



Club Notes for November 2025

HOLIDAYS “SCREAM” PHOTOGRAPHY!

As the fall season evolves, more of us may start exploring indoor photographic opportunities while still keeping an eye on weather-permitted outdoor chances. As we move indoors, it might be a good time to try one of Midwest Photo's Learning Studio classes or events (see <https://mpexlearningstudio.com/events/>). We might want to explore creative ideas in tablescape and tabletop studio “shoots” or experimenting with one of the local photo studio spaces. Holiday plans might include family and friend gatherings where we might try some different kinds of “people shots” (remember, our April competition is “Portraits In the Style Of...”). We can work on training our “eye” and gaining exposure to different artists at the Columbus Museum of Art's downtown or Short North (Pizzuti) location; admission is free on Sundays. In addition to the “usual” Short North Gallery Hop and food tour schedules that are often photo-worthy walkabouts, on November 16th between 1-4 Studios on High hosts “Make Art on High” with free walk-in workshops (see <https://shortnorth.org/events/>). The Wexner Center for the Arts on OSU campus (1871 N. High St.) is hosting four special exhibitions now through January 11, 2026 (see <https://wexarts.org/>). Outdoors and weather permitting, the Columbus Zoo's Wildlights opens on November 21st and runs through January 4th (closed on Thanksgiving Day). Watch the Cincinnati Zoo websites for details about their holiday light show (starting November 20th), Indianapolis Zoo (starting November 22nd), and Toledo Zoo (date TBD), too. Various other holiday lights, lighting ceremonies, and markets begin in November—start a trip down the Google rabbit hole to see what's local or a bit farther afield. I found the Howliday Bazaar on November 22nd from 9am-3pm at the Franklin County Dog Shelter (4340 Tamarack Blvd, Columbus) for pet lovers—it might offer some fun photo ops. Franklin Park Conservatory has Chihuly Night on November 8th (with 18 indoor glass installations specially illuminated, 7-10pm) and their outdoor exhibits *Paul Busse Garden Railway* and *Through the Vines: A Seasonal Journey* continue through January 4th. The Metroparks website suggests that fall colors will still be “a thing” during November days, and the bison might be fun to photograph in late fall. Looking forward to seeing our members' adventures captured in images.

Being More Positive About Negative Space

As photographers, we might focus so intently on our main subject that we ignore an almost equally important image composition feature: negative space. The term “negative space” is used to describe open or neutral areas in all kinds of art and design: it refers to the “not main subject” areas that surround a primary element of interest. Why does it matter? The negative space helps direct attention to the primary subject, helping the main subject (or “positive space”) stand out. It isn't quite accurate to call negative space empty or

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blank because it often has some degree of subtle detail. Negative space details are meant to be more subdued than details found in a main element, and negative space colors, tones, and hues set a context for the main element. The ultimate goal is a balanced image where just the right amount of negative space, with just the right qualities, surrounds the primary subject. If you have looked at an image and decided that it was “too busy” with distractions or appeared cluttered, then you were responding to an absence of sufficient

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negative space. Or you might sense that an image was cropped too closely, leaving too little “breathing” space or context around the main subject. The quality of negative space can help create or influence the “mood” of an image. For example, a person huddled in one corner of an image, surrounded by a solid, concrete wall can create a mood of isolation and loneliness. (Note: Profound Isolation is our competition theme for December.) Soft, warm, subdued negative space creates a more romantic mood; bright negative space can help express joy; fog and mist can create a sense of mystery.

Multiple techniques help create negative space in photography. First is choosing a location and simple/muted background for photographing a particular subject. Second, attending to depth of field principles (e.g., low F-stop values and main subject at a longer distance from background elements) can enhance negative space by blurring out background details. Third, converting an image to high key, low key, or silhouette might draw attention to the primary subject and away from the surrounding space. Finally, in a pinch, judicious cropping or other post-processing techniques (e.g., spot healing, clone or pattern stamp, smudge or blur, burn or dodge) might remove distracting elements. Not every image is about a single main subject or element, so this topic is not relevant to every image. But careful manipulation of negative space can be a dramatic tool in creating powerful photographic images.

Club Competition News

Our club’s November competition is “open” themed. Digital image submissions are due in Zenfolio or emailed to Carol Shurlow (shurlowc751@gmail.com) by 10:00 pm, Monday November 10th and placed in whichever category you placed them during September and October competitions (Novice, Intermediate/Advanced, or Master). Bring your mounted monochrome and/or color prints to the competition judging on November 17th.

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Our busy Competition Committee has arranged for Gary Gardiner to judge November’s open theme competition. Gary is a former Associated Press (AP) photographer, as well as former photographer at both the *Ft. Lauderdale News* and *Orlando Sentinel*. He self-describes as a photojournalist and cinematographer at *The Westerville News* and at *EyePush News*. His website and Instagram pages present his mammoth undertaking of “A Photo a Day” since November 15, 2004! His thousands of images cover a broad range of themes, topics, and styles. Gary describes the vision of his years-long project as “My Final Photo—If I died in my sleep, this was it.” Some of his images appear on *The Columbus Dispatch* picture gallery site for a November 15, 2024 story, “Westerville photographer Gary Gardiner picture a day” (<https://newsletter.garygardiner.com/s/the-gardiner-archive>). Others can be viewed at <https://garygardiner.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/garygardiner/> and <https://www.dispatch.com/picture-gallery/news/2024/11/15/photos-westerville-photographer-gary-gardiner-picture-a-day-retiring/76329746007/>).

