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From the Editor’s Desk

In place of my usual Editor’s message, I am sharing an interview I had with CPS member Susan Onysko, winner of two 27 points, First Place Awards, in one evening’s competition. She is the first person to do this.

Editor: How did it feel to win two perfect First Place Awards in one evening?

Susan: I was speechless. I was thrilled with the first 27 and had taken notes on what the judges said. I was getting ready to take notes on the second photo when they announced the score. I was stunned!

E: How long have you been doing photography?

S: Although pretty new to CPS, I have been into photography seriously for about seven years. When I first started out at the Akron Camera Club, I received some pretty low scores. It’s been a long road. Jay and Varina Patel, CPS members, urged me to join CPS.

E: Did you take any photography classes? What sort of photos do you take?

S: I haven’t taken any formal classes. I do travel several times a year with Photo Quest Adventures where I learn a lot. I have been to Morocco, Bhutan, New Zealand, and Cuba among others. People working in other countries are one of my favorite things to shoot. I love environmental portraits, especially ones that tell a story about working conditions. And I did recently take a Studio Lighting class with Dan Le Hoty, at CPS, which was very helpful.

E: How do you manage to travel so much? Are you married, have children?

S: My husband, John, is understanding and takes care of our four kids (six to fourteen) when I’m away. We live in Hudson, Ohio.

E: When did you begin entering competitions?

S: Shorty after I joined CPS a couple of years ago. I usually take notes on what the judges say about my entry and use their comments to improve the photo for possible submission somewhere else, even if it’s just for my wall. In Akron, the club only has one judge for a competition. I really like that CPS uses three judges, so there is less chance of bias.

E: What type of camera equipment do you use?

S: I just use my faithful Nikon D3S, with a 70–200 lens. I really like the long lens because I prefer to sit back and just shoot away. I am often able to catch great expressions that way, although I can get in someone’s face to get the shot if I have to. The only downside of using the 70-200 is that you can’t get too close. You have to resist the urge to inch closer to your subject or you will be disappointed with some blurry shots.

E: Do you have a career?

S: I am trying to build up a photography business. I have been taking a lot of children’s photos, some weddings and portraits, and hope to do more in the future.

Editor’s Note: To read more about Susan, her travels and her approaches to photography, please go to her very informative website. You can learn about her own special techniques to achieve the results she gets in her photos.

www.susanonyskophoto.com
President’s Message

It’s What’s Inside

At a monthly board meeting recently, club Secretary Jennifer Toth, was called upon to give her committee report on membership updates. Jen took a deep breath and stated “four hundred and ninety-five members to date.” There was a brief silence in the room for just a minute, and then the chatter started. Chatter about how we are on the brink of cracking the 500-member mark.

One common statement heard amongst the room was “What are we going to do?” “What if...?” Well, you can imagine all the scenarios painted within that discussion about potentially outgrowing our facility. And, what if every member decided to show up on a particular Friday night? What if we are becoming so large we go astray from the culture we’ve created and members don’t feel like they have a place or a say?

I say, “Keep ‘em coming!” Yes, we have grown in the past couple years. Yes, at times the clubroom does get rather full on certain nights (I always notice open seats though). Yes, it’s hard to remember every member’s name (that is why we have name tags, by the way). But past all that, how can this possibly be a problem? We should relish in the fact that we are all joined together, as a club, because of our passion for photography and learning, and there are more out there that want to join in.

Checking the club calendar, more often than not there are fewer and fewer “open” dates each month. With a membership this strong, we have seen some new interests spring up and different groups of members gathering to explore them. This past winter there has been a continuous string of winter workshops hosted by members who have never hosted something like this before. That’s exciting!

As Rob Erick has always said, membership numbers always seem to balance themselves out. In the past two years, we’ve seen a fall-off of about 200 members and addition of about 250. It’s all our obligation to try to figure out why the drop off happens – but then again, for some it’s a brief interest, and we all know there’s only so much time in one’s life to devote to hobbies.

