



“Take Your Best Shot” Photo Contest – 2009-10

California Waterfowl invites hunters and non-hunters to team up for the second annual “Take Your Best Shot” photo contest, highlighting the beauty of the state’s migratory bird population and the role of hunting in a balanced and healthy ecosystem. The contest will highlight photos of hunters, dogs, decoys, waterfowl and wetland wildlife, and food and family in two categories: amateur and **NEW this year**, professional. Great prizes for non-hunters and hunters who win as a team will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each category.

Rules

Who can enter: Photographers who have hunted no more than once since October 1, 2004, partner with any licensed California hunter for a waterfowl hunting experience. Men, women and youth are encouraged to participate. *You must be a California resident to be eligible to win.* Employees of California Waterfowl and their immediate family members are not eligible to win.

How it works: Non-hunter photographers will go into the field with hunters to photograph waterfowl and wetland hunting scenes in California during the 2009-10 waterfowl season, including junior hunts and more, beginning September 26, 2009. Entries must be submitted by March 15, 2010.

Entrants: Non-hunters photographers *and* hunters alike – must obey all California laws and regulations, as well as the rules of any particular public or private hunting venue, in the process of obtaining photos for this contest.

Entries: California Waterfowl is looking for striking photos* that illustrate the beauty and drama of waterfowl, wetlands, and waterfowl hunting, as well as the food and family scenes before and after the hunt. Photos of particular interest are ones that highlight the drama of the moment, the beauty from the blind, and the relationship of the hunter with his dog, the environment, friends, and family. Images will be judged on originality, technical excellence, composition and overall impact. Judges decisions will be final.

Categories: There are two categories:

- 1.) Amateur – a photographer who has not received income from photography, not including contest prize money
- 2.) Professional – a photographer who has received income from photography, beyond contest prize money

*Photos that have been digitally altered beyond standard color and contrast, etc. will be disqualified. This includes the digital addition or deletion of objects in the photos. *Photos will not be returned to the participants.*

Entry Fee: The fee for entry is \$15 per photo for amateur and \$30 per photo for professional. Proceeds will go toward prizes and the development of future California Waterfowl programs.

Submissions: Entrants can submit their work one of two ways. Either upload your photos online or submit your entry by regular mail.

To submit online, go to **MyHuntingRoom.com** and complete the entry form and download your high-resolution photo file.

To submit by mail, send an 8x10, 8x12 or 11x14 glossy prints and a CD or DVD with high-resolution copies of the photos in TIFF or JPEG format. Entrants should print their name, age category and photo category on the back of prints and on the label side of CDs or DVDs. *Ensure that the image titles on the printed photograph, entry form and cd/dvd match.*

Entries should be submitted at MyHuntingRoom.com or mailed to:

“Take Your Best Shot” Photo Contest
California Waterfowl
4630 Northgate Blvd., Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95834

Deadline: Entries must be received by California Waterfowl by March 15, 2010. Mailed entries should be sent in reinforced or padded envelopes that protect prints and disks. Multiple entries may be sent in a single envelope with one check covering the total entry fee; however, entrants should take care to keep materials for each separate entry – photo print, disks and entry forms – together, either with paper clips or in separate envelopes.

Winners: Only California residents are eligible to win. Winners will be announced at a coming California Waterfowl event in spring 2010, location to be announced. Prizes will go to both the winning photographers and the hunters who accompanied them. *Participants need not be present to win.*

Prizes: Prizes worth hundreds of dollars will be awarded to both Hunters and Non-hunters who win as a team. Entries may also be printed in California Waterfowl’s magazine, website or in other California Waterfowl publications.

Questions: Direct any questions about the “Take Your Best Shot” Photo Contest to Sarah Swenty, Public Relations Coordinator (916) 648-1406 - ext.139.

"TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT" ENTRY FORM

*** ** Please use one form per photograph entered. *** **

Name of photographer: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Amount Enclosed _____ (\$15 for Amateur Entries and \$30 for Professional Entries)

Name of hunter: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Valid 2009-10 California Hunting License Number: _____

California Waterfowl Membership Number _____

(Found in the address box of your bimonthly California Waterfowl Magazine)

Entry Information

Title of photo: _____

Location of photo: _____
(California city and name of club or public hunting land, if applicable)

Category:

___ Amateur ___ Professional | Age 0-17 ___ Age 18+ ___

Essay:

This contest is designed to start a dialogue between hunters and non-hunters in an effort to lead to greater understanding between the two. Please take a moment to write about the experience. Add an extra sheet if needed.

Certification:

By signing below, I certify that the image I have submitted is my own, that it has not been altered beyond standard optimization (removal of dust, cropping, adjustments to color and contrast, etc.), and that neither I nor my hunting partner violated any California hunting laws or regulations in the pursuit of this photo. I certify that I have hunted no more than once since October 1, 2004. Furthermore, I grant California Waterfowl unlimited rights to publish and reproduce this image, along with my name and city of residence, in media including its magazine, website and promotional materials, though I retain all other ownership rights.

(Photographer's signature here)

(Date)

Before you mail your entry, did you:

- ___ Read/follow the contest guidelines
- ___ Print or upload your photo in hi-res at
www.myhuntingroom.com
- ___ Include cd with entries not uploaded
- ___ Complete and sign form(s)
- ___ Include the entry fee(s)

How did you hear about the contest?

- ___ California Waterfowl Publication
- ___ Website _____
- ___ Dept. of Fish and Game Publication
- ___ Photography Teacher or Group
- ___ Other _____