

Focus

Lancaster Photography Association

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This month the *Journal's* occasional feature entitled *Focus*, which showcases a member or member club, turns to a club that joined the Photographic Society of America (PSA) in 1998, the **Lancaster Photography Association (LPA)** of Lancaster, California. LPA has a membership of 160 members and has been in existence for over forty years. The club draws its membership from the entire Antelope Valley, which is well known as the home of the best Poppy Photos. They meet every third and fourth Tuesday at the Antelope Valley Senior Center.

The club jointly sponsors a juried fine art photography show with the *Lakes and Valleys Art Guild (LVAG)*, and an exhibit was displayed at the LVAG gallery from July 10 through July 31, 2010. LPA's involvement with the Antelope Valley Fair's photography exhibit started forty years ago. Annually, LPA provides volunteers to set up the display, administer acceptance of the photo entries, obtain the judges, and serve as volunteer hosts/hostesses to serve the public throughout the entire nine day fair exhibit. After the fair, the club ensures that exhibit winners obtain awards and monies won. In addition, LPA members judge the 4-H photography exhibit for the fair.

The club is active in the community in a host of other ways: For the *Lancaster Museum Art Gallery*, LPA participates in an All Media Juried Art Show and provides donations for awards,

plus it contributes to gallery shows and submits photos for fine art juried shows; members judge and provide for a \$100 student award for the *Annual Antelope Valley Union High School District Student Art Exhibition*; it participates in the activities of LVAG and lastly, at the *Lancaster Poppy Festival*, LPA purchases a booth in the Fine Arts Department and members display fine art photography.

Club President **Sue Craft** reports, "We have a beautiful desert preserve here, *Prime Desert Woodland Preserve*. The reserve is greatly in need of a digital slide show featuring the flora, fauna, people, and structures of the preserve. LPA members have been taking photos of the



Nan Carder
PSA Representative



LPA members attending a Flower Workshop at Helen and Jerry Henry's home. © D. Wilkins



Helen Henry (left) and Nan Carder (right) hanging prints for the Antelope Valley Fair Photography Exhibit © Sue Craft



LPA member Lee Simmons in a field of poppies during a LPA Field Trip to the Antelope Valley Poppy Preserve © Sue Craft

preserve, and the club will have an October photo competition with the *Prime Desert Woodland Preserve* as the theme and competition images will be used to put together a DVD and donated to the City of Lancaster to be shown at the *Preserve Interpretive Center*.”

Obviously, the Lancaster Photography Association excels when it comes to Community Service. In addition to their service efforts, LPA also hosts programs and workshops at the Senior Center, and offers photography field trips. The most recent field trip occurred in June when members, led by **Arliss Dawson**, visited the Tropic Mine in Rosamond, California. At the 2009 Holiday party, the entire club voted on a name for their newsletter as their evaluation from the PSA Newsletter Contest had recommended that their newsletter have a name! *Desert Exposure*



Darlene Sprunger and Diana Edgel helping at the LPA booth during the Antelope Valley Poppy Festival © Lyle Trusty



was the winning name. Rob Sheppard from *Outdoor Photographer* was the featured speaker at the party.

LPA field trip to the Tropic Gold Mine's abandoned buildings © Lee Garner

Leading the way in using modern technology, **LPA is on Facebook.** Club member Douglas Wade states in the July issue of *Desert Exposure*, “Yes, LPA has a fan page on Facebook. Why would we do that? The really good answer is, as a group we need to go where folks are, and did you know that 35% of all Americans are on Facebook. Web sites such as LPA’s and others do not announce new information...But with Facebook all LPA messages get placed into each fans newsfeed (the page they see the most), getting our announcements out there. Friends who join us on Facebook will have their friends see our pages, and with a click, they can become our friends. Facebook is free to join and so is our group, simply go to: <http://www.facebook.com/Lancasterphotography>.

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To learn more about the Lancaster Photography Association visit their Web site at <http://www.lpaphotography.com/> ■

Lancaster Photography Association members attending the Kick Off Dinner before the Antelope Valley Fair & Alfalfa Festival © Sue Craft

