



AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

We welcome you as a participant in the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society's Amateur Photography Contest, held each October to commemorate the birthday of one of America's leading conservationists, cartoonists, and environmental advocates, Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling. Protection of wildlife and the conservation of natural resources can be encouraged in a variety of ways. Photographic skill and an appreciation of wildlife and natural settings are consistent with "Ding's" wish to express his views visually

Email up to two (2) photos and their corresponding entry form(s) to ddamateurphotocontest@gmail.com between **July 15 and September 15, 2023**. For additional assistance, call (239) 292-0566.

Please note the change in rules from previous amateur photography contests: Entries must be submitted electronically. In an effort to maintain our commitment of ecofriendliness, we will no longer be accepting mailed-in photo contest entries.

- There is a **\$25.00 entry fee** per person that provides you with a membership to the Society and is used to defray the cost of the contest. See *payment instructions and details on the 2023 Entry Form*.
- Only **AMATEUR** photographers are eligible to enter. (May not possess a professional photographer tax identification number for the sale of photographs).
- Photos must be taken at J.N. "Ding" Darling NWR and have been taken **within 2 years** of entry date.
- Each person may enter up to two photos but is eligible to win only one award.
- Photos must be submitted electronically via email to ddamateurphotocontest@gmail.com. Each photo must be a JPEG file of at least 3000 x 2400 at a resolution 300 DPI or 4 megabytes (MB). *Panoramic photos are not allowed.*
- Photos that have won awards in previous "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society photo contests may not be resubmitted.
- Judging will be anonymous. Please do not put your name or anything that will identify you on your photograph.
- Judging criteria:
 - 1) Technical excellence (sharpness, lighting, composition, exposure)
 - 2) Originality/creativity
 - 3) Interest
- Only limited image modifications are permitted. Minor manipulation should be used only to produce a more natural looking photograph. Cropping is allowed but adding any elements not existing in the original scene will not be. Judges, at their discretion, will disqualify any photos that appear to be manipulated beyond these guidelines.
- All photo files will become the property of the Society, with proper photo credit given to the photographer.
- First, second, and third place winners and honorable mentions will be formally announced during the "Ding" Darling Day celebration held in October, and winners will be notified by September 2023. These photos will remain on display in the Refuge's Free Visitor & Education Center until October 2024, where they will be seen by our 250,000 annual visitors.
- There are three judges: A Refuge staff person, a professional photographer, and a member of the Sanibel community.

CASH PRIZES: FIRST PLACE \$300, SECOND PLACE \$225, THIRD PLACE \$175, HONORABLE MENTIONS \$25