Capturing Oconee's beauty



SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

Russell Carlson of Salem took this photo, "Little Brasstown Falls," with a Sony A7R digital camera to win first place in the Keep Oconee Beautiful Association's 2016 photo contest. Look for the rest of the winners from the contest in upcoming editions of The Journal.

Salem man takes first place in KOBA photo contest

THE JOURNAL STAFF

WALHALLA — Salem resident Russell Carlson took top honors in the Keep Oconee Beautiful Association's 30th annual photo contest, with the awards presented Saturday at the Walhalla Chamber of Commerce.

Carlson's photo, titled "Little Brasstown Falls," which he took with a Sony A7R digital camera, won first place and the $250 top prize. Carlson also garnered one of five honorable mention awards for his photo "South Cove Park — After The Storm."

Frankie Johnson of Seneca won second place and $200 for his photo "Best Friends," while Debbie Biddle, also of Seneca, nabbed both third and fourth places — and the $150 and $100 prizes, respectively — for her photos titled "Nature's Umbrellas" and "Open For Lunch." Ken Yuravick of Anderson received fifth place and $50 for "Ann's Hawk Growing Up."

Also receiving honorable mention certificates were Renee Hattenstein of Westminster, David Turner of Salem, Daniel Maurer of Seneca and Kyle Alexander of Seneca.

KOBA is a nonprofit organization

CONTEST: Photos to appear in The Journal

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comprised of volunteers dedicated to restoring and maintaining the beauty of Oconee County through the proper care and disposal of waste. The 30-year effort is enhanced through partnering with civic, business and governmental organizations that share similar objectives.

The annual photo contest captures the beauties of Oconee County. The contest and other programs are financed through membership dues, donations and grants, according to a news release. The organization's mission is to "restore and maintain the beauty of Oconee County through education, awareness, cooperation and action."

KOBA also administers all Adopt-A-Highway and Adopt-A-Spot programs in Oconee County. Its education volunteers make anti-litter and recycling presentations in elementary schools, while its recent "Kobie Says" and "Litter is Wrong Too" campaigns reinforce anti-litter and recycle efforts through news media and outdoor advertising.

The rest of the winning photos from the contest will be published in upcoming editions of The Journal.