

# 2010 Grandfather Mountain Nature Photography Weekend

## Photo Contest Rules and Requirements

### ***PART 1: IMAGE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS***

- **File Format:** JPEG (with minimum compression — highest quality setting)
- **Image size:** Images must be of *resolution sufficient for an 8 x 10 or 8 x 12 print*.  
Suggested *minimum* resolution for an 8 x 10 would be 1600 x 2400 pixels (approx. 3.8 megapixels), for an 8 x 12 it would be 1600 x 3000 pixels (approx. 4.8 megapixels). Larger sizes are of course acceptable. Images may be cropped as long as the resulting image meets the size requirements listed above *and* fits a standard aspect ratio of 4:5, 3:4 or 2:3. (For reference: 35mm film cameras and digital SLR's make images with a 2:3 aspect ratio.)
- **Media:** The photographer must provide a single CD-ROM containing no more than three images. The CD-ROM must be marked with the photographer's contest ID number (*not* the photographer's *name!*) Each photographer will be assigned an ID number at registration at the beginning of the weekend.
- **File Names:** Do not submit photos with the file names generated by the camera! Each digital photo file must be *renamed* using the following convention:

First character: Either "A" for advanced class or "B" for beginner class

Next two characters (Photo Category):

"AN" for animals in nature

"HA" for animals in Grandfather Mountain habitats

"SC" for scenic

"WF" for wildflower

If you are entering more than one image in any category,  
add a "1", "2" or "3" after the two-letter category code.

Next character: Underscore (" \_ ")

Last three characters: Photographer's ID number

For example: Beginner class photographer James Bond, assigned ID number 007 (of course), submitting three images in the "Scenic" category would rename his files "bsc1\_007", "bsc2\_007" and "bsc3\_007".

This renaming system will allow the judges to evaluate the images impartially, without any knowledge of who took the photo.

**If you have any questions about file naming, consult with a member of the Nature Photography Weekend Team before burning your CD!!! We will have a TEAM member stationed near the restaurant on Saturday afternoon.**

## ***PART 2: IMAGE MODIFICATION/MANIPULATION***

Yes, you can touch up images on your computer. Be warned that the judges will not look kindly on images that were not taken during the weekend (images of a flower that bloomed in April), contrived images (like placing a zebra on the top of MacRae Peak), or images that have been manipulated to the degree that they violate the spirit of the contest (like bringing the end of a rainbow down in the center of the Swinging Bridge). Given the fact that this a fairly low-key contest and the nature of the prizes offered (there aren't any), we don't really expect any "cheating", but this information is provided as much to put everyone on equal footing as anything else. We also want to encourage you to spend as much time as possible out on the mountain and as little as possible hunched over a laptop computer! Below is a list of techniques and tools that are permitted and some that are forbidden. If you have any doubt, or if there is something that is not mentioned here, you should assume that it is **not** permitted.

- **Basic Rules:**

Each image entered must come from a single photograph, taken during the 2010 Nature Photography Weekend. You may not combine multiple exposures.

You may not add graphics (including borders) or text, clip art, computer-generated images, or elements from other photographs (even those taken during Nature Photography Weekend).

Some modifications may be made to your image in a photo editing program, as long as the modification is applied to the whole image. Details below:

- **Cropping:** As mentioned earlier, images may be cropped as long as the resulting image meets the contest size requirements (listed in section 1 above) *and* fits a standard aspect ratio of 4:5, 3:4 or 2:3. (For reference: 35mm film cameras and digital SLR's make images with a 2:3 aspect ratio.)
- **Brightness & Contrast:** These adjustments are permitted, provided they are applied to the entire image. This also applies to the levels and curves tools in Photoshop and their equivalents in other image editing applications.
- **Rotation:** Rotating the image (to level a horizon, for example) is permitted.
- **Spot Retouching:** Clone or rubber stamp tools may be used to remove spots caused by dust on the sensor. They may **not** be used to remove features actually in the scene photographed or to add features that were not there.
- **Sharpening:** The use of unsharp masking and other sharpening tools is permitted, provided it is applied to the entire image.
- **Blurring:** No blurring of any part of the image is permitted.
- **Black & White Conversion:** Converting a color image to black and white is permitted, provided you convert the *whole* image and not just part of it.

