



Inspiring, educating, and nurturing the creative spirit one photograph at a time





edward weston

*To consult the rules of composition before making a picture is a
little like consulting the law of gravitation
before going for a walk.*

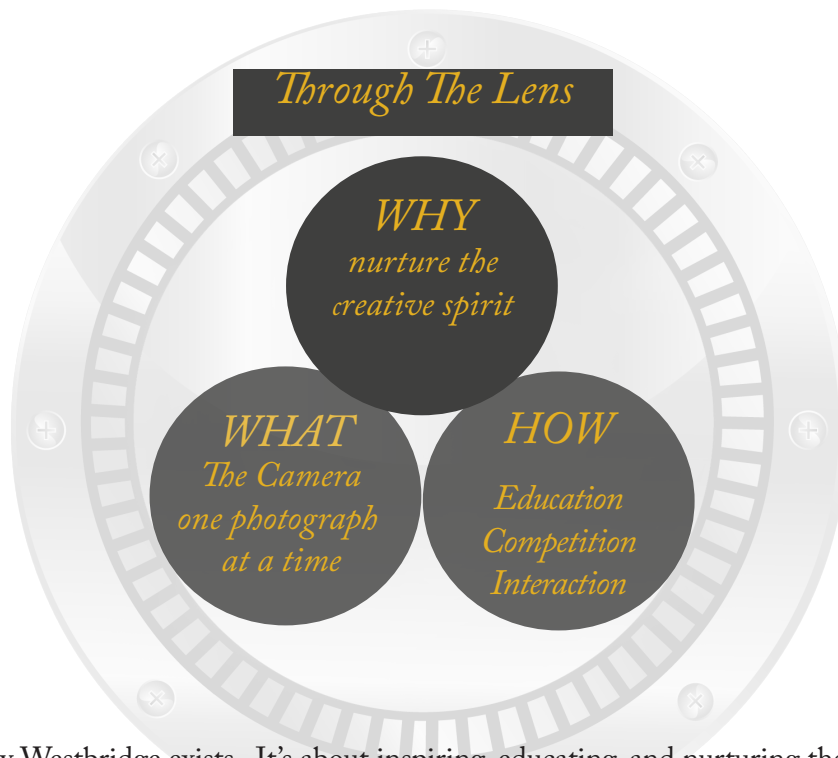
Edward Weston



*Westbridge: inspiring, educating, and
nurturing the creative spirit one photograph at a time.*

Mission: About Westbridge

Westbridge has a long and rich history. Founded in 1949 it is the oldest and largest camera club in central Ohio. Westbridge has thrived and grown from a club where slides, film cameras and the darkroom were the tools of the day right into the current age of digital cameras, Photoshop and AI. At a time when photographers lament that AI will be the end of photography, a look back through the lens of time suggests that our cameras will survive while at the same time the expression of the art of photography coming from them will evolve and change. The tools in our toolbox have increased dramatically. In the end it is more about the creative spirit. It is about nurturing that spirit



This, in a nutshell, is why Westbridge exists. It's about inspiring, educating, and nurturing the creative spirit one photograph at a time. It is about learning to make what we see tangible in the form of an image and developing the skill to accomplish that. Some will choose to do that with a film camera and some will choose digital equipment and the use of AI. Some will utilize the dark room and alternative printing techniques and some will use traditional printers - or both. We seek to encourage and embrace all individual expressions of this art. Through our education meetings, monthly competitions and the company of other passionate photographers we can hone our skills and learn to see differently through the lens of the camera. Members can learn the techniques involved in making a photo, the ins and outs of processing images, and in the end the preparation of images for the print. If they choose photographers may also participate in group outings with other club members. Whatever the goal or desire, Westbridge offers numerous opportunities to grow in the art of photography.



