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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WINNERS ANNOUNCED IN DESERT MUSEUM  
PHOTO CONTEST**

Tucson, AZ (September 18, 2015)— The winners of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum & Art Institute's *Cool Summer Night* Photo Contest have been announced. Three categories gave photographers of varying abilities a chance to enter: Advanced, Basic and Instagram.

Each category awarded first and second place with several honorable mention prizes. One Best of Show was selected. The categories and the winners of each are:

**Best of Show:** S.K. Schafer "Harris's Hawk"

**Advanced:** Cameras that have interchangeable lenses

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1<sup>st</sup> Place: Karen McCrorey "Flying in the Winter Rain"

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2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Lou Pavlovich "Rue the Porcupine"

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Honorable

Mention: Ray Goodwin, Dawn Hagler & Gene Chao

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**Basic:** Cameras including camera phones, point & shoot, superzooms etc.

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1<sup>st</sup> Place: Scott Taft "Monsoon Interruption"

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2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Alan Krasofski "Queen Butterfly in the Rain"

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Honorable

Mention: Nancy Millman, Elizabeth Giordano & Catherine Nash

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**Instagram:** Smartphones including camera phones, point & shoot, superzooms etc.

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1<sup>st</sup> Place: Amanda Rohrbach "Sunset"

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2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Nika Kaiser "Sweltering Lines"

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Honorable Deanna Roach,

Mention: Evelyn Harrison & Azrael Avey

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Contestants could enter a total of three photos in any combination of the three categories. Photos were taken in the past year on the grounds of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. Top prizes included a Behind-the-Scenes Photo Walk which includes live animals as “models.”

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#### **PHOTOS ACCOMPANY THIS RELEASE**

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*Focused on the Sonoran Desert region of the United States and Mexico, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is largely an outdoor experience and includes a zoo, botanical garden, art gallery, natural history museum and aquarium. Set on 98 acres, the Museum is home to 230 animal species, 56,000 individual plant specimens, two miles of walking paths and one of the world's most comprehensive regional mineral collections. The Desert Museum is actively involved in education, conservation, and research programs to help preserve the Sonoran Desert region.*