

2014 ADS Photo Contest Winners

Class	Category	Entry #	Title	Photographer	Award
1	Introd/Undissem.	011001	Undiss. Boley Seedling	Amy Zanzig	1st
		011203	Undiss. Boley Seedling	Steve Boley	2nd
		011402	Bloomquist Candy Corn	Alan Fisher	3rd
		010702	Monab Bill	Ron Miner	Hon M
2	Dahlia Portraits	021702	AC Ben	Charles Krueger	1st
		022202	Verrone's Wilma	Beverly Dahlsted	2nd
		021503	Verrone's Morning Star	Bill Meyer	3rd
		020202	Lakeview Curley	Barbara Schmidt	Hon M
3	Blooms 2+ Varieties	030801	Cornel/Baron Talton	Paul Chupek	1st
		031101	NDS Mix	Maurene Rutkin	2nd
		031103	PSDA Show	Maurene Rutkin	3rd
		030202	Vase	Barbara Schmidt	Hon M
4	Dahlia Gardens	040902	Garden Walk	David Abel	1st
		041103	Tiff's Dahlias	Maurene Rutkin	2nd
		042302	EZ Duzzit in rain	Linda Laine	3rd
		041502	Kathy checks dahlias	Bill Meyer	Hon M
5	Shows/Clubs	051502	Charles Craig judging	Bill Meyer	1st
		052003	Long Island DS Show	L. Matos-Cleere	2nd
		052301	Betty Schroeder is two thumbs up	Linda Laine	3rd
		051503	Double Exposure	Bill Meyer	Hon M
6	Macro View	061702	Bud Frog	Charles Krueger	1st
		061203	Seedling closeup	Steve Boley	2nd
		060802	Pine Prince	Paul Chupek	3rd
		061206	Steve O closeup	Steve Boley	Hon M
7	Kids & Critters	070802	Toad	Paul Chupek	1st
		070801	Mantis	Paul Chupek	2nd
		070303	Oooooohh!	Mireya Taylor	3rd
		071101	Bee Frenzy	Maurene Rutkin	Hon M
8	Digital Darkroom	080202	Hamari Accord	Barbara Schmidt	1st
		080801	Bo Peep	Paul Chupek	2nd
		080201	Alpen Fury	Barbara Schmidt	3rd
		081503	Peaches-n-Cream	Bill Meyer	Hon M
9	Personalities	091501	Jerry Landerholm eyes an entry	Bill Meyer	1st
		090801	Nancy Riopelle in the garden	Paul Chupek	2nd
		090301	Goldberry	Mireya Taylor	3rd
		091302	Alan Fisher at Narrows Garden	L. Holmes-Cook	Hon M
			Best Dahlia Photo of 2014		
		061702	Bud Frog	Charles Krueger	

THE 2014 ADS PHOTO CONTEST

By Martin Král

Once again we had new (and also talented) photographers participate in this photo contest. It's always a surprise to find excellent photography in the collection submitted for judging. This year we had 353 photos to consider; they came from 24 photographers and from all over the continent.

This time I engaged three photographers to judge. I was fortunate in linking up with a woman whom I contacted about some work-related image collections. Turns out she also is a very avid photographer - and a good choice for a judge. Another one was my graphic designer whose work I have admired over the years. And for good measure, I also submitted the top photos to Hans Auinger, my Austrian dahlia friend and a photographer with passion. Since he also heads up a local photo club, I thought this was as good a mix I would want for judging my own photos: a serious photographer, a graphic designer with photographer's chops, and someone who has taken more photos of dahlias than just about anyone. We did have to make a difficult choice for the best photo of the year, since our opinions varied considerably, but I hope that we made a good selection.

Although frogs have sometimes been featured in these contests, no other than the green tree frog that Charles Krueger found sitting on a very full dahlia bud captured our full attention. It was the image that all judges selected for one of the top photos. The final choice was the photo submitted by Charles Krueger of Circle Pines, Minnesota. Paul Chupek's colorful toad was my personal favorite in the Critters section, which had several more very attention-getting contenders.

This time I had several gripes to record: a very competitive entry was given the wrong class designation, some photographers sent me huge files (12MB for a photo implies either a Photoshop edit or a RAW file), and when judges see no stem on a side shot of dahlias in Class 1 or 2 they suspect that the image has been edited. The usual list of problems also included overly long filenames (some with the photographer's name embedded), absence of a hard copy listing, and poor packaging. Finally, one package arrived with postage due. Reminder: CDs have square and hard packaging, and that requires additional postage. If in doubt, check with your postal clerk.

Rules and entry form for the 2015 contest will be included in the June Bulletin.