



2022-2023

**Nature Photography
Competition Rules Presentation**

Nature: Nature photography is a wide range of photography taken outdoors and devoted to displaying natural elements such as landscapes, wildlife, plants, and close-ups of natural scenes and textures.

Nature Photography Rules and Definitions

All allowed adjustments must appear natural.

- Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history. Human elements (*hand of man*) to include humans, shall not be present. Photographs of *human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants*, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are **not allowed**, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.
- Photographs of animals or plants that are constrained or in an unnatural environment such as zoos, aquariums, controlled environments, photographic game farms, rescue leagues, cages, butterflies in butterfly houses, or any other situations where human intervention is required for survival are **not allowed**.
- Infrared images and UV, either direct-captures or derivations, are **not allowed**.
- Textures or substituted backgrounds are **not allowed**.
- Techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are **not allowed**.
- 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. **All allowed adjustments must appear natural**. Color images can be converted to Black and White.
- Star Trails are allowed as long as all Nature rules are followed.
- Stitched images are permitted *if reality is not altered*.
- Scientific bands, scientific tags, or radio collars on wild animals are allowed.
- Borders/digital frames are **not allowed except** a thin white border to separate the background of a dark image and the boundaries of an image from the black background of the competition software.
- The final result must begin with an **original image or series of images** that were captured or made by the maker either digitally or on film.

Human Elements

Man moves in and modifies the environment, **hand of man** image is not qualified.



Mother Nature comes and again takes control. Once the conditions are naturalized, the image is qualified to be in Nature Category.



Image on the left is disqualified because of rock cut by human machine.



Image on the right is disqualified because of branch being cut by man-made shears.



Photographs of animals or plants that are constrained or in an unnatural environment such as zoo's, aquariums, controlled environments, photographic game farms, rescue leagues, cages, butterflies in butterfly houses or any other situations where human intervention is required for survival is not allowed.

Fenced enclosure disqualifies image



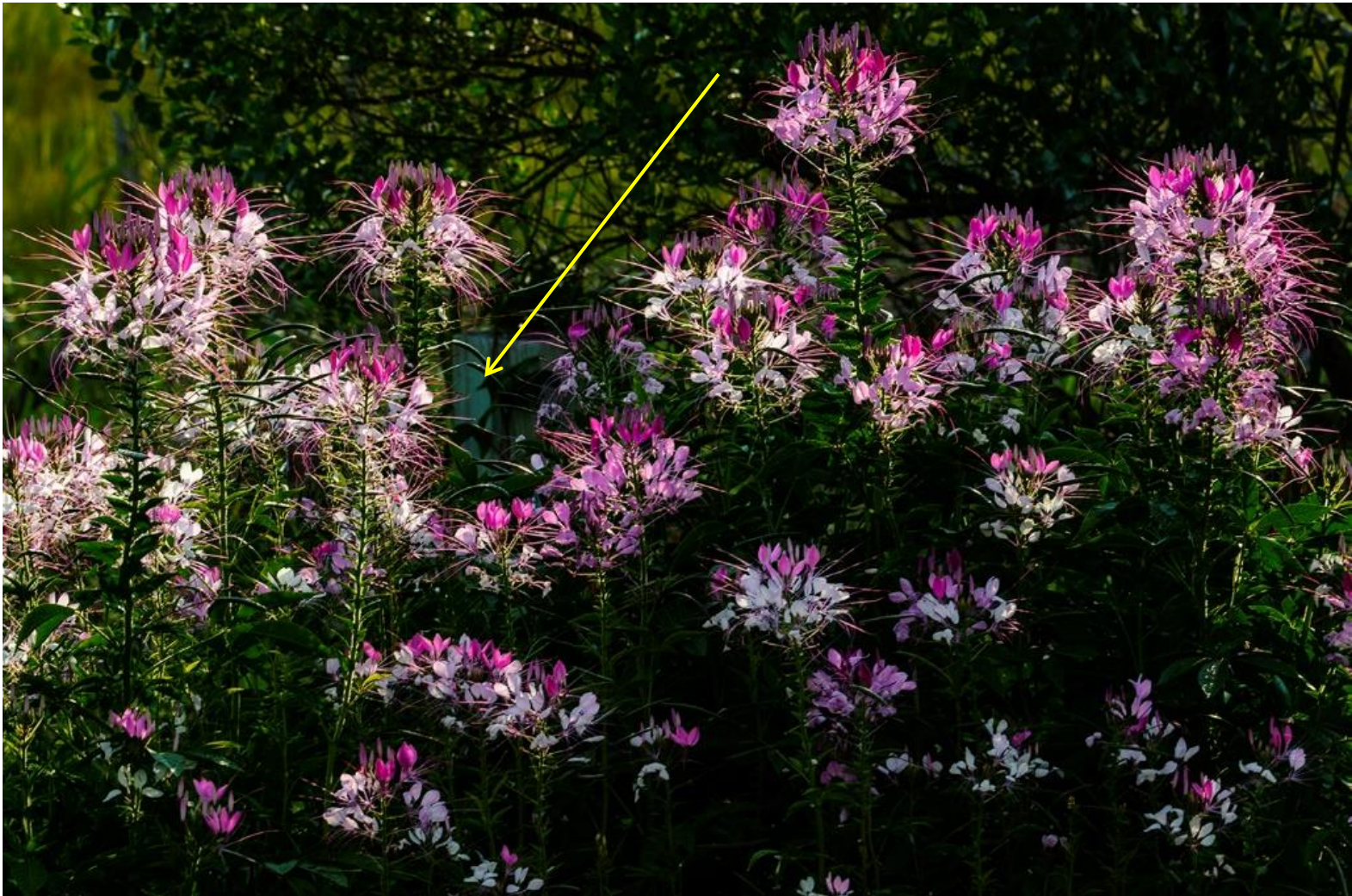
This Owl has a leg restraint on it's leg, disqualifies image



