

SVNP NEWSLETTER, MARCH, 2020

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE MARCH 12, MEETING

...which was cancelled. Bummer...

There are currently opportunities to give presentations starting in July, 2020. How the schedule may need to be further rearranged is anybody's guess at this moment. 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 someone to recommend.

Please remember, 2020 marks the 25th anniversary of SVNP. There is an invitation open to any and all for suggesting activities that might appropriately help celebrate the occasion. Holding meetings might be good place to start...

In the Interim - Show Your Images

While we wait for normalcy to return, it seemed a good idea to open the Newsletter to member image sharing. I contacted all presenters from the last three years (both main and member sharing) in order to get this feature started. This is an invitation to all members to submit images for sharing in subsequent issues. The rules are simple. I will accept any number of submissions from any member but only one image per photographer per month will be published. Each image submitted should be accompanied by a title or caption and descriptive paragraph(s). This feature will be run in this manner while meetings are not possible. Perhaps, after the return to normalcy, the membership may wish to revive it in months when Member Sharing is not possible (for reasons of time, etc.).

Concerning image prep: it turns out that sizing jpgs and retaining quality for PDF is a black art and not as simple as publishing a number, so it works better if I do the resizing. Anything 1200 pix (and up) on the long side and Better Quality (and up) should be fine. You can safely ignore pixel pitch.

Many thanks to this issue's contributors. The rest of you - don't be shy! Submit photos! And stay well! Everybody! That's an order!

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Member Image Sharing



*Bear at the Beaver Pond;
trail camera photo, Susanna Kamon*

Susanna Kamon

After a late snowfall in early spring, I discovered this beaver pond by following some river otter tracks. Wondering where the otters had come from, I explored the woods just off-trail, and was surprised to find this wildlife haven that I hadn't previously known existed. I found a good spot to hang my trail camera and was soon rewarded by visits from a diversity of species - coyotes, raccoons, deer, mink, the original river otters, and, my

personal favorite, bears. A mother and cub visited this spot often, as did two other young bears. The two singletons were probably previous offspring of the current mother bear, as their presence in this territory was still being tolerated. This is one of those individual bears, visiting one afternoon in July. The photo is a still taken from a video capture.



Greenhouse Juxtaposition; photo, Wayne Hall

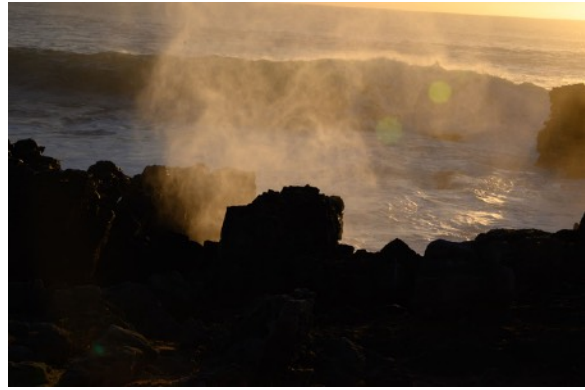
Wayne Hall

We went to the Lyman Estate Greenhouses in Waltham on March 4, hoping to see their usual spectacular camellia display. Unfortunately, things seemed oddly to be running late this year, and almost no flowers had opened yet. They're now closed until April 7, at least. So, I had to find something else to shoot... There are lots of opportunities there to

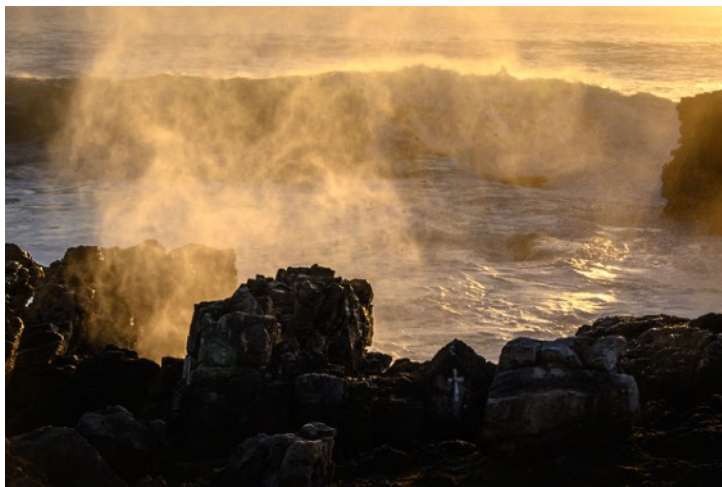
juxtapose blossoms with rusty hardware and peeling paint on early 19th century brick walls.

