

Focus

The St. Louis Camera Club

This month the *Journal's* occasional article entitled *Focus*, which features a member or member club, turns to the St. Louis Camera Club (SLCC) and their efforts to sponsor students into the PSA Youth Photography Showcase. SLCC is a 400+ member group who first joined the Photographic Society of America in 1940 and in 2014 the club will celebrate its 100th anniversary. The club meets weekly from September to May.

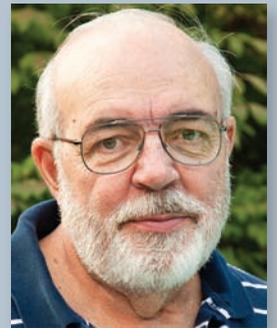
Nancy Parker has directed the effort for the PSA Youth Photography Showcase. Nancy tells us, "Fellow club member, Jeff Hirsch, and I have gotten the materials out to the high schools. I have done the ones on the Illinois side of the river and Jeff has done those on the Missouri side. I have email addresses for the teachers at each school who will collect the photos for us. One of the Illinois high schools has a Photography Club and I usually visit them in the fall and again in the spring. I have a good relationship with that teacher. None of the other schools has shown an interest in having a visit other than picking up and dropping off materials.

"We may add the projected image section of the contest this coming year. To further out efforts, we have a local competition. Before a regular club meeting, a committee of three club members selects the images (in the past, prints) to forward to PSA from each high school according to the contest rules. From that group of images the committee then selects a number of club awards based on the percentage of images normally receiving points in any club competition, i.e., 30% of the eligible images. These are awarded first, second, and third with the remainder being honorable mentions, without regard to subject matter. All

images forwarded to PSA receive Merit Awards and the students receive an attractive certificate for each image. Those receiving club awards receive a certificate with the image reproduced on it and a cash award from the club. First, second and third awards are framed for presentation. During the past two years we have had a short program showcasing the merit awards and club award winners to everyone at a regular club meeting to which we have invited the students, their parents and their teachers and then, the Powerpoint presentation with the accepted images is put on the club's website." <http://www.stlcameraclub.com>

The club is very keen on educational programs for its members: weekly educational presentations by members or outside speakers; monthly workshops (September through May) designed specifically for new and prospective members, which give detailed information on how to get the most from membership as well as photography in general and an annual seminar featuring a nationally known photographer. For competitions, there are weekly contests and a special annual competition; a story-telling contest and a photo travel essay contest. The club also participates in the PSA Interclub competitions in various divisions. (Taken from the SLCC Website.) ■

Elena McTighe,
APSA, EPSA
Publication Vice
President



Wade Clutton,
Hon. PSA, FPSA, EPSA
Club Representative



Judges (l. to r.) Roger McCarthy, Madi Hawn and Dale DeWitt select St. Louis Camera Club award winners from among the prints chosen for the PSA 2012 Youth Showcase while Co-Chair Nancy Parker records the results. Photo by Don York.

To learn more about this active club please visit their website, which is maintained by **Wade Clutton, Hon. PSA, FPSA, EPSA**, at <http://www.stlcameraclub.com>