

The Vermont Maple Festival

2019 Maple Sugaring Amateur Photography Contest Rules

- 1. Maker Eligibility** – This contest is only for *Vermont amateur photographers*. Not sure you are an amateur photographer? The contest chairman considers the definition in this article, on page 2, helpful and will use it as guidance for eligibility. By entering this contest, you are certifying that you made the original exposures of all your submitted photos, and that the processing, printing and special effects applied to your photos were done by you, or under your direction. You must also be a *resident of Vermont*.
- 2. Photograph Eligibility** – Any photograph of maple sugaring, taken by you, is eligible. Your photos do not have to be taken within any time limit. Award winning photos in this contest, in any previous year, are not eligible for entry.
- 3. Theme** - The theme for this contest, and its four categories, is *Maple Sugaring*.
- 4. Categories** - You *may* submit up to two photos per category for a maximum of eight (8) photos taken by you. (e.g., You can submit just one photo, or one photo per category, or two photos in one category, or any combination with a maximum of eight.) The categories are:
 - **Process** (e.g., buckets, boilers, boiling, cleanup, horses, etc.)
 - **People** (e.g., sugar makers, helpers, cooks, canners, horse handlers, etc.)
 - **Scenic** (e.g., over-all scene of a sugar house, the woods with sap buckets, etc.)
 - **Maple Syrup Being Used** (e.g., Eating maple candy, sugar on snow, maple syrup on food and in drinks, etc. Maple syrup/products needs to be seen in the photo.)
- 5. Size and Mounting** - Entries have to be 8x10 photographs, color or B&W, that must be flush mounted on mount board, or mounted with a photo mat with an 8x10 opening. Do not frame your prints for this contest.
- 6. Contest Entry Labels** – Each photograph submitted to this contest must have a Contest Entry Label attached to the back of it. *Photos without its own Contest Entry Label will not be judged.* A page of three Contest Entry Labels is supplied with these rules; print as many sheets as needed. Do not put any identification on the front of your photo(s).
- 7. Print Competition Entry Form** – Each photographer is required to submit this form with your contest photographs.
- 8. Entry Deadline** is **Tuesday, April 23, 2019, by 11:59 P.M.**
- 9. Submitting your Photograph(s)** –Ship (Note: USPS First Class & Priority mail is a 2-day delivery), or hand deliver, to:
Maple Sugaring Amateur Photography Contest, C/O Wayne Tarr, 6 Wiley Place, St. Albans, VT 05478
- 10. Judging** - A panel of Certified Professional Photographers will judge each photograph based on the following criteria:
A) **Impact**, B) **Center of interest**, C) **Composition**, D) **Lighting**, and E) **Appropriateness** (How well the photo follows the contest theme and selected category.) The decisions of the judges are final.
- 11. Prizes** – The judges will select 14 winning photos, a Best of Show, a Best of Show Black & White, and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, place for each category. Each Best of Show winner will receive a \$100 award. Each category winner will receive: for 1st Place – \$50; for 2nd Place – \$30; and for 3rd Place – \$20. Each photo is eligible to win only one award/prize. *Additionally*, the winning photographs will be published in the St. Albans Messenger the weeks following the Vermont Maple Festival weekend.
- 12. Usage Rights** – All photographs submitted to this competition remain the sole property of the photographer. By entering this amateur photography contest you agree that the Vermont Maple Festival, Inc. Board of Trustees has the right to use your entry photographs in its publications, educational programs, and publicity efforts without requiring additional compensation. The Vermont Maple Festival, Inc. Board of Trustees will cite entrants as copyright holders of their work in its own publications, but takes no responsibility for any third party usage of photographs, although copyright and credit information will be supplied whenever photographs are transmitted to third parties.
- 13. Photo Contest Exhibit** – Your photos will be on display during the Vermont Maple Festival weekend at the *Village Frame Shoppe* located on the corner of North Main Street and Kingman Street in St. Albans.
- 14. Picking Up Your Photos** – Your photos can be picked up on Sunday, April 28, 2019 at *The Village Frame Shoppe* from 2:00–4:00 P.M. After this time, the remaining photos will be with the photo contest chairman, and he can be contacted to make arrangements for pickup. Please provide adequate postage, and suitable packaging, if you want your photos shipped back to you.
- 15. Handling of Prints** – The Vermont Maple Festival, Inc. Board of Trustees and its Print Committee assumes no responsibility for lost or damaged photographs, but wishes to assure entrants that all care will be taken with your entry photographs.
- 16. This year's photography contest chairman is Wayne Tarr.** If you have any questions, please contact Wayne by phone/texting at 802-524-3800, or send an email to: photogvt@hotmail.com

Thoughts on ‘Amateur’ and ‘Professional’ Photography

by Alex Ignacio, a professional photographer based in Santa Fe, New Mexico

An “amateur” photographer is someone that takes photos for fun and passion. They enjoy the art of photography, and appreciate the ability to preserve memories and moments. Despite being “amateur”, they can (and do) take some of the most beautiful and breathtaking images you’ll ever see.

A professional photographer is consistently compensated for their photographic work. They have practiced and trained themselves to become at least competent at photography and to do it for others.

The other hallmark of a professional photographer is that they are a business entity, from one person operations all the way to large studio outfits with many full time employees and assignments.

Professional photographers use proposals, contracts, and have insurance. They know how to perform at a consistent level every time through practice, perseverance, and effort.

The label of “professional” has less do with skill and talent and more to do with business operations. There are great professional photographers who are not great photographers, but they have mastered the other areas of their business that are an integral part of being successful.

They work hard at the accounting, the marketing, the networking, the client relationships, and the professional outreach. And those parts are often much more important than the latest Photoshop technique, fancy gear, or firmware update.

A professional delivers on a promise to get the shot. Oftentimes passion led them to choose to become a professional photographer, but they now have many added pressures that are not optional anymore.

The analogy would be someone who loves to cook versus someone who makes a living cooking. Both can be called “chefs”, but one is a professional by definition while the other person is someone who is passionate about food and cuisine but does not depend on it for their livelihood.