



Editor's Pick Awards 2002

Text Copyright Jim Erhardt
All rights reserved.

The Editor's Picks have become a NPN tradition. Since we began the weekly recognition in 2001, the number of extraordinary nature images posted on the NPN web site has grown dramatically, making the process of selecting just a single image every week from each of the image critique galleries a formidable task. I guess it came as no surprise that when we had to pick the "best of the best" for the Editor's Pick Awards, the process was incredibly difficult.

The final selections were based on the recommendations of the NPN staff. Unfortunately, a few images were disqualified due to the fact that the photographer was not a member of the Nature Photographers Network, as stipulated in the [Editor's Pick Awards rules](#).

Final Note - Due to the large number of superb images in each category, we added a 1st and 2nd Honorable Mention to the prize package. All of the winning images can be viewed in the [Editor's Picks 2002 Gallery](#)

So here they are, our choices for the best images on NPN in 2002, and quite possibly, the best nature images to be found anywhere!

The Best of the Best - 2002 Click Thumbnail to View Larger Image

Avian Gallery

First Place Winner - [Great Gray Owl in Snowstorm](#) by Jim Zipp

"An image I could only dream of having in my portfolio. Simply stunning." *Bob Steele*

1st Honorable Mention - [Black Skimmer Jamaica Bay](#) by Jim Galletto

2nd Honorable Mention - [Northern Harrier - Male, Landing](#) by Bob Steele



Earth, Sea & Sky Gallery

First Place Winner - [Icing on the Cake](#) by Adam Gibbs

"Technically and aesthetically perfect. You're one of the photographers I seek out in this forum due to the high quality of your work (as seen here)." *Michael Gordon*

1st Honorable Mention - [Another Lake Abstract](#) by Eric Fredine

2nd Honorable Mention - [Early Morning Rays](#) by Jenny Ellerbe



Fauna & Flora Gallery

First Place Winner - [*Polar Drama*](#) by D. Robert Franz

"Very powerful and dramatic image. One of the best I've seen on NPN in every respect." *Guy Tal*

1st Honorable Mention - [*Shoot the Fight*](#) by Anthony Medici

2nd Honorable Mention - [*Red Fox - \(UK\)*](#) by Phil Shaw



Macro Gallery

First Place Winner - [*Drops of Gold*](#) by Mark Graf

"Just magic again from the eyes of Mark - your mind and talent just shows with every shot in all sorts of subjects." *Danny Young*

1st Honorable Mention - [*Inside the Carnation*](#) by Danny Young

2nd Honorable Mention - [*Amphipods*](#) by Lisa Page



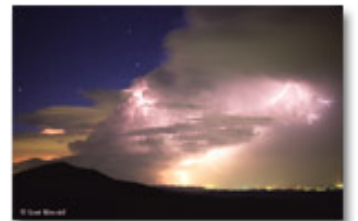
Man & Nature Gallery

First Place Winner - [*Lightning!*](#) by Lori Kincaid

"This is truly remarkable. This is absolutely the most exciting photograph I've seen in a long time." *Pete Dickson*

1st Honorable Mention - [*Ambassador Among Sumacs*](#) by Ted Simonett

2nd Honorable Mention - [*Red-eyed Thumb Frog*](#) by Cheryl Ertelt



Scenic Gallery

First Place Winner - [A Powerful Landscape](#) by Guy Edwardes

"You're the master of misty scenes and this is a image which works well for me. I like the simple composition and quality of the light, and the way the pylons dissect the frame is really well seen." *Geoff Simpson*



1st Honorable Mention - [Sunset and Tall Ship, Lake Erie](#) by Ethan Meleg

2nd Honorable Mention - [Lightning Storm Over Campus](#) by Kyle Gerstner

Underwater Gallery

First Place Winner - [Volitans](#) by Andy Heath

"Great timing in catching the fish in front of that sea fan!" *Mark Graf*

1st Honorable Mention - [Sponge Brittle Star](#) by Tony Henneke

2nd Honorable Mention - [Orange Cub Coral](#) by Richard Hogg



Weekly Challenge Gallery

First Place Winner - [Three Ibis x3](#) by Steve sage

"Very creative, and quite well done. I am fascinated by this clever creation, and would never have even thought of such a possibility." *Richard Ditch*



1st Honorable Mention - [Charlotte](#) by Betty Frazier

2nd Honorable Mention - [Mushroom and Elm Leaf!](#) by Craig Thompson

What They Won

Along with the admiration and respect of the NPN staff, members and readers, this year's winners were awarded the following -

First Place Winners

- One Wimberley [Telephoto/Macro Combo No. 3](#) flash bracket system
- One [Kirk BH-3 Ballhead](#)
- [PKXSoftware PhotoLibrary Software](#)
- One [GroundShot2 CSP](#) Camera Support Plate
- One [Better Beamer](#) Flash Accessory

- One special addition Editor's Pick Award Winner [NPN Field Cap](#)
- A 1-year [Nature Photographers Network](#) renewal
- One Editor's Pick Awards Certificate, suitable for framing

Each of the 1st and 2nd Honorable Mention winners received the following -

- One special addition Editor's Pick Award Winner NPN Field Cap
- A 1-year Nature Photographers Network renewal
- One Editor's Pick Awards Certificate, suitable for framing

In total, over \$7,000.00 in awards were distributed in the 2002 Editor's Pick Awards!

Our sincere thanks to [Wimberley](#), [Kirk Enterprises](#) and [PKZSoftware](#) for sponsoring the 2002 Editor's Picks Awards, and for their continuing support in the 2003 program.

So what's in store for 2003? More extraordinary nature photography to be certain, and a [prize package](#) valued at over \$11,000 at the time this article was written! See you in the NPN image critique galleries!

Comments on this article? Send them to the [editor](#).

[\[Front Page\]](#) [\[Reader's Forum\]](#) [\[Letters\]](#) [\[Links\]](#) [\[Features\]](#) [\[Reviews\]](#) [\[Photo Tips\]](#) [\[Photo Itineraries\]](#) [\[Personal Galleries\]](#) [\[Gift Shoppe\]](#)

All content copyright *Nature Photographers Online Magazine, Inc.* All rights reserved.