

McKee Botanical Garden
2025 Annual Waterlily Photo Contest Guidelines

McKee Botanical Garden will hold its Annual Waterlily Photo Contest to coincide with the 20th Annual Waterlily Celebration on June 14. The contest is free to enter and open to McKee members as well as the public.

GUIDELINES and REQUIREMENTS

1. All entries must be submitted beginning June 3 through June 12 to the Administrative Office building, in the south parking lot, 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 2024 or 2025 with film or digital cameras.
3. **Submitted photos must be 8” x 10”, mounted on foam board and matted on 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 the entry. *Please be sure to include a title for your photograph.*

Any photographs not complying with these guidelines will not be accepted nor exhibited during the Waterlily Celebration. Entries may be picked up after 9:00 am on Tuesday, June 17 in the Administrative Office. McKee is not responsible for loss or damage to any photographs. Any photos not picked up by Friday, June 27 will be disposed of.

Winners agree to email their winning photo to info@mckeearden.org by Monday, June 23 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 13. All entries, to include the winning entries in each category, will be displayed in the historic Hall of Giants during the celebration on June 14. 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.

**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.*

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 laps, hand tinting, etc., should also be entered in this category.