

SVNP NEWSLETTER, MARCH 2016

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE MARCH 10, 2016 MEETING

Wayne called the meeting to order by noting the slightly diminished turnout, likely caused by the wet, blustery weather. Too bad, since, for once, the wonderful refreshments outnumbered the attendees. Many thanks to all those providing! Wayne reminded the group that the schedule has been rearranged and the April program will be for member images around the theme, Winter Water.

Call for Programs

We have programs scheduled through June 2016. Any suggestions you may have for programs - especially of a how-to nature - would be appreciated. Please contact Wayne.

Newbury Court Display Space

There is yet more space available on the walls of the Community Room, our present gallery. The current display has been largely static since it was first mounted and the desirability of new material was discussed. Wayne will be contacting the members contributing to the show to encourage substantial image rotation. For those who have not yet visited Newbury Court, Wayne has placed two images of the space up on the SVNP website (click on Upcoming Programs). Should you have any suggestions or questions, please get in touch with Betsy (978-369-1261 or bmga@aol.com).

The Evening's Presentation

Art Phipps presented a fascinating glimpse into a volunteer stint he spent attached to a 2005 project organized by The Explorer's Club. The project involved attempting to aid the Maasai people of Kenya to record an oral history. Art gave a brief overview of the problems associated with language loss. He mentioned the Kenyan government's attempts at nation building (a continuation and seeming intensification of colonial practices) by promoting the teaching of Swahili and English in school at the expense of other languages, such as Maa. One major drawback of such practices is an associated loss of tribe history due to diminished opportunities for

oral transmission – the Maa language is only spoken and the Maasai have adopted no system of writing. The Explorer's Club organized a sizeable group of qualified volunteers to help in the attempt to save the Maasai history. The project also involved transmitting some of the raw research results to U.S. schools in near-real time and receiving questions to be asked of the Maasai from the U.S. students in return.

Art presented two discrete groups of photos. The first was devoted to several jaunts members of the group were able to make with Maasai guides to see the local wildlife. The list is too long to undertake here but it should be enough to say that both prey and predator were well represented. Fur and feathers predominated. The photographs were of interest in a technical sense, as well. Remember, this was 2005 when digital cameras had sensors of only a megapixel or two. On screen, one could barely discern the limitations of the source and, even if one was aware, the photo opportunities had been so good that the content more than made up any deficit. The second group was devoted to reporting the people of the project, volunteers and Maasai alike.

Member Images

Hendrik Broekman presented 'Winter Water' images a month early due to a schedule conflict on the night of the Member Images meeting in April. All were shot within the past few weeks, and, given the previous cold snap, almost all were of ice.

Gabe Gabeler showed three very recent photos of ice taken at Hop Brook.

Terri Ackerman went on a recent trip to the Dead Sea. She found herself fascinated by the patterns of salt deposition around the shore and showed various versions photos, trying out different crops and compositions.

Bob Cooke had several prints on display in the hall outside the meeting.

Book Review

This past month I had the occasion to read two fine books dealing with landscape photography. They turn out to be quite complementary, each approaching the subject in quite different ways, each from its author's unique perspective. As display books, each possesses a lot of Wow-factor. I can recommend both.

The Art, Science, and Craft of Great Landscape Photography, by Glenn Randall (Rocky Nook, 2015), really does deliver substantive discussions across the broad front of subjects suggested by the somewhat ponderous title. It covers subjects as diverse as finding landscapes, planning for best lighting, night-sky photography and the psychology of the compelling landscape. Glenn Randall loves the Rockies and the photographs bear this out. The photographs – well composed, well shot and, we are told, commercially successful – are very beautiful and illustrate the text admirably. But it is the text that demands and will reward the closest attention.

Capture the Magic, by Jack Dykinga (Rocky Nook, 2014), is subtitled *Train Your Eye, Improve Your Photographic Composition*. The approach taken is to present each image along with a short self critique and, sometimes, a precursor version suggesting the larger context out of which the final point of view has been chosen. First, the photography is stunning and each sample illuminates the principle(s) under discussion quite well. Even if one did not read the text, the photos presented are worthy of study and emulation. The book was a quick, easy read and could easily be mistaken for a coffee-table book. Not true! Each commentary provides a structure for engaging with the photo it accompanies. Short and pithy as the commentaries are, each seems to invite one to amplify on them. I find they remain useful on subsequent re-readings. After all, the author has lived with these images much longer than I – of course a new eye will have many things to discover upon repeated viewings.

It should come as no surprise that, as different as the two presentations of the subject are, the takeaway from each is identical, to wit: plan, plan and plan some more. And, if that doesn't do the trick, try, try again.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SVNPN PROGRAMS

Apr. 14, 2016	Member Images Night, "Winter Water"
May 12, 2016	Special Guest Speaker, Jacob Mosser; Northeast Massachusetts Nature Photo Ops
Jun. 9, 2016	Hendrik Broekman; Photoshop for Nature Photographers, Part 2

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

With security of the residents of Newbury Court in mind, the garage will only be open to entry from 6:15 to 7:15pm. Exit is always enabled.

<http://svnp.homestead.com>

SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

Group exhibits

Ongoing Newbury Court - Community Room, 80
Deaconess Road, Concord, MA
rotating exhibit

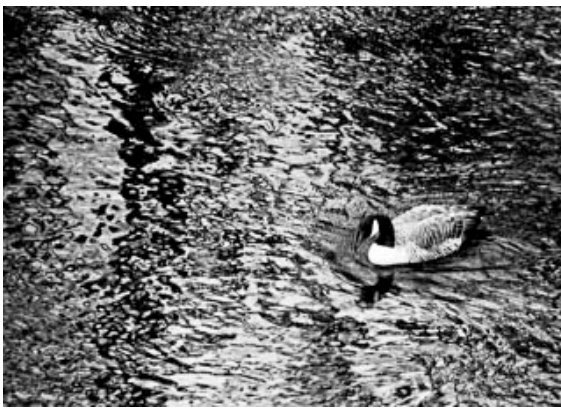
Individual Member Exhibits

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)
Mar. 6-Apr 30	Terri Ackerman	Nashoba Brook Bakery, 152 Comm. Ave., W. Concord, MA
Until Apr. 4	Terri Ackerman	Lincoln Library, 3 Bedford Rd., Lincoln, MA (glass plates)

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 (photos, personal news, reviews, neat tricks you find worth sharing, etc.) to me at henkbroekman@gmail.com. Please include SVNP in the subject line.



Fitting In; Photo: Hendrik Broekman

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

I especially invite presenters and members sharing images to select and submit files for illustrative purposes. I expect we could 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,