



Club Notes for March 2026

Spring is around the corner...Really, it is! It is a good time to start looking for new sources of creative inspiration. Franklin Park Conservatory admission is free March 1st for Franklin County residents. Their orchid show continues through March 15th and the butterflies are back! The Conservatory's "Columbus Blooms" exhibit opens March 21st to May 3 with more than 140,000 tulips, daffodils, and pansies; magnolias, lilacs, cherries, viburnum, and other perennials will show up as their seasons arise. The Greater Columbus Cherry Blossom Festival occurs March 22-April 25. The *Experience Columbus* website lists locations to see cherry blossoms and when related events will take place. The Dawes Arboretum website posts "what to see this week" notes—what plants are of interest and what birds are showing up. Check out the Metroparks website for events in March. They include a duck and other waterfowl walks, eagle hikes, woodcock watches, archery experiences, and more. If you are interested in the night sky, there are a few events related to the full moon/worm moon due March 3rd and a Vernal Equinox event, as well. Columbus Zoo and Aquarium admission is discounted through March 12th (note that there are reduced hours), even less if you purchase tickets online. The zoo has a number of newcomers to see, including bears, tigers, baby elephants, and the redesigned North America region. Ohio State University has a small walking arboretum, Chadwick Arboretum & Learning Gardens, with free admission that you might enjoy. Chadwick is open dawn to dusk, located at 2001 Fyffe Ct (pay and display parking). Sports photos might be accomplished with the Arnold Sports Festival which continues through March 2nd. The Home & Garden Show might also offer photo opportunities. St. Patrick's Day festivities (March 17th and surrounding dates) include parades downtown in Columbus and in Dublin. The Auto Show is in town in mid-March, as well. Let's get out and explore!

Stepping Up & Pitching In

In early May, in compliance with the Westbridge Camera Club bylaws, we will be electing the club leadership team and recognizing committee members. We have a few positions that have opened and a number of leaders who have volunteered to continue in their roles. See the list below, consider whether you are interested in stepping up and pitching in. Self-nominations go to beginfrank@gmail.com. The current roster:
President elect: Mark Garrett (our current VP)
Vice-President elect: **OPEN**
Secretary: Linda Ulasiewicz
Treasurer: Rick Barteldt
Member-at-Large: Joyce Fasone
Member-at-Large: Jim Urzykowski
Member-at-Large: **OPEN**
Membership Committee: **OPEN** (need 2-3)
Education Committee: Greg Chatfield, Carrie Cartwright

(continued in next column)

(Stepping Up continued)

Competition Committee: Mark Collins, Rob Formentelli
Exhibits Committee: John Butterfield, Joyce Fasone, Steve Organ
Liaison/Special Programs: Skip Kremer
Tech Specialist: Carol Shurlow
 (Note: It might be wise to have a Tech Specialist alternate to back up Carol)
Communications Committee: **OPEN** (needs 1-2 members)
Webmaster: Dale Berlin
 Say a quick thank you to those who have stepped up. If you have questions about the duties of any of these roles, there is a detailed flowchart of activities and calendar for each role that is available in the club website, go to About, then Officers & Committee Chairs, and below Board list there is a link to download responsibilities and timeline of activities.

March Education

Our club education committee invited Mark Steele from Photography Inc. to present at our **March 2nd** meeting. Mark's company is a full-service retail interior/architecture photography service that captures the design intent of retail and branded spaces. He specializes in creating images for editorial, marketing, public relations, and advertising uses. He works closely with clients to craft the innovative and creative photography that best represents their retail environments. Mark has over 30 years of experience shooting interiors, editorial, and architectural works. His client list includes global brands, and his work has been featured in countless media outlets, covers, and articles in leading retail design trade publications. His clients have won over 150 awards in leading design competitions. Mark's planned presentation highlights selected projects spanning the 1990s to the present, along with discussion of the techniques and equipment used throughout his prolific career.

We have a club-sponsored zoom presentation by **Herb Ascherman on Sunday March 9th at 7pm**. Ascherman's talk will extend beyond technical aspects of portrait photography into the realm of the psychological. He will share his seasoned techniques for mastering hand positions, the nuances of posing, and—perhaps most importantly—the “Zen” of getting a model to relax, letting us capture their truest self. His presentation will also delve into the timeless advantages of black and white photography, exploring how removing color often reveals a deeper truth about the subject. Herb Ascherman is a prominent portrait photographer in Cleveland (see <https://aschermanphoto.net/>). His portfolio includes photos of four presidents and other international leaders, 750 Northern Plains Native Americans, Keepers of the Culture performers, Holocaust survivors, symphony orchestra players, Street Fair images, and a playful set he identifies as Greek gods and goddesses as they would appear today. His work includes a range of studio and street photography reflective of the varied artists identified for April's theme.

