General:

1. All club members are eligible to enter. New club members may enter within 2 weeks of joining the club, even if that date occurs after the entrance-deadline.

2. Contest Year: August 9, 2023 – August 13, 2024. Only entries taken during this period are eligible. August 14, 2024 Photo Contest opens for 2024 - 2025 year.

3. The cost for joining the photo contest for the 2023/24 year will be $25. Payment can be made any time after the start of the Contest. The deadline for joining the photo contest for the 2023/24 photo contest year is May 7, 2024. The Photo Committee will accept late entries until June 4, 2024 with a $5 late fee. No entries will be accepted after June 4, 2024.

4. Maximum photo entries in each sub-category are limited to 5 per person. Some categories have only a single entry. Cost per entry is $3.

5. Video entries are limited to one five-minute video per person per category. Cost per entry is $5.

6. All entries must have been photographed underwater in an open-water environment, except for Club Activities. This means that the photographers must be underwater and excludes pools, aquariums, bathtubs, or surface photos from docks, boats or other surface areas. The entrant must have taken all entries. Photos taken of the entrant by individuals using the entrant's camera will be disqualified.

7. Images may not be extracted as a single image from a video stream. All entries must be submitted on a CD, DVD or Flash drive, with the images in JPG format. It is not necessary to resize photos being entered. See Appendix A for further details.

8. All entries must be marked with the Category Number, entrant's name, entry number within the category, and title. See Appendix A for format of entry forms and file names.

9. A single photo may not be entered in multiple categories.

10. The photo committee has the final decision on

qualification of entries. No refunds will be issued for disqualified entries.

11. Entries will be submitted to either of the Photography Contest Committee Co-Chairs, Sandy Canning or Carmela Donegan. Entries may be submitted at any time during the contest year up until the deadline, August 13, 2024.

12. Members of the Photo Committee are available during the year or at the contest conclusion to help entrants with technical questions about submissions or entry rules.

13. Photos entered in a wrong category may be moved to the correct category if the entrant has not already submitted the maximum number allowed, otherwise they will be disqualified.

Judging
Category Judging:
1. All entries will be judged in one session.
2. Entries for each category will be judged on a scale of 1 through 5 (1 being poor and 5 being excellent) by all club members present at the session.
3. All entries will be shown as a multi-media presentation.
4. Entries will be presented to the general membership for judging on the following date: September 10, 2024: Still Photography and Video judging
Best in Show Judging:

1. There will be two Best in Show awards, one for still photography, and one for video.
2. A committee or two separate committees of non-photo contest members (chair(s) to be appointed by the photo committee) will vote for the Best in Show still photography and video prior to the annual banquet. Only the first place winning photos and videos in each category will be eligible for Best in Show.

Prizes:
Prizes will include 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each sub- category

for which there are enough qualified entries. Fish of the Year and Novice categories will only have one 1st place winner.

Each entrant can win only one prize per sub-category. Winning entries will be announced and prizes awarded at the Annual Banquet

A Best in Show award will be presented to the still photo and video entry receiving the most votes as judged according to the above section "Best in Show".

Categories:

There are 11 categories as listed below. The sub-categories in category 1-3 are:

Reef – the focus should be on natural reef structure such as coral, sponges, sea fans and general wide-angle photographs of reef scenery. This category would include marine creatures that do not move. Caverns and caves also fall into this category.

Marine Life – the focus is moving marine creatures that swim, walk, crawl, or have some form of action.

Category 1: Florida Gulf Coast (see definitions below)

1A: Reef
1B: Marine Life

Category 2: Florida Non-Local (see definitions below)

2A: Reef
2B: Marine Life

Category 3: Non-Florida Caribbean/Atlantic (see definitions below)
3A: Reef
3B: Marine Life

Category 4: Non-Florida Pacific (see definitions below)

4A: Reef
4B: Marine Life

Category 5: Blue Heron Bridge, Riviera Beach, Florida - All photos entered must be taken at this site.

Category 6: Divers/ Anywhere
- The focus is on a diver or group of divers that are the main subject of the photo and not just a diver appearing in a background of a reef or wreck shot.

Category 7: Structure/ Anywhere
- The focus is man-made structures such as wrecks, airplanes, bridge parts rather than reefs.

Category 8: Club Sponsored Activities
- A Club member must appear in the entry
- The entry must be taken at a Club sponsored activity
- Entries in this category may not be creatively enhanced

Category 9: Fish of the Year
The committee has chosen the angelfish as the subject for the 2022/23 photo contest.

Only one entry per photographer will be accepted. The photo may be taken anywhere in the world. There will be only be a single winner in the category and that photo will also be eligible for Best in Show.

Category 10: Novice Photographer
This category will be opened to any recreational photographer who has never placed in any Caloosa Dive Club photo contest.

Only one entry per photographer will be accepted. The photo may be taken anywhere in the world. There will only be a single winner

in the category and that photo will also be eligible for Best in Show.

