Images are presented anonymously to a panel of judges who chose their top two images from each category which are then tabulated for results.

This year’s judges were Drs. Dan Kessler (MDA President); Doug Wyckoff (MDA Editor); Mack Taylor (MDA New Dentist Committee Chair); and, Emily Mattingly (ADA Sixth District New Dentist Committee Chair); as well as Vicki Wilbers (MDA Executive Director); Greg Russell (MDIS Executive Vice President); and, Rebecca Mowen (Voluntary Wellness Program Administrator).

On the cover of each Focus issue we will spotlight, in random order, the winner from one of the six categories. You can view a slideshow of all this year’s entries at modental.org/photocontest.

The following presentation shows first and runner up images and descriptions in each of the six categories. Additionally, each year we ask our winners a set of questions. You can find responses to those on the final page.

Thank you MDA Photo Contest Sponsors

Special thanks to the contest headlining sponsor, MDIS, who provides the $150 first place cash prize and Lands’ End Business, who provides the $50 second place gift cards. MDIS is the MDA wholly owned insurance subsidiary and Lands’ End is an endorsed logo apparel company of both the ADA and MDA.
**FIRST PLACE**

**VERTICAL-CIRCULAR WONDER**

**DR. SAM KALLSNICK**
**LEE’S SUMMIT**

This was taken at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel in April during the Masters Golf Tournament. This is the view from the lobby bar looking straight up. It has a green sail in the lobby and this shows the vertical height and circular 45 floors.

Dr. Kallsnick (UMKC 1975) is a general dentist and has been in practice in Lee’s Summit since 1975. In addition to photography, he enjoys running (completing his first marathon in 2009), bicycling and golf. He participates in many local events such as the MS-150 and the Run for Dogs. About three years ago he traded his farm for a second home in Florida.

**RUNNER UP**

**LOOKING THROUGH TIME**

**DR. KATHLEEN COOPER, BELTON**

Taken in May 2018 at the Musee d’Orsay in Paris, France, this photo shows one of the original clock faces of the museum, which used to be a train station. The Louvre can be seen through the clock face.

Dr. Cooper (UMKC 2012) is a general dentist who practices in Belton. In addition to photography, Dr. Cooper enjoys traveling, running cooking, reading and playing Bunco—as well as spending time with her husband, Tom, family, friends and her dog, Scooby!
FIRST PLACE

MARS RISING

DR. KEITH ANDERSON
ST. LOUIS

Taken of the Milky Way and Mars rising over Lake Superior in July 2018 at Lutsen, Minnesota. An interesting story about this photo: I had not intended to shoot that night; I was leaving at 4:30am the next morning to drive four hours to Minneapolis for my flight home. I was at the hardware store in Grand Marais when I ran into a photography friend of mine. He asked me if I wanted to get together and “shoot some night sky” that night. I was a little reluctant—it doesn’t really get dark in northern Minnesota until 11pm. I decided to go for it, and getting that photo made it well worth it. Sleep is overrated!

Dr. Anderson (Washington University 1985) is a general dentist who practices at Radiant Smiles in St. Louis. In his free time he enjoys being out in nature, hiking, fishing, golf and snow skiing.

RUNNER UP

GRIZZLY CREEK CONFLUENCE

DR. JACK BACKS, HERMANN

Taken of the confluence of Grizzly Creek with the Colorado River during some down time at my daughter’s wedding in September at Glenwood Springs, Colorado. It was early in the morning with the camera set close to water level on a tripod. I was actually out in the creek a little way. Unfortunately, it was overcast that morning. I would have preferred a blue sky.
FIRST PLACE

SUNNY DAYS

DR. MAICE SCOTT
COLUMBIA

This was taken at the University of Missouri South Farm Research Center. They post on social media when the flowers are in bloom and allow the public to photograph them. I took my two young children with me to enjoy the flowers.

Dr. Scott (UMKC 2009, Children’s Hospital Colorado 2011) is a pediatric dentist. A Columbia native and 2005 MU grad, she practices at Columbia Dentistry for Children and Capital Dentistry for Children. When not honing her photography skills, she loves yoga and spending time with her husband and two young children.

RUNNER-UP

MONUMENTAL SPIRIT

DR. DEAN TELTHORST, ST. LOUIS

Monument Valley is sacred Navajo land that lies in the southwest corner of Utah. In spring of 2018 I was able to catch this free-spirited tourist posing in front of the sandstone buttes called The Mittens.

Dr. Telthorst (UMKC 1983) is a general dentist who practices at Lake Forest Dental in St. Louis. He is a member of the GSLDS, where he just completed his term as president for the Society. In addition to photography, Dr. Telthorst is a motorcycle enthusiast.
FIRST PLACE
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD
DR. JACK BACKS, HERMANN
This was taken in my backyard in September. These flowers were set up close to my hummingbird feeders.

Dr. Backs (Southern Illinois University 1989) is a general dentist in Hermann. He has pursued various photographic interests over the years since acquiring his first Nikon camera in 1981. No longer having children playing high school sports, he decided to concentrate on wildlife photography and birds in particular.

RUNNER-UP
FAIRY BASSLET
DR. STEPHEN BRUMIT
LEE’S SUMMIT
This is seabass’s little cousin and was taken in Bonaire at a dive site called “Small Wall” in May 2018. The fish is 2.5 inches long, has a lovely purple front and a bright yellow posterior. A very shy species, this by far is the best photo I’ve ever taken of it. This one swam right off the wall and up at me—normally they retreat quickly upon my approach. It must have been mating season.

Dr. Brumit (UMKC 1985, University of Maryland Baltimore College of Dental Surgery 1992) is an endodontist who practices in Lee’s Summit.