On the other hand, it sure would be frightening to have to worry about a decreasing level of involvement and members. Not pointing fingers by any means but other clubs in the area sometimes struggle to maintain levels enough to hold competitions and field trips. I don’t think there’s any one fault here but somehow we have found the recipe that works. That recipe is involvement, engagement, and fellowship.

So, the next time you’re at the club and you see a new face or someone you haven’t seen in a while, take the opportunity to introduce yourself and strike up a conversation. Making members feel welcome is the primary path to our existence. Though our building is only so large, our bricks and mortar start from what’s inside.

Rick Wetterau
Selection of Nature Competition Winners

Glacier Bay
Nature – First Place

Anita Orenick

Perching Snowy Egret
Nature – First Place

Ed Rynes

White Mushroom
Nature – Second Place

Stephanie Kohler

Full Competition results can be found on the CPS website, www.clevelandphoto.org. This includes every competition and gives photographers' names, photo titles, and points earned.
Selection of Nature Competition Winners

Continued

Fall Morning
Nature – First Place
Rick Wetterau

Butterfly
Nature – Third Place
Margo Wethington

Full Competition results can be found on the CPS website, www.clevelandphoto.org. This includes every competition and gives photographers’ names, photo titles, and points earned.
Selection of Nature Competition Winners

Continued

It Isn't Easy Being Green
Nature – Third Place

Arlan Heiser

Birdseye
Nature – Honorable Mention

Megan Rowe

Full Competition results can be found on the CPS website, www.clevelandphoto.org. This includes every competition and gives photographers’ names, photo titles, and points earned.
Community Service

Jim Frazer, Community Service Chairman

The Community Service Committee was busy as usual in the months of October, November and December. During this time, we photographed 16 events for ten local nonprofit organizations. Thanks to the Community Service Volunteers, who did a great job throughout 2011.

Here are some of the events we covered:

The Special Olympics held an Aquatics event at the Strongsville Recreation Center in November. Athletes competed in a wide variety of individual swimming events as well as some relay races.

The Greater Cleveland Upside of Downs held its holiday party on December 4th. Parents and children enjoyed dinner, dancing, games, face painting and, most importantly, meeting Santa.
The Kidney Foundation together with MOTTEP (Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program) held its Fall Teen Summit in October at Tri-C East. The Teen Summit is an educational program intended to empower minority teens with information on organ donation and healthy lifestyle choices.

In November, Hands On Northeast Ohio provided volunteers to work with 4th- and 5th-grade students from Anton Grdina Elementary School. This provided one-on-one tutoring in critical areas identified by the students’ teachers. The event was held at the Garden Valley Neighborhood House.
Selection of People Competition Winners

Just Relaxing
People Studio—First Place
Paul Shinkovich

Aztec Goddess
People Studio—Second Place
Bob Boyle

Oh My
People Studio—Second Place
Jacqueline Sajewski

Full Competition results can be found on the CPS website, www.clevelandphoto.org. This includes every competition and gives photographers’ names, photo titles, and points earned.
Selection of People Competition Winners

Continued

99 Percent
People Posed – Third Place

Eric Wethington
People Candid – Honorable Mention

Brian Moorman
People Candid – Honorable Mention

Valerie Rarick

Flying Without Wings
People Candid – Third Place

Shirley DeWitte

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Of Interest

Highlights of Plans for 125th Celebration
Steve Lucsik

In January 2012, the Cleveland Photographic Society will begin the festivities that mark its 125th Anniversary. The Anniversary Committee, under the leadership of Dave Brooks, has been a beehive of activity, having spent the last year and a half planning various events throughout 2012 to mark the event.

