

SVNP NEWSLETTER, SEPTEMBER, 2023

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 14 MEETING

There are currently opportunities to give presentations starting as soon as February, 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.

Evening Presentation - Newfoundland

Jean Fain. *Newfoundland: A Wildlife and Landscape Photography Wonderland*

During July of this past summer, **Jean Fain** participated in a seven-day photography workshop offered by Muench Workshops (<https://muenchworkshops.com/>) in Southeastern Newfoundland. Jean had poor experiences with Air Canada, both outbound and returning. This experience was her first photographic instructional tour. The advantages she saw were these: the pros have scouted locations and participants are relieved of any worries other than practicing their photography. Jean also took the opportunity as an experiment in group dynamics among the six participants and two instructors. The company's advertised promises were all more than satisfactorily fulfilled - sights were seen and instruction was given (in quantities sufficient for absorption to become optional.)

After St. John's and the first of many lighthouses, the group visited the fishing village of Quidividi which afforded opportunities for slice-of-life shots as well as more scenic studies. This included a detail of polypropylene line on a fishing buoy and a portrait of the Cape Spear Lighthouse. The group experimented with panorama stitching in New Perlican. Another photograph was of ducklings grouped like so many pebbles on a beach. During Jean's discussion of shooting the lighthouse at Heart's Content, she mentioned the profound difference in instructional worth she found between being fed a "best" point of view rather than being encouraged to do one's own legwork. After visiting the town of Dildo, the second day of shooting ended in Cavendish where the group was able to photograph picturesque fishing huts and a teeny-tiny church.

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The next day started with gannets - lots of gannets - at Cape St. Mary's Ecological Reserve. Also razorbills and common murre. The group had five unbroken hours of bird photography. Jean commented, "Time went by, just like that." And, on the next day - four hours of puffins! Another instance of non-stop photography. A chance encounter with foxes provided Jean with not only some cute fox shots but a primer on photo etiquette. The following day saw the group travel to Spillar's Cove where they saw their enthusiasm drop in the face of more grey, wet weather, despite a scenic, rocky coastline complete with interesting sea stacks. Jean's verve returned while visiting the Bonavista lighthouse. She described the immediate surroundings of the lighthouse as "an Andrew Wyeth heaven". The day continued with a whale watch adventure, shot close to the water, from zodiacs.

The next morning, on a walk around the town of Trinity, Jean continued to deal with misgivings she was having about trying to fit into a photographic style she felt she was being spoon-fed but didn't wish to make her own. This led her to strike out solo and make some images out from under tutelage in order to resume the struggle to forge her own photographic identity.

Jean offered two postscripts to her Newfoundland photo tour. There was plenty of time left in the summer to capitalize on, after all. For one activity, Jean engaged a guide, Nick Leadley of Rangely, Maine, to take her shooting loons. Later she went shooting on Cape Cod with Nicole Mordecai. In this instance the subjects were seals hauled out on Truro beach.

In summing up, Jean discussed the ambivalence she felt about some of the instructional interchanges she endured in the led group in contrast to the freedom she experienced in the later, less structured, one-on-one experiences. Her final thought was that, all things considered, there are many ways to be happy. The group then embarked on an extended discussion of photographic experiences encountered while traveling either as part of a group or solo. The consensus appeared to favor a less structured, more individualistic approach.

Member Images

Nicole Mordecai offered images shot around Massachusetts. These included details dahlias, seals on the beach in Truro (shot in the company of Jean Fain, mentioned above) and a seagull caught in flight with a clam. The last image was the rise of one of the several supermoons of 2023, caught red-faced, filling the space between buildings in downtown Boston, shot at extreme distance from Robbins Farm Park in Arlington.

Karin McQuillan began with a photo of the remainder of a swan family gathered in a tight group in the middle of a pond the day after the adult male had been killed by a predator. She followed with more upbeat, equally recent images of local (to her) elk engaging in mating behavior.

Jon Ehrmann delighted the group with a set of backyard macro shots: Jumping Spider, an unidentified (but handsome!) bug on an aster flower, a Skipper on a thistle blossom, and a Damselfly resting on a blade of grass. These were all in color. Two further images (one of a crane fly, the other a praying mantis) were rendered with split toning. All images shared the characteristic of a sensitively arranged background (in all but one instance by virtue of camera angle alone), something that provoked particularly appreciative comment.

Barbara Peskin displayed images of birds and a bee. While canoeing, she encountered a group of swallows perched on an exposed branch at eye level, not an everyday event. Barbara then showed a reworking of a series concerning a goldfinch and sunflower. Continuing the sunflower theme, she displayed a bee in flight approaching a younger, less developed blossom. Barbara's final image was of hummingbird perched on corn tassels.

Hendrik Broekman showed images taken in the preceding weeks. Two shots of Peewees, thistle blossoms in golden backlight and cedar waxwings hunting bugs on the wing.

