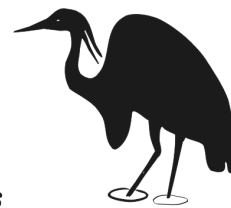


SVNP NEWS



*The Newsletter of the
Sudbury Valley Nature Photographers*

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Website: <http://svnp.homestead.com>

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About SVNP

The Sudbury Valley Nature Photographers
is an informal group of more than one hundred talented advanced amateur and professional photographers from the western suburbs of Boston, brought together by their passion for capturing the beauty and power of nature through photography.

The group was established in 1995, and regularly exhibits its members' work throughout eastern Massachusetts and on the Internet.

Meetings are held the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM in the Great Room in the Main House at Traditions Senior Living Facility, 10 Green Way, Wayland, Massachusetts.

Next Meeting

Our February meeting will be one of our semi-annual “member images nights”. The theme this time, suggested by Don Sherman, will be “Baby, it’s cold outside”. Please bring up to five images (digital, slides, or prints) to discuss with the group. If possible, we would like two of your images to be in “before/after” form – i.e. one as it came out of the camera, and the second what you consider to be the finished product after working whatever editing magic you felt was appropriate to turn it into a blockbuster.

In addition, we will have a (hopefully brief) business meeting at the beginning of the evening to get the sense of those members present on several items that the Steering Committee has been discussing in conjunction with responses to our member survey:

- Moving from our “paper plate” to a more formal annual dues structure
- Holding occasional additional meetings for special topics (e.g. Photoshop education) or longer member presentations that don’t fit very well into our normal meeting structure
- Making a complete membership list with basic contact information available to all of our members
- Formalizing the availability of mentoring or advice-giving on particular topics by some of our members who have volunteered (via their survey responses) to provide it.

Come early and enjoy snacks and conversation at 6:30pm.

Schedule of upcoming SVNP programs

February 11, 2010 - Member images night - (Subject: "Baby, It's Cold Outside!")

February 25, 2010 - Steering Committee meeting at Traditions - all are welcome to attend

March 11, 2010 - Sue Abrahamsen is hosting a CD presentation from the Mass. Camera Naturalists (CAMNATS) 50th Anniversary Exhibition.

April 8, 2010 - Amitava Gangulee - "Ancient Bharat to Modern India - a personal view"

If you have suggestions for programs, please email Wayne Hall or Betsy Moyer (Contact info below) We welcome your input!

January Meeting Notes

This evening's presentation was by Susan Majors. She and her husband Jay traveled during September and October to the former Yugoslavia -- Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro -- as well as Austria and Hungary. The trip included a river cruise on the Dnieper River, from Odessa around the Crimean Peninsula in the Black Sea to Kiev.

Many of Susan's photographs were of nature and the scenery, the Julian Alps, Lake Bled, Plitvice National Park and its amazing waterfalls. But many of her photographs were of people, buildings, places, reflections, festivals, local color, fruit stands, orchards, even a short series on bee-keepers.

Several photographic tidbits -- "aquarium technique" - put the camera lens right up against the glass of a window to avoid glare. Susan likes three-layered compositions, the usual foreground, midground, and background, but also, for example, fruit stalls showing three tiers of boxes filled with colorful fruits.

Susan uses a point-and-shoot Olympus Camedia camera, plain vanilla, no tripod and no

filters. To edit images she uses Jasc Paint Shop Pro sparingly.

During the member portion of the meeting, images were shown by Barbara Bergquist, Marilyn Tromer, Tom Petersen, and Don Sherman.

Announcements

FIELD TRIP – ROGER WILLIAMS BOTANICAL CENTER IN PROVIDENCE January 31

Our field trip planner extraordinaire, Carol Walsh, has volunteered to organize a field trip to the Roger Williams Botanical Center in Providence's Roger Williams Park. This is a highly-regarded and relatively new (indoor) facility that allegedly welcomes photographers. It should be a very pleasant place to be on a cold winter day.