Club Competition News

Our club's March 16th competition theme is “Shiny Objects.” Digital image submissions are due in Zenfolio or emailed to Carol Shurlow (shurlowc751@gmail.com) by 10:00 pm, Monday **March 9th**. Images should be placed in the category selected during prior competitions this year (Novice, Intermediate/ Advanced, or Master). Bring your mounted or matted (no frames) monochrome and/or color prints to the competition judging on **March 16th**. Our Competition Committee has arranged with Alison Crocetta to judge this month's competition. Alison is currently a member of The Ohio State University Department of Art. Her work is described as interdisciplinary and “a hybrid art practice” drawing from multiple realms with which she is experienced—sculpture, performance art, and moving images. She holds a multitude of awards and recognitions, and her work has been shown in a number of highly recognized exhibitions and galleries. For more information about our March judge, see her website: <https://alisoncrocetta.com>.

The April competition follows. There has been some degree of confusion as this month's theme “In the Style Of...” has evolved over time. In essence, the assignment is to share images that you relate to the style of one of the artists in the list provided. Some of the listed artists are studio portrait artists with unique points of view expressed in the style of their works. Others of the listed artists capture images of humans in environmental context. For example, some produced street or event photography. It is worth spending some time learning about the different artists listed—you do not need to be a traditional portrait artist to compete successfully in the April competition. Specific details can be found on the club website (<https://westbridgecc.com>) within the calendar menu. Note that the judges will not review animal portraits, landscapes, and other types of images. Also, it is not necessary to identify a specific

(continued on next page)

(April competition continued)

image or work by the artist whose style you are emulating—this competition is about capturing the spirit or essence of an artist's style, not "copying" one of their artworks.

Note that in naming your digital files you will include "in the style of ____" after your club image title. For prints, do not put your name on the back! Instead, use your club id #, title of your image, and "in the style of ____" on the back. Our judges will need to turn the mounted prints over to see who the work relates to and this will keep your images anonymous. Our April judges are Bobbie (Teal) Atlas and Ray Clark who presented to our club in the fall as preparation for this competition theme. Check out their websites at <https://www.bobbietealphotography.com/> and <https://www.secondstreetphotography.com/> to renew your familiarity with them.

Photo Feedback Interest Group

John Butterfield has announced the next photo feedback interest group session. The fourth of the club season is scheduled for **Monday March 9th from 1:00 to 3:15 pm at the Worthington Park Library, 1389 Worthington Centre Dr, in the Worthington Park Centre.**

Interested members should register by email with John at jbutter47@gmail.com before noon on Friday March 6th (first come, first reserved, these meetings are filling up lately). Participation is limited to 15 club members and open to all skill levels. Photo Feedback sessions provide 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 sessions, as well as getting to know each other a little better. Each participant may present up to 2 images, digital (due to John preferably by noon Saturday March 7th) and/or as matted/mounted prints. Many of the shared images have subsequently received recognition in our club competitions!

Exhibitions News

The club's next exhibition will be in July—details forthcoming!

Member Recognition

While not officially a Westbridge exhibition, numerous members have photographs appearing in the "Our Nature In Focus" exhibit continuing at the Grange Audubon Center through March 29th (505 W. Whittier, Columbus). The exhibition (and contest), co-sponsored by the Grange Insurance Audubon Center and Midwest Photo, celebrates the beauty residing in our Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks. Each entry was taken in one of these parks. A total of 65 images made it into the exhibition from among those submitted. The following Westbridge Camera Club members had images accepted into the exhibit.

- Frank Begun: Dark Reflection, Mealtime, & Into the Woods (which was the 2nd place winner in amateur division)
- Mark Collins: Quarry Calm, Eyes of the Woods, & The Hunter (which was the 3rd place winner in amateur division)
- Sue Day: Neighbors At Number 2; Beauty and The Bridge
- Lee Flasche: Spring Peeper at Full Volume
- Jay Heiser: Halloween Pennants in Tandem
- Molly Selan: Work of the Day
- Linda Ulasiewicz: Solitary Flight

Member Noted Opportunities

Jim Urzykowski shared information about the full moon calendar for 2026. The link includes some general information about phases of the moon. Note that the next full moon is the Worm Moon which will also bring a total lunar eclipse. See https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/2025-full-moon-calendar-see-144152398.html?soc_src=social-sh&soc_trk=ma for the schedule and names of each month's full moon.

The local Focus Camera Club posted a
(continued on next page)

(Opportunities continued)

scheduled program on March 13th at 7pm in the Upper Arlington Municipal Building (3600 Tremont Rd.). It is a hands-on Table-Top Photography program—their website recommends bringing your camera gear.

Club Newsletters

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).

Please consider volunteering for the Communications team in 2026-2027. Audrey and John are happy to assist, but Audrey will be retiring from this role at the end of our season (May 2026).