

5th Annual Naturescapes Photography Contest and Exhibition

The unique beauty of the natural areas within San Marcos inspired the Naturescapes Photography Contest. The contest now includes photographs taken in greenspaces throughout Hays County, with a special award for the best photograph taken in San Marcos parks and other natural areas within the city's extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ).

Suggested subjects include scenery, wildlife, plants, people and pets. Goals of the contest include increasing public awareness of the importance of protecting our natural world and giving photographers at all levels of experience a chance to capture, share, and receive recognition for beautiful and inspiring images.

The contest is open to resident and visiting photographers of all ages. A \$200 prize will be awarded for Best in Show and \$150 for the best San Marcos area photo. Up to four \$100 Awards of Excellence will be presented for the next most outstanding photographs. Additional Awards of Merit will be presented at the discretion of the contest juror.

Visit www.smgreenbelt.org/NaturalAreas for maps and directions to the sometimes difficult-to-find San Marcos natural areas.

Naturescapes Exhibition

San Marcos Activity Center Walkers Gallery
September 4 – October 30, 2009

Naturescapes Awards Reception

San Marcos Activity Center
Friday, September 4, 2009
5:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Sponsoring Organizations

The San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance is a non-profit, all-volunteer group that works to protect our quality of life through the creation of interconnected parks and natural areas. Today in the midst of unprecedented growth throughout Central Texas, SMGA is dedicated to ensuring that, along with development, we protect natural areas for ourselves, our children, and our future. Learn more at www.smgreenbelt.org or email alliance@smgreenbelt.org.

The Hill Country Photography Club is an informal group of photographers of all ages and experience who are interested in exploring photography as an art medium. HCPC strives to help members improve their individual photographic styles as well as to learn more about the

art and science of photography. The club holds monthly meetings, periodic workshops, and field trips. To be added to our email list, visit www.hcphotoclub.org and complete the form on the Membership page.

Juror: Greg Lasley

Greg Lasley first pointed a camera at a bird a Horned Lark at Great Salt Lake, Utah, in 1971 while he was in the U.S. Air Force. By 1976, he became interested in documenting appearances of rare birds by photographing and tape-recording them. From the late 1970s until the late 1980s, most of his wildlife photography focused on documenting rarities and obtaining slides of birds to illustrate his lectures for Audubon Societies and other nature-oriented groups. After spending 25 years in law enforcement, Greg retired from the Austin Police Department in 1997. From 1997 through early 2005, he divided his time between photographing wildlife and leading bird-watching trips over much of the western hemisphere for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours. Greg now concentrates on photography and other wildlife pursuits. His award-winning photos appear regularly in a variety of nature and wildlife-oriented books and magazines. His photo credits exceed 2000 published images in more than 100 different books and magazines. His most recent book is *Greg Lasley's Texas Wildlife Portraits* published in 2008 by Texas A&M University Press.

Rules and Conditions

1. Entries must be taken within parks and public and private natural areas in San Marcos and Hays County.
2. Photographs must have been taken within the past 2 years and must not have been accepted for a previous Naturescapes exhibition.
3. Entries will be judged on creativity, photographic quality, and effectiveness in conveying the beauty and unique character of our natural areas. Entries that fail to comply with the rules or are unsuitable for family viewing will be disqualified.
4. The juror will select the photographs to be displayed in the exhibition without knowing the identity of the photographers. At his discretion, a \$200 prize will be awarded for Best in Show, \$150 for the best San Marcos area photo, and up to four \$100 Awards for the next most outstanding photographs. Awards of Merit will be presented for additional images deserving recognition.

5. Winners and photographers whose entries are selected for the exhibition will be allowed to sell their photographs.
6. Images may be submitted only by the photographer who created them. While the photographer retains the copyright for his or her images, the San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance, the City of San Marcos Parks and Recreation Department, and the San Marcos Area Arts Council reserve the right to unlimited use of the photos for the organizations' websites, displays, brochures, news releases, and other print and electronic media.
7. The competition is open to resident and visiting photographers, amateur or professional. The contest juror is ineligible to enter photographs.
8. To help defray contest expenses, a \$10.00 contest entry fee is required for the first four photographs from each photographer. Up to 4 additional photographs may be entered for an additional \$5.00, up to a maximum of 8 entries for \$15.00.

To Enter

- You may submit a maximum of 8 photographs.
- Entries must be submitted online at www.hcphotoclub.org/naturescapes or received by the San Marcos Parks and Recreation Dept, 401 E. Hopkins, San Marcos, TX 78666 **no later than 5:00 pm Monday, July 6, 2009**. Entries will be accepted starting **April 1, 2009**.
- One completed entry form and a check or money order or online payment of the appropriate entry fee payable to SMGA must accompany each photographer's image(s). If you are mailing or hand-delivering your submission, download an entry form at www.smgreenbelt.org/PhotoContest.htm.
- Images submitted for judging may be digital images submitted on a CD or online or prints.
- **Prints** may be any convenient size but must be unmounted and labeled on the back with the entry number, the title of the photograph, and the name of the photographer. Do not submit mounted, matted, or framed prints at this time.
- **Digital images** must be 72 dpi, .jpg, 800 pixels on the longest dimension. Files should be named with **last name, underscore, first name, underscore, entry number** (e.g., jones_john_1.jpeg) and submitted online or on a single CD labeled with the photographer's name.
- Make sure that the entry numbers correspond with the entry numbers on the entry form. Entries that are not properly numbered or labeled will not be judged.
- If your work is chosen for exhibition, you will be notified the week of July 20, 2009.
- The prints and CDs submitted for judging will be returned after judging only if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your entry. Otherwise they may be picked up from San Marcos Parks and Recreation the week of July 27, 2009.
- We strongly encourage participants to offer their prints for sale; additional prints are easy to obtain from your original negative, slide or digital file.

If Your Work Is Selected for Exhibition

- You must provide us with high-resolution files of digital images following the instructions in your acceptance notification.
- Framed exhibition quality prints of your accepted work must be received at City of San Marcos Parks and Recreation Department, 401 E. Hopkins, San Marcos, TX 78666 **no later than 5:00 pm, Friday, August 28, 2009**.
- Your prints should be matted and framed, ready to hang, and labeled on the back with your name and the title of the image. We recommend at least a 2-inch mat border and a simple frame.
- The frame must be at least 8"x10" and no more than 30" in any dimension.
- To help defray exhibition costs, photographers will pay a 30% sales commission for prints sold during the exhibition.
- Prints may be picked up at the San Marcos Activity Center on Saturday, October 31, 2009. If you prefer to have your entry mailed or shipped to you, please provide a prepaid, pre-addressed shipping case. Warning: any work without a prepaid, pre-addressed shipping case that is not picked up on time will be sold, with the proceeds going to benefit the San Marcos Area Arts Council.