Monthly Competition Season is Near

The competition committee requests members planning on entering images in our Open Nature category to refresh themselves with our ***Competition Rules*** concerning the Open Nature Category. Many clubs and organizations have differing rules on nature Photography.

Our club rules do not allow Hand of Man (HOM) in nature images.

- Elements including humans, constructed by or altered by humans, shall not be present. Houses, buildings, fences, roads, paths, and maintained areas are not allowed.
- Animals constrained or in an unnatural environment such as zoos, aquariums, controlled environments, game farms, rescue leagues, cages, butterfly houses or any other situations where human intervention is required for survival are not allowed.
- Human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are not allowed, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.
- Post processing must appear totally natural and only elements caused by the photographic process such as dust spots and lens flare are allowed to be removed. Natural elements such as tree limbs, grass, and other distractions must remain in the image.

The Nature Category is difficult. The category offers a challenge making it a very rewarding category. Our members work hard to ensure Open Nature images are compliant.

If an image was taken in a yard, park, rainfall pond, farm, indoors, professional garden or garden center please understand it has HOM by the location. These are not natural areas, and you can't crop out man's influence on the location.

Some elements of HOM can be cropped such as a telephone pole, fence, house or road that occurs in a natural area.

The competition review committee works hard at screening for HOM prior to competition. We can't see what we can't see.

The responsivity rests on the photographer to question themself if HOM has entered the image. When unsure try the Color, Mono, Multi-Scape, Assigned, or Artistic categories.