



Club Notes for April 2025

SPRING IS ARRIVING IN COLUMBUS!

It may be obvious if you watch local bird feeders and see spring bulbs blooming. Looking for spring “shooting” ideas? Maybe start with the Franklin County Metroparks (see <https://www.metroparks.net/events-new/> for free events). If eagles are of interest, there are active eagle nests at Three Creeks (Groveport), 100 Acre Wood (Westerville), and off Dublin Road/Hwy 33 in Grandview (east of Grandview Rd)—pairs are likely sitting on eggs this time of year. Spring wildflower walks (one for adults 50+ and another for adults evening walk) are scheduled at Battelle Darby Creek (Galloway) on April 8th. Columbus Park of Roses (Whetstone Park) has a lot going on as the weather warms up. The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium has Easter-related events, as well as Earth Day celebrations to consider this month. Birders are starting to find migratory species along the Scioto River flyways, and if the weather is unkind, there are multiple opportunities at the Franklin Park Conservatory. With all the recent rain, two local spots for waterfalls are Hayden Falls Park and the new Quarry Park. April is also a good time to start working on your May club salon submissions—see information on the club website and later in this newsletter.

Westbridge Camera Club: Time to Step Up

The club is served by a host of member volunteers, as dictated by the club constitution and bylaws (see

<https://westbridgecc.com/aws/WBCC/pt/sp/bylaws>)

Frank Begun has agreed to stay on as club President for 2025-2026, along with Rick Bartelt as Treasurer, Cherry Williams and Sharon Telatnik as Membership coordinators (thank you Tonya Sekerak for your years of work on membership!), Dale Berlin as webmaster, Carol Shurlow on audio visuals, Skip Kremer as Liaison Committee chair, and Audrey Begun on communications/newsletter duty.

Several key positions **NEED** to be filled for the club to remain operational during the 2025-2026 season (see club bylaws—these are not optional).

Vice President—First, thank you to Jon Butterfield who filled this roll during 2024-2025. One caveat for Frank remaining the club president is that our vice president can take over meetings when he is out of town. The position description for Vice President is as follows: perform the President’s official duties during the absence of the President,

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(club volunteers continued)

(Vice President continued)

perform such other duties as the Executive Committee may direct, serve on committees as needed, manage Westbridge Members Facebook Group to agree with current membership and ensure that only paid members belong and may post.

Secretary—Thank you to Tonya Sekerak who has filled this roll for the past several years. The position description is: keep minutes and historical record of all club business meetings, record competition award winners, determine if quorum is present, maintain club database and membership information and keep website up to date, maintain a record of all club forms and documentation including instructions (judges, handbooks, etc.), maintain current calendar of club events accessible to board and committee members in conjunction with committee chairs.

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Member-At-Large: This year’s volunteers were Cheri Brent, Jon Harvey, and Jim Urzykowski. For 2025-2026, the club needs two new Member-At-Large volunteers (one 3-year and one shorter term). The position is appointed by the Board for a 3-year term (one member appointed each year as a term expires). The role involves participating on the Executive Committee as a liaison between the membership and the Board. These individuals may serve on various committees and assist on other committees as needed.

Education Committee Chair—Thank you to Jon Harvey and Mark Collins for their work this year. The education committee, aka “entertainment,” arranges our monthly “learning” programs hosted on the first Monday of each month during the club season. The Committee recruits each meeting’s presenter, as well as the annual salon dinner program (keeping in mind that non-photographers also attend). They develop topics to aid in the development of members’ skills and vision—programs that educate and inspire photographers of all levels, emphasizing learning (not just “show and tell”). The chair obtains the description of the program and presenter’s bio for posting by webmaster and communications coordinator so the club calendar can be kept current. Chair coordinates payment of speaker stipend. Chair, as host of the meeting, introduces the presenter. Education Committee also coordinates with the Liaison Committee chair on “Distance Education” events (e.g., Zoom presentations).

Competition Committee Chair—Thank you to Donna Winters who chaired this committee, and the committee members who assisted each month (Jerry Allen, Eric Erickson, and Jeff Sagar). The committee chair oversees club competitions (3rd Monday of each month during the club season and the May salon), as well as the “5th Monday” critique nights. This involves recruited one judge for each monthly competition, a three-judge team for the end-of-year salon, and one person to constructively critique member submissions to critique Mondays. The name and bio of each judge should be provided to the webmaster and

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(Competition Chair continued) communications coordinator for dissemination to the club membership. Chair provides each judge with instructions, Zenfolio access, deadlines, and how to send digital results to the competition chair. The chair informs judges of how many honorable mentions to award in addition to 1st-5th places (10% of the total entries for each category). Chair informs judges of special themes if relevant and encourages them to provide educational comments on submissions. Chair forwards competition results to the webmaster as soon as possible.

Exhibition Committee Chair—Thank you to Cheri Brent who has been serving us in this role. The Chair/Committee seek out and arranges opportunities for Westbridge Club members to exhibit their work, coordinate logistics and exhibit requirements (instructions, place/date/time for drop off/pick up), provide information to webmaster and communications coordinator, share with members exhibit and competition opportunities that may be of interest.

Note that our fabulous club cannot function without each of these positions being filled—please consider whether it’s time for you to step up in support of the club! Leaders and chairs often lean on support by other leaders, chairs, and club members to support their roles—you are not in it alone.

April Educational Program

The Education Committee has arranged with our own club member, Karen Randall Scott, to present “The World of Bugs.” You may recall from one of our zoom presenters that without bugs, there wouldn’t be many of the plants

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(Karen Randall Scott presentation continued)

and flowers we enjoy photographing, nor would many animal species exist (birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, fish). They are a critical (and often under-appreciated) part of most ecosystems. Karen has a rich array of bug-related images—you may not be a fan of all insects, but there are some amazing specimens out there. Karen has captured some beauties.

End-of-Year Dinner and Salon

Our club's end-of-year banquet is scheduled for Monday, June 2nd at Der Dutchman (445 South Jefferson Ave, Plain City). Doors open at 6pm, the buffet opens at 6:30pm, and the menu will be as last year. The program remains TBD and end-of-year salon winners will be announced. The cost remains the same as last year at \$30 per person. Reservations will soon appear on the club website.

Club Competition News

April is an "open" theme competition month to be held on April 21st. Our judge, Earl English, has contributed to club events multiple times in the past. Earl self-describes as a fine-arts photographer with a passion for flowers. View his digital gallery at <https://www.ehenglishphotos.com/-/ehenglishphotos/galleryIndex.php>. The deadline for digital submissions is Monday April 14th. Club members will be surveyed for our opinions about some possible alternative ways of organizing print competition submissions.

The May competition will be our year-end salon—see the special guidelines concerning submission rules on the club website. You may want to begin sorting your honorable mention and scored images, as well as those you wish to enter in the salon. Even if you did not have any scored images this year, you may enter up to two each in your digital, color print, and monochrome/black & white print categories. See details at <https://indd.adobe.com/view/d6d8a705-6b54-455c-a814-bb2e1125f58c>