Photo Feedback Interest Group

John Butterfield has announced an upcoming photo feedback interest group session. The second of the season is scheduled for Monday November 10th 7:00 to 8:30 pm at the Old Worthington Library’s Owl Meeting Room, 820 High Street, Worthington 43085. Interested members should register with John at jbutter47@gmail.com before noon on Saturday November 8th.

Photo Feedback sessions provide members with a relaxed, fun, peer-group atmosphere for receiving and delivering constructive feedback on one another’s print or digital images. We tap into the expertise and experiences of fellow club members in these

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<i>(Photo Feedback Group continued)</i> sessions, as well as getting to know each other a little better. The group is open to all skill levels, with sessions limited to 15 participants. Each participant may present up to 2 images, digital and/or matted print format. We share the stories behind our images; the group provides constructive feedback about such things as composition, technique, lighting, cropping, and creativity. Printing topics about display, print techniques, and paper selection are also explored. Many of the shared images have subsequently received recognition in our club competitions. For example, 14 participants of past meetups were recognized in the September competition! To join the next session, register by email message to John Butterfield (jbutter47@gmail.com). Exhibition Opportunities Our club Exhibit Committee booked our club into the Upper Arlington Library Tremont Branch (2800 Tremont Road) from November 1 to December 20. The library's main exhibit space, off the atrium on the main floor, will hold approximately 25 pieces, while other areas in the library will accommodate an additional 10. The deadline to participate is Wednesday, October 22nd. One print (framed) per member may be submitted—contact John Butterfield at jbutter47@gmail.com. In your message to John, please indicate your name, title of the work, approximate framed size, and your phone number. The following are “know before you show” pointers: 1. All submissions must be framed and ready to hang. Frame size must not exceed 20” x 24”. Frames must have attached hanging wire on the back—sawtooth hangers cannot be accepted. The library’s Walker hanging system used 6’ long hanging rods that can accommodate multiple pieces, depending on their sizes. 2. Members are permitted to list their pieces for sale. Exhibitors should label each piece with their name, price (or NFS if not for <i>(continued in next column)</i>	<i>(UA Library exhibit continued)</i> sale), and contact information for interested buyers. The library will not serve as a go-between. The printed label should be approximately 2’x4” on white card stock. It will be affixed to the wall next to the framed print using the library’s special tape—other adhesives will not be allowed. Or, the label may be affixed to the frame by the exhibitor, if preferred. 3. Photo subject matter must be appropriate to a general audience of all ages, including children. The library reserves the right to refuse to display any material they consider potentially offensive to the audience or which portrays partisan political, religious, or commercial interests. 4. The library is unable to insure items and requires each exhibitor to sign a liability waiver. This process is managed through DocuSign with the waiver sent from the library by email for photographer completion prior to the exhibit. 5. Library staff, assisted by members of the Exhibit Committee, will “hang” the show. 6. Exhibitors must drop off their framed photograph and label tag on Friday, October 31st at the library atrium between 10:30 am and 1:00 pm. If this is not convenient, contact John Butterfield to make special arrangements. 7. Exhibitors must pick up their work during the library hours on Saturday, December 20th (10:00 am to 5:00 pm). Note that the Friends of the UA Library will host a book sale November 9-16 in the atrium adjacent to the main exhibit area. This should increase the number of visitors to the Westbridge Camera Club exhibit (and advertise to potential new members). Exhibition opportunities are a valuable benefit of being a Westbridge Camera Club member, enabling members to share their work with a wider audience and connect with potential buyers. If you haven’t participated in the past, please consider this opportunity. Additional exhibits are scheduled in January/February and July.
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Member Suggested Opportunities

This is a reminder of Kathryn Cubert's announcement concerning the photo contest and exhibition called "Our Nature in Focus." This opportunity is hosted by Midwest Photo and Grange Insurance Audubon Center (GIAC). The contest and exhibition celebrates the beauty in our Columbus Metro Parks. The entry period is November 1-December 15, 2025 with the exhibition dates being February 5-March 29, 2025. There will be an award reception on February 5th (6:00-7:30pm) at the GIAC where winners will be announced.

There are two entry categories to consider for up to 3 entries per photographer: Adult Professional (\$15) and Adult Amateur (\$10). Note that all submissions must be taken at any of the Columbus Metro Parks. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes in each category include up to \$800, Canon Pro 200S, membership to the GIAC, swag bags from Columbus Metro Parks, or a Midwest Photo gift card. In addition to Midwest Photo and the GIAC, sponsors include Canon, Fotospeed, and the Columbus Metro Parks.

