

SVNP NEWSLETTER, JANUARY, 2023

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE January 12 MEETING

January Presentation – Barbara Peskin

Barbara's presentation was entitled "What Makes a Moment?"

Barbara's presentation was based on some of her recent favorite moments in nature of birds and wildlife. She has developed steadily in her photography over the years; she began with several FZ-series Panasonic "superzooms", the last being an FZ300. She graduated from there to a full-frame mirrorless Sony A7, and most of her wildlife work is done with a 200-600mm Sony zoom lens.

Among the locations featured in her presentation were:

1. Mt. Misery (Lincoln) – herons building a nest and tending to their young, and a coyote pup, including an unforgettable image of the pup with its front paws resting on a falling log and staring at Barbara with a friendly puppy expression. Ed McGuirk described a shot of a parent flying into the nest with food for the chicks as "Doordash"...
2. Horn Pond (Woburn) – a very popular location for birders and bird photography. Images included wood ducks, a fox sparrow, hermit thrush, and a family of swans. There was much discussion of various ways to add "catchlights" to a bird's eye. Ed recommended a device called a flash extender which focuses and extends the range of a flash to ensure a catchlight in an image.
3. Valley Pond (on the Weston/Lincoln line). A great spot to shoot from a kayak; green herons and cedar waxwings were the featured species. NOTE: Apparently this area is largely private property, but there is some limited public trail access.
4. Barbara's backyard (Lincoln), featuring a tufted titmouse.
5. Great Meadows (Concord) – a marsh wren building its nest, and a group of wood duck chicks which had apparently been herded into a cluster of reeds for safety while mama went off to find food.

Barbara often returns to the same location time after time to see what's new, and often lingers for a long time watching wildlife behavior and waiting to see what will happen next. Her patience clearly pays off!

The final portion of the presentation touched briefly on some of the Photoshop® techniques that Barbara uses to improve her images – straightening using the ruler tool, selecting a “focus area”, various ways of removing distractions, etc. Ed provided a number of helpful suggestions. He also mentioned a series of instructional videos by Michael Frye, including a particularly good one on the use of masking.

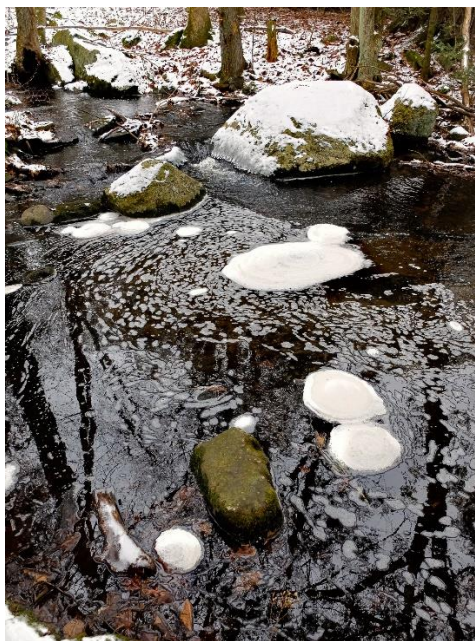
Here are two of Barbara's images, from Mt. Misery and Horn Pond, respectively.



Following our featured presentation, Jean Fain and Steve Gabeler shared some of their recent work.

Gabe showed some winter images from Forty Caves, a Sudbury Valley Trustees property on the Berlin/Clinton/Bolton line. Here's a link to learn more about the property:

[https://www.svtweb.org/properties/page/forty-caves-berlin-and-clinton.](https://www.svtweb.org/properties/page/forty-caves-berlin-and-clinton)



Jean shared a variety of intriguing local images – an old water tower in Concord, a fishing shack on Duxbury, and the two below, from Plum Island and Lexington, respectively.



February 9 Preview

Our speaker for the February 9 meeting will be noted author, photographer, and long-time SVNP member Mark Hopkins. His presentation is entitled “It’s Never Too Late”, and here’s what he has to say about it:

“Mark Hopkins was 72 when he acquired his first digital camera. He’s now recognized as an award-winning nature photographer, and in this talk, along with

showing dozens of his photographs and including a modicum of humor, he'll discuss how it happened, the discovery process he uses, and how he works to help others appreciate this important art form. He'll also add comments about the challenges of spotting graphic opportunities and composing worthy images, and about the often misunderstood relationship between art photography and photojournalism, demonstrating how image manipulation — a sin in the minds of some — is an important artistic tool that works to the benefit of both photographer and viewer."

In addition, Mark has recently self-published two new books (see below) He'll follow his presentation with a discussion of his experiences with self-publishing.

IMPORTANT NOTE: We encourage you to attend this meeting in-person at Newbury Court, as we may not be able to provide Zoom access in February.

Member News

Mark Hopkins has just published two new photography books, currently available through Amazon:

1. "Seeing It" (I bought this one and recommend it highly)
2. "Ice Gardens" – many of us have seen and enjoyed some of Mark's images of ice patterns before, so this book should be a great opportunity to see many more.



UPCOMING SVNP PROGRAMS

Feb. 9, 2023 Mark Hopkins - "It's Never Too Late" – (*Zoom may not be available*)

<http://svnp.homestead.com>

March 9, 2023 Anne Umphrey - Iceland - the country and its geology

April 13, 2023 Sherry Fendell - Exploring Greenland

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.

Directions to the Great Room may be found at the link immediately below.

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

SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

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| Group exhibits: | |
| January 1-29 | "Our Forests and Waters" - United Parish of Auburndale (Betty Meyer Gallery), 64 Hancock Street, Newton, MA |

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|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Member exhibits: | | |
| March and April, 2023 | Barbara Peskin | Trinity Episcopal Church, Concord, MA |

And finally, we'll close this edition with an image of mine from last week at SVT's Gray Reservation in Sudbury – there hasn't been a lot of winter yet this winter, so this is a bit of a "teaser" ...

