



For Immediate Release  
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## **2008 Refuge System Photo Contest Results Announced Louisiana's Mack Barham, M.D. wins with "Egrets in Fog"**

**Washington, DC** – The National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2008 Refuge Photo Contest, a digital photo contest showcasing America's national wildlife refuges and the diverse wildlife that depend on them. The winners are announced in celebration of the 105<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the first National Wildlife Refuge on March 14, 1903, and will serve to help promote the Refuge System for years to come.

More than 2,000 images from over 150 refuges from 45 states and territories were submitted to this third annual Refuge Photo Contest, undeniable evidence that refuges are outstanding places to view wildlife and experience America's diverse heritage. Images were submitted by upload through the contest website from October 15 until December 15, 2007.

"The contest results are testimonial both to the wealth of talent possessed by amateur outdoor photographers across the nation, and to the spectacular beauty that can be found at our national wildlife refuges," said Evan Hirsche, President of the NWRA. "These photos will help us illustrate why it's so important to protect and strengthen our more than 548 national wildlife refuges."

Top prize, a 2008 Toyota Highlander Hybrid generously provided by Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A., goes to Mack Barham, M.D., for a spectacular photograph of great egrets taking flight in the morning fog at Black Bayou Lake NWR, LA. "We applaud Dr. Barham and all the winners of the Refuge Photo Contest for their spectacular images that capture the magnificence and grandeur of our national wildlife refuges," said Mary Nickerson, national external communication manager for Toyota Motor Sales. "As a company that focuses on environmental sustainability, we are pleased to sponsor a program that helps to raise public awareness of the National Wildlife Refuge System and America's diverse wildlife heritage."

The top 5 prize winners are Mack Barham, M.D. of Monroe, LA (First Place); Steve Byland of Warren, NJ (Second Place); Robert Baker of Emmett, ID (Third Place); Ray Foster of Salem, OR (Fourth Place); and Jim Burns of Scottsdale, AZ (Fifth Place). The 15 honorable mention winners are: Gerry Abbott, Bryan Aulick, Mark B. Bartosik, David Goldberg, Steve Greer, Richard Henry, Daniel Kaiser, Mary Konchar, Mike McBride, David Redman, Roger Smith, Ted Steinke, Carol Wolfe, Gail Diane Yovanovich, and Les Zigurski.

To view the winning images and Image Library, visit: <http://www.refugenet.org/contest/2008Winners.html>.

In addition to the top prize Toyota Highlander Hybrid, second through fifth place winners will receive: an Art Wolfe Photography Package; a Canon EOS 40D Camera outfit; a pair of Steiner Peregrine Binoculars; and a Trek-Tech TrekPod. First through fifth place winners will also receive a Barbara's Bakery camping snack package. The 15 honorable mention photographers will receive field guides from Houghton Mifflin.

The National Wildlife Refuge Association wishes to express its great appreciation to all sponsors for their tremendous contributions in support of this program, and would like to recognize Zenfolio in particular for hosting the contest on its elegant website, [www.zenfolio.com](http://www.zenfolio.com). The NWRA also thanks the photo contest judges who contributed their time and expertise to selecting the winners. They are Maria Cecil, Jim Clark, Keron Psillas, and Deirdre Skillman.

Images from the contest will be added to the NWRA Refuge Image Library, a gallery of high quality photographs showcasing the rich and varied wildlife and habitat protected by our country's National Wildlife Refuge System. The collection is searchable by subject category and state, and provides contact information for each photographer.

The National Wildlife Refuge Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, nationwide membership organization, established in 1975. The NWRA's mission is to protect enhance and expand the National Wildlife Refuge System, lands and water set aside by the American people to protect our country's diverse wildlife heritage. Over the years we have worked to make the Refuge System stronger and better able to address the growing challenges of conserving wildlife in our country. For more information, visit <http://www.refugeassociation.org>.

### **About Toyota's Philanthropy Activities**

Toyota focuses its commitment to the community in three principle areas: education, environment and safety. These range from teacher grants and scholarships to cultural enrichment program, vocational training and family literacy. In 2007, Toyota USA contributed more than \$57 million to U.S. philanthropic programs, with a majority supporting education. Some of Toyota's signature community programs include the Toyota TAPESTRY Program, the nation's largest science teacher grant of its kind and the Toyota International Teacher Program, a fully-funded two-week study-abroad program for grades 6-12 U.S. teachers. In partnership with the National Environmental Education Foundation, Toyota serves as the national sponsor of National Public Lands, a national one-day effort to renew and refurbish America's public lands. Since 1991, overall donations total nearly \$400 million. For more information visit <http://www.toyota.com/community>.

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