

SVNP NEWSLETTER, MARCH, 2022

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE MARCH 10, MEETING

Thanks to the continuing high level of viral activity, the wish to return to in-person meetings at Newbury Court remained underwhelming this month. Even so, April remains a possibility in light of the previously expressed group sentiment for instituting a hybrid process that would allow in-person as well as electronic attendance. The contribution of any experience gained in engaging in such a practice elsewhere would be very welcome.

Planning continues for the exhibit to be presented during the months of May and June at Anne Umphrey's church, Trinity Church in Concord. You may recall that the group's anticipated 2020 exhibit in this spectacular space was thwarted by the arrival of Covid.

Stephen Gabeler has stepped into the breach for the April meeting with a thought piece dealing with some of the whys surrounding the pursuit of photography. There are currently opportunities to give presentations starting as soon as June, 2022. 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 someone to recommend.



The Evening's Presentation - Photographing the Sudbury II

Wayne Hall

Our featured presentation for the evening, *Photographing the Sudbury from the water*, was given by **Hendrik Broekman** – a follow-on to his earlier presentation which was land-based.

Images in the presentation were created over several years of paddling. Earlier images were shot from a rather strange-looking craft called a "W boat". Eventually he ditched that and now uses a craft called a "pack boat", manufactured by Swift. It is quite light, looks rather like a small canoe, but drives like a kayak.

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He began by describing five “put-in” locations in Wayland, Sudbury, and Lincoln:

1. Heard Pond on Pelham Island Road (not actually part of the river)
2. Route 20 boat ramp, near Russell’s Garden Center
3. Route 27, near the Wayland Country Club
4. Sherman’s Bridge Road, on the Sudbury/Wayland line
5. Route 117, next to Mt. Misery in Lincoln

Beginning at Heard Pond, the presentation moved downstream as far as Fairhaven Bay in Concord, with its iconic stone boathouse. In addition to a wide variety of views of the river and its banks, we were treated to a wide variety of native wildlife.

Birds: swans, osprey, killdeer, egrets, geese, mallards, sandpipers, Eastern kingbirds, cormorants, phoebes, kingfishers, cedar waxwings, a peregrine falcon, grebes, and the obligatory blue herons.

Animals: muskrat, beaver, white-tailed deer, turtles

Notable landmarks, in addition to the Fairhaven Bay boathouse, included the Pantry Brook dam and Sherman’s Bridge in Sudbury as well as the Old Town Bridge in Wayland.

On the technical side, Hendrik emphasized the importance of protecting one’s equipment and preferably using weather-sealed cameras and lenses, such as his Olympus E-M1 and Olympus “pro” lenses. He uses “continuous” autofocus for bird photography, usually shooting in bursts of 5-7 images (any more than that can result in a loss of focus at some point). He also often uses “back button” focusing when shooting in manual mode.

All in all, we were treated to a fascinating and superbly crafted story about life on this section of the Sudbury from a perspective that cannot be gained from land.

Member Images

Having stated his hypothesis that, aside from being one of the official four seasons, winter is also a state of mind, **Stephen Gabeler** showed a series of photos taken at various times in the yearly cycle, missing only the months of March, May and September. The dates of photographic capture ranged over 50 years. Locations, from Sudbury to Chile, were similarly dispersed.



April in Bryce Canyon; photo, Stephen Gabeler

Barbara Peskin has continued her investigations of possible camera upgrades. This evening she showed several fine images of backyard birds taken with a rented Sony mirrorless camera. The birds represented were a Hermit Thrush, Downy Woodpecker, White-Throated Sparrow, Cardinal and Fox Sparrow.



Reflections; photo, Jean Fain

Jean Fain offered a series of fine images shot around her Lincoln/Concord stomping grounds. Several were shot at Codman Farm in Lincoln. Others documented her fascination with the textures of age so well rendered by Andrew Wyeth (left).