Anne Umphrey started by showing images taken this summer in Iceland, among others, a Golden Plover, an ensemble of Puffins

(Anne called it *A Plethora of Puffins*), a phalarope taking off and a wildflower from the highlands. From closer to home Anne had a photo of a praying mantis and one of a bee investigating an evening primrose blossom.

Member News

Nicole Mordecai has a rather full dance card this season. She has images in two juried shows in Lexington. Already running is a show at First Parish in Lexington (7 Harrington Road, Lexington, Ma - until Nov. 19). Soon to start is a show at Lex Art (130 Waltham St., Lexington, Ma - Oct. 28 to Nov. 19). Also, Nicole will have three photos shown at the annual curated show given by the Newton Camera Club. This will take place (perhaps for the last time) at the West Newton Cinema (1296 Washington St, West Newton, Ma - Nov 4 to Jan 28). She is also offering two classes at Lex Art. First and given online is *An Introduction to Lightroom and Photoshop for Complete Beginners*. (Nov. 8; 10am - 12:30pm). This will be followed by a workshop on still life and abstract photography organized to take advantage of the LexArt Holiday Marketplace as a source for objects to shoot (LexArt, 130 Waltham St. Lexington, Ma - Dec. 4; 10am - 12:30pm)

Around the Web

In an interesting resonance with tonight's discussion, Ari Jaaksi reflects on the differences to be seen in photographs he took by the sea in the company of fellow Finn, Kari Paukula. So many truly interesting questions ... so few universally true answers! Fascinating.

https://youtu.be/Z5kF8737HXA?si=Zr4LnJG4oVB06P_i

Todd Dominey is a new face to me. This nicely-produced video documents some time he spent shooting in desert area in northwest New Mexico. The landforms are bewitching and might easily persuade some to add the area to their bucket list.

<https://youtu.be/JsIUwS9HANY?si=KhFCequIMqYhlOIB>

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Upcoming SVNPN Programs

November 9	Member Images	Subject: <i>Fall Color, Now and Then</i> (Zoom only)
December 14	Mark Hopkins	<i>Walking the Thornveld at Hluhluwe-iMfolozi</i> (Newbury Court)
January 11, 2024	Phyllis Neufeld	<i>Images of Patagonia and Antarctica</i>
February 8		TBA

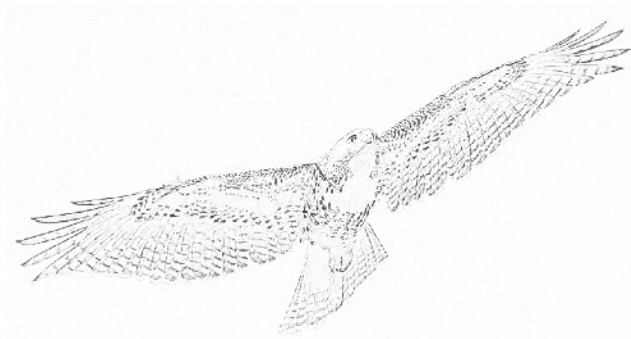
Please Note – All meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, at 7:00 pm, either via Zoom or at our location (or both):

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 approximately 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)



<http://svnp.homestead.com>

SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

Group Exhibits

November, 2023 Goodnow Library, 21 Concord Road, Sudbury,
MA

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)
October	Barbara Peskin	Exhibit at the Lincoln Public Library, 3 Bedford Rd. Lincoln, MA

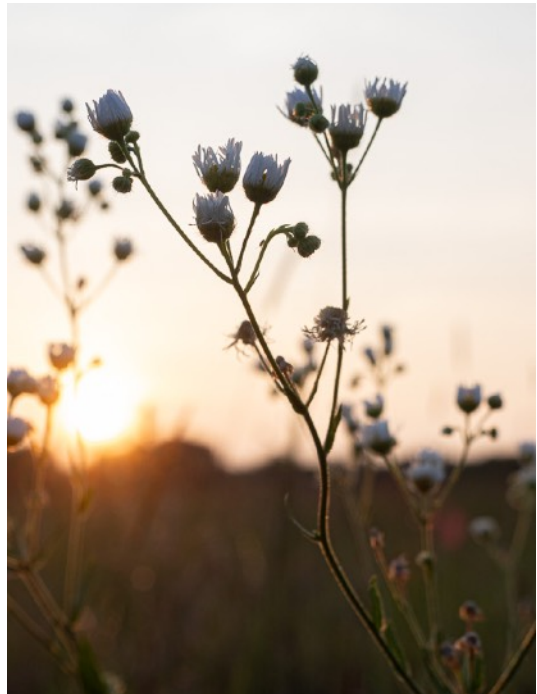


An Invitation from your Editor

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



*July Sunset;
photo, Hendrik Broekman*