Nicole Mordecai

I took this photo in January in Cascais, Portugal. The waves along the beach were beautifully backlit so I was able to get a nice translucent mist effect from the big splashes against the rocks. This image is not too heavily edited. As you can see from the unedited version, I removed some green sun flare spots which are



Cascais Waves unedited; photo, Nicole Mordecai



Cascais Waves; photo, Nicole Mordecai

difficult to avoid when taking backlit photos. I wanted to preserve the silhouette effect of the rocks, but decided to brighten them up just a bit to show the wetness on the rocks and make the cross visible. I also straightened the image and brightened the whites to enhance the nice golden hour glow effect.

Mark Hopkins

He reigned over a tiny, hidden pond in the forest, a domain where all things edible gave him wide berth. Edible himself, he had mastered both vigilance and caution. He surfaced from nowhere, taking my measure. I snapped this picture, glanced down to adjust for another one, looked up....and he was gone. One cannot be too careful where humans are afoot.



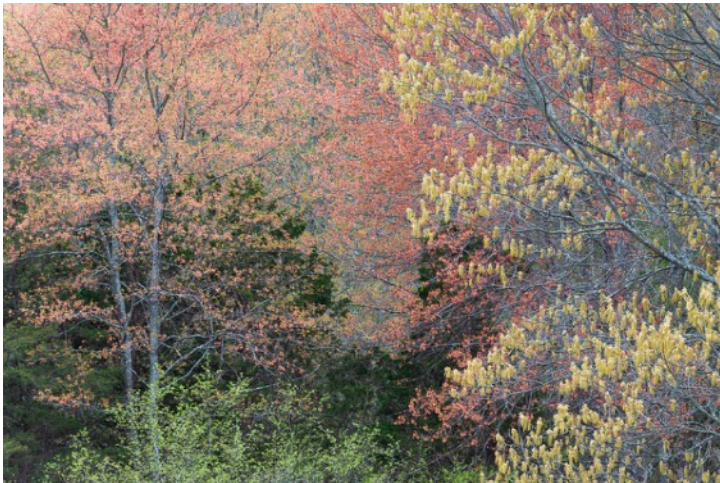
Prince of the Pond; photo, Mark Hopkins

Hendrik Broekman

Comes spring and a young man's fancy might turn to ... life, death and the issues of age. One passage from Thoreau's journals that captured my imagination is this; "If I consider its history, it is old; if its destiny, it is new. I may see a part of an object, or the whole. I will not be imposed on and think Nature is old because the season is advanced. I will study the botany of the mosses and fungi on the decayed [wood], and remember that decayed wood is not old, but has just begun to be what it is." (1842. March 19. Saturday - Thoreau, born July 12, 1817, was not yet 25 at the time)



Old and New; photo, Hendrik Broekman



Spring Colors, Lincoln, MA; photo, Ed McGuirk

Ed McGuirk

Over the past few years, I have greatly enjoyed photographing the colors of spring foliage in New England. While everyone thinks of Autumn colors when they think of foliage in New England, I believe that the subtle and delicate colors of spring foliage can be just as interesting and beautiful.

Amazingly, the palette colors in spring includes not just fresh lime green leaves, but also an array of red, orange and yellow leaves and buds whose colors rival those of October.

This image was taken along Rt. 117 in Lincoln, MA. The hues of green, orange and yellow made for a pleasing combination. It's hard to believe that this shot was taken in May and not October, given the warm colors of the buds on the trees. I knew the soft, even light of this overcast day would have no harsh contrast or shadows, and would allow the colors of the trees to stand out better.

Barbara Peskin

In January, I visited the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary. I brought my bird seed and went to my favorite high branch, sprinkling seed there and on some low logs. It is quite a joy to have birds flying in and out, not afraid of people and just enjoying the clear cold winters day. This is one of my favorite shots - I am learning to use shutter priority which is one reason why this black-capped chickadee has so much detail.



Black Capped Chickadee; photo, Barbara Peskin

New Feature

Having found it striking that image-rich editions have reliably elicited appreciative comments, I proposed a new monthly (or so) feature devoted to one or two images (recently shared or not) by a single member photographer (to be displayed in a larger format than I have allowed before now) along with text describing some aspect of the image the photographer finds meaningful. When I announced this idea, Betsy Moyer, fearless as always, leaned over and whispered, "I'm in." As she soon found out, my ground rule is this; the photographer is responsible for providing images, titles and text, while my task is limited to not much more than page layout, and that's exactly what you will find in the next two pages. If you wish to join the list of contributors (openings start in the summer), I may be contacted at henkbroekman@gmail.com.

In the Limelight: Betsy Moyer

*Mushroom, Walden Pond; photo, Betsy Moyer
(camera, Sony F707 digital)*

I received a call from an SVNPN member way back in September 2006. "You ought to go over to Walden Pond. There's an unusual outcropping of mushrooms. I've never seen anything like it. Check it out." I grabbed my Sony F707 camera and set off for Walden Pond. I brought along a tripod, which was totally unnecessary; this was definitely an "on your knees" photography excursion. Sure enough at the end of the pond, up near the location of Thoreau's cabin, there were mushrooms everywhere. Apparently camera clubs in the area had been alerted because there was a fair gathering of photographers and many different cameras flashing and clicking. A spectacular sight! I photographed over 20 different species. This photograph was my favorite. The only photo-shop adjustments were cropping and removal of odd bits of debris. My mushroom expert here at Newbury Court proclaims it one of the many *Russula* mushrooms, possibly edible, possibly not. I didn't try it to find out.

