

Fall 2025 COMPETITION

Hosted by: WACCO

When: **Saturday, November 1, 2025**

Where: Virtual Competition

Time: 11:30 AM

DEADLINE: October 12 , 2025 (midnight)

All images, must be uploaded by midnight of stated deadline. Fees are paid at time of upload via Squarespace.

Competition Up-loader: <https://www.wicameraclubs.org/artists#/competition-info-uploader-1>
(up-loader opens August 16, 2025). Complete Rules and Instructions can be found on the Competition page of the WACCO website.

By submitting images, the entrant permits WACCO to reproduce all or part of the entered material free of charge for display on the WACCO website and for use in the PSA Councils Challenge and/or display in media related to the competitions. The works will not be used in a commercial context.

Any questions please contact – Jeffrey Klug at waccoprogram@gmail.com or 262 893-3500

Ken Warning at kwarning@wi.rr.com

9 Divisions – 3 Images per division. \$4.00 fee per division.

Projected Nature

Monochrome Nature Projected

Color Nature Projected

Nature Special Theme

Projected Open

Limited Monochrome Open Projected

Monochrome Open Projected

Limited Color Open Projected

Color Open Projected

Open Special Theme

***Creative/Altered Reality-NEW**

Special Theme Division Definitions

Nature Special Theme – Animals – This category can include live wild, captive, or domesticated land-based mammals. Images captured at zoos, game farms, and the like are permitted. Birds, insects, reptiles, and amphibians are excluded from this theme. The subject should be presented in its natural environment and should not be moved to a studio location.

Open Special Theme – Tabletop/Still Life – A tabletop/still life image usually depicts a static arrangement of objects, arranged by the photographer.

***New Division – Creative/Altered Reality** – The Altered Reality category's primary distinction is that the maker intends (and the viewer easily recognizes) that the image is not a representation of reality. The Altered Reality image must have a photographic base of the maker's creation. Manipulating the basic image or images can be done in-camera or computer. The use of brushes and textures made by others is allowed in Altered Reality, as is the use of software to create unusual effects. Altered Reality image-makers should feel free to use a wide range of tools and resources limited only by imagination.

This Division is temporary and does not Qualify for the Best Of Show Award at this time.

WACCO COMPETITION DIVISION DESCRIPTIONS

Image Creation *(Applies to all Categories)*

Entries must originate as photographs (image-captures of objects via light sensitivity) made by the entrant on photographic emulsion or acquired digitally.

****Nature Division – rev. 06/2021**

General Description: The appearance of the “Hand of Man” is prohibited. No techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. No manipulation is allowed except for cropping. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the visual content or altering the content of the original scene are permitted. Exposure, tonal elements, color saturation, white balance, contrast, dodging/burning, graduated filter, and dehaze adjustments, both global and local, are allowed. Lens correction, noise reduction, sharpening, and dust sensor removal are allowed. HDR and focus stacking are allowed; stitched images are not allowed. No cloning to add or delete elements to the composition is allowed. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, are allowed. All allowed adjustments must appear natural.

Nature photography is restricted to the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person can identify the subject material and certify its honest presentation. Human elements shall not be present except where those human elements are integral parts of the nature story. Such as nature subjects, like barn owls or storks, adapted to an environment modified by humans or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves. Scientific bands, scientific tags, or radio collars on wild animals are permissible. Captive birds and animals are allowed; however, any straps, ropes, tethers, or other evidence of the hand of man are not allowed in the photo. Photographs of human-created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, or domestic animals are also allowed. The Nature Divisions include all those subjects, be they captive or free. The subject should not be moved to an indoor studio (workroom) setting but should be depicted in its natural surroundings. Mounted specimens are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.

The Division - Nature Division has three subcategories.

Nature Color Projected.

Nature Monochrome Projected (the varying of a black and white image with only one-color tone throughout).

Color Nature Small Print.

Acceptable:

- Natural Settings
- Removing dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches
- Scientific banding
- Cropping
- Exposure, tonal elements, saturation, white balance, dehaze, contrast, lens correction, noise reduction, and sharpening adjustments global and local.
- Use of graduated filters
- HDR and Focus stacking

Not Allowed:

- Any appearance of the “Hand of Man” see description for exceptions
- Moving subject to an indoor studio (workroom) environment
- Photographing mounted specimens

- Removing, moving, or adding any pictorial elements
- Removing straps, ropes, tethers,
- Photo editing beyond what is acceptable
- Stitched images

Special Theme for Nature

Insects, Reptiles & Amphibians – The insect, reptile, and amphibian theme are restricted to living creatures defined by science as insect, reptile, or amphibian. Common examples include; frogs, lizards, bees, butterflies, and spiders. The list is incomplete; however, no mammals, birds, fish, or mounted subjects are allowed in this theme. The subject should be presented in its natural environment and not be moved to a studio location.

Natural Landscapes – The subject is a landscape image that does not rely on closeup detail to impart the nature story. Images that include roads, fences, mown or cultivated fields, or any other human element are not allowed.

Birds – Birds are defined as animals with feathers and wings. Wild birds, waterfowl, and domesticated birds are allowed in this theme. However, no mammals, fish, or mounted subjects are allowed. The subject should be presented in its natural environment and not be moved to a studio location.

Animals – This category can include live wild, captive, or domesticated land-based mammals. Images captured at zoos, game farms, and the like are permitted. Birds, insects, reptiles, and amphibians are excluded from this theme. The subject should be presented in its natural environment and not be moved to a studio location.

