THIS AND THAT

OHS 2026 Photography Competition

Theme: "THIS AND THAT"

This year's competition features a random selection of some of the most popular classes in the OHS photography competitions over the past few years, along with a couple of new twists. All are intended to inspire gardeners to put down the weeding hoe, pick up a camera, and capture and share the beauty of gardens and nature. ***Don't be shy – get out your camera - join in the fun!***

CLASSES

Class 1: Down the Garden Path: Photo of a pathway that entices you to wander into or through a garden. Location: Canada.

Class 2: Up Close and Personal: Macro or close-up photo of your favourite flower, blossom or foliage in the garden. Location: Canada.

Class 3: Garden Visitors: Photo of pollinators (*butterflies, bees*), insects, birds or other critters in the garden (*remember the horticultural element*). Location: National Capital area.

Class 4: Aquatopia: Photo depicting water in the garden or in nature, and in which a horticultural element is highlighted. May be a water feature (*natural or fabricated*), raindrops or dew on a garden flower or foliage, or a reflection on a water surface. Location: Canada.

Class 5: Native Beauty: Photo of native plants (*perennials, shrubs, wildflowers*) in gardens or in nature. Location: National Capital area/Eastern Great Lakes Ecoregion.

Class 6: Voluptuous Vista: A colourful mixed garden bed, cottage garden, mass of blooms, or informal grouping of flowers and shrubs (*no people in images please*). Location: Canada.

Class 7: "O-H-S": A photo that depicts any one of the letters 'O', 'H', and 'S', horticulturally. Photographer's choice and interpretation for this challenge. Location: Canada.

OHS Photography Competition Convenor: Larry Chamney
Tel: 613-853-5014 **Email:** *photography@ottawahort.org*

GENERAL RULES

1. The competition is open to Members in good standing of the Ottawa Horticultural Society (OHS). Photographs must have been taken by the OHS Member.

2. Entries may be lightly adjusted for light and colour balance, and cropped, but should not be enhanced through advanced photo editing.

3. Each competitor can enter up to TWO images in each Class. A specific photograph may be entered into one Class only.

4. Photographs that were previously entered into an OHS photography competition cannot be entered into the 2026 OHS competition. All photos submitted must have been taken between 2023 and 2026.

5. Unless you indicate otherwise at the time of submission, by entering the competition you give implicit consent that your name and the images of your winning photos may be reproduced by the OHS in the OHS Yearbook, the OHS Dibbler, the Grapevine or OHS promotional material, and displayed on the OHS website and/or Facebook page. You will receive prior notification of any such reproduction and be credited for your images. You will retain ownership of the photos.

6. Entries must be submitted by email to the OHS Photography Competition Convenor (photography@ottawahort.org) by 9 pm on Thursday, 15th October 2026. Entries submitted after this date cannot be accepted.

RULES FOR ENTRIES

1. A digital copy of each photograph must be submitted.

2. The size of digital files preferably should be at least 2 MB, and less than 10 MB. Do not send low quality images.

3. The image aspect ratio (*e.g., 4x6, 8x10*) is unrestricted. However, if your image is chosen to be on the OHS Yearbook cover or featured on the OHS Facebook page, you may be asked to agree to the sizing being modified by OHS. Please ensure that the preferred orientation (*portrait or landscape*) for judging and display is clearly indicated.

4. Please name each of your digital photo files as follows:

   Class number_Your name_Subject name. Example: Class 5_James Pringle_*Gentiana andrewsii*.

   It is not the Convenor's responsibility to rename your images.

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5. When submitting entries by email, ensure that the subject line is "2026 OHS Photography Competition", and that your name and contact information (*telephone, email*) are included in the text of the email. The email text should also indicate the number of entries and the Class numbers for the images that are attached to the email. Submission of entries through multiple emails is acceptable.

JUDGING AND AWARDS

Framed prints and modest monetary prizes will be awarded at the December 2026 OHS AGM, where the winning photographs will be announced and presented.

There are two separate components to judging of entries: "Judge's Choice" and "People's Choice":

Judge's Choice

1. Entries will be evaluated by a Judge external to OHS for the first, second and third place images in each Class. Separately, an overall "Best in Competition" winner will be awarded for the image that, in the view of the Judge, shows exemplary artistic quality, technical excellence and horticultural relevancy.

2. Images will be evaluated and judged on their horticultural merit, their photographic quality, and the subject interest. The Judge's decision is final.

3. The "Best in Competition" winner will receive a framed print of their winning image and a $25 cash prize and will have their winning photograph appear on the cover of the 2027 OHS Yearbook. A cash prize of $5 will be awarded for the first-place photo in each Class, as evaluated by the Judge.

People's Choice

4. OHS Members will have an opportunity to vote for the first, second and third place images in each Class, as well as an overall People's Choice "Best in Competition" winner. Details of the voting procedure will be provided to Members in October, following closure of the competition.

5. The overall "Best in Competition" winner as voted by Members will receive a framed print of their winning image and a $25 cash prize and will have their winning photograph featured on the OHS Facebook banner.

GOOD LUCK!

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