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*Periwinkle, North Carolina Botanical Garden; photo, Betsy Moyer
(camera, iPhone X)*

I took this photo in Chapel Hill on March 31, 2019, with my Apple 10 phone, handheld. It's not a great shot, but I wanted to show the clarity of the image and the amazing blue of the flower. With all my previous cameras – film **and** digital – it had been impossible to capture the gorgeous blue of so many wildflowers. My prediction is that many photographers will eventually abandon heavy back-breaking equipment – lenses, tripods, etc. – in favor of the liberating ease and portability of our cellphones. And the capabilities of the cellphone cameras will only improve with time. These will be at least good back-up cameras for most of us if not our cameras of choice. Another chapter in our progress from film to digital to cellphone cameras. What's next?

Betsy Moyer

Member News

Ed McGuirk writes, "I recently had another article published at Nature Photographers Network, an online forum for image critique, sharing and discussion. The article discusses how to think outside the box when doing landscape photography of the four seasons. My favorite seasons for photography are: early season, late season, and off-season. Shooting along the edges of the seasons like this can be a rewarding way to create unique looking images." The article may be found at the following link:

<https://www.naturephotographers.network/seasons-on-the-edge/>

April Preview

Building on a suggestion from Terri Ackerman, the theme for our upcoming "member images night", currently scheduled for April 9, will be "Am I Blue?" - images in which the color blue plays an important role. As usual, plan on up to five images for discussion ("as shot" and after-post-processing copies of an image count as one).



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UPCOMING SVNP PROGRAMS

- Apr. 9 Member Images Night - *Am I Blue?*
- May. 14 Special guest George Woodland - *Mongolia: Eagle Hunters and the Gobi Desert*
- June 11 Hendrik Broekman - *Travel? Who Needs It: Photos Close to Home*
- July 9 TBD
- Aug. 13 Pam Marshall & David Emerson - *Astrophotography at a PhotoPills Workshop*

Please Note - All meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, at 7:00 pm, at our new location:

Great Room, Newbury Court
100 Newbury Court, Concord, MA

Please Note Further - Updated directions to the Great Room and instructions for underground parking (to be available starting at 6:10pm on meeting evenings) may be found at the link immediately below.

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

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SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

Group Exhibits

Ongoing/ On Hiatus	Newbury Court - Community Room, 80 Deaconess Road, Concord, MA rotating exhibit
Jul 6~Sep. 14, 2020	Trinity Episcopal Church, 81 Elm St, Concord, MA; <i>25th Anniversary Exhibition</i>
November, 2020	Wayland Public Library - Raytheon Room, 5 Concord Road, Wayland, MA

Individual Member Exhibits

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

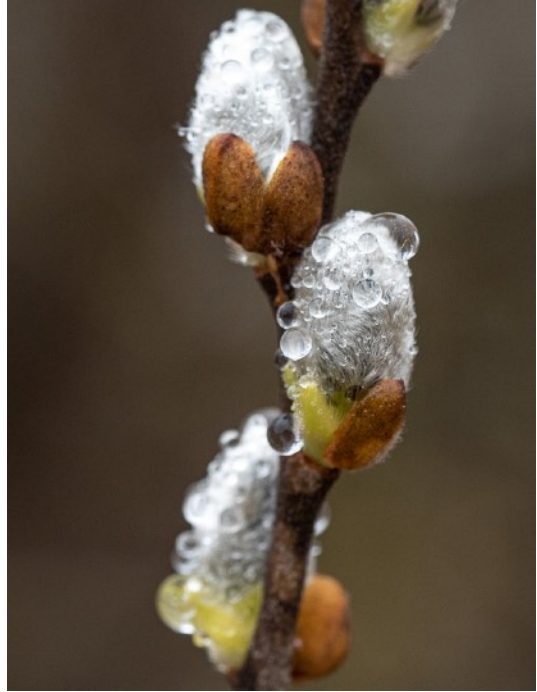
Date	Member	Exhibit Location
Ongoing	Marijke Holtrop	Online Exhibit on the website of the Friends of the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge (http://farnwr.org/gallery.html)
Ongoing	Betsy Moyer	Newbury Court Senior Living, Concord MA <i>Neighborhood Flowers</i> , 5th floor, south bldg
Ongoing	David Emerson	The Gallery at 51 Walden, Concord, MA, <i>Canals of Venice</i>

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. 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



*Spring Shower;
photo, Hendrik Broekman*