

2006 Florida Wildlife Magazine Photography Contest

The one question I have been asked most often since becoming editor of *Florida Wildlife* is “When is your photo contest and how do I enter it?”

I had known photography was a popular activity in Florida, with the state’s outstanding variety of plants and wildlife, but I was surprised by the number and quality of entries we received, especially after hearing another state wildlife magazine had about 300 entries for its first photography contest. This year, we had more than 100 photographers enter more than 950 images for consideration.

The judging panel scored each image on its composition, sharpness and focus, lighting and exposure, creativity and “worth a thousand words.” The judges worked for hours judging and scoring the photographs. Often, the difference between a finalist and a prize-winning photograph was only a couple of points.

Some photographers entered 20 photos (the limit), while oth-

ers, such as grand prize winner Jaime Smith, entered a single image. Four photographers – Rick Barletta, Michael J. Hancock, Jack Rogers and Joanne Williams – won two prizes each.

I wish the magazine had room enough to print more of the photographs, especially some of the finalists’. Hopefully, you’ll be seeing some of these excellent images in the next few issues, accompanying magazine articles.

I’d like to thank all the photographers who entered the contest and congratulate the winners. I hope all of you keep recording the beauty and excitement that is part of our natural Florida.

The deadline for the 2007 *Florida Wildlife Magazine* Photography Contest is Wednesday, Aug. 1. Due to the overall quality and quantity of bird photographs we received this year, we’ve added a new category for 2007 – “Bird watching.” Complete entry information for the photo contest is on page 56.

~ Kelly Broderick



Grand prize

Jaime Smith

Three fishermen in a boat on Lake Ocklawaha.



Living wild

Award of merit

Jack V. Rogers, II

“Bookends,” a pair of laughing gulls
at Fort DeSoto Park.



First place

Joanne Williams

Horned owl and chick at Loxahatchee
National Wildlife Refuge near Boynton Beach.





Second place

Gabrielle R. Salazar

Raccoon in a tree taken at J.N. "Ding"
Darling National Wildlife Refuge.



Award of merit

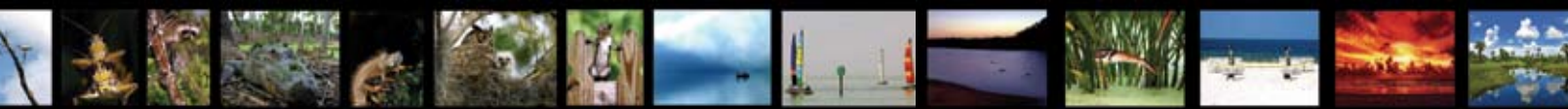
Pam Ariel

Squirrel on a fence taken at Port Orange.

Third place

Jack V. Rogers, II

Least bittern on the hunt at Viera Wetlands
near Melbourne.



Recreation

First place

Rick Barletta

Sailboats on the Dunedin Causeway.



Second place

John Matthews

Couple walking along Daytona Beach.

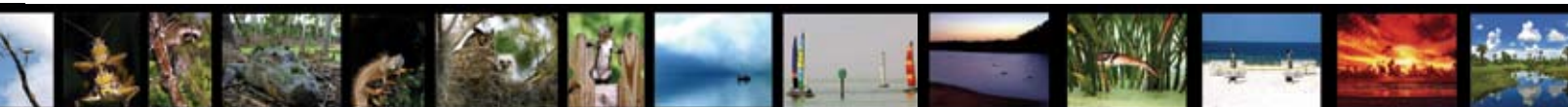




Third place

Philip Paul

Wedding on the beach.





First place

Alex Saputo

River of grass at Fakahatchee
Strand Preserve State Park.



Third place

Michael J. Hancock

Cypress tree beside the rapids of
Hillsborough River State Park.



Natural scenes

Second place
(tie)

Lynn Berreitter

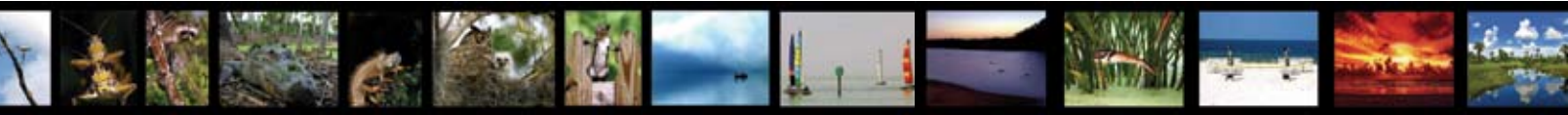
Ibis in a tree at Matlacha Pass.



