

2012 ADS Photo Contest Winners

Class	Category	Entry #	Title	Photographer	Award
1	Introd/Undissem.	010208	Informal Decorative	Sandy Boley	1st
		010316	Ntac Patricia	Roland Verrone	2nd
		010108	Bicolor Waterlily	Sandy Boley	3rd
		010103	2nd Year Seedling	L. Matos-Cleere	Hon M
2	Dahlia Portraits	020216	Verrone's Obsidian	Roland Verrone	1st
		020221	Verrone's Morning Star	Frank Schulkin	2nd
		020106	AC Ben	Lyle Jacobsohn	3rd
		020222	Snoho Sonia	Ron Miner	Hon M
3	Blooms 2+ Varieties	030119	Precarious Perch	Kenneth Piazza	1st
		030223	PSDA Waterlily Bouquet	April Adams	2nd
		030204	Beach Bum	Maurene Rutkin	3rd
		030106	Lauren Michelle	Lyle Jacobsohn	Hon M
4	Dahlia Gardens	040303	TLC Gardens Wedding	L. Matos-Cleere	1st
		040108	Steve Boley in his garden	Sandy Boley	2nd
		040316	Mt. Hood from Swan Island	Roland Verrone	3rd
		040221	Nicholas and Jenna, Dahlia Dell	Frank Schulkin	Hon M
5	Shows/Clubs	050112	A Perfect Triple	DJ Ecklebarger	1st
		050215	Cell phone photography	Bill Meyer	2nd
		050109	Husband in entry rush	Ana Ploetz	3rd
		050218	Dahlia Society of Ohio	Carol Sahley	Hon M
6	Macro View	060107	Bi ST Seedling	Steve Boley	1st
		060323	Jennie	April Adams	2nd
		060118	April Dawn	Carol Sahley	3rd
		060319	Wyn's Farmer John	Kenneth Piazza	Hon M
7	Kids & Critters	070118	Yellow Queen and Mantis	Carol Sahley	1st
		070103	ADS Centennial w. butterfly	L. Matos-Cleere	2nd
		070219	Where's the Smell?	Kenneth Piazza	3rd
		070115	Bella S and Retriever	Bill Meyer	Hon M
8	Digital Darkroom	080115	Starry Seedling	Bill Meyer	1st
		080101	Bunch of Dahlia Splendor	Nicole Plott	2nd
		080104	Dahlia Odyssey	Maurene Rutkin	3rd
		080319	Gone with Wind . . . and Frost	Kenneth Piazza	Hon M
9	Personalities	090212	Peg and Emory Paul	DJ Ecklebarger	1st
		090115	Doc Peters judges blooms	Bill Meyer	2nd
		090203	Tom & Lydia Cleere	L. Matos-Cleere	3rd
		090221	Lou Paradise and friends	Frank Schulkin	Hon M
			Best Dahlia Photo of 2012		
		020216	Verrone's Obsidian	Roland Verrone	

THE 2012 ADS PHOTO CONTEST

By Martin Král

What a change from last year! And a welcome one at that. Judges had their work cut out selecting the best photos from 303 submissions by 23 photographers. What was surprising in this year's contest was the large number coming from new participants to the ADS Photo Contest. While some submitted only a few images (and one winner put it all on the line with just one photo) others presented us with entries in almost all categories.

So it was with considerable hesitation that the chosen top photo - a perfect Verrone's Obsidian submitted by its raiser Roland Verrone - emerged from among the category winners. After all, the informal decorative photo by Sandy Boley was a worthy runner-up. Another near-hit was the exceptional photo of a praying mantis ("hey, what'cha lookin' at?") by Carol Sahley and the "Starry Seedling" image by veteran contestant Bill Meyer.

We also had a couple of wedding photos to consider, and there were other quality photos that received awards. I did the initial cull, removing all but the best 100 photos from the contest. Those then went to final judging. It was with considerable reflection of judging criteria that the final selection was made. Since some of the most popular categories also had exceptional photos, this became an arduous process of winnowing out the best. There also were some photos that could have been entered in another category and won for certain.

As before, several contestants failed to read (and understand) the contest rules. A couple had file names an arm long (MS-DOS had 8 plus 3 characters max for file naming, and that worked OK for years); another put their own name into every file name. These had to be renamed in a time-wasting effort. Also, in two cases no list of submitted files was offered. (I had to contact the entrants so they would not be disqualified). At least two contestants sent their CD without any shielding or protection, taking a great chance at having the post office render those unreadable or broken. When the 2013 contest rules are announced this summer, you can be sure that these matters will get special attention. Meanwhile, take out your camera before the first dahlia blooms - after all, there are some contest categories that do not require photography in a field of summer flowers.