

Focus

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The Cleveland Photographic Society

This month the *Journal's* occasional article entitled **Focus**, which features a member or member club, turns to The Cleveland Photographic Society.



Recently, the Cleveland Photographic Society (CPS) had the opportunity to be involved in a very unique project. CPS club member, David Busch, who has written numerous photography books came up with the idea that he would publish a book called, *David Busch's Digital Photography Bucket List: 100 Great Digital Photos You Must Take Before You Die!* The unique feature is that CPS members took all one hundred photographs in the book. The book was released in September 2009 and is for sale at major outlets including amazon.com.

The Cleveland Photographic Society (CPS) established in 1887, is one of the oldest camera clubs in North America. It was a charter member of the Associated Camera Clubs of North America, which in 1934 changed its name to the Photographic Society of America (PSA) and therefore, CPS, is an original charter member of the Society. The mission of CPS is to promote and advance the understanding, passion and joy of photography by providing opportunities for education, skill development, picture taking, competition, critique and fellowship.

The Cleveland Photographic Society is not your typical camera club. Operating from their own full-time clubroom in Broadview Heights, Ohio, they are a non-profit organization, offering a variety of activities for members and visitors alike—including a long-running *School of Photography*, with classes held throughout the year. CPS currently has over 325 members and

is one of only a very few clubs to have their own permanent clubroom. These facilities allow CPS to conduct a Photo School three times each year featuring sessions on *Fundamentals of Good Photography* and *Digital Photo Editing* and a variety of informational and educational programs. CPS meets almost every Friday night throughout the year. *Information from the CPS Web site.*

While the club maintains a remarkable Web site, <www.clevelandphoto.org> it is very progressive and in addition to the Gallery of member's pictures found on the club's Web site, it also offers members a site on Flickr to display their pictures and a site on YouTube where members have the opportunity to show slide shows set to music or narration. Their newsletter, *Darkroom Door*, edited by **Marcia Polevoi**, is published quarterly and is available online.

Member, Maria Kaiser states "CPS has been a work in progress for over a hundred years. As a long time member I can attest to the fact that in this club one can learn about how to use a camera, see the world in practical and artistic ways and appreciate the many and varied views of other photographers. At the same time we are continually learning about how to create an environment in which people enjoy one another, learn to master new techniques, teach, share responsibility and take leadership roles. CPS has survived both times of high and low membership and has been able to pass the task of leadership from the older generation to the younger ones with great grace and success." ■



Daniel LeHoty
PSA Representative

CPS Members scan newsletters for historical archive. Photo © Rob Erick



CPS members support Cleveland Homeless Stand Down. Photo © Bill Trent



CPS school students practice skills at Cleveland Greenhouse. Photo © Bill Trent