Second place
(tie)

Rick Barletta

Dawn at Chassahowitzka
National Wildlife Refuge.

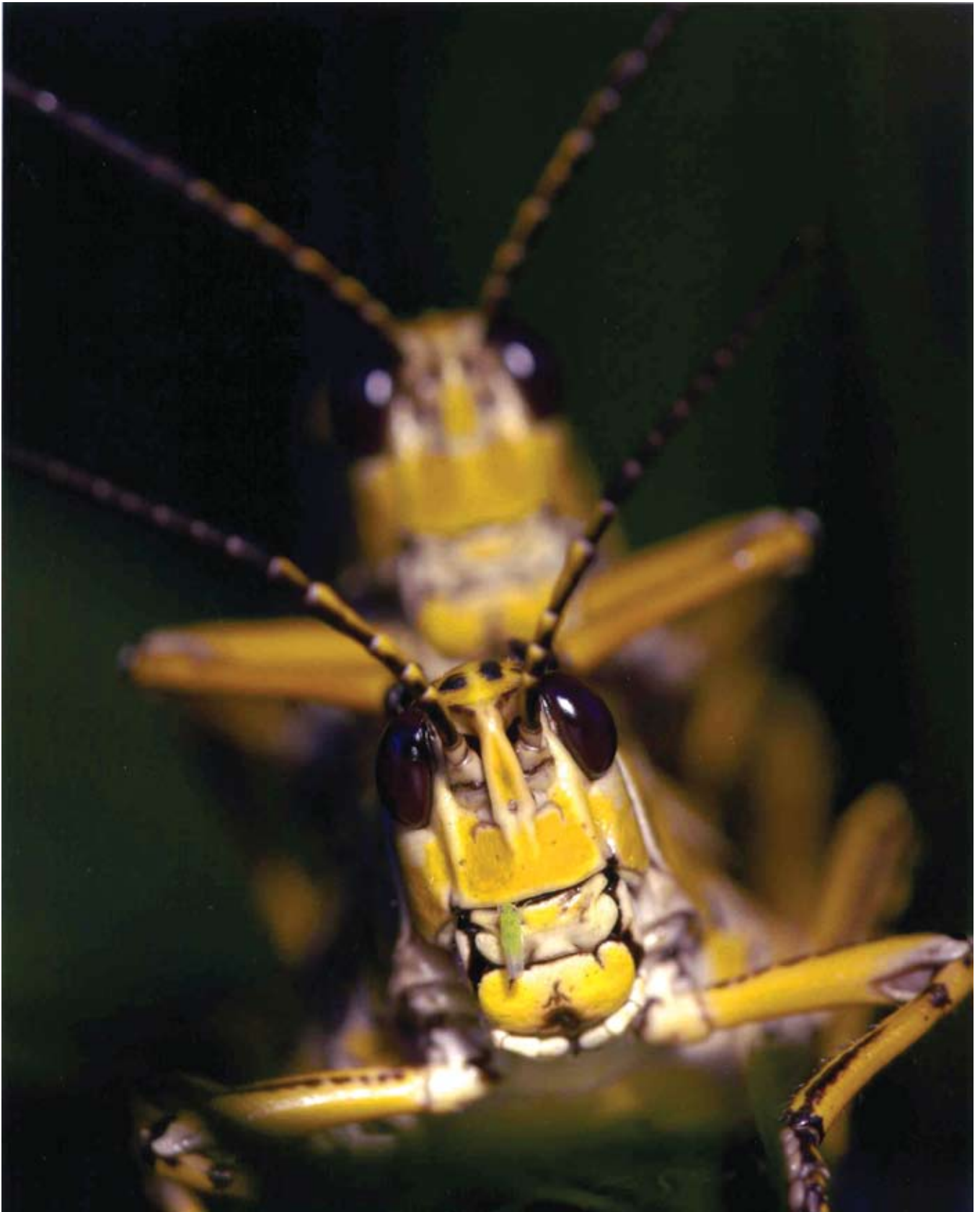


Up Close

First place

Larry Lynch

Lubber pair in photographer's backyard in St. Petersburg.





Second place

Joanne Williams

Nonnative iguana at Pompano Beach.

Third place (tie)

Michael J. Hancock

Dew on a spider web at Cypress
Creek Preserve, Land O' Lakes.



Editor's pick

Larry Lynch

Gators at twilight, time exposure at Myakka River State Park

