

SVNP NEWSLETTER, JULY 12, 2018

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE JULY 12, 2018 MEETING

Wayne started by introducing two new members, Doris & Anthony Monteiro. Anne Umphrey also brought an interested friend, Joan Boivin, who is a professional photographer with international experience.

Wayne gave updated details on the show now hanging at Nancy's Airfield Cafe. A reception will be held from 3:00 - 4:30pm on Sunday, July 15. It will run until August 26.

SVNP will not meet in August but observe a summer break instead. Please note that there is no program yet scheduled after October.

On a similar note, expect a call around Labor Day for images for the annual November show at the Wayland Public Library.

The October program will be a semi-annual member images night. A theme has yet to be determined.

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 someone to recommend.

The Evening's Presentation

Dave Mangels presented a program entitled "Storytelling in Landscape Photography: Learning to Speak a Visual Language" illustrated with a relatively limited selection of his own images. A few of them were diagrammed for the compositional elements he feels contributed to a successful capture. His accompanying text slides were invaluable in understanding what he was intent on conveying as was his willingness at any point to digress into discussions about whatever was on anybody's mind. In this way, the very enjoyable evening often became as much a lively conversation as a presentation. Curiosity about Dave's choice of metal as print medium provoked much discussion.

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Dave was insistent that landscapes can deliver emotional content and endeavored to demonstrate how he proceeded to achieve this end. As a successful exhibitor at high-end craft shows, Dave has a chance to gauge viewers' differing appreciation of images that are similar in content but vary in treatment. He illustrated this with an impressive sunset image that has been relatively unsuccessful and contrasted it with one that has enjoyed easier acceptance. He attributes the difference in response to the initial difficulty in parsing the elements in the photo with fewer sales.

For me, Dave's argument ultimately boils down to two major points: think before you shoot and, when in doubt, keep the image simple. His website may be found at fourcrowsphotography.com

Dave generously offered to share the text slides that accompanied the images. They may be found here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y8ofx2cm>

Member Images

Sue Abrahamsen showed six fine fowl images, mostly involving cygnets in Hudson.

Terri Ackerman offered several shots from, variously, Mt. Auburn Cemetery and Hawaii. Terri's shots tended toward turtles.



Sea Turtle, Hawaii; Photo, Terri Ackerman

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Growing Old with a Camera

Growing old with a camera is an interesting proposition. A friend recently turned 65 and took stock of his photography. I had no wish to pull rank, but that magic age has been in my rearview mirror for better than half a decade. I was at pains to reassure him that there is a wonderful diversity of activity that may still be ahead for all of us as we amble our way into the sunset.

We often make gear choice harder than it needs to be. After all, so many cameras, so little time! I guess that when each of us considers the next greatest gear, we continue our internal conversation as before, not having noticed how the subject may have changed in the interim. Since the millennium I've owned a string of increasingly sophisticated digital cameras and there hasn't been one that did not yield keepers when shot on its own terms. Every one is represented in my life list of well-accomplished, favored photos. What I have gained by paying good money for increasing sophistication is the ability to strike out into dimmer light or more challenging circumstances and, perhaps, larger prints.

But, guess what? As we get older, most of us will tend to limit our picture taking more and more to circumstances well within our comfort zone and stamina, which serves to put those images within the capabilities of most cameras to generate output acceptable for our normal use. In other words, the goal posts are movable along several axes. I'll offer a for instance. In my case, I find I have diminished patience for staying out in substantially sub-freezing temperatures. This is a matter not of a dimming of ambition but of the harsh reality of aging - I cool faster and could do myself some real damage that could put a real spanner in the works. So, is owning a freeze-proof camera of any benefit to me? Perhaps not as much as before.

For me, the number of acceptable cameras has skyrocketed and not only because, across the board, they have become more capable. I now have the luxury of considering handling and style on a nearly equal basis with competence. Still, as the capacities of cameras have increased, mine have diminished. It's a slow process, gentle enough not to fret too much about, but it's there, nonetheless. At this point,

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for me, for most normal purposes, I think the two curves crossed a camera or two ago. The upshot is that I am in the middle of a switch from DSLRs (both full frame and crop sensor) to the lighter micro-4/3 mirrorless system. Currently, my gear straddles both. I'll keep the Nikons (especially the full-frame D600, a low light specialist) until it no longer makes sense, depreciation notwithstanding, but most new money will go into the mirrorless bag. Indeed, if I were content to simply shoot well-lit still-lives from a tripod indoors and limit my display opportunities to posting on the web 1500 pix on the long side, I would be hard put to explain using anything more wonderful than my first DSLR, a 6 megapixel D70 (2004) – now a veritable digital dinosaur. Indeed, many of the most useful images I shot for my day job were made with a 5 megapixel “bridge camera”, the Coolpix 5700 from 2002.