Member News

Three club members took top awards in the September 19-21, 2025 Grove City "Arts in the Alley" event. This is a multi-day art and music festival hosted by the Grove City Area Chamber of Commerce and held in historic Downtown Grove City. Congratulations to Phil Edelsberg who earned **Best of Show** recognition (and \$200) in photography. His winning image, titled *Desert Scene*, was created using his Google Pixel 7 cell phone. Photos from all categories (Advanced, Emerging, and Mobile) were considered in judging the show's best. Phil's black and white print received second place in our club's 2023 Salon. Steve Organ received first place (\$150) in the Advanced category which included both professional and serious hobbyist photographers. Steve's win was with *Egret in Flight*; he also was awarded honorable mention for *Foggy Morning at Antrum Lake*. Rob Formantelli took third place (\$50) for a

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black and white print titled *Peppercorns*. Three Westbridge Camera Club members are among the winners of the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging (COAAA) 2026 photo calendar contest announced on September 30th. In addition, four others received honorable mention recognition. Cheri Brent's 2020 photo of a butterfly feeding on a flower, taken at Inniswood Metro Park will appear in the calendar for June. A rural landscape image by David Troyer will be featured in September and John Butterfield's July photo of a hummingbird landing on a feeder at his Worthington home will be the March feature. Honorable mention recipients were Linda Alvarado, Pat Bendick, Angela Scavo-Manno, and Sue Day. Pat and Sue were contest winners last year; Angela was a winner in 2021 and 2023. Last year, Linda received an honorable mention and was a contest winner in 2022 with several other images published in calendars over the years. Pat's entry was her eighth recognition with featured or honorable mention photos since 2017 (two winners in 2018 and one each in 2022 and 2025). John had a winner in 2024. There were a total of thirteen winning images—one for the cover and another for each month—and 12 honorable mentions. The COAAA calendar features a winning monthly photograph by photographers aged 50 and over, as well as advertisers of interest to this age group. Free, full-color 2026 calendars will be distributed to central Ohio senior and community centers beginning November 2025. Contest entrants must live in one of the eight counties served by COAAA (Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Pickaway, or Union). Westbridge members accounted for 28% of the awards this year.

Just sayin'.

The photographs of three club members took a total of twelve awards in the Westerville Senior Center Photography contest! Sharon Andrews won **Best of Show** for *The Ascent*, entered in the

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Architecture category. She also took second place for *Dance of Spain* (Travel Outside of Ohio category) and honorable mention for *Last Days of Summer* (Ohio Scenes). John Essig took five awards, including: first place for *Splash and Scoot* (Children), second place for *Happy Day* (Patriotic), second place for *Egg Shell Stairs* (Architecture), third place for *The Beekeepers* (Ohio Scenes), and third place for *Pemaquid Point* (Seascapes). Linda Alvarado received four awards: second place for *The Kiss* (Children), third place for *OH-Orange* (Still Life), and honorable mentions for *Sand and Sea* (Seascapes) and *Fall in the "Ville"* (Westerville Scenes).

The September contest, in its 10th year, is open to all Westerville Senior Center members. Approximately 200 photos were entered in the contest's multiple categories this year. A panel of judges, including graphic artists and professional photographers, awarded first, second, and third places in each category. Our Best in Show winner was announced at a reception and awards show. An exhibit of winning photos is on display **through the end of October** at the Westerville Community Center, 350 N. Cleveland Ave.

Please keep sharing member news as it happens. We are always on the lookout for news about our members' many accomplishments. John Butterfield "fields" these info bits and has written many of our stories in this and past months' newsletters.

Survey Question

We are curious to learn about our members' "shooting" habits. We'll post the replies in a future newsletter story.

Q#1. Estimate how many "shots" you take in a typical year on all of your cameras/phone combined: _____

Q#2. Estimate the percent of those "shots" you keep: 0% _____ 100%

Q#3. Where do you store your original images (describe all that apply—e.g., my computer, external hard drive, cloud storage, or ???)?

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Send your responses to audrey.begun@gmail.com before November 14th or bring hard copy to the November 17th meeting for Audrey.

November Education Program

The education (and entertainment) committee has arranged with Ardine Nelson, Professor Emerita, the Ohio State University Department of Art Photography program to serve as our November 3rd Education Program speaker. Ardine has exhibited nationally and internationally, received Ohio Arts Council and Greater Columbus Arts Council artist fellowships, and was visiting artist in Spain. Ardine uses traditional and non-traditional cameras and materials in her photography and has been recognized for her work with alternative cameras. A consistent theme in her work is visualizing both natural and human-altered landscapes. She has works using macro lens and focus stacking to create images of aging flowers inspired by the Japanese aesthetic of *wabi-sabi*, exploring themes of regeneration, transience, and imperfection. She is also known for her black and white landscape photography. Based on her past experiences with our club, Professor Emerita Nelson will present "What, Why, and How" concerning the ways she approaches forming and creating a project, and some thoughts about gallery exhibitions. She will share with us how changing tools, materials, teaching responsibilities, travel opportunities, and learning new things all contribute and influence her visual projects.

Club Newsletters

Our club newsletters are developed by the Communications team based on information shared by club members. As always, the Communications team invites you to send information and newsletter ideas to Audrey Begun (audrey.begun@gmail.com) and John Butterfield (jbutter47@gmail.com).