



Department of Entomology Texas A&M University Arthropod Image Salon 2008

Purpose:

Annually, the Department of Entomology of Texas A&M University sponsors an Arthropod Image Salon contest. The contest aims to develop and raise the visibility of photo and creative talent in the form of a competition, followed by a public exhibition showcasing the competition winners and participants.

Rules:

1. An entry will consist of a digital image and all the requested entry form information associated with it. All entries should be submitted via CD ROM; however, images should be of sufficient quality (4x6 in / 300 dpi) to be printed in an 11x14 in format. You may submit more than one entry per CD. See additional requirements for entry form information and file names in the 'Submissions' section below.
2. All entrants will be limited to 5 entries. Entries can be in one or multiple categories (see below). Although an image may fit into more than one category, images submitted for one category may not be used in another. Choose the single category you feel best suits your Image.
3. One first place image will be selected from each category. From these finalists, one will be picked as the Best Overall Image. The individual submitting the Best Overall Image will receive \$250.
4. All submissions will be available for viewing during the January Departmental Meeting. The overall winner in each category and the Best Overall Image will be announced during this meeting and posted on the Web site (and elsewhere) shortly after the end of the contest. All submissions become the property of the Department of Entomology for its nonexclusive use in advertising, recruiting, and other related activities.
5. Images submitted will not be returned.

Categories:

These categories are intended to help you enjoy the photo contest. They are not written in stone and are considered suggestions more than rules. We reserve the right to determine when an image fits or does not fit into a particular category.

Photo microscopy: Images in this category have been taken with the aid of a microscope. They are very useful in showing great detail.

Artistic: Images in this category are artistic images which make good use of graphic elements of design. We are looking for images that showcase line, shape, pattern, form, texture, perspective, etc.

Traditional Macro: Images in this category showcase the talents and steady hands of the photographer with a macro lens.

Arthropods in action: Images in this category tell a story, whether it's a parasitoid laying eggs or a spider enjoying its latest catch.

Judging:

A panel of anonymous faculty, staff, and students who are not associated with any entry will serve as judges for the competition. Images will be judged on overall photographic and artistic quality. Images will be judged prior to the January Departmental Faculty meeting.

Eligibility:

All current members (faculty, staff, and students) of the Department of Entomology at Texas A&M University, and the spouses and dependants of Department members may submit entries. *All entries must be the original work of the entrant.*

Submissions:

Digital Formats: All images must be submitted on CD ROM. The CD must be formatted for an IBM compatible PC. You may submit images taken with a digital camera or images taken with a film-based camera and scanned into a digital format. Photographic slides and prints are ineligible. Images can be compressed or uncompressed. Only TIFF or JPEG formats will be accepted. The TIFF file format is recommended for uncompressed images. Any file format which uses compression should be the lossless type.

Image Resolution: All images will be imported into a PowerPoint® presentation style format. All images submitted should be of a sufficient quality (300 dpi) and/or size (4x6 in) so that they may be adjusted (stretched) to best fit within the usable area.

Title: Each image submitted should have an appropriate and unique title. This is a very important part of the whole process. Titles can be whimsical or descriptive. Titles should not be the order, family, or species name, alone, as there may be multiple images of the same insect or arthropod. For example, an appropriate title would be "The Greenest Green"; an inappropriate title would be "Ant 1".

Digital File Names: In order to keep photos organized, all file names should be in the following format: first initial/last name/number.jpg or first initial/last name/number.tif [i.e.: jsmith1.jpg or jsmith2.tif]

Please do not include your name within the photo. Entries that have the Photographer's name on the digital image, itself, will not be accepted.

Deadline: All entries must be received by close of business on Monday, December 10, 2007. Entries will not be accepted afterwards, unless the deadline is officially extended.

Entry Fees: This contest is FREE.

Entry form: Please complete an official entry form for each submission. The entry form is available through the website: <http://insects.tamu.edu/salon/>. Signed entry form(s) are to be submitted together with the image(s).

Notes on digital manipulation: While digitally manipulated entries are allowed in the contest, we strongly encourage you to note your digital technique in the description of your image. The judges do not discriminate against digital images but do appreciate when the contestant honestly and openly admits that such digital image editing has occurred.

Along the same lines, when you do a substantial amount of work to the image in a digital image editing program like Adobe Photoshop®, describe the techniques that were used to manipulate the image. We understand that sharpening and removing dust and scratches with the Clone tool is par for the course. Those are not the kinds of techniques we are interested in. We are interested in techniques used to dramatically change the original photo. For example, be forthright when you have used the flood filter or have created a composite out of two or more images. Art is art, but it is nice for the rest of us to know what can be done with a camera and what can't, but also, what a true artist can do to an Image using a digital image editing program.

For submitting entries or further information contact Ms. Carla Smith at the following address:

Department of Entomology
Texas A&M University
Room 412 Heep
College Station, TX 77843-2475
Office: 979-845-2510
Email: cmsmith@ag.tamu.edu