

SVNP NEWSLETTER, MARCH, 2024

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE MARCH 14 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.

As has become the group norm for Member Images Night, the March meeting was held solely on the Zoom platform.

Member Images Night - Favorites of 2023

Jean Fain offered five fine wildlife photos taken around the Sudbury Valley. A red tail hawk launching from a tree top in the vicinity of Verrill Farm started the series. This was followed by three images taken at Drumlin Farm: one image of a perched bluebird caught with its wing in mid stretch and two of a coyote, the first hunting in a compost pile and, second, resting in the grass. The final image is a dynamic capture of the moment just before a jumping white tail doe lands. The common wisdom states that a better camera will not make one a better photographer. This is approximately true but fails to account for the possibility that a more competent camera can enable more ambitious shooting, thus allowing a photographer's intrinsic but latent skills to develop. This perfectly describes Jean's progression from phone- through bridge- to interchangeable-lens camera. Her eye has never been in doubt but the envelope of photographic possibilities within which she works has expanded enormously.

Ed McGuirk displayed five landscapes, all up to his usual high standard. For the first, a sunset photographed over the mid flats at Brewster on Cape Cod, Ed gave a mini-tutorial on managing flare. The technique is to blend two images, the first exposed for the sky and sun, the second exposed for the non-sky. Still, both would display flare. To remove the flare from the second image the trick is to dangle a finger in front of the lens, placed directly over the sun's image. Ed refers to this practice as, "giving flare the finger."

Nicole Mordecai had five wildlife images on offer, two of canids and three of birds. First, a handsome coyote photographed at Drumlin Farm led off followed by a fox seen in Wellfleet. Then a swan with its cygnet captured at Weston Station pond. These were followed by a successful heron at the Winchester fish ladder during the herring run. Lastly, a small drama involving the greedy mouths of two swallow chicks and one mother trying to feed them.

Karin McQuillan started her mixed wildlife/landscape selection with a pair of swans floating amidst the riffled reflections of gaudy fall foliage. Two images from Death Valley ensued: an eroded arch first followed by a view from within and over a dune field. This last image was a bit of a milestone since it marks Karin's ability to once again engage in more strenuous activity. And thence from dry to wet: monster waves coming ashore at the Carmel, CA town beach subsequent to a bomb cyclone. Finally, Karen showed a gathering of sandhill cranes at Bosque del Apache, NM and solicited opinions aimed at making something of this or a similar image. This provoked a short discussion of the problems associated with photographing masses of birds

Wayne Hall also had a mixed offering. First off Wayne showed a nuthatch bringing nesting materials to a hole in a tree branch. This was followed by the portrait of a white-tail buck not only missing one antler, but with its tongue sweeping across its muzzle, as well. This was followed by an intriguing image from Gray Reservation in Sudbury of striated textures in foam below a dam. Next, after a storm, trees white with snow on the windward side and bare to the lee. Finally, an image ahot on his Motorola phone camera of a lone figure (as it happens, his wife) walking (aided by a walker) directly away from the camera into golden light and down a trail flanked with trees, and, above, a contrail, ragged with age.



Upcoming SVNPN Programs

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 2nd 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



SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

Group Exhibits

Individual Member Exhibits

SVNP members - please notify Wayne Hall (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 (http://farnwr.org/gallery.html)



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. Please include SVNP 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*