Flowers – The flower theme includes wildflowers and domesticated, cultivated flowers such as roses, tulips, etc. The subject should be presented in its natural environment and not be moved to a studio location. Images captured in greenhouses, botanical gardens, and the like are allowed, but no hand of man should be visibly present.

Wisconsin Landscapes – The subject is a Wisconsin landscape image that does not rely on closeup detail to impart the nature story. Images that include roads, fences, mown or cultivated fields, or any other human element are not allowed. The appearance of the “Hand of Man” is prohibited. Furthermore, no manipulation is allowed except for cropping, exposure adjustments, and dust sensor removal. No cloning to add or delete elements to the composition is allowed.

*Limited Open Division (New Division 06/2021)

General Description: The Limited Open Division is restricted to the editing of a single photographic image. There are no restrictions on the subject matter. You may remove objects within the photo with any editing software removal tool, move tool, or blend tool. You may also clone within the photo. Cropping, color changes, dodging and burning, warping, applying LUTs, using gradients, sharpening and blurring are acceptable. In addition, you may remove any dust spots, digital noise, or film scratches.

Editing should be done in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify its reasonable presentation with the exception of object removal.

It is not allowed to add any part from another image, graphic, or media source. HDR, Panoramic Merging, and Focus Stacking are not allowed. Changing skies, adding textures, or adding images or effects from photo editing software is not allowed. Adding sun rays, rain, snow, or any other overlays is not allowed. Extending document size or other similar effects are not allowed. The use of brushes to add objects to a photo is not allowed.

The Division Limited Open has two subcategories.

Limited Color Open Projected and Limited

Monochrome Open Projected (the varying of a black and white image with only one color tone throughout).

Limited Open Division Continued

Summary:

Acceptable:

- Object removal, cropping
- Tonal adjustments, Dodging and burning,
- Color adjustments, Color/tonal gradients, LUTs
- Noise reductions, Sharpening, blurring

Not allowed:

- HDR, Panoramic Merging, and Focus Stacking
- Sky replacements
- Adding textures
- Adding objects, or overlays
- Adding any parts from another image, graphic, or media source
- Adding sun rays or other special effects from editing software
- Using brushes to add objects to the photo
- Extending document size

*** * Open Divisions – rev. 06/2021**

General Description: There are no restrictions on the subject matter or the number of types of images combined to create a single image. There are no restrictions on the types of processing used. All images and parts of the images must be the maker's images. Brushes that create a unique effect to your image are acceptable.

The use of any background, texture, and sky replacement that are not of the photographer's own making is not allowed.

HDR, Panoramic merging, Focus Stacking, and other stitched images are allowed.

The Division - Open Division has Five subcategories.

Color Open Projected, Monochrome Open Projected (the varying of a black and white image with only one-color tone throughout), Monochrome Open Small Print, Color Open Small Print, and Open Large Print.

Summary:

Acceptable:

- Any subject matter
- Any editing processes
- Use of single image or multiple composited images.
- Special effects, lighting effects, and color changes that have a unique effect.
- Use of brushes (purchased or free) that create a unique effect.

Not allowed:

- Any part(s) of the image that was not made by the maker.

***New Open Division – Creative/Altered Reality (8/2025)**

Creative/Altered Reality – The Altered Reality category's primary distinction is that the maker intends (and the viewer easily recognizes) that the image is not a representation of reality. The Altered Reality image must have a photographic base of the maker's creation. Manipulating the basic image or images can be done in-camera or computer. The use of brushes and textures made by others is allowed in Altered Reality, as is the use of software to create unusual effects. Altered Reality image-makers should feel free to use a wide range of tools and resources limited only by imagination.

This Division is on a trial basis for the next three competitions and for this reason does not Qualify for a Best of Show Award, and will be re-evaluated after the three competitions.

Special Themes for Open Division

Photojournalism/Sports – Photojournalism images should reflect a newsworthy event and be depicted honestly and objectively. The sport's image can be of any sporting event, professional, collegiate, or amateur, including children's events. Manipulation of these images is allowed if it does not compromise the image's original intent. However, no elements not originally in the image can be introduced by artificial means.

Portraits – The portrait category is restricted to human subjects only. Portraits of animals, birds, etc., will not be allowed and disqualified.

Urbanscapes – The urbanscape image depicts scenes from city life instead of a country or rural life. Allowable images include the grand cityscape, buildings, bridges, street scenes, etc. Tabletop/Still Life A tabletop/still life image usually depicts a static arrangement of objects.

Weather – Weather images typically depict conditions occurring in the atmosphere at a given time and place with respect to variables such as temperature, moisture, wind velocity, and barometric pressure.

Sunrise/Sunset – The time of day one hour before and after the sun touches the horizon. Since this is an open category, the hand of man is allowed in the image. No sky replacement is allowed; the image must be the photographer's image.

Creative/Altered Reality – The Altered Reality category's primary distinction is that the maker intends (and the viewer easily recognizes) that the image is not a representation of reality. The Altered Reality image must have a photographic base of the maker's creation. Manipulating the basic image or images can be done in-camera or computer. The use of brushes and textures made by others is allowed in Altered Reality, as is the use of software to create unusual effects. Altered Reality image-makers should feel free to use a wide range of tools and resources limited only by imagination.

Tabletop/Still Life – A tabletop/still life image usually depicts a static arrangement of objects.

Random – The competition committee will choose this category, and a description will be provided three months before the competition. This category comes into the rotation once every six competitions.

For questions on the definitions, don't hesitate to contact Ken Warning at kwarning@wi.rr.com or Jeffrey Klug at waccoprogram@gmail.com.