

PHOTO & CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST: Please read this carefully before submitting entries.

The annual NCHS Photo Contest will again include a literature component for those folks who have non-photography creative skillz. Please refer to the NCHS Photo & Creative Writing Contest announcement below for details regarding presentation of entries, judging, submittal requirements, the deadline for entry, and the fine print. Please contact David Cooper via e-mail (photocontest@ncherps.org) with any questions.

Photography Category: All photographs entered into the contest will be judged in the Photography category. Entries may be black-and-white, color, and/or may depict “herpers in action.” Entries must be submitted in digital format (see below) and are limited to six per entrant. I personally don’t care if the photos even have a herp in them. If you want your amazing macro photo of a golden dung fly on a steaming fresh cow pie to be shown in the photo contest presentation, send it to me and it’ll go in there (there are some images that I won’t show, of course, but I may snicker at in private – please don’t cross the line).



Creative Writing Category: All creative writing entries entered into the contest will be judged in the Creative Writing category. These can be short stories, poems, storyboards, plays, or any other creative writing that you have done. For this category, I envision amusing, amazing, wondrous, or otherwise awe-inspiring stories from the field or the laboratory, as well as witty herp-themed poems. Please limit creative writing entries to no more than 5 typed pages at whatever font size, margins, and spacing you deem appropriate. Suggested: 11-point Calibri or SegoeUI, single spaced, 1-inch margins, but really, whatever you send me is fine. This is the third year we have included this category. Get your thinking caps on or dig out those old stories you wrote in the heyday and send ‘em in! Jeff Beane, please try not to make me cry again this year with any of your entries. Entries in this category must be submitted in digital format (Word or PDF) and are limited to three per entrant.



Prizes: No monetary prizes will be awarded by the photo contest committee, although your sense of accomplishment at having submitted an entry and helping to entertain the drooling masses of gathered herpetologists will be a prize in itself. Although we used to award prizes in the form of NCHS gift certificates, we’re (again) not going to do that this year. We will judge and announce first, second, and third place winners in each of the categories. Winners may or may not receive a certificate noting their accomplishment (in all reality, likely not), but please know that we are grateful to you nonetheless.

Presentation of Entries: A PowerPoint slide show of all eligible photography entries will be compiled by the Photo Contest chairperson. This slide show will be presented, and winners will be announced, at the fall NCHS meeting. Please refer to the meeting agenda for the time the entries will be shown. Depending on the number and length of creative writing entries, the winning entry or entries may be read aloud at the fall meeting. All creative writing entries will be printed, and winners announced, in the January newsletter. The three winning photography entries will also appear in the January newsletter.

Judging: The judging will be performed by a qualified panel of no fewer than three judges appointed by the President and/or the Photo Contest committee. Judges will not be contest participants, nor will they have been party to the slide show compilation.

Submittal Requirements: The photo contest is open to any **amateur** (1) photographer who is a **current member** (2) of NCHS. The contest will again be in all-digital format. Digital images should be submitted as JPEGs. Resolution should be high enough to avoid pixilation when shown in the PowerPoint presentation. No modifications will be performed after the image is submitted, with the exception of sizing the images for optimal fit in the photo contest PowerPoint presentation. **Images submitted should be labeled with title, photographer’s name, species, locality information, and the date the photo was taken.** Images may depict either wild or captive animals from any geographic location. Short story entries may be submitted by any member as either Word documents or PDFs. Entries are to be submitted via e-mail to: photocontest@ncherps.org. Any questions may be directed to the photo contest chairperson at the above-listed e-mail address.

Deadline: All entries must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. on the Saturday 2 weeks prior to the Fall Meeting (21 October). Mark your calendars. This will allow the photo contest committee time to compile and judge entries before the meeting. Entries will not be accepted after the deadline, including on the day of the meeting.

The Fine Print: By submitting an image or creative writing entry to the NCHS photo or creative writing contests, the entrant affirms that the media is his or her or their own work (3) and gives NCHS the right to present the work as part of the photo or creative writing contest presentation at the Fall Meeting and in the NCHS newsletter. Writing entries and low-resolution versions (not suitable for print) of winning photos may be included on the NCHS website. (4) Certain photos may be used in NCHS educational materials or for non-profit NCHS fund-raising purposes (5).

(1) For the purposes of the NCHS photo contest, “professional photographer” is defined as a person who has ever made, in any given year, ten percent (10%) or more of his or her or their yearly income from the sale of photographs.

(2) Current members are defined as those members whose memberships have not expired yet. Entries from members whose memberships are currently expired will not be considered for judging until the membership is renewed.

(3) Media will not be accepted if the member submitting the media is not the actual creator.

(4) Photographer retains the right to disallow use of his or her or their photo on the NCHS website. Photographers wishing to exercise this right shall give notice by e-mail at the time photos are entered into the Contest. We won’t even get mad at you.

(5) Photographer will be notified in writing prior to use of his or her or their photo by NCHS for educational or fund-raising purposes. Photographer will have the opportunity to refuse NCHS the right to use his or her or their photo.