The Center opens at 11:00 AM. There is also a very nice zoo in the park. For additional information about the Center, click here: <http://www.providenceri.com/botanical-center/>.

If you are interested in participating and did not already sign up at our January meeting, please contact Carol at clesliewalsh@hotmail.com and let her know.

Don Sherman will offer a course in "Introductory Digital Photography" at Regis College, beginning in late January. If you are interested to receive more information, contact Don at dssdmd@comcast.net.

Carol Walsh, our SVNP trip planner par excellence, still wants your input as to where you'd like to go on field trips in our area. If you can include a description of the area and the best time to visit, that will help with planning. Please contact her at: carol@african-safari.com

The Tanzania Photography Trip for May 2010 has been postponed til May 2011. Anyone that is interested at any other time during the year, just contact me and I'll customize it to your dates and requests. Remember..it's always a good time to go to Africa, East Africa or any of the Southern African countries! Carol's work number: 508-653-4600 at Adventure Travel Desk/Wayland Travel.

SVNP Exhibit Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Exhibit Location</u>
Feb. 2010	Betsy Moyer	First Parish Church, Wayland Center – “Floralscapes” Reception Saturday, February 13, 2:30 – 4:00 in the vestry.
<i>SVNP Group Exhibits</i>		
Ongoing	Traditions, 6 Green Way, Wayland, MA	
Open now!	Special exhibit on the SVNP website – “Reflections and Shadows”	
July, 2010	Raytheon Room, Wayland Library	
<i>Other Exhibits in which SVNP Members are Participating</i>		
Feb. 2010	Linda Crews – exhibit by New England Light Painters Wellesley College Visitor Center	
Through Feb. 24	Grace Velardi and friends – Boxborough Library Reception Jan. 28, 6:00-8:00	

Do you have an upcoming exhibit? Toot your horn and announce it in the newsletter! Send details to Wayne Hall or to Betsy Moyer (Contact info below) Feel free to cc details to Suzie for the newsletter as well: mackenzie45@gmail.com.

SVNP Survey results

1. Mission/Charter – should our photographic subject matter be (check one):
 - 1_ Nature only
 - 19_ Nature preferred, but other subject matter OK
 - 4 Any (tasteful) subject
 - No opinion
2. I read the monthly newsletter
 - 19_ Always
 - 4_ Sometimes
 - Rarely or never
3. SVNP Website
 - a. Approximately how many times have you visited our website in the past year?
 avg. 4
 - b. Have you referred someone to our website in the past year? 10_ Yes 12_ No
 - c. Have you ever participated in one of our special website exhibits? 9_ Yes 14_ No

- d. If not already doing so, are you interested in posting photos (or a link to your website) on the SVNP site? __14_ Yes _5_ No __1_ Maybe
4. Exhibits
- a. Have you ever participated in an SVNP group exhibit? _19_ Yes _4_ No
- b. How many group exhibits per year would you like us to have? _avg. 2-3
- c. Do you have suggestions for future exhibit venues?
5. Should we provide a complete membership list (w/ basic contact info) to each member?
16_ Yes _1_ No
6. Please give us your opinion about our monthly programs

	Too little	About right	Too much
Pure nature presentations	4	13	1
Travel/culture	2	13	4
Technical/educational	9	9	1
Member image nights	3	13	2
Member images at end of regular meetings	1	16	

7. Would you be willing to share your expertise on specific photographic topics with our members as a resource/mentor/advisor?
- a. Yes 10__ No 11__
- b. If yes, what topics?
8. Field Trips
- a. Your level of interest in field trips: Low _8_ Moderate _9_ High _7_
- b. Would you participate in:
- Local (day) trips Yes _12__ No ____ Maybe _11__
If so, do you prefer: Weekdays _4__ Weekends _3_ Either _15__
 - Overnight/longer trips Yes _3__ No __8_ Maybe _10_
 - Group trips to museum or gallery exhibits Yes _9_ No _4_ Maybe _8_
 - Do you have any specific trip destination suggestions?

