

2010 Beneath the Sea International Imaging Competition

Beneath the Sea is pleased to give all underwater photographers and videographers a chance to show off their images.

Best-In-Show Prize (Video): *The Stan Waterman Award for Excellence in Underwater Videography.*

Best-In-Show Prize (Photo): *The David Doubilet Award for Excellence in Underwater Photography.*

Best In Show Prize (Creative): *The Jim Church Award for Excellence in Underwater Creative Imaging.*

And . . . many other prizes, including travel and equipment from premier manufacturers.

So start looking through your images and videos to find your best work to enter. But don't wait too long—the deadline of December 31, 2009 is closer than you think!

The BTS International Imaging Competition is open to underwater photographers and videographers throughout the world. Beneath The Sea, Inc. is a federally tax-exempt (501(c)(3)) organization incorporated as not-for-profit in the State of New York and all proceeds from the Imaging Competition go to further BTS's goals of (1) providing continuing education to the recreational diver community, (2) educating the public to the benefits of protecting the ocean environment and (3) supporting oceanic and environmental related projects and charities. A special thanks to our contributors who are listed at http://beneaththesea.org/BTS_Sponsors.html

Questions should be sent to: Photo@BeneathTheSea.org (Put "BTS Photo" in the subject line).

IMPORTANT:

READ AND FOLLOW THE RULES FOR SUBMITTING AND NAMING YOUR ENTRIES

Naming of Image and Creative Image files:

The image files should be labeled with the code letter for the category, the entrant's last name, first name, number of the entry file, name of the image and then <-10>. For example, Jane Smith Doe submits 2 images; the first in the Macro/Closeup category and the second in Marine life. They would be named <cDoe-Jane1-Shrimp on Whip Coral-10.TIF> and <bDoe-Jane2-Turtle and Remora-10.TIF>. Creative entries must comply with the naming and formatting requirements set forth for Image category entries; the initial letter for each file name should be an <x>—for example, <xDoe-John1-Hole in the Ocean-10.TIF>.

Submission of Entries:

Images and Creative Images: In addition to your images, **the Image Competition Entry Form in TXT format must be submitted.** The entry form can be downloaded at [Image Entry Form](#)¹ The

¹ http://www.beneaththesea.org/pdf/BTS_Image_Entry_form.txt

text file should be entitled with your last name, first name and middle initial. For example, John Smith Doe would have his information in a file entitled <Doe-JohnS.txt>.

a. **Mail entries.** Images and the Image Competition Entry Form may be submitted on a CD by mail. If you submit entries by mail in both the Image and Creative Image categories, they should be submitted on the same CD. The entrant's name should be written on the CD. Mail a printed copy of the Image entry form, check or copy of the Internet payment receipt and the CD to

BENEATH THE SEA Imaging Contest

c/o Randi Eisen

599 Diane Place

North Woodmere, NY 11581 USA

b. **Internet entries.** Images may be submitted electronically. After registering and paying the fee by credit card or electronic funds transfer at [Image Contest Registration](#)², go to the BTSphoto internet dropbox at <http://dropbox.yousendit.com/BTSPhoto>, and follow the instructions there to upload the images. Again, be sure to also upload the Image entry form in TXT format, properly named, at the same time.

Video: Mail the Video entry form (located at the end of these rules), check or copy of the Internet payment receipt and the DVD to the address above.

Entry Deadline

Entries must be postmarked or uploaded before December 31, 2009 (and received by January 10, 2009 if submitting by mail). Do not call or email to confirm receipt. If you want confirmation of receipt, send the entry using Delivery Confirmation (US Post Office Form 152) or an overnight courier service. Please do not use certified mail since someone is not always in when the mail is delivered to sign for the package.

Payment:

An individual may submit up to six images and/or one video and/or one video snapshot and/or up to six creative images. There is an entry fee of US\$12.00 per slide or digital image and US\$25.00 per video or US\$15.00 per video snapshot plus a handling fee of US\$2.00 per entry form. Make the check or money order payable to "BTS." Do not send cash! You may register and pay the fee by credit card or electronic funds transfer at [Image Contest Registration](#)³.

Format:

Video: It must be in a format that can be played using the Windows Media Player. The DVD must be labeled with the entrant's name and the title of the video. If both a Video and Video Snapshot are submitted they may be on the same DVD but it must be clearly labeled to indicate both are included. A video may be no more than six minutes long, have a title and theme, and carry a narrative (in English)

² <http://www.beneaththesea.org/contest.html>

³ <http://www.beneaththesea.org/contest.html>

and/or music track. At least 65 percent of the video must have been shot underwater. Videos may have co-creators but the video portion must be shot by the entrant.

Video Snapshot. A video snapshot is a video at least 10 seconds, but no more than 30 seconds, long. It may have a narrative and/or music track but neither is required. It must have been shot underwater and is of a single subject or group of subjects. Cuts and transitions should be minimized. This category is not eligible for the Stan Waterman Award.

Images: A maximum of six images in digital format may be entered (slides are not accepted); no more than three images may be entered in any one category. Each individual image may be entered in only one category. If an image might be considered in more than one category, the choice is up to the entrant.

Entries may be submitted as TIFF or JPEG but TIFF is preferred. If in JPEG, a file with the highest quality setting—where compression is kept to a minimum—is recommended. Images must be RGB. Entries should have a resolution of 300 dpi and must be 2100 pixels in the long dimension. Images in the Point & Shoot category may be submitted as shot. .

