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 skills. 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 **or** nvrpetaburningdog@yahoo.com**)** with any questions.

Photography Category: All eligible 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 wide-angle photo of a mossy rock wall that may or may not have a tiny *Desmognathus* hiding on it 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, if you can find it).

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 Segoe UI, single spaced, 1-inch margins, but really, whatever you send me is fine. Get your thinking caps on or dig out those old stories you wrote in the heyday and send 'em in! 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 haven't done that in a while. We will judge and announce first, second, and third place winners in each of the categories unless very few entries are received in a category, in which case we may refrain from judging or award only a top prize in that category. Winners may or may not receive a certificate noting their accomplishment (in all reality, likely not, because I am both inherently lazy and very busy), but please know that we are grateful to you nonetheless. Seriously, thank you!

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 NCHS Fall 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, or I may make the person who wrote them read them aloud if they make me cry, which most things do these days. Literature entries will be printed, and winners announced, in the January newsletter. The three (or fewer, or maybe more if there are some absolute stunners) 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. Literature 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, and you can cc nvrpetaburnindgog@yahoo.com if you want to feel a tiny bit surer that it may be delivered. Any questions may be directed to the Photo Contest Committee chairperson at the above-listed e-mail address(es).

Deadline: All entries must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. on the Saturday two weeks prior to the Fall Meeting (24 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. ***NOTE: I WILL SEND A CONFIRMATION E-MAIL WITHIN 48 HOURS OF RECEIPT OF YOUR ENTRIES. IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE A CONFIRMATION E-MAIL FROM ME, PLEASE FOLLOW UP AND ASK IF YOUR ENTRIES WERE RECEIVED.***

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 and literature 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 judged if the member submitting the media is not the actual creator.
(4) Creator retains the right to disallow use of his or her or their media on the NCHS website. Creators 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) Creator will be notified in writing prior to use of his or her or their media by NCHS for educational or fund-raising purposes. Creator will have the opportunity at that time to refuse NCHS the right to use his or her or their media.