



Club Notes for May 2026

May wraps up our 2025-2026 club season. The concluding events include: (1) our final educational event on May 4th, (2) our end-of-year salon competition, and (3) our end-of-year banquet on June 1st. Details on each are presented in this newsletter.

Club Survey Results

We recently circulated a brief survey to members through email messages and “hard copy” at meetings. A total of 28 members responded and the results for the first three questions are summarized here (*alphabetically arranged*), and results for all five questions will be shared with the board members to aid in future planning.

Q1. What kinds of photography do you do?

- Americana (structures like barns, bridges, light houses, old houses)
- all kinds EXCEPT portraits; open to new areas of interest/I like to try new things, too
- architecture/historic architecture
- astro
- birds
- blue hour
- compositing/creating new images out of “old” ones
- documentary/ cultural elements
- events/organizations’ promotional events/charity events/church functions/golf tournaments/parties/weddings/performances
- drone work
- fine art landscape
- flowers/fungi/mushrooms
- humor/quirky signs
- ICM (intentional camera movement)
- insects/butterflies/moths/odonates (dragonflies & damselflies)
- landscapes/waterfalls
- macro
- musicians
- nature/wildlife
- night

(continued in next column)

(club survey results continued)

- portrait/self-portrait
- sports/youth sports for families
- story telling with images
- street/street activity
- studio model
- table-top studio
- travel
- underwater
- videography
- what goes unnoticed by others

Q2. What are any topics that you would like to explore in greater depth?

- anything as long as it is truly teaching
- astrophotography
- best matting/framing ideas & pricing for exhibitions
- birds/birds native to Ohio
- black & white/ monochrome
- books about photography
- developing your own style
- docent tour of a photography exhibit
- drone/aerial work
- film done with disposable camera
- how to display our work (websites, social media, other)
- landscape
- LightRoom/Photoshop advanced techniques/detailed use of layers/how to merge catalogues in LightRoom
- macro/abstract macro
- managing workflow (from download through backup routines and more)
- night (not light painting)
- others’ experiences with workshops they have attended/paid educational programs/group tour providers

(continued on next page)

<p><i>(club survey results continued)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outdoor festivals • photography techniques & planning shots ahead with artistic vision rather than just simply being situationally opportunistic • photography tools beyond Adobe (e.g., Topaz) • portraits & portrait lighting • printing tips & processes • stacking post-production techniques • street & human interest scenes (like Ernst Haas & Saul Leiter) • switching to mirrorless (the experience) • themed field trips/shoots • folks interested in regular outings to shoot together/outings/tours & comparing our photos from similar outing (safety in numbers) • using natural, low level blue hour lighting • ways to tell stories with our photography • weather/storms • websites • wildlife photography & how wildlife photographers find their subjects & plan outings so they don't strike out as often • workflow/ practical cataloging/ organizing/ backup advice • workshop on hand-colored photographs • YouTube content creators <p>Q3. <i>What do you think would be some appealing club competition themes in the future?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 feet from home • birds • black & white • bokeh (as a key element of an image) • color (a specific color/red/orange/blue) • decay • documentary/telling a story with photography • energy • flash use • fresh take on a local icon (people, place, thing) • hands • high key • human designed & manufactured (straight <i>(continued on next column)</i>) 	<p><i>(club survey results continued)</i></p> <p>pins to skyscrapers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • humor • insects • in-camera double exposure; “in the style of...” (but only one, or with a twist on their topic) • landscape • learning in action • local—Olentangy or Scioto Rivers/Ohio/ Columbus or a suburb • long exposure • low key • minimalism/minimalist • motion • nature/nature without the “hand of man” • new perspectives • night • night skies • noir • order among chaos/patterns in chaos • pets • portraiture/creative portrait/self-portrait representing your personality • sadness • skylines • smoke • story telling in images • straight out of the camera jpg/no processing • traditions • travel • tryptichs • wabi sabi (do it again) • waterfalls • wet/rain • wildlife • wind <p>In summary, our club members have widely diverse interests and expertise! These results will be helpful to our committees in planning for next year and beyond. It should also be helpful to members who wish to identify others with similar interests—just put our an email to the club membership if you want to arrange a meetup or ask for advice from others experienced in the topic of concern or interest to you.</p>
---	---

Annual Salon Competition

Gather all of your images that placed 1st-5th from September 2025 through April 2026. That is your salon body of work, regardless of how many there are. As an alternative, you may substitute an image that earned Honorable Mention recognition during this season for a 1st-5th award image in that same category—you may not substitute a new or unrecognized image. If you did not receive 1st-5th recognition on two or more images in a category (digital, monochrome print, color print), you may submit up to two images of your choice (new or previously submitted) in that category. For example, if you received a 1st-5th on one digital image, you may submit a second digital image of your choice. All of your submissions go into the competition level where you have been competing this season: digital novice, intermediate/advanced, or master level; and, print or advanced print for both color and monochrome prints.

