



ESSEX NATIONAL
HERITAGE AREA

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Award-winning images available for reproduction

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**ESSEX NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA
PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

December 18, 2007 (Salem, MA) ... From twinkling lights along the Lawrence Canal to a lone snowy egret in the Great Marsh, the award-winning entries of this year's Essex National Heritage Commission (ENHC) Photo Contest captured the true essence of our Essex National Heritage Area. Sponsored by Hunt's Photo and Video, and coordinated in conjunction with the Essex Heritage Photo Safari Program, this annual contest announced its winners this week.

Qualifying photographs were required to represent one of two categories: Architectural Heritage and the Essex National Heritage Area, celebrating both the authentic New England buildings and landscape that makes our area unique. Photographs were submitted by local residents and visitors from distant states alike, and all conveyed the timeless beauty of Essex County. Several of the submitted images were taken during an ENHC Photo Safari scheduled last summer, a program that gives photo enthusiasts access to both state-of-the-art camera equipment (supplied by major camera companies) and breath-taking Essex Heritage Area views to photograph. (For more information, visit: <http://essexheritage.org/>.)

Prizes generously contributed by Olympus, Nikon, Hunt's Photo & Video and the National Park Service, were awarded as follows:

The Grand Prize Winner:

Matthew Shelter of Byfield, *Choate Barn on Hog Island*

Architecture Category Winners:

First Prize – Daniel Terry of Ipswich, *Choate House of Hog Island*

Second Prize – Kathryn Prybylski of Boston, *Lights along the Canal in Lawrence*

Third Prize– Zachary Peterson of Ipswich, *1668 Goodale House of Ipswich*

Essex National Heritage Area Category Winners:

First Prize – Marion J. Bayly of Speculator, NY, *Parker River Wildlife Refuge-Plum Island Boardwalk*

Second Prize – Jean Mackay of Slingerlands, NY, *Ipswich Marsh*

Third Prize – Trish McGregor of Rowley, *Snowy Egret at Parker River Wildlife Refuge-Plum Island in Newbury*

The grand prize of an Evolt E-410 DSLR with a two lens kit (14-42mm and 40-150mm) was donated by Olympus. First prize winners received Nikon Coolpix P4 P&S digital cameras, and Hunt's Photo and Video awarded \$100 and \$25 gift certificates to the second and third place winners, respectively. The National Park Service awarded the third place winners with an annual National Park pass.

The award-winning photographs may be viewed on the ENHC website at:

<http://essexheritage.org/photocontest/>. The photos will also be on display at the National Park Service Regional Visitor Center in Salem in Spring 2008. All photographic enthusiasts are invited to submit their entries in this annual contest. Future contest deadlines will be announced on the ENHC website.

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About the Essex National Heritage Area

Designated in 1996 by the U.S. Congress, the Essex National Heritage Area covers 500 square miles of northeastern Massachusetts, and is comprised of an abundance of historical sites, renowned museums, wildlife refuges, working farms and inviting nature trails. It offers a uniquely New England landscape of pristine beaches, quaint seaports, town commons and renovated industrial mills, and chronicles the historical treasures of our region, the richness of our culture and the extraordinary beauty of our natural resources.

About the Essex National Heritage Commission

The Essex National Heritage Commission (ENHC) is the non-profit supervisory authority for the Essex National Heritage Area, one of 34 such areas affiliated with the National Park Service. Working in collaboration with the National Park Service, the ENHC promotes public/private partnerships and develops and implements programs that enhance, preserve and encourage regional awareness of the unique historic, cultural and natural resources found within the Area. For more information, visit the ENHC web-site at www.essexheritage.org or call (978) 740-0444.