

Focus

Camera Club of Hilton Head

This month the *Journal's* occasional article entitled **Focus**, which features a member or member club of the Photographic Society of America, turns to the Camera Club of Hilton Head. This is an active club with regular meetings, educational offerings, workshops, field trips and photo information on its website. It has been very supportive of PSA's Youth Showcase and the students it has sponsored have been very successful in the showcase, which is why they are being featured this month.

Every year the club provides photographers for the "Pictures with Santa" fundraiser. Any proceeds from this endeavor are donated to a charity. The last several years the club supported Deep Well and Friends of the Hilton Head Library. Deep Well provides emergency help for those who need short term financial, shelter, food, or medical assistance. "Friends" is like a library auxiliary and buys books for the library and supports programs for children.



"Pictures with Santa" fundraiser

The Camera Club of Hilton Head Island was founded in 1987 by a small number of "likeminded individuals with an interest in and a passion for photography." Dr. Larry Kurtzberg was the first president. Today, our membership has grown to 162 members, and we feel fortunate to have several of those original members still listed among our ranks. When Dr. Kurtzberg passed away, his widow asked our club to establish some sort of award for young photographers.

As a result, in 1998, June Eggert, one of the original members, approached the Hilton Head High School with our intent, and was introduced to Patty Schoelkopf, the visual arts/photography instructor at the school. Patty is a talented, tough and inspirational teacher, who, in turn, introduced June to the Principal of the school. The school was delighted to learn that we hoped to present an award to several of their students. Hilton Head High School has two award evenings towards the end of the academic year. One is for sports achievements, and one is for academic accomplishments. It was decided that our award would be presented at the latter ceremony. Monetarily, our award is not large, but it does recognize a segment of the student body that would not, in many cases, have been recognized in either category. Several of the winners of our awards have gone on to study Graphic Arts in college and work in that field. As a club we take great pride in having played even a small part in starting these young

people on their careers. At the club, winners are chosen by a committee of club members. Each winner is presented with a certificate and a small monetary award. The winning images are then framed and displayed at our next exhibit in the local museum before they are returned to the students.

In 2010, I attended the Club Representative meeting at PSA's International Convention in Charleston, SC, and became excited about the Youth Showcase. I suggested to Linda Kondor (the then chair of the Kurtzberg Award) that she approach Ms. Schoelkopf and ask if her students would be interested in entering the PSA Youth Showcase at the 2011 conference. As a result six images were submitted, and "*Only One*" by Jessica Smith not only won first place in its category—*People/Animals*—but also won *Best of Show* in the 2011 PSA Youth Photography Showcase. We are extremely proud of her success.

In 2013 at the Portland, ME, International PSA Conference, we again sponsored Hilton Head High School/Visual Arts/Photography students. We were very happy to learn that Max Schremmer won first place in the *Architecture* category for his image "*New York Textures*," and third place in *Digital* for "*P.S.I.*" In addition, Chloe Pinnock won third place in *Photographer's Choice* for "*Spider Web in Fog*." Max, Chloe and Will Lattman, another Hilton Head High student, all had additional images designated as Selections for the Youth Showcase. What a fantastic showing for a relatively small school from a small island off the South Carolina coast!

While the real credit for these successes belongs to Ms. Schoelkopf and her students and to PSA for providing the platform, our Club is extremely proud to have been a part of the process. We are pleased that our Kurtzberg Award and our entries in the Youth Showcase, which are only two of the outreach efforts of our Club, have made a difference. ■

Fran Hubbell

2013 PSA Youth Showcase Winners



New York Textures
© Max Schremmer



Spider Web in Fog
© Chloe Pinnock