Natural environment with the presence of humans disqualifies the image.



Cleome flower reseeds itself and spreads around natural area. The flower is qualified for Nature image. The piling in the middle background is a man-made piling and disqualifies the image.



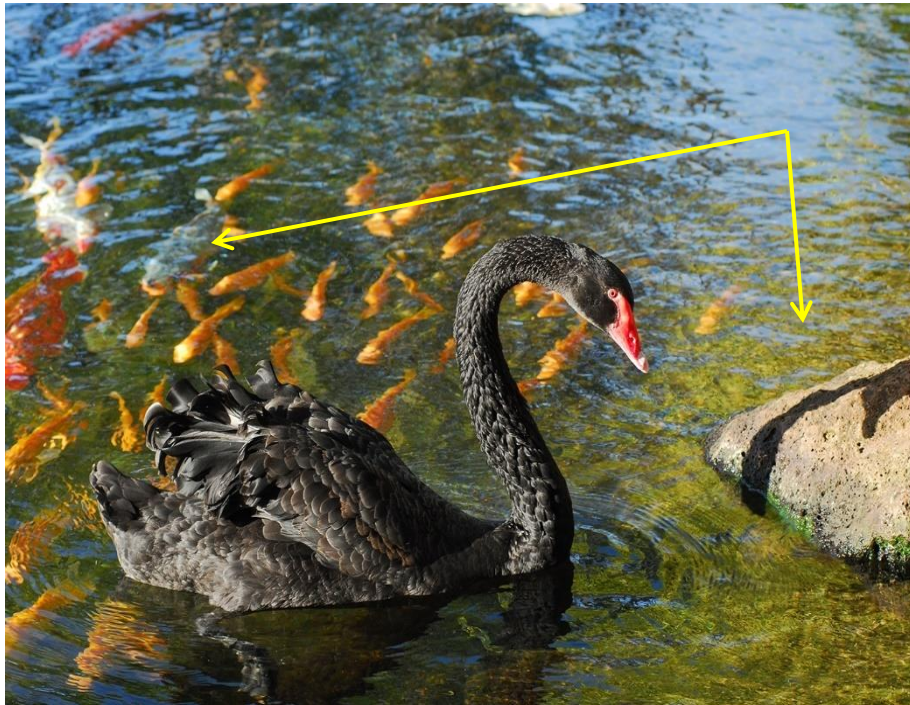
The log in the foreground was cut by a chainsaw. Disqualified.
The rocks in the foreground are a little suspicious, too.



The image on the left was taken in Hawaii where the Black Swan is native. The goldfish are hybridized. The pond bottom is not natural construction. Disqualifies Image

The image on the right was taken while snorkeling in a natural environment, above a reef at Silver Bank NWR.

The swimmer on surface disqualifies the image. If you were to crop out the swimmer, the bubbles in the water from the swimmer would also disqualify the image.