Digital image submissions are due in Zenfolio or emailed to Carol Shurlow by 10:00 pm, **Monday May 11th** (shurlowc751@gmail.com). Matted/mounted (unframed) prints should be dropped off to our meeting room at Midwest Photo between 6:30-7:30pm on **Monday May 18th**. Judging will be completed by a team of three judges. Submitted prints will be returned at the **June 1st Awards Ceremony** during our club's annual banquet and awards announced at that time. [If you are not planning to attend the banquet, please make arrangements to have your prints collected for you.]

Annual Awards Banquet

Our club's annual awards banquet is scheduled for **Monday, June 1st at Der Dutchman** (445 South Jefferson Ave., Plain City). Doors open at 6:00pm with a buffet dinner served at 6:30 (beef, chicken, fish, multiple sides, and dessert). Audrey and Frank Begun will serve as the event entertainment with a presentation titled "Photographing Hidden Worlds." This not-too-technical exploration into finding "stuff" in hidden worlds combines nature photography images of small stuff, camouflage and mimicry, night subjects, and more.

(continued in next column)

(annual banquet continued)

Prints submitted to the annual salon competition (due May 18th 6:30-7pm) will be displayed for viewing at the banquet, along with the digital salon submissions (due May 11th 10pm). Awards will be announced both for the salon judging results and for the entire 2025-2026 season. Cost per person is \$30 and guests are welcome. Make your reservations before 5pm on May 27th:

https://westbridgecc.com/aws/WBCC/input_form/display_form_01_show?which_form=80174

Club Competition News

Our Competition Committee has announced our 2026-27 competition themes (approved by the Board at its February meeting).

- Four months will have "Open" themes: September, October, February, and April
- November's theme is "Low Light"
- December's is "Taken in Ohio"
- January's is "Taken During 2026"
- March's is "Patterns or Repetition"

The themes are an opportunity to stretch ourselves and try something outside of our usual and customary zones. The assigned judges will be announced as the dates get closer. Knowing the themes early can help us all think about unique approaches to addressing them in our work over the summer and following months.

Education Event

Our May 4th education meeting is designed to be interactive. Members will post one favorite "best" image in Zenfolio by end of day Sunday May 3. John Butterfield will host the meeting as three club members provide numeric scores (0-9 scale) for each image. Each image will "star" for three minutes with feedback from the scorers, a minute description from the image maker, and time for other members to provide feedback—everyone will have sticky post-it notes to deliver written feedback to the image maker, as well. Image makers must be present to participate to make the most of the

(continued on next page)

(May 4th education continued)

interactive format. The rationale for this event is that a number of club members commented in our survey that they wish there was more chance for digital image feedback and more opportunity for constructive critique in general. Let's see how this pilot works--it may become more integrated next year if it turns out to be popular. This seemed like a great way to close out our educational night schedule for the season.

Exhibitions News

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

Photo Feedback Interest Group

John Butterfield has announced the season's final photo feedback interest group session scheduled for **Monday May 11th from 1:00 to 3:15 pm at the Old Worthington Library (Owl Meeting Room), 820 N. High St., Worthington.** Interested members should register by email with John at jbutter47@gmail.com before noon on Friday **May 8th** (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 May 9th**) and/or as matted/mounted prints. This is opportunity for peer feedback on images you are considering for the May Salon!

Member Noted Opportunities

The KelbyOne 2026 Lightroom Conference is scheduled for May 4-6th. This is a fully online educational event. Early bird registration through May 5th is \$149 (full price is \$299). This registration price provides a full year of access to the zoom sessions. See <https://kelbyoneline.com/> for more information and to decide if this one is for you.

(continued in next column)

(Member Noted continued)

On **Saturday May 16th (10am-5pm) Midwest Photo is hosting an in-store Trade & Get Paid session.** They suggest bringing in clean cameras (DSLR or mirrorless), lenses (Canon, Nikon, Sony, Fuji, etc.), flashes & lighting gear, and select accessories for evaluation. With your gear, bring any chargers, caps, straps, and original boxes you may have for them. Their team will assess the items and offer youcash—with a 10% boost on this special date only. Or you can get 20% more trade-in value toward a new or new-to-you purchase.

Critique Nights for 2026-2027

Our Competition Committee determined that the 5th Monday critique nights will be interactive in nature. Rob Formantelli has offered to put submitted images up on the viewing screen and to live-edit based on critique comments offered by club members. This approach is aimed at garnering constructive critique from various perspectives, critique that can help us improve our images and photography efforts. It will be open to members competing in the Novice and Intermediate/Advanced categories. Guidelines and submission details will be provided as the scheduled dates approach.

At Midwest Photo Learning Studio you can enroll in a variety of live on-site courses and workshops taught in the studio where we host our club meetings (see <https://mpexlearningstudio.com/>). On May 6th they offer a course on Principles of Lighting: Introduction to Flash & Off Camera Lighting. This one is taught by Monty Soungradith (\$70). Our longtime club member Jeff Sagar offers an immersive Astrophotography Workshop: How to Photograph the Night Sky (\$149). He presents this workshop on May 12th 4:30-6pm in the classroom, then moves to a hands-on field experience 6:45-9:30pm.

Club Newsletters

As always, the Communications team invites

(continued on next page)

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, Cherry Williams, and John are happy to assist.