

Focus

The Oklahoma Camera Club

The *Journal* continues its *Focus* series by featuring a premier camera club. This month we *Focus* on a club who has performed outstanding community service and whose members represent the best in service and dedication to photography. The Oklahoma Camera Club is a Charter Member of the Photographic Society of America. (PSA).

“Spectacular,” is how **Kathy Braun, APSA**, describes the efforts of the Oklahoma Camera Club (OCC) in sponsoring students to the 2007 PSA Youth Showcase. Since 2003, **Carol McCreary, PPSA**, assisted by **Tom McCreary, PPSA**, has chaired the Oklahoma Statewide Youth Photo Contest. After notifying teachers throughout Oklahoma, ninety-two students participated in the statewide contest. Three-hundred-ninety-four prints were entered. Selecting the best entries, OCC sponsored seventy-eight prints to the **PSA Youth Showcase** and twenty-three were accepted for exhibition. Students sponsored by the club won first place in the Photojournalism category,

first place in Photographer’s Choice, first and second Honorable Mentions (HM) in Architecture, second HM in Human Interest, and second HM in Photographer’s Choice. Oklahomans are so proud of Carol’s labors that the *Oklahoman* presented a gift of \$500, which Carol used to promote the statewide contest. In past years, OCC has given out as much as \$800 in student prizes.

Founded by seven photographers in 1931, OCC celebrates its seventy fifth anniversary this year. In 1934 the club helped establish PSA in Philadelphia. Oklahoman, **Dr. Ralph E. Venk, Hon FPSA**, became President of PSA in 1987 and was instrumental in having PSA Headquarters moved to Oklahoma. Today, an astonishing forty percent of OCC members hold membership in PSA, and a number of members have been recognized for outstanding service and photographic excellence in addition to **Dr. Venk: Georgia Venk, FPSA; Jacalyn Finch, APSA; Douglas Finch, APSA; Betty Patterson, APSA, PPSA; Charles Taylor, APSA; Carol McCreary, PPSA; Tom McCreary, PPSA and Dennis Corbin, PPSA**—an impressive array of dedicated PSA Members.

The 45th Oklahoma International Exhibit of Photography “...received over 2900 outstanding images submitted by skilled photographers from 37 countries around the world,” states Chairman **Douglas Finch**. The exhibit includes Pictorial Prints, Pictorial Color Slides, Nature and Photojournalism sections and this year added



Jan and Wally Lee



Doug Finch, APSA



Past Presidents
of the Oklahoma
Camera Club

electronic images to the slide section. For forty years the Oklahoma State Fair sponsored the exhibition. Winning prints are exhibited at the Omniplex and the Oklahoma City Downtown Library. Ever mindful of civic responsibility, the club also exhibits members' prints in community educational and support institutions.

OCC membership varies between seventy five and one hundred members. Meetings are held year round and the club provides rich and varied offerings for members, which includes frequent fieldtrips and Photoshop® classes. Annually a club trip is planned for the Smokey Mountains, and shorter, local field trips are scheduled year round. The Photoshop® classes, for beginners, are designed and conducted by **Carol McCreary** and are open to the public. The funds earned are

channeled back into supporting the statewide youth photo contest. Small workshop meetings for members are held in member's homes and focus on some learning aspect of photography. *HypoCheck*, the club's newsletter is published monthly by editors **Jaci and Doug Finch**, and is delivered electronically to members. There is also a very active website which serves the club with **Wally Lee** acting as Webmaster. For a treat, visit the Oklahoma Camera Club website at <http://www.oklahomacameraclub.com/>.

The *Journal* is proud to put the FOCUS on the Oklahoma Camera Club. PSA congratulates this fine civic-minded group of photo-enthusiasts and wishes them well on the celebration of their 75th anniversary.

Elena McTighe



Carol McCreary, PPSSA



Tom McCreary, PPSSA

**PSA Representatives
for the
Oklahoma Camera Club**



Wally Lee photographing flowers

For information on the
PSA Youth Showcase,
contact Director Kathy Braun at
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Jaci Finch, APSSA