



2010 PHOTO CONTEST RULES & GUIDELINES

In 2006 TPE put together a traveling exhibition of members' photos that was a great success. The quality of the photography and breadth of subject matter was quite stunning and inspired us to create this first TPE Photo Contest, which we intend to establish as an annual event.

We are looking to find your view of any activity, creature, object, or organism that can be found within a prairie or oak savannah ecosystem. With that in mind, subject matter can consist of anything that includes plants, animals, insects, or amphibians that are native to prairie areas, or activities taking place in a prairie environment. All viewpoints are encouraged, from macro details to sweeping landscapes. The location can be a native remnant, planted prairie, prairie garden, or even a studio study of prairie related-plants or objects.

PHOTO CONTEST RULES

- Only Prairie Enthusiasts members can enter.
- All entries must be received no later than midnight, February 1, 2010.
- All photos will be judged on artistic and technical merit.
- The contest will not be judged by category.
- Entries are limited to three per member submitted as digital files by email or CD.
- A group of photos will be selected as finalists. These photos will be printed and displayed at the 2010 TPE Conference for attendees to vote on. The selected favorite entry will be used on the cover of TPE 2009 Annual Report.
- Finalists will receive a \$100 prize. If more than one photo from an individual photographer is selected as a finalist, only one \$100 prize will be awarded to that photographer.
- To be considered for the final selection that will receive awards and be displayed at the Prairie Enthusiasts Conference, the photos will need to be sharp, properly exposed, and have a prairie-related subject as stated above. Artistic interpretation or manipulation of sharpness and/or exposure will also be considered valid entries.
- Photos can be color or black & white.
- All submittals must be accompanied by a completed Photo Entry Form. This is a separate Word document. If you are unable to edit and save a Word document please contact Burt Levy to make other arrangements. Contact info is below.
- By submitting your photos to the TPE 2010 Photo Contest you are hereby granting TPE the right to use your photo in its 2009 Annual Report along with printing and displaying it at the 2010 TPE Conference. All other rights remain with the authoring photographer.



FORMATING PHOTOS

The most common digital image formats are JPEG (.jpg) and TIFF (.tif). You can also submit .psd and .gif files. In most cases, unless you are comfortable with image editing software, leaving your photos formatted as they were shot and saved by your camera will be the best option.

It is quite acceptable, if you are familiar enough with photo editing software, to size or crop your photo. Any other manipulation is also acceptable as long as you maintain a minimum resolution of 800 ppi X 1,000 ppi. If you are reformatting your images, save your JPEG files with medium to maximum image quality applied in the JPEG

Options menu. Also be aware that upsampling a small file size image to create a larger file is quite destructive of image quality. Bottom line, if your original image file is not large enough, there are few ways that it can be increased.

The higher resolution your images are, the better, unless you are attempting to email three 30MB images. In this case, submitting a CD will likely be the better option.

The separate Photo Entry Form contains additional information on how to label your photo files.

PHOTO EMAIL TIPS

Do not use a photo viewer program to attach your photos to an email submittal unless it has a "Full Size" or "Full Quality" option. Any other setting will downsize your file and will likely make it unsuitable for judging and printing if it is selected as a finalist image. If you are unsure about this feature, it will be best to attach your photos to your email by selecting them directly from their file location and avoid using the email feature of your photo viewer program.

Be aware that emailing a file that includes one or more photos along with the entry form can take some time, especially if you are working with a dial-up connection and/or have a computer with a slow processor. So, you might want to wait to hit the send button until you are not going to depend on your computer for other tasks. If you are limited by your computer or internet capacity, you can submit your entry by mail on a CD.

SUBMITTAL CHECKLIST

- Photo files properly named, maximum three per member.
- Entry form filled out and included in your email or on your CD.
- No downsizing, upsampling, or additional compression of images.
- Deadline is midnight, February 1, 2010.

The email submittal address is:
TPEPhotos@Gmail.com

SUBMITTING BY CD

If you prefer, you can submit your images by mail on a CD. All of the formatting, deadline, and labeling criteria still apply. Use an indelible marker to label your CD with your name.

Mail your CD to:
Burt Levy
W11545 478th Avenue
Prescott, WI 54021

If you have any questions or are having difficulty preparing your files, feel free to contact Burt Levy. He is managing the photo submittal email account and can also be reached at:

email: Burt.StudioL@Gmail.com
land: 715.262.3224
cell: 612.865.0682

Thanks for sharing your inner prairie vision with TPE. Please let us know how this process worked for you and how we can improve it in the future.

First page photos © Burt Levy
Top: Little Bluestem at Weaver Dunes, MN
Middle: Black & Yellow Spider Web at Own Prairie, WI
Bottom: Lupine at Carpenter Nature Center, MN