

# SVNP NEWSLETTER, FEBRUARY, 2024

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 8 MEETING

There are currently opportunities to give presentations starting as soon as June, 2024. As usual, any suggestions you may have for programs – especially of a how-to nature – would be appreciated. Please email (wah@waynehallphotography.com) or call (978-443-9226) Wayne if you are willing to give a presentation yourself or if you know of someone to recommend.

The February meeting was held solely on the Zoom platform. Prior to the meeting being called into session, the group discussed, among other things, the competing virtues of several local libraries as exhibition spaces. Wayne reports the Wayland Library has put out feelers (SVNP is already booked into the Sudbury Public Library for the annual show.) Anne Umphrey had complimentary things to say about the Bedford Library. This seems like a useful discussion to have. If any in the wider group have thoughts to share, they would be more than welcome. Please communicate them to Wayne as above.

## Evening Presentation - Karin McQuillan

**Karin McQuillan's** presentation received a last-minute change of title to *Having More Fun with Travel Photography*. Her argument addressed the tendency of people to err towards bland narrative in their travel photography, often leaving their aesthetic A-game at home. Karin exhorted us to attempt to take not a “postcard” but, instead, make a “very personal, subjective photograph,” one in which the perception of the foreign locale may be enhanced by adding well-judged human context. To illustrate this point, she displayed some of her favorite images from her wide travels, each with comments about the qualities she felt made them successful.

Karin then showed a series of photos, paired by location with discussions of how she feels an added human presence intensifies the viewing experience. In her commentary, Karin demonstrated a keen concern for achieving an appropriate balance between formal and dynamic qualities. In several instances she mentioned waiting for the elements to arrive at the “right” position. This certainly agrees with the concept of a “very personal, subjective photograph.”

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In the expectation that many travelers have a hard time overcoming shyness, Karin spent time discussing a list of tips. Among these were included: choose a scene and wait for someone to walk into it; learn to discern people for whom being photographed is part of the job description (guards, guides, etc.) or who will be approachable; realize that not all effective people shots need to be close-ups; a photographer will probably be invisible to people closely engaged in some activity or personal interaction with others. Karin illustrated each of these suggestions with a series of single photos, some taken as long ago as 1969 or as recently as 2023.

We were then treated to a series of photographs paired with paintings (which ranged from the Renaissance to the 20th century.). These discussions were informed by Karin's training as an art historian. Painters famously have both the privilege and the obligation to arrange their images in a manner that will enhance their intended message. Photographers have less ability to arrange every element just so.



*The Fishwife, Adriaen van Ostade (1610–1685) -- Japanese Fish Monger; photo Karin McQuillan*

Nonetheless, the series of comparisons demonstrated the depths of Karin's concern with and affection for the accumulated wisdom to be found in the painters' traditions as well as the possibilities open to

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all travelers. Karin stated that her message is that if one can bring the human and the abstract elements of the image together then the result will be something greater than the sum of the parts.

Karin concluded with the suggestion that travelers loosen up and have fun with their photographs, endeavoring to be more experimental and work people into their shots. Afterwards, the group had a long and enthusiastic conversation with her about many of the issues she raised in the impressive and thought-provoking presentation. During this interaction Karin mentioned that she had appreciated the opportunity this talk had presented to engage in a personal project to pick out her best photos and think about why she likes them, a project which she recommends to all, by the way.

### Member Images

**Jean Fain** started by showing three wildlife images taken in Concord, at or near Willow Guzzle reservation. These were: a doe in front of a grass screen and individual photos of a perched Northern Harrier and a Red-Tail hawk in flight overhead. Then followed individual photos of a perched Bald Eagle, crouching for takeoff and an already airborne Great Blue Heron, both taken in Exeter, NH.

**Hendrik Broekman** offered recent images made of nature subjects around Wayland.



### Around the Web

Apropos of this month's fine presentation, I was lucky to stumble upon this complementary TEDx video of Susan Seubert, a successful travel photographer speaking on the subject, *Travel Photography: Do it Alone, but Not by Yourself*.

<https://youtu.be/Gf5zoio-KXE>

Also speaking of traveling, one of the critters I have found fascinating is the Magnificent Frigate Bird. We have encountered this species both in the Galapagos and in Baja California. The linked short video is a primer on the bird.

<https://youtu.be/kFo-KZ-nI0c>

One less heroic aspect of the Frigate Bird's behavior that is glossed over in the previous video, kleptoparasitism, is put on full display in this. "Nothin' personal, just business."

<https://youtu.be/zKzeMovBwL0>



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## UPCOMING SVNP PROGRAMS

March 14-Z*		<i>Semi-annual Member Images Night – My Five Favorite Images from 2023</i>
April 11-Z*	Ed McGuirk	<i>Spring in New England – Nature’s First Green is Gold</i>
May 9-N*	Ron McAdow	<i>Concord Wetland Wildlife – Close Looks at the Animals of Thoreau’s Favorite Swamp</i>

\*N=Live at Newbury Court Only; Z=Zoom Only; H=Hybrid

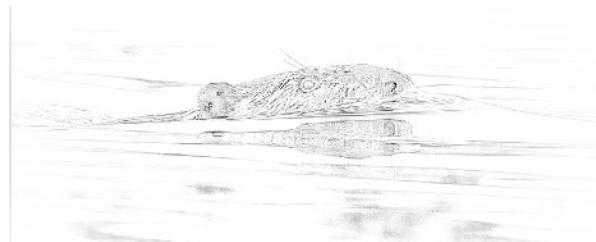
Please Note – All meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, at 7:00 pm, either via Zoom or at our location (or both):

Great Room, Newbury Court  
100 Newbury Court, Concord, MA

The decision to hold in-person meetings will be made on a month-to-month basis and communicated no less than a week before the meeting.

Updated directions to the Great Room and instructions for underground parking (to be available starting at 6:10pm on meeting evenings) may be found at the link immediately below.

[http://svnp.homestead.com/files/Directions to Newbury Court Great Room.pdf](http://svnp.homestead.com/files/Directions%20to%20Newbury%20Court%20Great%20Room.pdf)



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# SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

## Group Exhibits

### Individual Member Exhibits

SVNP members - please notify Wayne Hall ([wah@waynehallphotography.com](mailto:wah@waynehallphotography.com)) of your upcoming individual exhibits for posting on the SVNP website.

Date	Member	Exhibit Location
Ongoing	Marijke Holtrop	Online Exhibit on the website of the Friends of the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge ( <a href="http://farnwr.org/gallery.html">http://farnwr.org/gallery.html</a> )



### An Invitation from your Editor

If having a meatier monthly read is of interest to you then, please, I invite you to send anything you may wish to contribute to future newsletters (a précis of an upcoming presentation, photos, personal news, reviews, neat tricks you find worth sharing, etc.) to me at [henkbroekman@gmail.com](mailto:henkbroekman@gmail.com). Please include SVNPNP in the subject line.

I especially invite presenters and members sharing images to select and submit files for illustrative purposes. I expect it would be possible to accommodate two images or so for main presenters and one each for after-presentation sharing. Generally, expect to see half-column layout along the lines of this example. If you have photos you may wish to share, please submit jpg files sized no smaller than 1200 px on the long side. Submission deadline will be 11:59 pm on the Monday following the meeting. Inclusion in any particular newsletter will be at my discretion based on newsletter length, distribution file weight, current workload, etc.

*Hendrik Broekman*



*Sitting Pretty;  
photo, Hendrik Broekman*