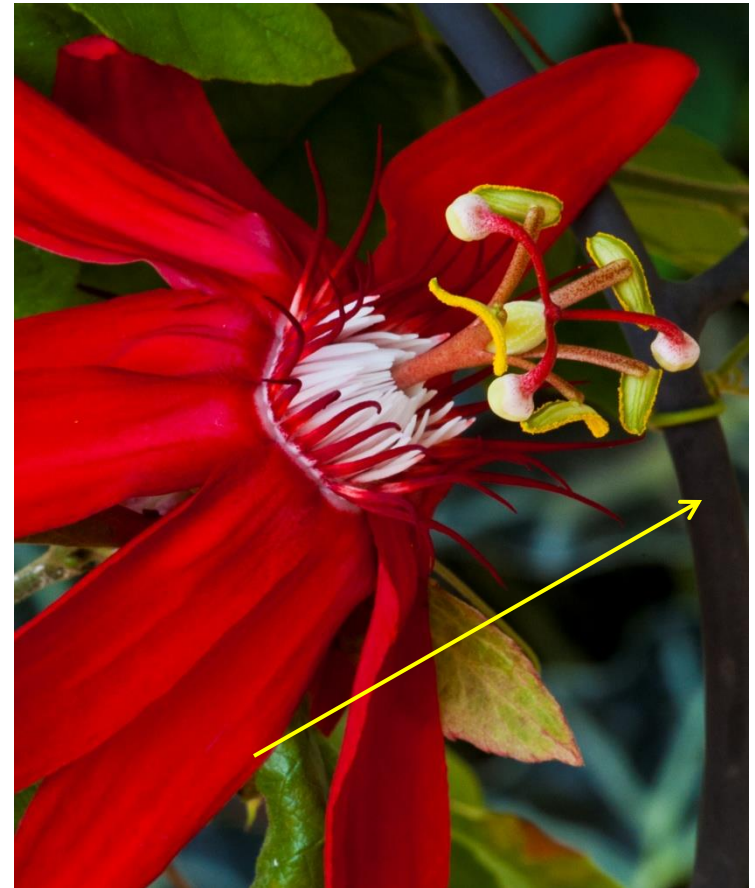


River Otters in a controlled environment. Disqualifies image



The shells on the left were Obviously Placed subject matter, disqualifies the image.

The image on right also has a geometric wire-stand in background that would disqualify the image. The red passion flower is native to Brazil.



Fox in a cultivated field disqualifies the image.



After human intervention, if a plant or animal becomes “naturalized” (free to come and go, unrestrained) over a significant period of time (established on its own, as if native), it may be accepted by a judge as native (adopted), like these wild horses.

The Sargassum Seaweed on the right, is brown algae, a wild marine plant that grows in the Caribbean Sea. Other wild flowers and plants (botanical subjects) are suitable wildlife subjects.



Plants can also be shown as “wildlife” as long as they are “free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat”

As is the case of these, both taken in unrestrained natural habitat.



Star Trails are allowed as long as all Nature rules are followed.

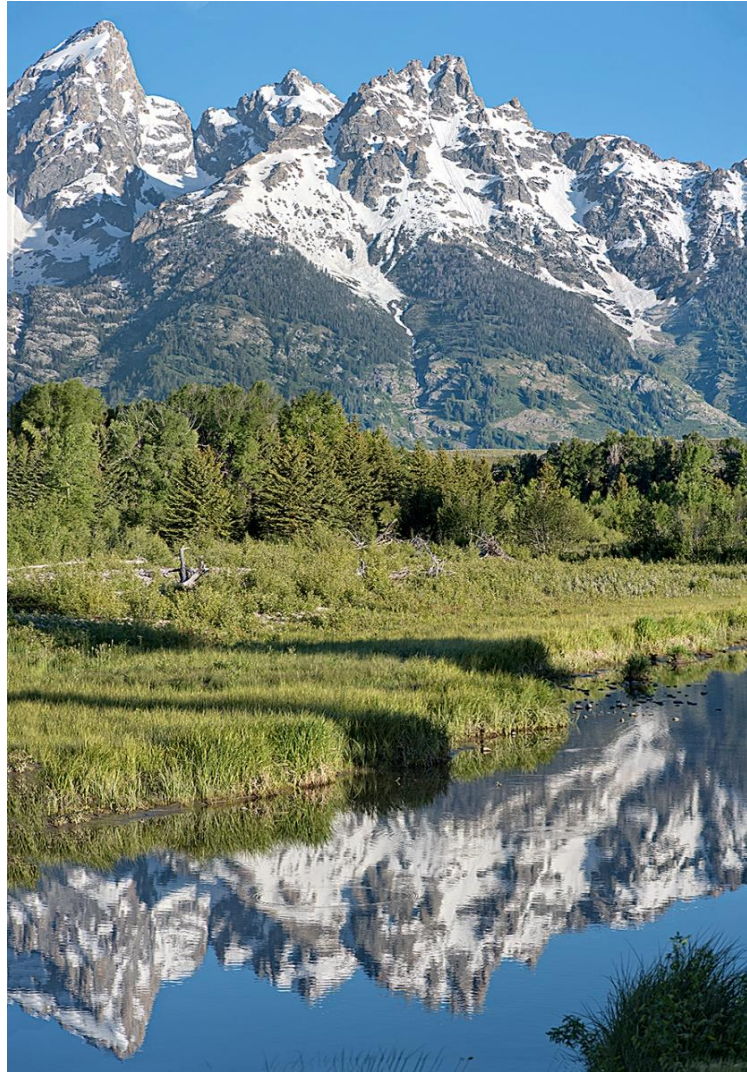


In camera multiple images stitched are allowed as long as all Nature rules are followed.



