

SVNP NEWSLETTER, FEBRUARY, 2017

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 9, 2017 MEETING

Of which there are none, since the program was cancelled for the weather. Good thing, too. This is being written at 9 pm Thursday February 9 and there are about twelve inches of snow in the driveway that must be cleared in order to clean all that white stuff off the cars.

Today, it didn't look like this ... No, today it looked like this



Call for Programs

We currently have programs scheduled through July, 2017. Any suggestions you may have for programs - especially of a how-to nature - would be appreciated. Please call (978-443-9226) or email Wayne (wah@waynehallphotography.com) if you are willing to give a presentation yourself or if you know someone to recommend.

The Evening's Presentation

Raj Das' presentation will occur on March 9, weather permitting. The schedule has been pushed back by one month all around and can be found later in the Newsletter.

An Extraordinary Book of Nature Photography

Review by Wayne Hall

A number of years ago I had the opportunity to see an exhibit of large-format photographs by QT Luong at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington. Luong was born in France to Vietnamese parents, came to the U. S. for his college education, and promptly "got hooked" on our National Parks. He launched a project to photograph all 59 of them over a period of 20 years, using almost exclusively large format equipment. My reaction after seeing his exhibit was, "I hope this guy publishes a book soon!" Now he has - "Treasured Lands: a Photographic Odyssey through America's National Parks", timed to coincide with the National Park Service's 100th anniversary. Luong is also featured in the Ken Burns documentary film "The National Parks: America's Best Idea".

It is a giant-sized volume (nearly 8 pounds). For each park, anywhere from six to ten photographs of various sizes are included, all reproduced in excellent quality. For each photograph, Luong includes copious information on how to find the location, special

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photographic techniques used, and other helpful material. For each park, there is also a map pinpointing the locations of each photograph. The lesser-known parks are covered at the same level as those that most of us have all been to.

Coming through loud and clear in the exhibit, and also to some degree in the book, are the difficult and sometimes dangerous steps he had to take in order to create some of the images – these are not “scenic overlook” shots. While the majority of the photos are of the “grand landscape” genre, there are also many more detailed and equally well-done detail and abstract shots.

There are a few copies of the book currently circulating in the Minuteman Library Network, and several more are on order. Amazon is selling the book for \$43.95, and I understand that purchasers of the book can get electronic access to the detailed information about each image.

Wayne Hall

Ed. note: Mr. Luong's website for sales is terrageria.com

Photography is about . . .

I was told a famous photographer once opined that, contrary to the popular meme, photography is not about the light, it's about ideas and Art. Perhaps so...on his planet. OK, if it's silly to suggest that if you attend only to the light the ideas will take care of themselves, then it's no less ridiculous to say that if you put the ideas in the right places the light will take care of itself. Each pole of such an argument will attract different folks to its 'solution' of the 'problem'. The problem, however, is ultimately one of communication and successful communication involves mastery of both the medium and the message. To be fair, perhaps that is what the famous photographer meant, all along.

Music and writing (whether novels, essays, blog posts or poetry) are linear arts that involve a necessity for the creator to manage time and expectation in order to keep consumers consuming (presumably from interest if not pleasure). To the ideas to be communicated, these arts add a mixture of sound, time and flow. Beethoven's 5th is about 30 minutes long. Moby Dick is about long enough keep someone off the streets and out of mischief for a good week. An Emily Dickinson poem might occupy a speaker for about a minute. A good, raunchy limerick? About 15 seconds, tops. Add a few seconds for shared guffaws.

How long is a photo? A statue? A painting? Just as long as someone cares to look, that's how long. That makes Michaelangelo's David (1504) over 500 years long. Did I read somewhere that the average viewer's scan of a photo in a gallery lasts just a small fraction of a minute? In other words, a photo is likely to be examined for perhaps less time than a limerick's recitation and without the easily remembered rhymes and scurrilous content to fix it in memory. A photographer will attempt to grab a viewer's attention with an interesting subject, or, quite often, with an intriguing play of light as the hook. One does need an idea, preferably a good idea, yes, (I suspect the famous photographer couldn't imagine that anyone would consider pressing the shutter button without a satisfactory

idea in mind), after which, it is indeed about light. If the photographer can't make the light dance to his or her tune, that idea will not be well represented.

Photography is a big tent. It isn't solely about light, or art, or any of a host of other physical or conceptual constructs. At its base, photography is only about people taking photographs to show to other people. Of course anything made by humans for humans must ultimately reference some aspect of human experience, however restricted. Each image may say more about its creator than the general human condition, but, by default, it will still be species-specific. Everything from new babies, pretty flowers, cats on the internet (how many cats watch humans on the internet?), the day Aunt Doris fell in the lake, or, "this is me at the Grand Coulee Dam" to high-concept art images of 18% grey cards - it's all photography and some of it might even qualify as art. Whatever *that* is.

Hendrik Broekman

March Preview

Raj writes, "My presentation will include nature (landscapes and wildlife) photographs from some of my favorite locations in and around the Boston, New England and surrounding regions. I will also show some nature-focused images from my course-work at the New England School of Photography."

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SVNPN PROGRAMS

March 9, 2017	Raj Das - Favorite Area Locations for nature photography
April 13, 2017	Member Images night - The Nature of Islands
May 11, 2017	Ed McGuirk - Light, Simplification and Post Processing
June 8, 2017	Mark Hopkins - Walking the Thornveld
July 13, 2017	Group presentation from a January weekend on Deer Isle, Maine

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. —

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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.

SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

Group exhibits

Ongoing	Newbury Court - Community Room, 80 Deaconess Road, Concord, MA rotating exhibit
May 3-28, 2017	Nancy's Air Field Cafe, Boxborough Rd, Stow, MA

Individual Member Exhibits

SVNP members - please notify Wayne Hall (wah@waynehallphotography.com) of your upcoming individual exhibits for posting on the SVNP website.

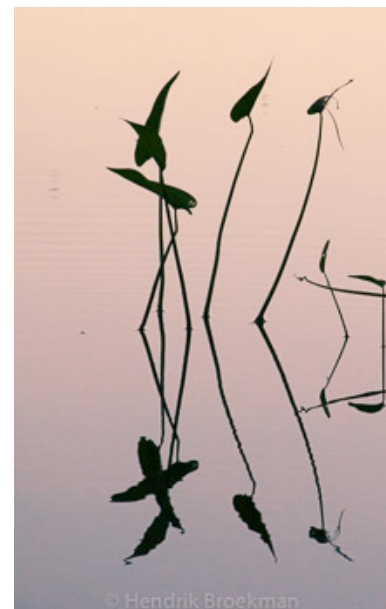
Date	Member	Exhibit Location
Ongoing	Marijke Holtrop	Online Exhibit on the website of the Friends of the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge (http://farnwr.org/gallery.html)
Jan 1-Mar 31	Terri Ackermann	Haute Coffee, 12 Walden St., Concord, MA
Jan 1-Mar 31	Joan Chasan	Morse Library, Natick, MA (Gateway Camera Club Show)

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 320 px wide. 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



Im Abendrot; Hendrik Broekman, 2005