

2024 MMS PHOTO CONTEST

MMS members are invited to enter the MMS Annual Photo Contest!

KEY DATES:

Monday, September 9, 2024	During MMS Regular Meeting: Review of Contest Rules and Last Year's Winning Photos
Midnight, Thursday, October 31, 2024	Entries Due to Photo Contest Director
Monday, December 9, 2024	MMS Zoom Meeting / Presentation of Submissions
Saturday, February 2024	MMS Annual Awards Banquet – Exact date to determined

OVERVIEW:

MMS members may submit entries in any or all of the categories of "Pictorial, "Scientific" and "Activity/Humor/Other". Photos will be anonymously ranked by a jury of past award winners and one who has not previously won. First through Fourth Place awards will be given in each of the three categories, with at least one award in each category being given to an entrant who has not won more than twice since 2014. In addition to the "Place" awards and across all categories, the Photo Contest Director awards a "Director's Award" and the prestigious "Blewit Award" is awarded to the entry with the most votes.

RULES:

1. All photo entries must be submitted as digital images in *jpeg* format. (See Rule 11 regarding submission with text.) High resolution is not required, but higher resolution makes for better projection and reproduction quality. Hard copies and photos in other formats will not be accepted.
2. Entries may have been taken in other years, but must be the work of the member while an active member of the MMS.
3. Entries are not limited to a particular locale for any category.
4. Entrants may win only one prize in each category (other than Honorable Mention).

5. A photo may be entered in only one category. However, significantly different photos of a given subject or specimen may be entered in other categories. The Photo Contest Director may suggest a change in the category of an entry.
6. Each photo *must* be saved and labeled as follows:
 - For submissions in the Scientific or Pictorial Categories: the category abbreviation (S or P). entrant's last name.entrant's first name.genus and species. For example: ***S.Etzwiler.Nan.Pleurotus ostreatus*** or ***P.Etzwiler.Nan.Chroogumphus.rutilus***
 - For submissions in the Activity/Humor/Other Category: the category abbreviation of "O", the entrant's last name.entrant's first name.title of slide. For example: ***O.Etzwiler.Nan.CrazyHoneys***. A submitter need not provide the identification of the genus and species of entries in this category.
7. Each submission must be email *separately* to the Photo Contest Director with the formatted name of the entry in the subject line (For example: S.Etzwiler.Nan.CrazyHoney". Do not send a zipfile or a link to a Googledrive or Dropbox for all your submissions.
8. **New This Year:** each email transmitting an entry must identify where the photo was taken and include the phone number of the submitter.
9. **Reactivated This Year:** A submission to the Pictorial category may contain text or a caption, but it is not required. If you submit a submission with text, see Rule 11 below.
10. **New This Year:** Scientific submissions may be submitted directly in PowerPoint format, *provided* the individual photos comprising the overall entry are included without text as separate jpegs in the transmitting email.
11. **New This Year:** To enable MMS later to use the photos on the MMS website - in addition to the official submission - an Entrant *must* send with each entry in jpeg format the underlying photo(s) without text.
12. **New This Year:** If you need assistance with identification of your Pictorial and/or Scientific category submissions after you have attempted to research your specimen's identification (ideally to the possible Family or Genus), promptly send your request to the Photo Contest Director at photos@minnesotamushrooms.org to ensure you get assistance before the contest deadline. Because of the dozens of last minute or late requests for advice in past years – and to encourage early consultation on the identification of slides - be sure to first reach out for identification advice before October 31, 2024, as any initially incorrect identification, even if later updated on the contest slides, may slightly count against your scoring by judges. There will be no discount on scoring for identifications

confirmed after the contest deadline date if you have initiated your request for advice by the October 31, 2024 deadline.

13. Entrant agrees to allow the MMS to use the photos for MMS purposes, although the photos remains the property of the entrant. Previously copyrighted or published photos may not be submitted.

CATEGORY ENTRY GUIDELINES:

Pictorial (P) – Limit 5 Submissions

Quality and aesthetics of the photo are the primary criteria, with particular attention given to:

- Overall composition
- Lighting, clarity, depth of field, etc.
- Artistic creativity
- A photo worthy of being on a calendar, greeting card or poster.

Scientific (S) - Limit 5 Submissions

Entries should provide as much distinguishing photo information as possible to scientifically identify the fungus. All depicted fungi should be accompanied by an accurate ID to Genus and Species. If Genus and Species identification is not possible with the help of MMS educators, but the submission is nonetheless qualified to be included in the Scientific category.

Submissions should be of sufficient quality to be included in a field guide. Show: key features for identification with a typical example of the species. Submissions may also show:

- Various stages of development,
- Spore print
- Specimen cross-sections
- A comparison to different species that highlights a specific scientific trait for identification, and
- Microscopic images.

Extra credit may be given for rare or unique species, and for field identification information (Genus, species, date of observation, location, habitat, substrate, collector name) submitted in the transmittal email. Text may be applied to photos in this category.

Each submission may include multiple jpeg-formatted photos, but may consist of no more than two slides that are in PowerPoint (ppt) format. Contact the Photo Contest Director for a sample PowerPoint slide formatted as required.

Activity/Humor/Other (O) - Limit 3 Submissions

Photo submissions may depict any mycological event or activity with special consideration given to MMS, NAMA or other mycological association sponsored activities, such as photos that are humorous, have special interest, or show "oddities" as depicted by the photo and text. The quality of the photo is important. Text may be applied to photos in this category. Identification of the fungi *is not* required.

SUBMITTING:

Email each of your entries by the deadline (midnight of October 31, 2024) as an individual email with an attachment to the Photo Contest Director at: photos@minnesotamushrooms.org.

PHOTO CONTEST DIRECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

Nan Etwiler

651-367-4813

photos@minnesotamushrooms.org