Karin McQuillan

dipped into her travel archive for the purpose of showing “people pictures.” Three continents, North America, Europe and Africa were represented. From North America, an Idaho potato farmer and a child interacting with a photo at the Art Museum of Chicago. Of several images from Europe, this photo of revelers on King’s Day in The Netherlands stood out for its depiction of pure joy and communal spirit.



*King's Day in Amsterdam;
photo, Karin McQuillan*

**Around the Web**

Gabe Gabeler sent a YouTube link to an [interview](#) conducted in 1941 with the early American photographer, William Henry Jackson. How early? Mr. Jackson was born in 1843! This is absolutely fascinating stuff – talk about returning to those “thrilling days of yesteryear!” Mr. Jackson has merited a Wikipedia [entry](#). A rather extensive [collection](#) of his work is available online at the Library of Congress.

I stumbled upon two videos by a British gent, Roger Hance, that nicely demonstrate strategies for bird photography, some of which could be used in the back yard.

<https://youtu.be/z4K7iQEd4c8> ----<https://youtu.be/OgU9dyyk71o>



<http://svnp.homestead.com>

April Preview

Stephen Gabeler writes about his presentation, "My objective is to be suggestive of how we may think about our own work, Each of us has our own path. This is more about why than about what or how. There is an element of sermon here as well. This all began as a presentation I put together for a local Lifelong Learners group in 2015. I include the work and writings of others as well as my own. I might call it a photo essay on the personal journey, sung with a chorus of voices from the past."

UPCOMING SVNPN PROGRAMS

April 14 Stephen Gabeler *Why We Photograph*

May 12 Terri Ackerman *Silk Road of Uzbekistan*

Please Note - Depending on the developing state of public resistance to the virus and its burgeoning variants, SVNPN hopes to resume in-person meetings at Newbury Court as soon as safely possible. It is expected that the April meeting will again be held on the Zoom platform, at least partially. It is hoped that there may be an in-person component, as well. The membership seems desirous of finding a way to merge the two experiences.



SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

Group Exhibits

Ongoing/ On Hiatus	Newbury Court - Community Room, 80 Deaconess Road, Concord, MA rotating exhibit
Dec. 1-31, 2022	Wayland Public Library - Raytheon Room, 5 Concord Road, Wayland, MA
May-June	Trinity Episcopal Church, 81 Elm St, Concord, MA; <i>25th Anniversary Exhibition</i>

Individual Member Exhibits

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

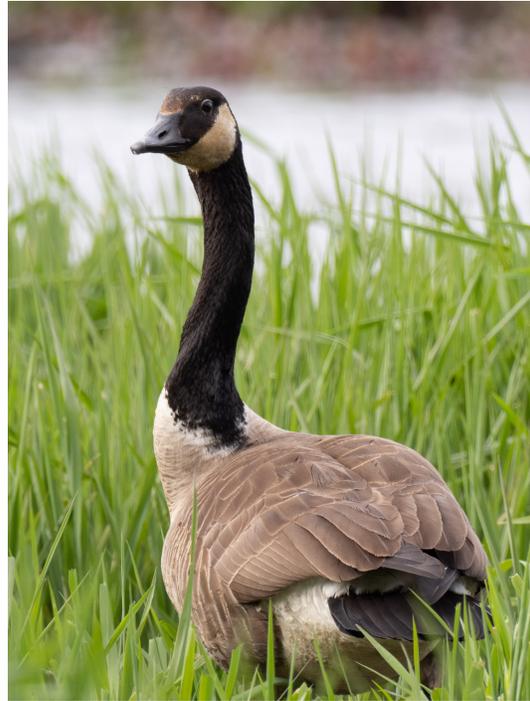
Date	Member	Exhibit Location
Ongoing	Marijke Holtrop	Online Exhibit on the website of the Friends of the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge (http://farnwr.org/gallery.html)
Ongoing	Betsy Moyer	Newbury Court Senior Living, Concord MA <i>Neighborhood Flowers</i> , 5th floor, south bldg
Ongoing	Bob Cooke	Maynard Public Library, 77 Nason St., Maynard, MA

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. It should 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



*Perplexed;
photo, Hendrik Broekman*