

WPY 2025 preview

by Laura Gosney

Wildlife Photographer of the Year, presents a sneak peek of its sixty-first competition, which will be showcased in an exhibition at the Natural History Museum, London, from Friday 17 October 2025.

The category winners and the prestigious Grand Title and Young Grand Title awards will be announced on Tuesday 14 October 2025 at a ceremony hosted at the Natural History Museum by wildlife TV presenters and conservationists Chris Packham and Megan McCubbin. The ceremony will be available to watch live on the Natural History Museum's YouTube channel.

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Jelly Smack Summer Ralph Pace, USA

Highly Commended, Underwater

Ralph Pace (USA) finds himself in the middle of a mass or 'smack' of Pacific sea nettles.

To try to protect himself from stings while taking this photograph, Ralph smeared petroleum jelly on any skin not covered by his wetsuit. The trailing tentacles can deliver a painful sting, which Ralph says feels more like that of a bee than a nettle.

Highly adaptable to warming seas, jellyfish are appearing in larger numbers. Some biologists argue that more frequent smacks are a sign of rising ocean temperatures. The removal of predators and competitors through overfishing is another contributing factor.

Location: Monterey Bay, California, USA

Technical details: Nikon D850 + 28–70mm f3.5–4.5 lens; 1/5 at f13; ISO 125; Nauticam housing; 2x Sea & Sea strobes



Issue 146/25

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Fragile River of Life
Isaac Szabo, USA
Highly Commended,
Wetlands: The Bigger
Picture

Isaac Szabo (USA) watches longnose gars spawn in a crystal-clear Florida river. Wrapping his feet around a drowned tree, Isaac photographed this female longnose gar with several males during the mating season. The presence of the turtle was, for Isaac, the 'icing on the cake', as it 'gives a sense of the whole ecosystem'. This river is one of more than 1,000 waterways fed by freshwater springs renowned for their clarity. Maintaining the aquifers that supply these springs is vital not only for iconic wildlife such as manatees, but also for providing drinking water to nearly half of Florida.

Location: Columbia County, Florida, USA. Technical details: Sony A7R II + Nikonos RS 13mm f2.8 lens; 1/30 at f8; ISO 200; Inon Z-240 strobes



Kathy Moran, Chair of the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Jury, says: "Selected from a record-breaking over 60,000 images, this preview presents just a small insight into the 100 awe-inspiring, impactful and moving images in store for visitors to our exhibition in October. As an advocate for the power of

photography, there is nothing more rewarding or moving than seeing our relationship to the natural world, in all its complexity and splendour, shared on the world's biggest platform for wildlife photography."

Tickets are on-sale now and it

opens on Friday 17 October 2025 and runs until Sunday 12 July 2026.

Our Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition is supported by Lead Corporate Sponsor, Nuveen.

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