- Sue Curtis won the contest for her design of the anniversary “patch” (logo) for use during the year.
- John MacKenzie was especially busy organizing the production and sales of selected promotional items, such as shirts, hats, water bottles, and mugs. These had their debut at the annual Holiday Party in December, with Debbie DiCarlo in charge of sales.
- Bob Boyle and Sue Curtis worked together to have lapel pins printed of the anniversary logo.
- Dan Le Hoty was in charge of printing the new banners. Several, designed by Mark Coletta, will be displayed on the outside of the building and inside the club room. Two roll-up banners designed by Sue Curtis will be used for a variety of events.
- Karin Krugman designed and art directed the printing of the guest invitations for the banquet. The guest list is being finalized.
- Rob Erick, Dave Brooks, and Maria Kaiser spent many Sundays taking photos of downtown locations for the 2012 Photo Scavenger Hunt.
- Troy Vodila and Dave Brooks are working on a book that will cover all 125 years of CPS. This will incorporate the original 100-year book currently handed out to new members that was written in 1987 by Sarah Evanko.

Member Recognition
Nancy Balluck has been using a Lensbaby lens for many of her photographs during this last year. One of her photos (on page 15 of this issue), “White Daffodils,” was on the Lensbaby website as well as on their Facebook site, where it won top honors for the most “Likes.” She also represented Lensbaby at Dodd Camera’s trade show at the beginning of December. She will be giving a Lensbaby demonstration in February for CPS members at the clubroom. Nancy says, “The creative effects you can get when using the Lensbaby are amazing. I find myself shooting things I would never have shot before.”

George Sipl had one of his photographs reviewed in the November edition of Digital Photo Magazine. This is a British publication that offers all sorts of advice and reviews and also has a monthly CD of lessons and goodies.

Save the Date
for the
Social Event of the Year!

125th Anniversary Gala and Banquet
Saturday, May 19, 2012
Crowne Plaza Hotel Independence, Ohio

Happy 125th CPS!!
In October 2011, my wife, Joan, and I, along with Sue and Bill Berger, went on an exciting African Safari. We were joined by some 20 other people from the Cleveland, Buffalo, and Detroit Zoos. We stayed at The LEWA Conservancy in Kenya just north of the equator that was established primarily to protect black rhinos. Their tourist trade helps to support the conservation efforts as well as the Masai communities that adjoin the property. Our accommodations were in a “tent” complete with electricity and private bath with hot-and-cold running water.

Game drives went out in the morning and afternoon every day. They were always successful. The Masai guides were able to spot game that we couldn’t see even with binoculars. Our Toyota Land Cruisers were driven off the road and right up to the animals. The wildlife was oblivious to us and the vehicles. We could park among a pride of lions or a herd of elephants, who acted like they didn’t see us. I preferred seeing the “big five”—elephant, rhino, buffalo, lion and leopard. But many interesting birds were targets of my camera as well. There was an abundance of “hooved stock” like impala, gazelles, zebra and giraffe.
Usually, one meal each day was served in the “bush.” The Masai would locate a safe place and set up a buffet. There was always plenty of Tusker Beer and wine. Behind the “bush” was the pit stop. We also made friends with the Masai, who would tell stories, sing and joke with us. They took us to a Masai village and a school in the nearby town.

This was the dry season and the grass was brown with many scrubby bushes scattered around. The most common tree was the Acacia, which has many tiny green leaves and is covered with long, sharp thorns. Surprisingly, the Acacia is a favorite food of the giraffe and elephant. An elephant herd is capable of consuming an entire tree.

This was the greatest photo op of my life! The memory of the wildlife, Masai, and Kenya will last me forever.
Covered Bridges Covered

Story and photos by Steve Lucsik

Sunday, October 23rd, Rob Erick led a fantastic field trip through the covered bridges of Ashtabula County, Ohio. At the Giddings Road Bridge, our group got the added treat and challenge of photographing a 1939 Chevy 4-door Master 85 sedan streetrod in front of the bridge. CPS member, Jan Immel’s husband, Tim, owns the car. She said he was absolutely giddy about having the object of his affection photographed in front of Giddings!

