



North
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Flip Nicklin Named 2012 NANPA Outstanding Photographer of the Year

October 12, 2011 (Alma, Illinois) – The North American Nature Photography Association is bestowing one of its highest honors to Flip Nicklin, a National Geographic contributing photographer who is best known for capturing the world's best images of whales and other underwater life.

With his combination of marine biology expertise and remarkable photographic acumen, Flip creates majestic images and amazing audio tracks of whales and dolphins, in particular. His partnership with National Geographic began in 1976 when he signed on as a deckhand and diving assistant for a three-month shoot with Bates Littlehales (a past NANPA Lifetime Achievement Award recipient) and Jonathan Blair. He shot alongside the photographers every day and, as a result of their tutelage, had two images published in *National Geographic*. Since then he has been a regular contributing photographer to that magazine.

NANPA's Outstanding Photography of the Year award goes to an individual who has demonstrated unquestioned skill as a nature photographer. Although length of career may be a factor, more important are the individual's accomplishments and body of photographic work. According to NANPA President, Bill Plunkett, "Flip, a marine biologist by training and a contributing *National Geographic* photographer, is probably the world's foremost whale photographer. His work to help save these majestic creatures is so important that NANPA felt it appropriate to name him the Outstanding Photographer of the Year for 2012. He not only shows us incredible beauty with his photos, but they also inspire others to preserve the environment of the creatures he photographs. We are all in Flip's debt for making it possible for us to enjoy and marvel at the wonders of his subjects."

By receiving this honor, Flip joins the elite ranks of other NANPA Outstanding Photographers of the Year, including Jack Dykinga, Joel Sartore, Tim Laman, James Balog, Kevin Schafer, Patricio Robles Gil, Tui De Roy, Norbert Wu, Gary Braasch, Michael Nichols, Robert Glenn Ketchum, Tom Mangelsen, Frans Lanting, Art Wolfe and John Shaw. NANPA is honored to add Flip Nicklin to this esteemed list.

The North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA) was founded in 1994. Its mission is to promote the art and science of nature photography as a medium of communication, nature appreciation, and environmental protection; provide information, education, inspiration and opportunity for all persons interested in nature photography; and foster excellence and ethical conduct in all aspects of our endeavors and especially encourages responsible photography in the wild.

NANPA is a nonprofit organization made up of a wide range of individuals and corporations from all over North America and the world with an interest in nature photography. For information about NANPA, go to www.nanpa.org or call 618-547-7616.