

# SVNP NEWSLETTER, FEBRUARY, 2025

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 9 MEETING

There are currently opportunities to give presentations starting as soon as February, 2025. 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.

This meeting was held over Zoom.

## **February Presentation - Ed McGuirk, 2024 in Review**

In the past few years Ed has confined his travels to locations in New England and that was reflected in this evening's presentation. Some subjects were taken and shown in different versions, others benefitted from extensive processing. There were enough images that I will limit this description to what appeared to me to be high points of engagement.

The presentation started in **Winter** with two images taken at the summit of the Kancamagus highway after a snow storm. The first photo is of two trees covered with snow and rime in front of a distant hillside full of similarly covered trees. The second photo changes its orientation from landscape to portrait and simplifies to one tree.

A photo of moonrise over Mt. Lafayette from Sugar Hill just after sunset followed. The moon is seen through mauve clouds against blue-hour sky. The before version is not particularly colorful due to ETTR (expose to the right). The after is far more pleasing, a product of decreasing highlights & increasing contrast.

An image shot on Cape Cod of the sun setting behind a mud flat in Brewster full of ripples left by the receding tide led to a discussion of lens flare and different ways to deal with it. Ed demonstrated the problem with shooting into the sun. In a good exposure blend, even with the foreground properly exposed, there was flare evident below the horizon that would be resistant to being easily removed. Ed's field solution involves blocking the sun in the foreground exposure with a finger introduced into the frame from above. Ed later

discovered that the new Photoshop AI feature, Remove Reflections, is competent enough to solve this problem in many, if not most, images.

Two further beach abstracts finished the season and brought us to...

**Spring**, which brought a half dozen photos or so. Two stood out as teaching moments.

The first of these, an image of the lower part of a hill side seen across the water, was taken early in May at the Quabbin. Light fog imparts a softness to the whole and the reflection of the trees is further softened thanks to gentle wave action and a longer exposure.

Another photo of spring colors was made along Rt. 2 in Irving shooting across a valley. Ed used the before & after shots to explain his use of the color mixer and point color tools in Lightroom to widen the color contrast in the final image, especially in the various spring greens.

A splash of purple, thanks to a field of lupines in New Hampshire, rounded out the season.

**Summer** started on an equally imperial note with Purple Loosestrife, the unfortunate invasive most every photographer loves.

A shot of green & white leaves, possibly Dead Nettle, gave an opportunity to discuss strategies for making shots of patterns as opposed to shots that contain patterns. A follow-up of a fern shot from top down continued the idea of patterns into a consideration of fractals.

Two images shot in August of the feature known as The Basin, in Franconia Notch provoked a spirited discussion of composition.

Ed offered three images of fog shot from different perspectives in the area of the Quabbin Reservoir. The first two were shot from an overlook in New Salem, revealing the top of the ground fog and a few bits of high land sticking through. The first was shot with the newly risen sun directly in the frame and was an exposure blend and very yellow. The second point of view was oblique to the sun with

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cooler colors. The third was taken in Petersham and very much at the bottom of the fog blanket but with the low sun's position very evident.

And, finally, **Autumn**

Back at the Basin, Ed shot a swirl of fallen leaves in the water using an 8 second exposure with the aid of a polarizing filter and an aperture of f/22. In another of instance of corraling light, Ed was forced to wait for the light to improve in order to take the photograph he imagined at Coffin Pond in the late afternoon. All the while he was in the company of three painters "painting up a storm," which led him to consider this profound difference between painting and photography: while he had only a small latitude in lighting to achieve his desired image, the painters could paint straight out of their imaginations.

Three images taken at different times from the Height of Land turnout on Rt. 17 attested to the transformative nature of weather. In another instance of this, Ed encountered a rainbow on the Bear Notch Highway. Though it lasted no more than 5 minutes, Ed was able to stop and get a wonderful image of it, using a polarizing filter to intensify the colors. That very same evening the solar weather enabled the northern lights to make an appearance quite further south than usual. Ed was able to set up and get an image of them from Lee's Bridge (Rt. 117, over the Sudbury) using a long exposure, large aperture and only moderately high ISO (800).

From here, the riotousness of color subsided until, with the last image, we came nearly full circle. The photo is of a screen of pines, silhouetted in front of a blue sky (with hints of orange close to the horizon) and a crescent moon early in the hour before sunrise – a quintessentially cold-weather scene.

At the beginning of the evening, Ed promised that besides being a look back at his favorite images of 2024, his presentation would include information on his approaches to choosing, shooting and processing images. It was clear to all that he succeeded quite handily at all of the above.

### Member Images

**Karin McQuillan** showed several strong images taken during a recent trip to Death Valley NP. Not only was the photography up to Karin's usual standards but, even better, she reported solid progress in regaining her ability to walk into the wilderness. Fantastic!

**Hendrik Broekman** offered a bunch of flower photos which spanned the spring and fall of 2024 which were retrieved that morning from a sporadically used camera.



### Upcoming SVNP Programs

March 13	Marsha Wilcox	Astrophotography
April 10	Jean Fain & Nicole Mordecai	Joint trip to Costa Rica

\*N=Live at Newbury Court Only; Z=Zoom Only; H=Hybrid

Please Note – All meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

[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://www.svnpweb.com/>

# SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

## Group Exhibits

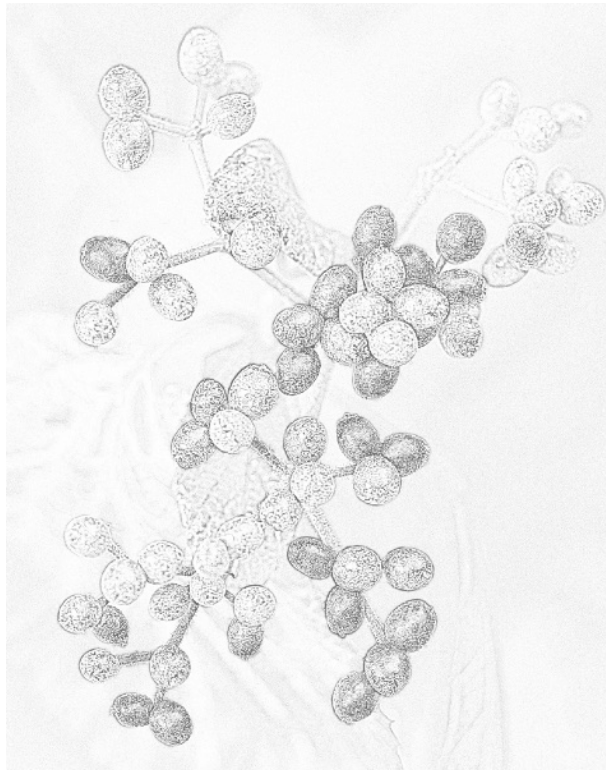
April, 2025

Betty Meyer Gallery, United Parish of  
Auburndale, 64 Hancock St.,  
Auburndale(Newton), MA (Continuation of  
the show immediately above)

## Individual Member Exhibits

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

Date	Member	Exhibit Location
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### 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](mailto: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*



*King of the Hill;  
photo, Hendrik Broekman*