Category 11: Video
Video may be a mix of above-water, underwater, very close, and/or special effects. The major portion of the video must have been shot underwater. For videos containing footage that would fall into multiple categories, the video must be entered in the category of the farthest location (i.e. some video outside Florida, the video would compete in 11C Non- Florida). All phases of the video entry must have been performed by the entrant – photography, titles, editing, etc.

11A: Florida Gulf Coast
11B: Florida Non-Local
11C: Non-Florida

APPENDIX A
Entry Form Format – All

1. An entry form must be submitted by each entrant in the photo contest. The form will be provided by the Photo Committee and is organized by category. Entries not following the correct format will be disqualified and no entry fees refunded.

Sample Entry Form Format for Joe Shooter

Category 1A - Florida Gulf Coast

1. Fluffy Orange Pillow Star
2. Stone Crab for My Dinner
3. The Pegasus
4. Goliath Grouper in Hiding
5. Hunting for Dummies

Entry Format for all Photos

1. Each digital photo must be submitted in .jpg format (the original resolution is best, do not resize). All entries must be submitted on a CD, DVD or Flash drive, which is labeled with the entrant's name. Email entries will not be accepted.

2. File names must be in the following name convention (with the title matching the one submitted on the Entry Form above). Underscores are acceptable to separate words in the title but do not use special characters such as $, #, dot (.) or anything not shown in the samples. USE LOWER CASE when making up your entry format.

Category No.-first initial and last name-consecutive no. of photo entered-photo title

Following is an example that matches the Entry Form format shown above.

File names:
1A-jshooter-1-fluffy orange pillow star.jpg
1A-jshooter-2-stone crab for my dinner.jpg
1A-jshooter-3-the pegasus.jpg
1A-jshooter-4-goliath grouper in hiding.jpg
1A-jshooter-5-hunting_for_dummies.jpg

Entry Format for Video

The following are the only formats that will be accepted for Video Entries and must be submitted on a CD, DVD or flash drive. Email entries will not be accepted.

CD, DVD or flash drive using one of these formats:
MPEG File
H.264
WMV file

Quick Time file MOV
MP4 file

Definitions:
Florida Gulf Coast – North of N 25° 20 minutes (Cape Sable North)

Florida Non-Local – East Coast of Florida including the Florida Keys and the Dry Tortugas, any place in Florida other than the Gulf Coast (excluding Blue Heron Bridge.)

Non-Florida Caribbean/Atlantic – Outside the state of Florida, Atlantic Ocean or Caribbean Sea.

Non-Florida Pacific – Outside the state of Florida - Pacific Ocean or any of the seas or oceans not covered by the above.

Blue Heron Bridge, Phil Foster Park, Riviera Beach, Florida

Reef – the focus should be natural reef structure such as coral, sponges, sea fans and general wide-angle photographs of reef scenery as well as Caverns and Caves. Divers may appear in the photo but not as the main subject. This category would include marine creatures that do not move.

Marine Life – the focus is moving marine creatures that swim, walk, crawl, or have some form of action. Included are shrimp, crabs, shells, lobsters, worms, nudibranchs and more.

Divers – the focus is on a diver or group of divers that are the main aspect of the composition and not just a diver appearing in a background of a reef or wreck shot.

Structure – the focus is man-made structures such as wrecks, airplanes, bridge parts rather than reefs.

APPENDIX B HELPFUL HINTS Naming Conventions

While you can name your photos simple names such as Starfish or Fish, it adds more interest to your entry if you are a little more descriptive. By the time the audience has seen 5 entries labeled Starfish, what helps them remember that they loved your Starfish? Try some imagination (not too long of course).

Starfish ideas – Wishing on a Star, Rare Blue Striped Starfish, Indian Ocean Star Sapphire, etc.

Video

What makes a video presentation stick out in your mind - clips of different scenes in no particular order or a musical presentation with a start and ending? Take your audience on a dive starting from the surface, entering the water, discovering a subject, observing a special activity, and don't forget to bring them back up at some time. Add some simple titles to help everyone know what they are seeing.

Photo Technical Hints

A. Focus – is the subject in sharp focus? If part of the photo is out of focus, is it intentional and does it add to the overall effect of the photograph?

B. Framing – is the subject framed well? If the subject is cut off, is it intentional and does it add to the overall effect of the photograph? Is the subject centered or otherwise well placed for effect in the photograph?

C. Angle – is the angle from which the photo was taken appropriate for the subject? Faces are generally more

pleasing when the photo is taken from below than from above. A profile or a head on shot is a better photo than one that catches the animal swimming away.

D. Clarity of subject – what is the subject? Is it obvious?

E. Composition – how has the space in the photograph been organized?

F. Lighting – is the subject well lit? Are there harsh shadows? If so, do they add or detract from the photograph's effectiveness?

G. Unusual Subject – is the subject common or unusual? An unusual subject is usually more appealing than a commonplace one.

H. Artistic Appeal – does the photographer show an artistic eye? Does the photographer notice the unusual and make the most of it? Did the photographer use creative techniques to make an interesting effect?