

**FRIENDS OF BLACKWATER**  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 31, 2008**  
**INFORMATION: Blackwater NWR Visitor Center, 410-228-2677**

### **Local Photographer Recognized in National Competition**

On March 14, 2008 the National Wildlife Refuge system celebrated its 105th anniversary. As part of this celebration, the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) announced the winners of this year's Refuge Photo Contest, a digital photo contest showcasing all national wildlife refuges and the diverse wildlife that depend on them.

Blackwater NWR, located just south of Cambridge, figured prominently in this contest. With more than 2,000 photos submitted from over 150 refuges representing 45 states and territories, Mary Konchar, a volunteer of many years at Blackwater, placed in the top 20 receiving an honorable mention for her close-up shot of an American Lotus Flower. This is a highly regarded contest with the First Place winner being awarded a Toyota Highlander Hybrid with runners up and honorable mention winners receiving monetary or an assortment of other prizes.

This contest is viewed as a "testimonial to both the wealth of talent possessed by amateur outdoor photographers across the nation and to the spectacular beauty that can be found at our national wildlife refuges," said Evan Hirsche, President of the NWRA. "These photos will help us illustrate why it's so important to protect and strengthen our more than 548 national wildlife refuges."

Mary's winning shot, and numerous other photographs taken by her, can be seen by visiting the Eagles' Nest Book and Gift Shop at Blackwater located on Key Wallace Drive. For more information, contact the Blackwater NWR Visitor Center at 410-228-2677.

To view all the winning images from the contest, visit: <http://www.refugenet.org/contest/2008Winners.html>

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