9. Topics for Future Meetings – please tell us your level of interest in the following:

Subject Area	Low	Moderate	High
Basic technical photographic techniques	4	11	7
Advanced photographic techniques	3	8	11
Photoshop and other imaging software		8	13
Selling and marketing your work	12	7	3
Organizing and managing your images	6	8	8
How to produce albums, books, note cards, etc.	7	12	3
Viewing/discussing photo documentary or technical videos produced by outside experts/noted photographers	4	11	7
Public events with paid speaker	6	15	1
Other (please list)			

- comparison of moderately priced, good quality printers			
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- 10. Should SVNP make greater use of the Internet for our members, with tools such as Facebook, Twitter, Meetup, Flickr, Myshutterspace, or other tools for sharing information, images and coordinating activities among our membership?
Yes 4 No 5 No opinion 13
- 11. Would you support a minimal annual dues structure to replace our "paper plate"?
Yes 17 No 5
- 12. Would you be interested in group outreach activities with photographic content?
Yes 7 No 7
- 13. What do you like best and least about SVNP?

Steering Committee Meeting notes from January 7, 2010

In attendance: Betsy Moyer, Wayne Hall, Carol Walsh, Linda Crews, Sue Abrahamsen, Jon Ehrmann, and Susan MacKenzie

- 1. Finance: Betsy will explore whether we can set up a bank account in our name, and membership dues amounts were discussed, with \$15 being a reasonable amount to assess. Dues would be started at the September 2010 meeting, if voted upon by the members. We considered what some membership benefits would be if dues were implemented, but made no specific recommendations re what they might be.
- 2. Wayne - contact person for website, and will write up something to add to the newsletter for updating the website.
- 3. Contact information sharing will be brought up at the next regular meeting.
- 4. Welcome kit: Could be put together for new members.
- 5. We discussed the need to involve people who don't come to meetings or to the member's exhibit.
- 6. We will try a sign-up sheet for refreshments at the name tag place, and Betsy indicated she would get some new name tag supplies. We might also have some sort of creative name tag event.
- 7. We discussed having someone like Paul Smith give a basic Photoshop workshop for us, possibly on a Thursday in May. Betsy Moyer will check into this and Paul's availability. We might also have more advanced Photoshop classes, either at the regular meeting time or perhaps on another night.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be on Thursday, February 25th, at Traditions. Ask at the desk for the room we will be in.

If you want to join the steering committee or would just like to attend the meeting, contact Wayne Hall or Betsy Moyer. (Contact info below)

Showcasing Your Work on the SVNPN Website

Nearly half of the members who responded to last month's member survey indicated that they were not presently displaying their work on our group website, but would like to.

So, here's what to do to get your own page on our site (<http://svnp.homestead.com>).

1. Choose six images which you would like to display. Technical requirements are:

- JPEG files
- A maximum of 700 pixels on the longer dimension
- Resolution of 100 dpi, JPEG quality setting (compression level) 8 or 9

This should yield a file size, on average, in the 100-200 kilobyte range for each photograph. Provide a title (caption) for each image.

2. Write a brief bio describing your photographic interests and accomplishments (see the website for examples).

3. Provide contact information (name, Email and/or phone number). If you also have your own website, please include its URL.

Email all of the above to Wayne Hall, webmaster, at wah@waynehallphotography.com. JPEGs must be sent as Email attachments.

Email or call Wayne (978-443-9226) with any questions.

Contact Info

SVNPN Information: Betsy Moyer: 978-369-1261 or bmga@aol.com

Webmaster: Wayne Hall: 978-443-9226 or wah@waynehallphotography.com

Website: <http://svnp.homestead.com/>

Back issues of the newsletter are available on our website (click on "previous newsletters" on the home page).

Newsletter Editor: Suzie MacKenzie 508-655-1048 or mackenzie45@gmail.com

Do you have interesting website links or other information useful for other SVNPN members? Feel free to send it to the Newsletter Editor for inclusion in the Newsletter!

If you no longer are interested in receiving the newsletter, please hit "reply" to this message, and type "Unsubscribe" into the title bar.