11 ENTRIES
Insects, birds, fish, mammals ... all members of the animal kingdom, great and small.

ALL CREATURES
TRAVEL & PLACES

12 ENTRIES

Pictures that express the adventures unique to a travel experience.

FIRSTPLACE

CABIN IN NORTHERN LIGHTS

DR. TERRENCE BOND
KIRKWOOD

The northern lights photo came as a result of a surprise trip this past October to Alaska for my 60th birthday, with my son. We spent 12 days in the most beautiful, fantastic country. It was even more special sharing it with my son. This photo was taken 63 Miles into the Arctic Circle, Wiseman, Alaska.

Dr. Terrence Bond (University of Illinois, Chicago 1984) is a general dentist in Kirkwood. He’s an avid, self-taught photographer who has turned a once-simple hobby into his growing passion. He and his wife, Mary Jo, have two adult children and now a beautiful 7-month old granddaughter.

RUNNERUP

SCHWABACHER LANDING SUNRISE

DR. KEITH ANDERSON
ST. LOUIS

A sunrise photo taken at Schwabacher Landing in the Grand Teton National Park in September 2018.
First Place

Home Day

Dr. Maice Scott, Columbia

My daughter asks the same question every morning, “Is it a school day or a home day?” And although this particular day was a school day for her, I happened to be off and let her have a home day with me. I captured her doing what she does best, joyfully playing in our home.

Runner Up

One Lone Blackbird

Dr. John Killip

Dr. Killip (UMKC 1968) is a retired general dentist and UMKC faculty member.
DR. KEITH ANDERSON
1) The arch of the Milky Way. In June and July, it’s visible in the early night sky where it is dark enough.
2) Friends I’ve made.
3) Probably an app called The Photographer’s Ephemeris or TPE. It allows you to see when sunrise/set, moon rise/set will be for specific locations and what direction it will be. It is extremely important when planning specific locations and for specific locations. It puts you where you need to be at the right time, then you just need to hope for the right weather.
4) I haven’t done much online sharing and am just starting to do some printing with companies recommended by photography friends.

DR. MAICE SCOTT
1) I recently started macro photography and enjoy taking pictures of things in nature, particularly flowers. I’m looking forward to spring when things start blooming.
2) I love the annual MDA Connect4Success meeting at the Lake of the Ozarks. I enjoy the camaraderie of joining my colleagues on the New Dentist Track and learning things that are specific and applicable to us.
3) I recently purchased a “Helping Hand” to hold flowers while photographing for macro. I love it! As an aside, it can also aid in soldering.
4) I have an Instagram dedicated to photography and have made many photography friends along the way. I’m even going to Charleston in March to meet several Instagram photographers who inspire me.

DR. JACk BACKS
1) Wildlife photography is my passion. I spend quite a bit of time in field at various wildlife areas, Busch Wildlife, Clarence Cannon National Refuge, and BK Leach Conservation Area.
2) I attend most of the Greater St. Louis Southwest District Dental Society meetings. I always enjoy the camaraderie. It’s nice to discuss the trials and tribulations ... and rewards of practicing dentistry with fellow practitioners.
3) For anyone considering wildlife or aviation photography, a gimbal tripod head such as the Wimberly WH200 is a must have. It allows for a greater degree of freedom when tracking subjects.
4) I’ve recently had some images printed on glass by the website Fracture. I’ve been quite pleased with these prints.

DR. SAM KALLSNICK
1) Extending my photography to explore macrophotography.
2) I’ve been a member of our organization for more than 40 years and had the honor to be a past delegate to the MDA. In my practice career, I’ve experienced the success our parent organization has accomplished in keeping the insurance industry from completely controlling our profession—better than the AMA’s attempt to protect their members.
3) I recently acquired an auto intelligent bounce flash unit that has been beneficial in lighting, which is critical for photography.
4) Adobe Lightroom—it’s great for organization, sharing editing and printing and easier to use than Photoshop.

DR. TERRENCE BOND
1) Traveling to Costa Rica in May, when I’ll be photographing my son’s wedding.
2) This is my 35th year of practice, which means I really rely on the continuing research in our materials and equipment, and the proactive political end—helping to watch out for the interests of both the dentists and patients.
3) The only non-camera related device I use is research online ... checking areas, migrations (I use Ebirds for current info), weather, sightings and any website that covers where we’re traveling to. I do love watching my son use his drone to get unique looks and panoramics.
4) I have a website, twbphotogallery.com, and I use Smugmug to print pics.

DR. KATHLEEN COOPER
1) Travel—I always love exploring new places and feel like that is where I take my best photos.
2) I really appreciate all of the CE opportunities through the Greater Kansas City Dental Society. I hope to attend the ADA conference for the first time this year in San Francisco.
3) Definitely my phone. It’s super convenient, and I take more pictures with it than anything else.
4) The only online photo app I ever really use is Shutterfly. I love making yearly photo books full of memories.

DR. STEPHEN BRUMIT
1) Numerous small Blennies on my next dive trip. There is a species called A Tessellated Blennie—they are about 1” long, very colorful and live in holes on wooden docks. My next trip is during a full moon, so I hope to find yellowhead jawfish with eggs in their mouth.
2) I’ve used ADA insurance for many years and plan to continue in the future.
3) I tried a new piece of equipment on my last dive trip: non-compressive floats that attach to the arms of my flashes and make the camera closer to neutral buoyancy. That was very helpful, as I often take photos with one hand and have the other one holding me steady, which hurts my wrist. The camera weighs 23 pounds above water. The floats take the pressure off my wrist allowing me to spend an hour in one place not moving, which is required to photograph very shy species, like yellowhead jawfish.
4) I print my photos on metal from H and H Color Lab in Raytown. A photographer suggested that I print my underwater photos with metal and replace all my boring artwork in my office. I followed that suggestion and it brightened my office substantially.