

Notes on SVNPN meeting April 11, 2013

Wayne noted that the Great Room was not set up for our meeting when Carol arrived around 6 p.m. Betsy will get in touch with the management at Traditions to find out what we can do to be sure the room is set up for us every second Thursday of the month.

Report on Steering Committee meeting of April 4

Wayne reviewed the high points of the Steering Committee meeting held on April 4 and attended by himself, Sue Abrahamsen, Linda Crews, Jon Ehrmann, Mark Hopkins, Betsy Moyer, and Carol Walsh. Minutes of that meeting will be sent to all members.

- We need to increase our group participation.

- Jon has set up a Facebook page for SVNPN members. Send him a note (jehrmann@aol.com) asking to connect, and he will set up your access.

- Linda has purchased all four DVD's of a Great Courses presentation by Joel Sartore, National Geographic photographer. Each of the 24 segments is a half hour long, and we could view individual "lectures" from time to time as part of our regular meeting program. (After tonight's regular meeting several watched a segment on bird photography.)

- Linda reported on her experience attending a presentation given by a remote presenter using the WebEx conferencing service. If we can make this technique work for us at Traditions, one possibility might be a presentation by Budd Titlow, co-founder of SVNPN, who now lives in Durham, NC. Betsy will get in touch with Budd.

- Mark suggested broadening our topics to include the entire art world – what's happening there in terms of competitions and exhibits?

- Anyone wishing to contribute images to the SVNP page on the Wayland375.com web site exhibit, please email them to Betsy (bmga@aol.com) for forwarding to the web master, Nancy Boyle (nancy@millbrookcreative.com). Our page is listed under “Community Groups” on the web site home page.
- Betsy will get printouts of maps of the conservation areas in Wayland to help photographers in shooting images for our November exhibit in the Raytheon Room, part of Wayland’s 375th celebration. In the meantime, photographers can go to the town web site for information. As two separate .pdf files, access instructions to the various conservation trails and a high-level map showing all of Wayland’s conservation areas will be sent to our SVNP distribution list.

Featured Presentation

Carol Walsh gave a fascinating presentation of her 9-day Botswana safari, her eighth, last November. The African operator (ATD) whom she works for, sent her to experience 14 tented camps for future safaris, but she still had time for nearly 50 hours of game drives in the Okavango Delta. She showed 375 images, taken with her Canon Powershot SX30 with 35x zoom. She wanted to give us the idea of what it was like to be on a “Great Botswana Game Drive” seeing such a variety of birds and every imaginable animal. She showed unusual photos of a pack of wild dogs and excellent close ups of a female leopard who was searching for her cub that was missing after a successful morning of hunting.

Botswana is a 3-hour flight from Johannesburg. It is a true wilderness, with few roads, so traveling between camps is by 2-12 seater planes landing on dirt airstrips built near each of the camps. Even the airstrips needed to be cleared of wildlife before takeoff. These short flights are a great way to see the Delta and offer a great opportunity to photograph. Botswana has no parks as such, but the entire country is divided into “concessions,” strictly regulated by the government, maintaining a true wilderness. For this reason, the animals and birds are not so fearful of humans and vehicles as in other African countries.

Each day she explored another area of the Delta either by Land Rover, boat or dugout canoes, which allowed for very good visibility of the animals and birds and made it possible for her to take some incredible shots. Carol noted, "Every day for about 15 minutes near sundown, everything turns golden." This provided her a beautiful light to capture a large herd of elephants crossing the floodplain coming close to the vehicle.

Member images

Sue Abrahamsen, Don Sherman, and Linda Crews showed images.

Video viewing

A few members lingered to view a Great Courses video on bird photography, as described above. Everyone was impressed and thought the videos could be good to show at some of our future meetings.

Schedule of Upcoming SVNP Programs

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|----------------|--|
| May 9, 2013 | Don Sherman –mirrorless cameras: a primer, with the Sony NEX as an example |
| June 13, 2013 | Sue Abrahamsen – Patagonia |
| July 11, 2013 | Vivienne Shein – nature photography in the St. Augustine area |
| August 8, 2013 | Semi-annual member images night (subject TBD) |

SVNP Exhibit Calendar

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

Individual Member Exhibits

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Member</i> | <i>Exhibit Location</i> |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| April 2013 | Murray and Trudy Drobnis | Wayland Public Library, Foyer |
| May 5 thru June | Betsy Moyer | Newbury Court, South & North Galleries |
| <i>May 5, 3 – 5 p.m., Opening Reception, Newbury Court</i> | | |
| June 1-30, 2013 | Mark Hopkins | Habitat Education Center, Mass. Audubon, Belmont, MA |
| July 2013 | Murray and Trudy Drobnis | Lincoln Public Library |

SVNP Group Exhibits

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Exhibit Location</i> |
|----------------|---|
| Ongoing | Traditions, 10 Green Way, Wayland, MA |
| November, 2013 | Raytheon Room, Wayland Public Library – “Images of Wayland’s Public Lands”, in conjunction with Wayland’s 375 th anniversary celebration |

REMINDER: Dues for 2013 remain at \$15 (\$20 per couple). Please make your check out to "Sudbury Valley Nature Photographers" and mail to Wayne Hall, 47 Indian Ridge Road, Sudbury, MA 01776 (or bring it to our next meeting).

About SVNP

The Sudbury Valley Nature Photographers
is an informal group of more than fifty talented advanced, amateur, and professional photographers from the western suburbs of Boston, brought together by their passion for capturing the beauty and power of nature through photography.

The group was established in 1995 and meets every second Thursday evening at Traditions of Wayland at 7 p.m. SVNP regularly exhibits its members' work throughout eastern Massachusetts and on the Internet.

Please visit our web site at <http://svnp.homestead.com>

Contact information:

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