August 4, 2018

***WINNERS ANNOUCED TODAY AT AWARDS RECEPTION***

In celebration of Gwinnett’s 200-year anniversary the ***Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center (GEHC)*** has been host to a Photography Competition and Exhibit organized by the ***Georgia Nature Photographers Association (GNPA)***. ***“Native Wildlife, Native Flora, Landscapes, Historic Structures and Cultural Imagery”*** is an Amateur Photography Competition and Exhibit.

**Categories for Competition & Exhibition:** The primary focus and challenge for the exhibit is the ***emphasis*** on Gwinnett County’s diversity with photographs of Native Wildlife, Native Flora, Landscapes, Historic Structures and Cultural Imagery.

1. **Native Wildlife –** Dominate subject must be **native** to the Southeast Region of the United States. All wildlife photographs must be in their natural habitat. No photographs will be accepted of domestic animals or those in captivity and under no circumstances should baiting or enticing wildlife be used to capture the photograph. Can include any mammals, birds, reptiles or insects. Manmade structures in a wildlife photograph will be accepted where these structures support the primary subject i.e.: owls in a barn, birds nesting in the roof of a covered bridge or mill.
2. **Native Flora –** Dominate subject must be **native** to the Southeast Region of the United States. Plant life can include trees, shrubs, flowers or fungi. The images should emphasize the botanical characteristics and beauty of the species.
3. **Landscapes -** Dominate subject must be **natural landscapes** in the Southeast Region of the United States. This category may not include manmade objects as a significant part of the image, however, incidental manmade objects such as a fence line, or county dirt or gravel road, old barn in far distance may be accepted.
4. **Historic Structures -** Dominate subject **should evoke** the agrarian, industrial or other **historic significance** of the Southeast Region of the United States and preferably correlate in some way to Gwinnett County history, but not mandatory. Historic Structures may be in an urban setting, for example the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse in downtown Lawrenceville.
5. **Cultural Imagery –** Gwinnett County is one of the fastest-growing and diverse counties in the United States. Much of this diversity comes from foreign-born residents representing more than 120 different countries and accounting for more than a quarter of the population. The Dominate subject should be imagery celebrating this **world-wide cultural diversity**.

Our **judges** were an outstanding group of professional photographers, experienced as judges and educators.

**Eric Bowles,** Atlanta based nature photographer and photo educator. Eric’s work has been exhibited in galleries, purchased by corporate and individual collectors, and published in books and magazines.

A director of the Nikonians Academy. Board member and past committee chair for North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA) and Vice President of the Georgia Nature Photographers Association (GNPA).

**Jennifer Julian**, her work has been shown in New York City at the Association of International Photography Art Dealers (AIPAD). Solo exhibitions in Atlanta area, including at the Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. Her photographs are in many public and private collections and have been published in several publications.

Jennifer has worked at several educational institutes and recently as Interdisciplinary Advisor at Lesley University, Cambridge, MA. Ms. Julian now focuses more as an Art Consultant.

**Sara Keith**, Director of the Atlanta School of Photography, providing photographic education to the Atlanta photography community.

Received her BFA in Photography from the Savannah College of Art and Design with a minor in Film and Television. A videographer and photographer at the Woodruff Arts Center.

**Winners** were announced today at an Awards Reception at the GEHC. GNPA members, families and friends were present for a short viewing of the photographs and light refreshments. The exhibit will continue to be on display until Saturday, August 11, 2018. So, you still have time to view the winners and almost 100 outstanding photographs from the above categories and more.

Winners in **Native Wildlife** were:

* **FIRST PLACE** Mikki Root Dillon *“Just Resting, Thank You”*
* **SECOND PLACE** Susanne Thompson *“American goldfinch Female Peeling Poppy Seed Pod”*
* **THIRD PLACE** Donna Bowlick *“Breakfast In The Garden”*
* **HONORABLE MENTION** Mikki Root Dillon *“Love Among the Egrets”*
* **HONORABLE MENTION** Steve White *“Watchin’ You”*

Winners in **Native Flora** were:

* **FIRST PLACE** Anna DeStafino *“Dogwood”*
* **SECOND PLACE** John Criminger *“Nature’s Valentine”*
* **THIRD PLACE** Anna DeStafino *“Lilly Pad”*
* **HONORABLE MENTION** Mikki Root Dillon *“Mysterious Trails”*
* **HONORABLE MENTION** Trent Hilton *“The Lonely Flower”* \* Middle School Student

Winners in **Landscapes** were:

* **FIRST PLACE** Connie White *“Bygone Days”*
* **SECOND PLACE** Horace Hamilton *“Jakes Creek”*
* **THIRD PLACE** Maggie Dudeck *“Mulberry Fog”*
* **HONORABLE MENTION** Anna DeStafino *“Mountain Sunrise”*

Winners in **Historic Structures** were:

* **FIRST PLACE** Lee Friedman *“Extinguished”*
* **SECOND PLACE** Steve White *“Rogers Bridge”*
* **THIRD PLACE** Mark Woolridge *“Healan Mill”*
* **HONORABLE MENTION** Susanne Thompson *“Store Fronts Merging Eras”*

Winners in **Cultural Imagery** were:

* **FIRST PLACE** Mikki Root Dillon *“Diwali Night”*
* **SECOND PLACE** Jamie Brewer *“Basket Lady”*
* **THIRD PLACE** Frank Sharp *“Dragon Dance”*

**PEOPLE’S CHOICE** Winners were:

* **FIRST PLACE** Steve White *“Watchin’ You”*
* **SECOND PLACE 1)** John Criminger *“Nature’s Valentine”*
* **SECOND PLACE** **1)** Anna DeStafino *“Mountain Rush”*
* **THIRD PLACE** **2)** Mikki Root Dillon *“Mysterious Trails”*
* **THIRD PLACE** **2)** Anna DeStafino *“Lilly Pad”*
* **THIRD PLACE** **2)** Susanne Thompson *“American goldfinch Female Peeling Poppy Seed Pod”*

Special thanks to the leadership and staff at the Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center.

To learn more about the GEHC, go to <https://www.gwinnettcounty.com/web/gwinnett/Departments/CommunityServices/EnvironmentalHeritageCenter>.

For anyone wanting to learn more about GNPA, we have 8 chapters in Georgia and over 600 members.

You can find us at our state website, [www.gnpa.org](http://www.gnpa.org), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/49391238555/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/49391238555/) and the Gwinnett Chapter at [www.meetup.com/Northeast-Atlanta-GNPA-Chapter](http://www.meetup.com/Northeast-Atlanta-GNPA-Chapter).

**See ya in da woods!**