



MARY WESTERBACK

Mary has been a member of the camera club for many years. She and her husband, Ivar Westerback, enjoyed photography together. They loved the wet darkroom and silver image photography, which resulted in many years of excellence in silver printing. The Westerback trophy has been a club acknowledgement of black and white portraiture and general subjects for a number of years. In recent years, she has switched to digital photography and has done a good job challenging herself to learn things that she says don't come easily to her. Mary has been actively involved in the camera club, as a print committee member, teacher with the club's continuing education photography course, and member of several club committees. She has opened her home to photographic gatherings and club business meetings. Mary is a friend to all club members, and is always willing to lend a hand to them.

Professional background: At Oceanside High School, NY I was a Business Student because expectations for women were generally limited to secretarial studies, nursing, teaching or jobs in the service sector. However, in my senior year I decided I wanted to be a research scientist. At night school I completed 3 years of high school math in 15 weeks and obtained a college entrance certificate. In 1948 was awarded the first scholarship given by Oceanside High School and attended Elmira College, Elmira, NY receiving a BA in 1952 in biology & chemistry.

I worked in New York City for International Printing Ink and later Warner Lambert Pharmaceutical Company as a research scientist. I met Ivar on a YMCA trip to Martha's

Vineyard where he asked me to pose for a photo because I was wearing a red outfit. He loved photography. We were married in 1955 and had two daughters.

In the 1960's I was a substitute teacher for high school science. To teach full time I completed all requirements including a geology major and obtained a MA degree in Biology-Education from Long Island University (LIU) in 1969. After briefly teaching middle school science, LIU asked me to join the Geology-Geography Department as an instructor. While teaching full time, I received an MS Degree in Earth Science from Adelphi University and in 1979 a Ph.D. in Science Education from New York University. I became a Full Professor at a time when only 1% of Full Professors in Geology were women. I retired in 1994 and was awarded Professor Emeritus.

During my tenure at LIU I taught both undergraduate and graduate course in geology, and teacher training courses funded by the National Science Foundation. For more than 10 years I developed and administered a program for elementary teachers to learn basic principles of biology, chemistry, physics and earth science taught by science faculty.

During my tenure at LIU I presented and published numerous professional papers in both education and geology, was invited to write book chapters, appeared on local TV, and co-authored a book with a well known geologist. I belonged to many professional societies, including honor societies, received an award for excellence in teaching from LIU, and was recognized by the National Association for Research in Science Teaching for an outstanding paper. I lead field trips, was involved in community projects and was a manuscript reviewer for several major publishing companies and the National Science Foundation.

Photography was always important to me on a personal and professional level. My husband and I traveled extensively since the 1960's taking thousands of images in national parks, forests and monuments that I used in my classes. At LIU I enrolled in every photography course available to me in their undergraduate BA program in photography.

For many years I had a wet darkroom and recently switched to digital imaging and processing. I belong to several local camera clubs, have participated in a number of professional workshops, and enjoy working on a family history which involves restoring and retouching images.