

## NATURE COMPETITION RULES (revised 2/08; adopted 6/08)

### 3.0 Category Rules

#### 3.1 Nature Category

The Nature Category encourages club members to look more closely at the natural scene and to develop a heightened awareness and appreciation of nature, while promoting members' camera skills through the documentary approach.

##### 3.1.1 Photographic and Post-Camera Requirements

3.1.1.1 The image should be presented as seen in the field. No elements from other images may be added.

3.1.1.2 No major elements may be removed except by cropping. Minor cloning is allowed in the computer as long as it does not change the integrity of the nature story. Dust on the sensor, water spots on lenses and lens flare may be removed.

3.1.1.3 Either global or local adjustments to achieve an image as seen in the field are allowed. This may be accomplished by the use of filters (including polarizers), flash or adjustments in the computer. The addition of catchlights is allowed.

3.1.1.3.1 Filters such as colored warming and cooling filters may be used in the field, and the equivalent global adjustments may be made in the darkroom or in the computer, however such adjustments should be minimal and consistent with the visual appearance of the subject in the field.

3.1.1.3.2 Graduated neutral density filters that balance the range of light between two areas of an image, such as sky and foreground, may be used in the field, and the equivalent local adjustments may be made in the computer. In addition, masking techniques in the computer to target these adjustments to specific areas are allowed. Techniques to expand the tonal range captured are also allowed.

3.1.1.3.3 Polarizers may be used in the field and the equivalent local adjustments may be made in the computer as far as possible, such as darkening skies, increasing detail in clouds, and lightening and warming foliage.

3.1.1.3.4 Fill light may be used in the field, and equivalent local adjustments may be made in the computer as long as they do not change the truth of the image. Examples of allowed changes are adjustments to brightness, contrast, saturation and color balance in isolated areas of the image.

##### 3.1.2 Nature Definitions and Requirements

3.1.2.1 The image should depict observations from any branch of natural history except anthropology or archaeology in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject matter and certify as to its honest presentation. The image should emphasize the nature story. The story-telling aspect of an image should be weighed more than the artistic, pictorial quality.

3.1.2.2 Human elements should only be present if they relate to animal habitat or behavior, such as bit of barn with a barn owl or a bit of fence post or other typical roost where a bird is perched. The presence of scientific bands on wild animals is

acceptable. Elements not accepted: Anything domesticated, cultivated, hybrid, manmade, mounted specimens, artificial arrangements, jet trails, etc.

3.1.2.3 Elements accepted: Naturalized plants, feral animals, captive wildlife, uncultivated plants in natural and adopted habitats. (An adopted habitat is one in which a non-native plant or animal can survive, reproduce, and spread on its own.) Threatened and endangered flowers maintained by conservatories, botanical gardens, and private collectors may be submitted in Nature. However, hybrid plants photographed at these locations may not.

3.1.2.4 Black and white images, infrared images, monotoes, silhouettes, and soft focus treatments that do not show nature as it is generally seen in the field, are not permitted in this category. The subject must be readily identifiable.

3.1.2.5 Artistic enhancements such as decorative borders and drop shadows are not allowed. A one or two pixel stroke to delineate the edges of an image is allowed.

### 3.1.3 Competition Factors

3.1.3.1 A designated reviewer with power of rejection will determine conformity to the Nature rules.

3.1.3.2 In judging, scoring should be based on photographic excellence and strength of the nature story depicted. A well-informed person must be able to identify the subject and to certify to its honest presentation.

3.1.3.3 Title should not be more than 30 characters long, including spaces, and must identify the subject matter. The title should be factual and descriptive but scientific names are not required. Cute titles and those that do not identify the subject may lead to disqualification. Labeling instructions must be followed exactly. (See 1.6)