Officers and Committee Members

Board Officers

2023/24

President	Donna Winters
Vice President	Dick Wood
Secretary	Tonya Sekerak
Treasurer	Rick Barteldt

Members at Large

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Jon Harvey
Joe Chunko

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Dale Berlin

Technical Coordinator

Carol Shurlow

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Communications Coordinator

Ash La Follette, Chair

Education

Jim Urzykowski, Chair
Lee Flasche

Competition

Larry Kennedy, Chair
Jon Harvey

Membership

Tonya Sekerak, Chair
Joe Chunko
Pat Bendick

Liason/Special Projects

George Vaughan, Chair
Phil Edelsberg
Skip Kremer

Exhibitions

Cheri Brent
Mark Fohl

Audio/Visual



*last leaf standing
donna winters*

*Never say there is nothing beautiful in the world anymore.
There is always something to make you wonder
in the shape of a tree, the trembling of a leaf.*

Albert Schweitzer



Westbridge Programs

The mission of Westbridge Camera Club is brought to life through its member programs. The club prides itself on inspiring and educating members through quality speakers, competitions, special programs, and organized outings. Semi-monthly meetings give members the opportunity to socialize and learn from each other. The club also works to develop relationships with other clubs to share in membership and programs. These relationships may lead to jointly organizing speakers from anywhere in the world. One way that Westbridge encourages inter-club participation is through a distance membership where members more than 50 miles from Columbus receive a substantial membership discount.

Camera clubs can be intimidating for new members or those newer to photography. Westbridge welcomes photographers of all levels of experience and strives to provide opportunities to participate, learn, and become inspired.

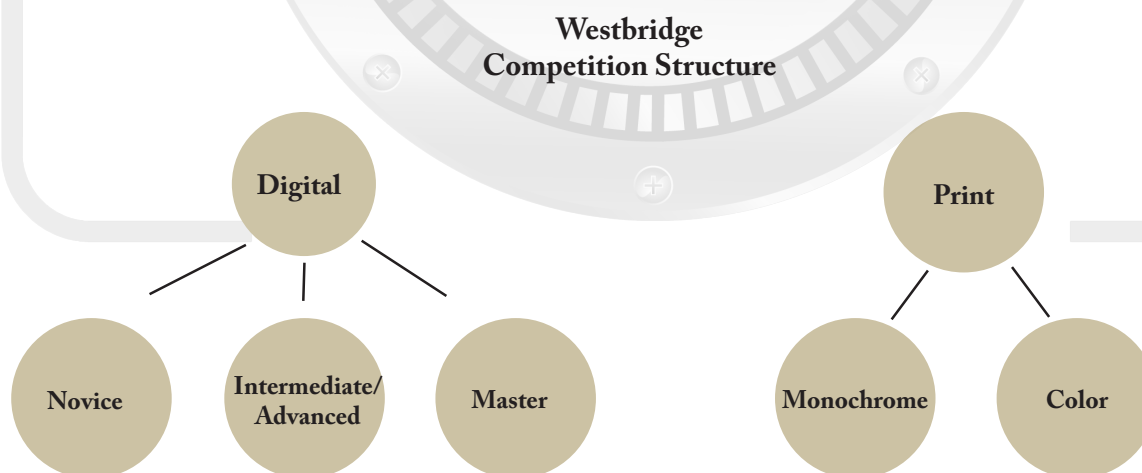
Education

The 1st Mondays of each month are dedicated to an educational program. Presenters speak on many different topics. It makes no difference what type of camera you use - the programs are designed to appeal to all levels of photographer regardless of gear. Topics have included black and white photography, landscape, studio including portrait, astro photography, street photography, learning to see and compose etc. The list goes on. The goal is to learn and be inspired to take the camera out and stretch the imagination.

Competition

The 3rd Mondays of each month are dedicated to a juried competition judged by a professional non-member of Westbridge. Competitions truly are an extension of education where one can learn by seeing and listening to the judges comments. Competitions can be intimidating and taking that first step can be a leap of faith. But the opportunities to gain skill are limitless when one puts their work out there for critique. There is no failure. There is no requirement to participate in competitions and even if one chooses to not enter, the opportunity to learn and be inspired is worth the price of admission.

Go to www.westbridgecc.com and sign into the members area to review the rules of competition.