Images may be edited with software. However, except for the Creative category, image manipulation should be minimized and no cloning of objects to place in the image is allowed; this is an imaging competition, not a photo manipulation contest. We reserve the right to audit RAW files and disqualify winning images if we feel they are overly manipulated. The subjective opinion of the judges as to whether an image exceeds this guideline is final.

Image Categories Are as Follows:

A. General: Wide or medium shots of divers, wrecks, reef environments, etc.

B. Marine Life: All non-macro images, including close-focus wide angle, of fish or any other vertebrates or invertebrates.

C. Macro/Close-up: The subject must be 1:6 or smaller.

D. Underwater Behavior: Any lens, subject must show natural fish/animal behavior.

E. Conservation: The photo must demonstrate an environmental concern.

F. Novice – Point & Shoot: Photo taken with a Point and Shoot Camera. Judges will decide, in their sole discretion, what is a point and shoot camera. Entrants in this category cannot be an industry professional and previously will not have been awarded First place in any category in any major underwater photographic competition.

Creative: A maximum of six images in digital format may be entered. The image must have a basic underwater theme incorporating divers, wrecks, reefs, fish and/or marine life. Entries must originate as photographs (image-captures of objects via light sensitivity) made by the entrant on photographic emulsion or acquired digitally. Other than that, anything goes. You may combine multiple images and also do major manipulation, adjustment and distortion. Images may be altered, either electronically or otherwise, by the maker, and artwork or computer graphics created by the entrant may be incorporated as long as the photographic content predominates.

General Information And Rules:

1. All entries must be exposed underwater (no aquarium, pool or surface shots) by the person submitting the entry. Marine life should never be stressed or endangered for the sake of a photo. All underwater images must meet our environmental standards and those of the Environmentally Aware Photographic Image Competition. For example, the judges will disqualify any entry that exhibits divers visibly damaging the environment, fins kicking up sand, animals showing signs of stress, animals being fed, animals viewed in an unnatural location, marine life being touched or divers exhibiting poor buoyancy control.
2. Judging will be by a panel of professional photographers and other professionals in the underwater community chosen by Beneath the Sea. The judges reserve the right not to award a placing in any category if, in their opinion, no submission deserves that award. Decisions of the judges will be final and will be based on composition, technique, exposure and general interest.
3. No substitutions can be offered for prize awards. Trip prizes have been donated by the sponsor which allows all proceeds to benefit Beneath The Sea and its projects such as Ocean Pals. Please be considerate of the sponsor policies to encourage their generosity for future contests.
4. Ownership and copyright of all entries remain with the photographer. BTS reserves the right to publish the winning entries without compensation in announcements of contest winners (such as contest mailers, magazines, and BTS Website) and promotional campaigns (t-shirts, etc.) for non-profit organizations such as BTS and Ocean Pals for 2 years from the contest awards (unless negotiated otherwise by entrant). Additional compensation will be negotiated and paid on a case-by-case basis to the photographer for any other promotional or commercial usage. The right to reproduce the entry as promotion for Beneath The Sea is assumed if proper photographic credit is given. Beneath the Sea, Inc. may show the competition entries continuously during the show weekend.
5. Any images which have won best of show or placed (1st, 2nd or 3rd) in any major competition (as defined by the judges in their discretion) or that have been published (or accepted for publication) as of the date the entry is postmarked or submitted are not eligible.
6. Upon request, the original unedited video or raw digital file must be provided.
7. The work submitted must have been taken by the person submitting and signing the entry form. The entrant certifies the work as his own and represents that the ownership and copyright for all submissions is the exclusive property of the entrant. Contest officials and their immediate families are ineligible to enter.
8. In the event that an award winning entry is later found to have violated any rule, it will be disqualified, and officials of this competition reserve the right to recall prizes.
9. If too many videos and/or digital images or the incorrect entry fee are sent, at the sole discretion of the Contest officials either a random selection of the images will be made or your entry will not be accepted. CD's, and DVD's will not be returned.
9. Winners will be responsible for taxes, import duties, customs fees and freight on large prizes. All prize travel arrangements must be coordinated with the prize donor and are subject to availability at the time reservations are made. Liveboards are often fully booked a year or more in advance and the award winner may have to schedule their travel for next year.

10. Winners will be notified on or before March 1, 2010. Prints of the winning entries will be on display during the Beneath The Sea Dive Exposition. Winning Images and the Best in Show Video will be presented at Beneath The Sea's Saturday Evening Film Festival on March 27, 2010. Winning entries can be viewed at www.BeneathTheSea.org

The **34th Annual Beneath The Sea Dive Exposition** will take place March 26, 27 and 28, 2010 at the Meadowlands Exposition Center, Secaucus, New Jersey –10 minutes from Manhattan. Further information can be found on Beneath The Sea's internet web site: <http://www.BeneathTheSea.org> or call (914) 664-4310.

2010 Beneath The Sea Video Competition Entry Form

Name: _____

Street Address: _____ Apt. _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

I hereby certify that I and these entries meet all qualifications noted in the rules.

Signed: _____

Entries

Video

Video Snapshot

Title: _____

Title: _____

Equipment Used: _____

Equipment Used: _____

Location: _____

Location: _____

Entry Fee:	Video @ US\$25.00.....	\$	
	Video Snapshot @ US\$15.00.....	\$	
	Handling Fee	\$	2.00

Total Submitted

If fee was paid on line by credit card or EFT:

Receipt Confirmation Number: _____

Receipt Confirmation Date: _____