

THE FIRST ANNUAL WAGNER FARM ARBORETUM BIRDHOUSE CONTEST!

***SUBMIT ENTRIES AND FEES: APRIL 8th**

***DELIVER BIRDHOUSES: MAY 1st - 9 am - 5 pm**

***DISPLAY OF BIRDHOUSES, VOTING FOR PEOPLES' CHOICE AWARD,
& SILENT AUCTION: MAY 2nd - May 14th during Spring Boutique hours
MAY 15th - 9 am - Noon**

***AWARDS CEREMONY & SILENT AUCTION: MAY 15th - 3 PM**

CONTEST RULES

Please retain this sheet for competition guidelines. For more information, email birdhousecontest@wfafnj.org or call 908-647-2332.

- 1. Who can enter?** The contest is open to *all* members of the community. All ages can enter, as individuals or as groups. The event coordinators, trustees and executive committee members of WFA, judges, and members of their immediate family and/or household may not enter.
- 2. Birdhouses become property of WFA.** All birdhouses submitted become property of WFA and, in the discretion of WFA, will be used by WFA or sold by WFA at its boutiques for fundraising purposes. If sold, all proceeds shall become the property of WFA. By submitting a birdhouse, entrants are giving WFA the right to use the birdhouses/images for promotional materials and marketing items in any media.
- 3. Entrance Fee.** \$10 entrance fee to be submitted with entry form; checks only please, payable to WFAF.
- 4. Entry forms.** To allow sufficient time for planning the staging of the competition, the completed entry form and fee *must be received* no later than Thursday, April 8th. Limit one birdhouse per person/group for each category; one entry form per birdhouse. A legal parent or guardian's signature must accompany the signature of any individual under 18.

Entry form may be found at www.wfafnj.org, by emailing birdhousecontest@wfafnj.org or by calling 908-647-2332. Forms must be emailed or mailed to:

Birdhouse Contest
c/o Alison Draikiwicz
21 Gregory Lane
Warren, NJ 07059
birdhousecontest@wfafnj.org

- 5. Divisions.** There are three major divisions of the contest:

- Youth 15 and under
- Adults over 15

c. Professional - artists or woodworkers who make birdhouses for a living or hobby.

6. **Categories.** For each of the three divisions, the birdhouse must be entered in only one of two categories (descriptions follow):

a. Functional

Functional birdhouses must meet specific requirements of the particular bird for which it was built and constructed of non-toxic materials that can withstand elements outdoors. (dimensions for houses of specific birds can be found at the library, or on the Internet.)

b. Decorative/Whimsical

Decorative or whimsical birdhouses can be used indoors or outdoors and are not necessarily functional, although they can be if they meet all the requirements (see above under "Functional birdhouses"). To make these birdhouses, you are limited only by your imagination! They can have a folk art flavor, have fun shapes, or even look silly. These houses can show off your painting skills or be made of unusual materials.

In the case where a birdhouse meets the criteria of both categories you must choose one category in which to enter it.

7. **Design.** Your birdhouse can be a traditional design or an original design. Those entering in the Youth Division may purchase an unfinished birdhouse from a crafts store and decorate it. Your birdhouse must be able to be displayed upright on its own or on a stand.

8. **Dimensions.** The birdhouse cannot exceed the following dimensions: 24" x 24" x 24". This should accommodate most local cavity-nesting backyard birds, owls, and waterfowl. You may mount your birdhouse on a stand if you wish; the stand will NOT be included in the overall dimensions.

9. **Materials.** You can make or decorate your birdhouse out of practically anything: wood, metal, plastic, cardboard, flea market finds, craft store items, or unlikely things found in grocery or hardware stores. Once again, you are limited only by your imagination. There is only one important rule: if you are building a functional birdhouse that will be used outside, you must use materials, adhesives, and finishes that are non-toxic to birds and that are durable to withstand the elements outdoors.

10. **YOU must build/decorate the birdhouse.** All birdhouse construction and/or decoration must be done by the individual(s) entering the competition. However, those entering in the Youth Division may purchase an unfinished birdhouse from a crafts store and decorate it. Assistance with power tools is acceptable. For safety, young competitors may be supervised by parents or

guardians; however, as much as possible, children should make their own entries. You may not enter a birdhouse made by someone else or purchased from a store as a finished product.

11. Disqualifications. Whether decorative or functional, your entry must be a real birdhouse, not a structure, such as a box or block of wood, painted to look like a birdhouse. Your entry must look like a house made for birds, with round hole(s), not like a small house with a rectangular door. Used birdhouses are not acceptable. You may not enter a birdhouse made by someone else or purchased from a store (except as set forth above). You may not enter a bird house that was entered in a previous contest.

This is a family event. All entries must be in good taste. Any entry considered offensive or inappropriate will not be allowed.

12. Judging criteria. Birdhouses in each category will be judged on

- a. Overall appearance
- b. Creativity, originality, imaginative concept and its execution
- c. Exceptional use of form, texture, color, composition
- d. Precision and craftsmanship
- e. Whether the birdhouse is environmentally friendly and addresses such concepts as “reduce, reuse and recycle”, “sustainability”, “renewable resources”, “non-toxic” or “energy conservation”
- f. Specific requirements for each category (see #6, “Categories”, above)

13. Personal Identification. Please attach a small card with your name, address, phone number, and email on the underside of your birdhouse where it cannot be seen. **DO NOT** put your name or any identifying information on the birdhouse where it can be seen.

14. Delivery of your birdhouse. You must deliver your completed birdhouse to the Wagner Farm Arboretum between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 1st. When you submit your birdhouse, please include a name and a description of your birdhouse on the front of a 4x6 index card (limit 100 words or less). Feel free to include any unique features about your birdhouse or to describe the construction process and/or materials. **DO NOT** put your name or any other identifying information on the front of this card. If yours is a functional birdhouse, you will want to indicate the bird(s) for which it was built.

15. **Peoples' Choice Award.** Members of the public will have the opportunity to view the birdhouses while on display May 2nd to May 15th. Each person may vote for the best overall birdhouse, one vote per person. The votes will be tallied and the winner announced at the Awards Ceremony on May 15th at 3:00 pm. The winner will receive a Peoples' Choice Trophy.

16. **Silent Auction.** While the birdhouses are on display May 2nd to May 15th, members of the public may submit a bid to purchase a birdhouse(s) during the Silent Auction. Minimum bids, set in the discretion of WFA, will be determined by WFA. The winning bids will be posted on May 15th. All birdhouses not sold during the Silent Auction may be used by WFA for its own purposes or sold at its boutiques for fundraising purposes. All proceeds from the Silent Auction and from any sale of a birdhouse shall be the property of WFA.

17. **Judging/Awards Ceremony/Prizes.** Judges chosen by WFA will examine the birdhouses and choose the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each division. An awards ceremony will take place at WFA at 3:00 pm on Saturday, May 15th. Ribbons will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners in each division and the 1st place winner in each division will also receive a \$100 American Express gift card, courtesy of Coldwell Banker. Participation ribbons will be awarded to all participants present at the ceremony. You do not have to be present to win but pictures for the newspaper should be taken at that time and it would be nice to get a picture of you standing by your winning entry!

18. **Questions?** Email birdhousecontest@wfafnj.org or call 908-647-2332 or go to the website www.wfafnj.org.