Stitched and HDR Images Allowed

When your lens doesn't have the reach in pixels to show detail in the wide view, it's ok to stitch multiple images together. This was 3 horizontal perspective photos, stitched together.



Focus Stacking Allowed

When your camera's depth of field doesn't have the depth to get the whole image in focus, you can take multiple images of the same composition with multiple focus points, from close up to deep focus points. Then blend the good focus points together into one photograph with focus stacking.

Sharp Tree with Blurred Moon



Sharp Moon with Blurred Tree



Focus Stacking Allowed

This is an example of the two separate photos stacked, the blurred moon and the blurred tree, in the process called photo stacking. The result show both the tree and the moon in focus.



Dodging/burning are allowed, as long as results don't remove pictorial elements.

Original Image

Moderate Dodging and Burning



Dodging and Burning Overdone

Removal of pictorial elements disqualifies image.



“Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals, are permissible.”

Deer in natural area with radio collar and tag in ear. Permissible.

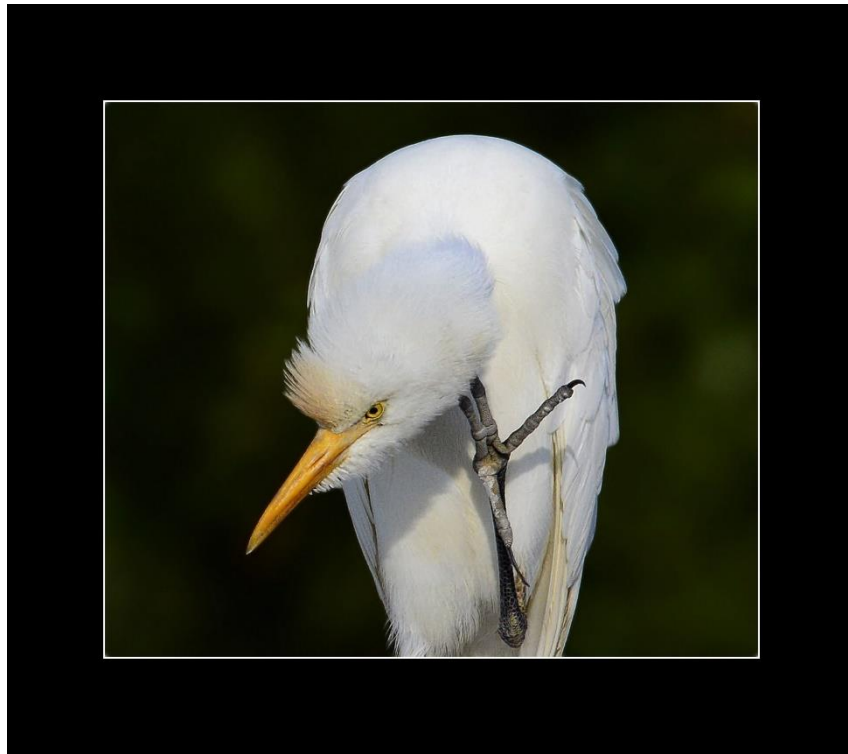


Red Knot in natural area with scientific band and tag. Permissible.



Borders are **not allowed, except** where it may be necessary to use a thin white border to separate the background of a dark image and the boundaries of an image from the black background of the competition software.

Thin white boarder – allowed.



Over done large white boarder – **not allowed – disqualifies image.**



Nature Rules

(Quick Reference Guide)

Allowed

- 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, as seen through the camera.
- Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches.
- Cropping.
- Color images can be converted to grey-scale / monochrome.
- HDR and Focus Stacking.
- Stitched images.
- Star Trails.
- Dodging and Burning
- All allowed images must appear natural.

Not Allowed

- Human elements (***hand of man***) shall not be present.
- Photographs of *human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants*, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens.
- Photographs of animals or plants that are in a controlled, constrained, or an unnatural environment.
- Techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements.
- Textures or substituted background.
- Infrared images, either direct-captures or derivations.

Additional Information

- Full Competition Rules on Coastal Camera Club website.
- Sources of information to help define and understand native flowers and plants. www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay
- If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask for a clarification from the Competition Photo Analysis Team prior to your submittal.
- *Rev: 7/13/22*