

The winners!

Nature in the suburbs offers variety of colors

By Dennis O'Connor
staff writer

Judith Garbin of Livonia should thank her husband, Gary, for his renewed interest in photography.

Judith took the best picture among 230 entries to win this year's Observer & Eccentric Newspaper's Color Photo Contest. Her photograph of the lily of the valley plant (see front-page photo) gained top honors under the theme, "Nature in the suburbs."

Judith, surprisingly, began taking pictures only about four months ago. Her husband is the original photographer of the Garbin family, but the two began taking pictures together when Gary decided to renew his hobby, after 13 years, by buying a new camera last May.

Judith took that new camera, walked over to her next-door neighbor's home, took a picture of a lily plant and wound up the grand-prize winner.

A PANEL OF FIVE judges from the O&E looked at 230 entries before deciding on the winners. They chose first-, second- and third-place finishers, along with eight honorable mentions.

Judges based their selections on the following criteria: use of color, creativity, representation of the theme, reproduction of the slide, cropping, and impact of the subject.

Most entries were of flowers and animals, although some photographers shot pictures of children and boats.

The judges were impressed with Garbin's entry because the photograph showed the texture and pattern of the plant. Garbin's exposure and lighting were excellent, and she didn't rely on a central theme to shoot a prize-winning photograph, the judges said.

"It just goes to show, you don't have to have a subject," said Judge Monte Nagler, who writes a column on photography for the O&E Creative Living section.

"SELECTIVE FOCUSING" was the key to a second-place finish for Gregory B. Williams of Westland. His picture of yellow, red and orange tulips was a balanced photograph that demonstrated how to make an out-of-focus picture work for you.

Perhaps the most dramatic entry gained third-place honors. James F. Britton of Plymouth Township took a picture of a spider spinning its web. He captured the starkness of a natural event, the judges said.

Three honorable mention entries, shown on this page, were taken by Douglas Blush of Rochester, Karen Gaika of Sterling Heights and Kathy Nedock of Farmington Hills.

Blush's photograph of a tree at sunset showed how important "patience" is when capturing a good picture, the judges said. Gaika's picture of moisture on an iris also was given recognition. In this photograph, closeness added to the impact of the subject,



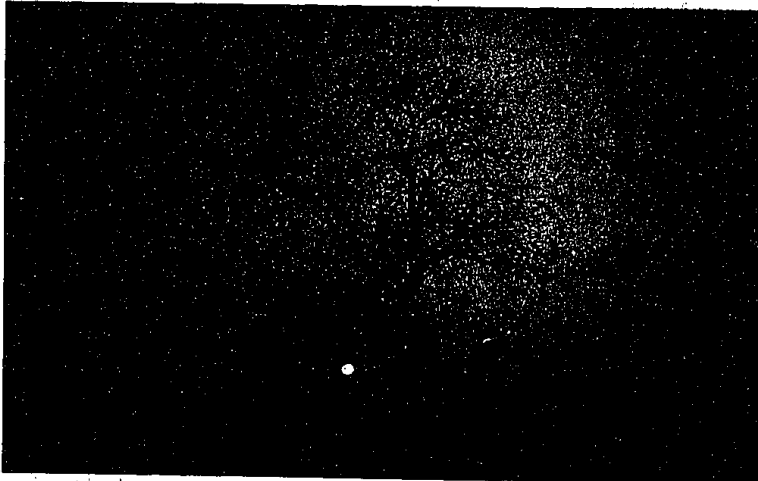
The impact shown of moisture on this iris earned honorable mention recognition to Karen Gaika of Sterling Heights.

the judges said. The most whimsical entry was a picture of a raccoon by Nedock. She took a picture of this little critter before helping it. The raccoon was struck in the branch of a tree next to her house.

OTHER HONORABLE MENTION winners, not shown on this page, include: David Carlson of Livonia for his photograph of a sailboat at sunset, Chas. Linahan of Farmington Hills for his photograph of a barn interior, Sandra Garbarino of Farmington Hills for her photograph of a flower, Chris Alexander of Birmingham for his photograph of a flower and Alma Winkworth of Birmingham for his photograph of a flower.

Judges for this year's Observer & Eccentric color photo contest were Mindy Saunders, staff photographer, Southfield Eccentric; Bill Bresler, staff photographer, Plymouth and Canton Observers; Jim Jimmerson, director of Manufacturing; Diane Giangrande, Creative Services supervisor; and Monte Nagler, photographer-columnist for O&E's Creative Living section.

Gregory B. Williams of Westland grabbed second-place honors for his colorful tulip photograph (above). Our judges were impressed with Williams' selective focusing on the tulips. James Britton of Plymouth Township finished in third place with his photo of a spider spinning a web (below). The judges gave Britton credit for the dramatic aspect of this photograph. One of eight honorable mentions went to Douglas Blush of Rochester for his picture of a tree at sunset (right). Blush showed extreme patience to capture this setting, according to the judges.



Did the raccoon really pose for photographer Kathy Nedock of Farmington Hills? Nedock's effort earned honorable mention consideration from our judges.

