



Editor's Pick Awards 2009

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The **2009 Editor's Pick Awards** represent the "best of the best" of nature photography posted on the NPN website. As with the previous 8 years of this annual recognition of nature photography excellence, the process of selecting just 27 photos out of the thousands posted every year in the NPN image critique galleries is no small task.

Eligibility

1. The person posting the photo must be a member of the [Nature Photographers Network™](#) in order to have their photo initially selected as a Weekly Pick
2. Their membership must be current at the time the moderators make their Editor's Pick Award selections at the end of the year
3. NPN staff – *as listed on the staff masthead on the [Front Page](#)* – are not eligible for the awards.

The Selection Process

Every week through mid-December, the NPN image critique gallery moderators select their favorite image of the week, which is then archived in the [Weekly Pick Gallery](#). By the end of the year, 450 photos are archived - 50 from each gallery.

At year's end (or more specifically, during the last few weeks of December), the moderators are then tasked with identifying their 5 favorite photos from the 50 they selected over the course of the year. These photos are then sent to me as the moderators' recommendations for an Editor's Pick Award.

The final process of selecting three photos from each gallery then falls to me. Here are the guidelines that are followed during this process:

1. There can be no multiple winners in any year. This means that if photos from the same photographer are selected for different galleries, I must decide which photo will be designated the winner.
2. I review all 450 weekly pick photos in the Weekly Pick gallery myself to see if any not on the moderator's list stand out for consideration.
3. Out of the 27 photos that make the final cut, I designate the first, second and third place winners for each gallery. If the moderators recommend any photos for first place, their suggestion carries plenty of weight in the final decision.
4. Additional information on the Weekly Picks and yearly EPA can be found [here](#).

Final Remarks

I wish to congratulate all members who had their photos selected as a Weekly Pick in 2009. With the level of talent posting on NPN, this is no small accomplishment!

Also, my sincere thanks to the NPN moderators for their tireless effort over the course of the year! Watching over their galleries, posting photos and comments, making the weekly picks and inspiring us with their own extraordinary nature photography, they are in very large part what makes NPN such a special place for all nature photographers.

Once again, my congratulations to this year's winners and to the NPN moderators for the great job they do. Without further adieu, the 2009 NPN Editor's Pick Awards!

[VIEW THE 2009 EDITOR'S PICK AWARDS GALLERY](#)

What They Won

First Place Winner -

- Lifetime [Nature Photographers Network](#) membership
- Editor's Pick Awards 2009 Certificate
- Special edition Editor's Pick Award 2009 [NPN Field Cap](#)

1st Honorable Mention -

- 3-year extension of their [Nature Photographers Network](#) membership
- Editor's Pick Awards 2009 Certificate
- Special edition Editor's Pick Award 2009 [NPN Field Cap](#)

2nd Honorable Mention -

- 1-year extension of their [Nature Photographers Network](#) membership
- Editor's Pick Awards 2009 Certificate
- Special edition Editor's Pick Award 2009 [NPN Field Cap](#)

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