At the Root Road Bridge, those who were quick enough to focus their cameras were able to capture an image of an Amish family in a carriage coming through the bridge. The bridge locations were close together with beautiful weather to boot, so the photographers had more time to shoot. They crawled over, under, and around the bridges looking for the perfect shot. Another photo opportunity was a quick stop at the Carson and Jefferson scenic train depot, which was decorated for the fall season. Some, like Troy Vodila, managed to get on board a car for a more creative shot.

The end of the trip had another treat in store for those who were interested: a detour to visit and explore the historic Gageville Cemetery. Besides the many military symbols, our intrepid photographers soon noted other varied and unique markers of lodges, societies and fraternities dotting the cemetery. Markers with a crescent and dove carrying an “R” and a three-link chain soon became the main objects of interest. It was later discovered that this was the symbol of the Daughters of Rebecca, an auxiliary of the Order of Odd Fellows. (Hmmm!) We also got to admire and try to decipher the symbolism of a tree-trunk style grave marker of a Woodmen of the World member. But, alas, one more bridge and then the field trip suddenly came to a “dead end”!

Ah, I just tried my new fish-eye Nikon lens and I’m doubly delighted. Here are a few photos of this shoot. The saturated colors were preserved to show the richness of the buildings and décor.
Selection of Creative Competition Winners

White Daffodils
Creative Through the Lens – First Place

Nancy Balluck

Blasted Through the Window
Creative Through the Lens – Third Place

Sharon Doyle

Color Squared
Creative Through the Lens – Second Place

Vicki Wert

Full Competition results can be found on the CPS website, www.clevelandphoto.org. This includes every competition and gives photographers’ names, photo titles, and points earned.
Selection of Creative Competition Winners

Continued

Honey I’m Home                                                              Mawele Shamaila
Creative Through Processing – Second Place

Naughty or Nice                                      Shirley DeWitte
Creative Through Processing – First Place

Full Competition results can be found on the CPS website, www.clevelandphoto.org. This includes every competition and gives photographers’ names, photo titles, and points earned.
Selection of Creative Competition Winners

Continued

Market Shopping
Creative Through Processing – Second Place

Erik Heinrich

Free Bird
Creative Through Processing – Second Place

Karen Warkany

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Club Information

The Cleveland Photographic Society

CPS has operated continuously since 1887, making us one of the oldest camera clubs in North America. The organization currently has more than 400 members and is one of the few anywhere to have its own permanent clubroom. The objectives of the society are to promote and advance the understanding, passion and joy of photography by providing opportunities for education, skill development, picture taking, competition, critique, and fellowship. We meet almost every Friday evening and our meetings are always open to visitors and guests—we invite you to visit us! Our clubroom is located on the City of Broadview Heights campus. The clubroom opens at 7:30 p.m. Visit our website for directions, maps, and further information: www.clevelandphoto.org

CPS Competitions

CPS holds 16 competitions each year as a part of our regular Friday evening meeting schedule. Only members can enter images for competition, but all are invited to attend. Competition categories are Nature, People, Creative and Pictorial (open category) and three competitions per category are held throughout the year. In addition, four Projection competitions are held, displaying projected digital images. The category for Projection competitions is Pictorial (open).

In addition to formal competitions, several People’s Choice Nights are held throughout the year. These are informal, unjudged evenings devoted to specific themes, such as Architecture, Photojournalism, etc. Competition Rules and Results, as well as slide shows of winning images can be found on the Competition page of our website.

CPS Membership

Annual dues: Single member rate is $54.00; Couples are $81.00; Family (couple plus one or more children) is $117.00; Junior member (under 18) and Distance member categories (roughly over 100 miles) are $36.00. A downloadable application form and more details can be found on our website: www.clevelandphoto.org

Join us and enjoy all the benefits of being a part of one of the most dynamic, active, and friendliest camera clubs in the US. Photographic education and fellowship are our primary tenets and a part of all we offer. No matter your skill level or photographic interest, you’ll find lots of activities that will enhance your skills—and you’ll have FUN along the way!

Club Calendar

The complete and updated Club Calendar can be obtained at www.clevelandphoto.org

Our Mission: The mission of the Cleveland Photographic Society 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.