2013 DVOC Members' Photo Night and Contest December 5, 2013
The deadline for submissions is 12 OCT 2013. Please submit your photos to the special Gmail account which has been created for the contest. E-mail submissions to photo.dvoc@gmail.com

Judging will take place on 26 OCT 2013.

Categories and definition:

1) **Birds**: Photos of birds. Judges will prefer photos of live, wild birds that are free and unrestrained.

2) **Fauna**: Photos of animals that are not birds. Photos of free and unrestrained living, wild animals will be favored by the judges.

3) **Flora**: Photos of plants (including but not limited to flowers), fungi, algae and other life forms that are not animals. Flora photographed in its native habitat will be preferred by the judges. Photographs of seeds, spores, pinecones and other propagules qualify for this category.

4) **Scenery**: Photos in this category will capture elements of the great outdoors and not rely upon their subject matter being alive. This is a catch-all category that includes such subjects as landscapes, skies and weather, astronomical photography, rock formations and other landscape elements, rocks, fossils, bones, shells, pollen, fallen leaves, crystals, water, roads, paths, signage, etc. Essentially, these are nonliving subjects that might be encountered while birding, hiking or on an outing for outdoor photography. If plants or animals are within these photos, the photos will only be judged on how well the photos succeed in terms of the inanimate subject matter and any live plants and animals will be treated as part of the scenery.

5) **Bidders**: Photographs of birders and/or nature photographers.

Maximum submissions per member:

1) Birds: 4 photos per member
2) Fauna: 2 photos per member
3) Flora: 2 photos per member
4) Scenery: 2 photos per member
5) Birders: 2 photos per member
Image Resolution:
Since these photos will be projected at a DVOC meeting, the requested photographic resolution is **1024 x 768**. To avoid any unwanted compression of submitted photos, members are advised to submit a photo that fits this resolution. Any images submitted at higher resolution may be at a disadvantage during judging and may not be projected optimally during the members’ photo night. If photos of 1024 x 768 resolution are not submitted, the organizers of the DVOC Members’ Photo Night will produce a compressed lower resolution photo for projection purposes.

Awards:

1) **The Peregrine Award for Photographic Achievement**: Judges will first determine the winner of the Grand Prize, The Peregrine Award for Photographic Achievement. The photo that wins this category will be considered the overall “best-in-show” for the members’ photo night and contest. In contrast to previous years, this winner will be considered to merit a category all its own. While the winning photo certainly would win first place within the subject category to which it will have been submitted, this photo will be given the top prize overall, leaving the first place category in the winning photo’s subject matter open for competition.

2) **The Avocet Award for Artistic Achievement**: The second major prize to be awarded will be “The Avocet Award for Artistic Achievement.” This award will only be presented to a member who submits a photo that meets the award criteria. This award will honor a qualifying photo that transcends the conventions of wildlife or nature photography in terms of mere documentation. Instead, a competitive photo will approach its subject matter in a manner that illustrates a unique artistic vision for the subject using a unique and artistic photographic process. This award is not required to be given by the judges, and will only be used to honor an appropriately artistic photograph.

3) From the remaining pool of entrants, winners of **First Place, Second Place** and **Third Place** for each category will be chosen.
**Prizes:**
The recipient of “The Peregrine Award” will win a free trip with See Life Paulagics: the trip can be any See Life Paulagics 8hr or 12hr pelagic trip scheduled in 2014 (Fine Print: This prize is transferable to another person should the prize-winner be unable or unwilling to go on a pelagic trip in 2014. The prize has no cash value, and a cash payout cannot be substituted for the trip.)

Other prizes are as yet to be determined, but will be announced as they become finalized.

**Deadline:**
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**Submissions:**
For each photo submitted, please include the following information:
1) Title of the photo
2) A short description of the subject of the photo
3) Location for the photo.
4) Category for the photo. Choose one of the following for each photo submitted: Birds, Flora, Fauna, Scenery or Birders.

**Eligibility:**
- Only members are eligible to submit photos for the competition, though nonmembers can submit images to share with the club and opt out of the contest portion of the DVOC Members’ Photo Night.

- Contest judges are ineligible for the competition, but may submit images to share with the club on the DVOC Members’ Photo Night.

- Photos that had previously won an award at a past DVOC Photo Contest are ineligible for competition. Likewise, photos submitted to the DVOC Photo Contest in a past year are ineligible for this year’s competition.

- Photos may have been taken in any year. The competition is not limited to photos taken during the year of the competition, but only newly submitted photos are eligible for competition.

- Winning Photos will be displayed as low-resolution versions on the DVOC website. Entering photos into the contest constitutes consent for the DVOC to publish these low-resolution versions on the DVOC website. Winners may also want to consider submitting winning photos to Cassinia for publication, though this is not required.
Judging Criteria:
While judging photos is necessarily a subjective matter, the judges believe it to be in the interest of the competition to detail certain artistic and photographic elements for which the judges will be looking during the judging process. These elements essentially fall into a few somewhat overlapping categories that are listed below. Keep in mind, these are not meant to be all-inclusive lists and no single photograph is likely to include all the components listed below.

1) Photographic Competency: Lighting, Focus, Exposure, Depth of Field.

2) Artistic Competency: Lighting, Composition, Distance to Subject, Color, Texture, Rule of Thirds or other Appropriate Compositional Style for the subject matter, Interconnectedness of Compositional Elements, Depth of Imagery and/or Depth of Field, Background Choice.

Elements of composition can include such items as pattern, symmetry, texture, depth of field, lines to train the eye, framing, perspective, sense of space, balance & imbalance.

3) Photographic voice: Lighting, Storytelling, Capturing a Moment, Use of Color, Perspective, Viewpoint, Experimentation, Creation of Mood, Connection with viewer, Evocation of Emotion, Title of the Photo, Use of Bokeh or Deep Focus, Strong Moments.

Strong Moments: "When every part of the picture interacts with the other parts in a way that the viewer might think – wow this is special and probably doesn’t happen that often."

-- Jacob Maentz of the blog Light Stalking
http://www.lightstalking.com/5-fundamental-elements-of-great-photographs