

McKee Botanical Garden Annual Waterlily Photo Contest-2024

McKee Botanical Garden will hold its Annual Waterlily Photo Contest to coincide with its 19th Annual Waterlily Celebration on June 15. The contest is free to enter and open to McKee members as well as the general public.

The rules:

1. All entries must be submitted beginning June 4 through June 12 in the Administrative Office building at McKee. One "entry" includes one labeled photograph and a completed entry form. Photos will not be accepted without a completed entry form.
2. All entries must be of waterlilies photographed at McKee Botanical Garden in 2023 or 2024 with film or digital cameras.
3. Submitted photos **must be 8"x 10", mounted on foam board and matted in a WHITE MAT. Size including matting material must be 11" x 14".**
4. Each photo must be legibly labeled **on the back** with the category, name, address, email and phone number of the contestant. **Photos must not include any names, initials, or watermarks on the front of the photo.**
5. Categories include Color, Black and White, and Manipulated*. Photographers may submit ONE entry in each category. Photos submitted in the Manipulated category must have a copy of the original photo attached to the back of entry. Please be sure to include a title for your photograph.

Any photographs not complying with the official rules will not be accepted nor exhibited during the Waterlily Celebration. Entries may be picked up after 9 a.m. on Tuesday, June 18 in the Administration Office. McKee is not responsible for loss or damage to any photographs. Any photos not picked up by Friday, June 28, will be disposed of.

Winners agree to email their winning photo to info@mckee garden.org by Monday, June 20 and allow McKee Botanical Garden to use the photo for publicity purposes.

Photographer's submissions will be considered by a panel of judges on Friday, June 14. All entries, to include the winning entries in each category, will be displayed in the historic Hall of Giants during the festival on June 15. The winners will be announced

during the event, with accolades presented for first, second, and third place in the adult categories, alongside an honorable mention recipient. While the youth division will not be judged in individual categories, overall winners for first, second, and third place will be recognized, encouraging and celebrating the creativity of young photographers. McKee members and visitors will have an opportunity to vote for the “People’s Choice” award during the festival.

This year, McKee is delighted to announce that internationally renowned photographer Ngoc Minh Ngo will serve as Special Guest Judge and select this year’s “Best in Show” photograph. The winning image will be announced on July 1st and will be featured on McKee’s website. Anyone wishing to participate in this amazing opportunity to be judged by Ngoc, must email a digital version of their photograph to information@mckeegarden.org by June 15.

Ngoc is a New York-based photographer whose images have been published in such publications as *The World of Interiors*, *Vogue*, *T Magazine*, *Architectural Digest*, *Cabana*, and *House & Garden UK*. She is the author of several books, *Bringing Nature Home: Floral Arrangements Inspired by Nature*; *In Bloom: Creating and Living with Flowers*, *Eden Revisited: A Garden in Northern Morocco*, and her most recent publication *New York Green: Discovering the City’s Most Treasured Parks and Gardens*.

Ngoc photographed McKee Botanical Garden in 2023 and will return in 2024 for an upcoming book. McKee is the first Florida garden Ngoc has photographed.

**“Manipulated” includes out-of-the-ordinary techniques and digital alteration on both film and digital images. It shall include any image that has been substantially altered from its original form through printing with multiple layers; adding, removing, or rearranging elements of the picture; use of digital filters that alter the texture of the image; color substitution; etc. Images that incorporate double exposure, time lapse, hand tinting, etc., should also be entered in this category.

“Manipulated” does not include normal image processing by digital means, such as cropping, dodging, burning or contrast and density control. Photographs that have been captured with a digital camera or film images that have been printed using a computer printer are not considered differently than film images that have been processed using conventional darkroom techniques unless they have been substantially altered as described above.