Pros and enthusiasts might quest after the closest approach to perfection they can manage but, for most folk, simple, effective visual communication doesn't require much more than a good smartphone and a good eye. I should know – I'm married to one such. In fact, making that photographic eye better, though more difficult than buying a “better” camera, budget aside, is the surer way to make better photos. It is true that some images require more specialized lenses, but this has been true since George Eastman started offering roll film in the late 19th century. For a while, during the heyday of the digital point-and-shoot cameras, such lenses crept into the popular domain. Even so, the snapshot is the connecting thread in vernacular photography and the point-and-shoots ultimately failed most people on cost and, particularly, complexity. The real task for each of us is to match our gear expenditures to our current reality. This calls for accurately judging one's current reality - not by any means a gimme. I have to keep in mind that, at my age, a dollar is a terrible thing to waste.

Hendrik Broekman

Activities

As a reminder, our May speaker, Shawn Carey, will be co-teaching a 3-day (August 3-5) nature photography workshop at the Mass Audubon Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. For more information follow the link below:

https://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/program-catalog#program:program_code=59056

In Remembrance – Julia Leney

Long-time SVNP member and supporter Julia Leney passed away on July 1 at the age of 84. Julia participated in many of our exhibits over the years, and was also a very active member of Arts Wayland.

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UPCOMING SVNPN PROGRAMS

August 9, 2018	TBA
Sept 13, 2018	Nicole Mordecai - Back-lighting and Reflections
Oct 11, 2018	Semi-annual Member Images Night, Theme TBA

Please Note - All meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, at 7:00 pm, at the following location:

Community Room, Newbury Court
80 Deaconess Road, Concord, MA

Directions may be found at the link immediately below

http://svnp.homestead.com/files/Directions_to_Newbury_Court.pdf

Lower Garage Parking

Although Newbury Court wants to extend hospitality to Sudbury Valley Nature Photographers to the greatest extent possible, there is concern that the Lower Garage is being opened unnecessarily for SVNPN members on our meeting nights. Because Newbury Court is always concerned about security, if no one is using the garage, Newbury Court would prefer to keep it closed. If, however, SVNPN members use it regularly or when the weather is bad — snow, rain, etc. — the garage can be opened at those times. Please let Betsy Moyer know (bmga@aol.com) your wishes. Newbury Court will be guided by the members' responses.

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SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

Group Exhibits

Ongoing	Newbury Court - Community Room, 80 Deaconess Road, Concord, MA rotating exhibit
ends Aug 26	Nancy's Airfield Cafe, Bolton Road, Stow, MA
November 1-30	Wayland Public Library, Raytheon Room

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)
Ongoing	Betsy Moyer	Newbury Court Senior Living, Concord MA Neighborhood Flowers, 5th floor, south bldg Prints and Canvases, 3rd floor, north bldg

Apr 19-Aug 28 Wayne Hall

Emerson Medical, 490 Boston
Post Road, Sudbury, MA

August 1-31 Wayne Hall

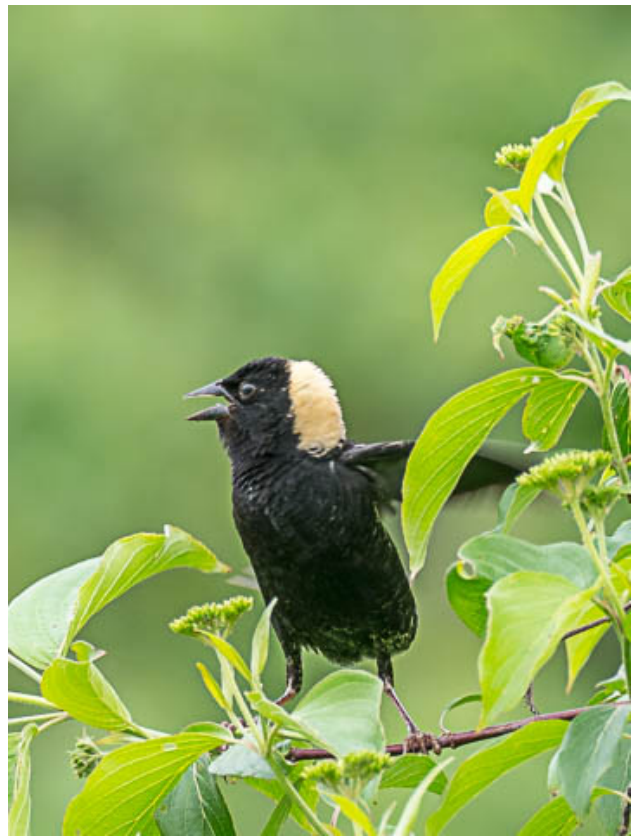
Foyer, Wayland Public Library,
Wayland, MA - The Waters of
Wayland

An Invitation from your Editor

As you may have noticed, these newsletters have displayed a tendency to get longer. 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 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



Hey, I'm over here!; Photo, Hendrik Broekman