright laws.
2. Certifies they are enrolled in the 6th – 12th grade within Mobile and Baldwin Counties in Alabama.
3. Certifies that no animal was willfully harassed or harmed and the environment was not damaged in the process of capturing the submitted images.
4. Images entered within the categories other than Digital Art accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appeared and have not been digitally manipulated/alterd beyond standard optimization adjustments (color, contrast, brightness and sharpness; removal of dust and scratches; cropping; black and white conversions).

DIGITAL ART ENTRIES: SPECIAL NOTES

If you're not quite sure what qualifies for the Digital Art category, below are some guidelines and examples.

- Entries for which the image(s) have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization procedures (i.e., adjustments to color, contrast, brightness, sharpness; removal of dust and scratches; cropping; black and white conversions). Examples are, but not limited to:
 - Photo compositions (combinations of two or more photos not of the same scene)
 - Photo montages/collages
 - Addition, Duplication, Removal, or Moving of objects in the scene of the photo
 - Photos receiving artistic digital filters and/or effects (e.g. blur, posterize, charcoal, etc.)
- Entries for which the submitted image(s) has been created from scratch using some digital drawing package/software.



USFWS



Teu Martin / USFWS



Joel Sartor

PHOTO RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION

Photo Release

I, the undersigned, hereby grant the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, permission to use still photographs of my child, _____ . I also give the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permission to use the finished photographs in conjunction with the *EyeOnNature* photography and digital art contest. Further, I relinquish and give to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service all right, title and interest I may have in the finished pictures, reproductions and copies of the original image(s), and grant the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service the right to exhibit the image(s) and facsimiles thereof, for other outreach related material deemed proper.

Photograph location _____

Name _____

Date _____

Address _____

Telephone # _____

Signature _____