



Ranger Rick Magazine Selects Best Wildlife Photographer

Reston, VA, Feb. 4 - **Suzi Eszterhas from Tiburon, California**, has been named the recipient of the first-ever **Ranger Rick Photographer of the Year Award** for 2008. *Ranger Rick* is the award-winning children's nature magazine for 7 to 12 year-olds, published by the National Wildlife Federation, America's largest conservation organization dedicated to protecting wildlife for our children's future.

Eszterhas' photos appearing in the magazine during the past year include Alaskan grizzly bears in the March issue and cheetahs from Namibia, Africa, in the October issue. As such, she was automatically included in the awards process designed to recognize the photographer who has done the most during the calendar year to help the magazine delight children with spectacular photographs, inspire a greater understanding of the natural world and help nurture a lifelong commitment to conservation.

Eszterhas, who has a strong commitment to sharing her love of wildlife with children, was selected for her photographic contributions to the magazine by a panel of top nature photography experts and *Ranger Rick* editors. The judges collectively felt that Eszterhas' photos reflect her exceptional passion for wildlife, her superior technical expertise and her ability to tell an engaging story through pictures.

"Suzi Eszterhas possesses the two essential qualities of a superlative wildlife photographer: a great eye and infinite patience," said Cary Winfrey, Editor of Smithsonian Magazine and one of the award judges.

Gerry Bishop, another judge and former Editor of *Ranger Rick* magazine, noted that "while all good wildlife photographers spend days or weeks getting to know the animals they want to capture in photos, Suzi goes a step further and develops a deep understanding and appreciation of her subjects that brings her photos to life."

Eszterhas' love for wildlife goes back to her childhood when her parents bought her a camera at age six. Not long after she "just knew" some day she would become a professional wildlife photographer. "I decided then that I would take photos for *Ranger Rick* when I grew up, and that's exactly what I did!"

Along with bragging rights, the award comes with a \$1,000 check and a short article about Eszterhas' photography in the upcoming May issue of *Ranger Rick*.

Note to Editor: Photos by Eszterhas for *Ranger Rick* attached.

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