

Submit your photographs and paintings for the CHNEP 2016 calendar

We live in a beautiful place and many of you have captured this beauty in your artwork, as evidenced by the calendars produced by the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) since 2005. The CHNEP is a partnership program working to protect the natural environment of Florida from Venice to Bonita Springs to Winter Haven.

We hope you will consider being a part of the 2016 calendar.

You can have your photographs and paintings published in the 2016 calendar. The CHNEP encourages you to submit up to three images that capture *the beauty of the natural environment* found within the CHNEP study area. The images could have been captured by the young or old, amateur or professional, today or 50 years ago, as a painting or photograph. The goal is that the 2016 calendar will depict the diversity and beauty of the natural environment found within this geographic area, which may include estuaries, rivers, streams, native plants, native wildlife, and people enjoying these resources.

To enter your images, complete the release form and submit your images by **5 P.M., July 15, 2015**. There is no fee to enter. Additional guidance is provided at www.CHNEP.org/calendars.html. Costs of the calendar are offset by generous donations and sponsorships.

There are two ways to submit a release form. (1) If you can, please complete the online form at www.surveymonkey.com/s/CHNEP2016CalendarEntries. The online form does not allow you to transmit images. (2) Mail or email a completed, signed printed form. Forms are available in the 2015 calendar and at www.CHNEP.org/calendars.html. The release form allows the CHNEP to use the entries in the calendar and other materials. Images will only be posted for selection if a completed release form is received and if the images are submitted as digital files. A signed model release form, available from the website, must also be provided for each recognizable person in the image(s).

There are three ways to submit JPEG or TIFF versions of your images. Submit your images by (1) A file sharing service such as DropBox. Send a notice to maran@chnep.org that you have used a file sharing service. (2) Send your images as attachments (not embedded) by email to maran@chnep.org. (3) Mail a CD or thumb drive with your images to: CHNEP Calendar Art Contest, 326 W Marian Ave, Punta Gorda FL 33950. Please write your name and "2016" on the face of the CD. You will receive an email confirming the images were received. If you do not receive this confirmation email, your entries were not received.

Please keep in mind: • All entries must be provided as JPEG or TIFF files. • Submit the best version of the entries you have available. • Don't submit images that are similar to each other. • Images of animals in distress because of possible interference or harassment will not be considered. • For those sending large files or who use a Mac computer, consider using a service such as Hightail. In the past, some who sent large files or used a Mac had their attachments converted into embedded files by the computers. Embedded files lose too much resolution, making the entries unusable for commercial printing. • The CHNEP is a partnership to protect the native, natural environment of southwest Florida. The calendar must be consistent with this purpose. • Entries of nonnative plants and animals, especially those that are invasive, will not be considered. With the first 10 calendars, the CHNEP advised entrants if they had submitted images that would not be considered and allowed them to send in alternate entries. We will not be able to continue this practice. • With the first 10 calendars, half of the entries have been of birds. Because the goal is to show diversity, entries of other subjects have a better chance of being used. You may wish to review the first 10 calendars to see what you can identify that hasn't been featured. In general, we have not received many entries of sea life, landscapes (especially of our estuaries), weather, plants (from fields of flowers to our majestic oaks) and people enjoying the environment.

The calendar will be mailed to every person who receives the CHNEP magazine *Harbor Happenings* as of Sept. 15, 2015. Subscribe by completing an online request form at www.CHNEP.org. (If you submit images, you'll automatically be added to receive the magazine and calendar. No need to do anything more.) The calendar may also be available for pick up at locations such as libraries and nature centers.

*Working together to protect the natural environment of Florida
from Venice to Bonita Springs to Winter Haven*