Critique

When applicable the 5th Mondays of the month will be dedicated to critiques. Any photographer in the beginner category may submit images for critique by a teacher/professional photographer. This is designed to aid members in becoming more adept at having photographs reviewed and discussed and hopefully makes members more comfortable in that arena. The critique facilitators, as in competition, are typically not members of Westbridge. There are no points awarded and the program is designed totally as a learning experience without the added element of judging. There is no criteria for what is entered. This helps the entire membership to learn how to look at photographs and evaluate them both in general and when looking at one's own work.

Special Presentations

Covid, all of the inconveniences of lock downs and stress inherent with the risk of serious illness set aside, gave Westbridge an opportunity to think outside the box and find ways for members to interact and stay connected not only with each other but with the art of photography. During this time our monthly meetings, both digital competitions and educational speakers, remained intact through the magic of Zoom. Speakers and judges from all over the US, Europe and Asia were scheduled. Since the end of lockdowns our meetings are held in person at Midwest Photo. The club wanted to continue the tradition of engaging speakers from near and far. These special presentations are held by Zoom on evenings or days when there are no regular meetings scheduled. At times, depending upon the speaker, there may be a small registration fee to cover

Snippets

There is down time during competition evenings when the judge is in the process of choosing the winners for that evening - usually 10-15 minutes. Why not put that time to good use? On these evenings members are encouraged to bring something to share with the group where members can walk around and discuss what was brought. It could be anything - a special project in progress, a question that someone wants to ask other members, printing and paper finishes to explore, gear etc. The sky's the limit. One member brought a piece of equipment he made himself that he used to take high resolution pictures of slides to create a digital copy. Another brought photos printed on different finishes of paper to explore and samples of projects in progress. And yet another member shared beautiful note cards she had made from her photographs. Members can then walk around at their leisure and look and or talk about what is presented. This is usually included in the meeting announcements and more than one member may participate during an evening.

Outings

One of the benefits of belonging to a club of like minded people is to get to know fellow photographers and take photographic journeys together. Westbridge has many opportunities to do just that where members plan outings to various locations and events. Some are organized by members with others organized by the club. Often many wouldn't go if on their own, but in the company of friends and photographers to motivate it can be much more enjoyable. Members reaching to other club members to get a group together is encouraged. Members will find many opportunities to explore opportunities with others to go places possibly previously unknown to them.



Participate

There are numerous ways to participate in Westbridge Camera Club. The creativity and contributions of members are vital elements in the evolution and success of this club and its programs. They are what allows the art of photography to reach photographers of every level of expertise and interest. Typically each of the committees consist of several members (at least 3 being the goal) to help spread the responsibility. Consider sharing your time to keep Westbridge thriving and growing well into the future. Reach out to the president or other board/committee member for information.

Elected Board Positions (typically 1-2 year terms)

The elected positions are voting members of the board

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Members at Large (3) with staggered terms from 1-3 years

Appointed Positions

Webmaster
Technical Coordinator
Communications Coordinator

Committees

Education
Competition
Membership
Liason/Special Projects
Audio/Video
Exhibitions



Join

Why Join Westbridge?

Westbridge members enjoy many opportunities in addition to regular meetings. There are organized outings which provide opportunities to interact and share photography. Members have access to a private email list and a Facebook Members page where photographs and information are shared. Our club also enjoys a special relationship with Midwest Photo Exchange. They generously offer Westbridge members a discount on services such as printing and rentals. Be sure to check them out for expert help with all things photography.

**Become a part of the oldest and largest
camera club in central Ohio**

Membership Dues: \$40 per year

First 30 days free

**visit www.westbridgecc.com for more information on all things
Westbridge**

Time and Location

**1st and 3rd Mondays September through May
(5th Monday critique night when applicable)**

7:00 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm)

Midwest Photo Exchange

2887 Silver Drive

Columbus OH 43211



Imagine

Your first 10,000 photographs are your worst.

Henri Cartier-Bresson



henri cartier-bresson



www.mpex.com

<http://www.westbridgecc.com>

Thank you to Midwest Photo Exchange
for their continued support of Westbridge Camera Club.

Be sure to ask about special discounts on printing and rentals
for Westbridge members