

Sudbury Valley Nature Photographers

SVNP NEWSLETTER, MAY 2014

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE MAY 8, 2014 MEETING

Wayne called the meeting to order by introducing David Hoover, a guest from Michigan and acknowledging the food contribution of Carol Walsh.

River Stewardship Council

Discussion immediately turned to the project (being led by Raj Das) with the River Stewardship Council. Again, SVNP is greatly honored to have been asked to provide images for this ambitious project. The group learned from Raj that there are now eleven SVNP members who have signed up to help photograph the 20 sites on the RSC list. This is not to suggest that any as-yet unexpressed interest in participating will be refused. All help will be welcome. RSC will not only take care of general publicity but will print and frame the selected images as well. Photographers will be able to keep the resulting prints after the rotating exhibit is over. Now, how attractive is that? In addition, five or more libraries so far have signed up to display our prints. Further, some consideration has been given to displaying the show at Newbury Court while it is not mounted elsewhere.

Due date for submitting our images to the RSC is June 2. Since there will need to be a SVNP-side selection process to come up with four candidates per site, the members' deadline for submission to the project will be earlier, May 26. As Raj pointed out in his remarks, this is crunch time – not even two weeks remain. Again, all help will be greatly appreciated.

Betsy announced that she and Carol Walsh would be spending the coming Sunday (a date now past) photographing at Ralph Hill in Billerica (one of the RSC sites) and invited other attendees to join. Assignment photography need not be a solitary slog!

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Possible Photo Trip

Carol Walsh reiterated her willingness to put together a group package for a photo junket *if* there is sufficient interest. To date Carol has received only two expressions of interest and this seems well below the threshold to proceed. The destination under discussion is Zion National Park in Utah and the time frame envisioned is early fall of this year. Zion is a site well known for its profusion of striking scenery. Your writer, among many, definitely regards it as a bucket list item. Please contact Carol by email (clesliewalsh@hotmail.com) for preliminary details as well as to express interest.

Newbury Court Display Space

Betsy reminded the group that there are several more spaces available on the walls of the Community Room, our new 'gallery'. Members can drop off prints at either the North or the South reception desks at Newbury Court, and Betsy will hang them. Please supply the following information: Your name as you'd like it to appear on the ID card, title of print, dimensions, type of print, price, contact information. Any questions, please get in touch with Betsy (978-369-1261 or bmga@aol.com)

Riverfest Photo Walk, June 21, 2014

Just a reminder from the RSC Riverfest listing:

Sudbury Valley Nature Photographers will host a Photo Walk around the Cow Common. Join SVNP member Hendrik Broekman in a stroll around the 65-acre plot, looking for interesting photos in a mixture of forest and field with some views across the Sudbury River marshes (leaves permitting). This is normally a 40-minute walk over flat, easy terrain, but we'll be stopping to photograph, teach, and discuss, ending shortly before sunset. Meet at the Cow Common parking lot on Old Sudbury Road (Route 27) across from the North Cemetery. Rain date: Sunday 8/22. **6:15 pm - sunset**

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The Evening's Presentation, May 8, 2014

The evening was graced by a presentation by member Bob Cooke of wildlife images from a recent trip to the Okovango Delta in Botswana. While the term 'delta' might suggest the outflow of a river into the ocean, this is not the case here - the Okovango delta lies well inland, virtually equidistant from the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans. In his easy, conversational style Bob led the gathering through some of the logistics of the tour. This provoked group discussion of the difference of organizational style that exists between touristic and photographic outings. Luckily, for our purposes, Bob was with a group dedicated to photography. The images themselves represented a regular rogues' gallery of African wildlife. The list is long - perhaps too long to be reported complete - but suffice it to say that it includes not only the heaviest but the tallest as well as some of the meanest animals that call Botswana home. Nor were smaller animal citizens, whether sporting fur or feathers, neglected. The final image was of an African Tortoise (weird coincidence alert!). Throughout, it was clear that the organizers of the tour (Natural Habitat Adventures) and the on-the-ground crew in Botswana took great care to ensure that participants went home with a satisfactory experience. The proof was in Bob's images, all of which were clearly shot from distances that did not require extreme, exotic lenses. For anyone who knows the quality of Bob's work, these images did not disappoint. Good job!

The evening concluded with five presentations of member images under the experimental three-minute rule:

Barbara Peskin provided images of, among others, a nesting bluejay, a heron and her beloved collie, Oliver. Three final photos of redwing blackbirds caused some discussion of their relative merits and possible editing strategies.

Perhaps subliminally inspired by the promise of the main presentation, Hendrik Broekman shared images of Wayland wildlife

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all taken within the present year. Lotsa birds and, finally, one baby turtle, which last caused one attendee to ask, "Were you on your stomach for that one?" Answer? "You bet!"

George Brawerman exhibited a very interesting and accomplished series of three images based on a single photo of sea grapes. The first was the 'straight' version, the second was blended with a canvas texture and the third was an inversion of the second.

Katherine O'Hara showed images shot on a recent trip to Florida. Included were three photos of Roseate Spoonbills that provided a good deal of context. Katherine's final image raised the bar by including not only an adult turtle but a honking big alligator, as well.

Don Sherman rounded out the evening with a series of before and afters taken on a recent trip to New Zealand. These evinced discussion of processing options. Opportunities to make reference to Middle Earth were impossible to resist.

And, with that, Wayne brought the curtain down at 9:30 on an informative and enjoyable evening.

Hendrik Broekman

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SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SVN PROGRAMS

- June 12, 2014 Joe Warfel – Macro Photography in the Insect
World

(Joe’s website is www.eighttheyephotography.com)
- July 10, 2014 Katherine O’Hara – Yellowknife and the Aurora
- August 14, 2014 Semi-annual “member images night” – subject TBA

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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

Date	Member	Exhibit Location
Current	Marijke Holtrop	Online Exhibit on the website of the Friends of the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge (http://farnwr.org/gallery.html)
Current	Betsy Moyer	Lincoln Physicians, Route 126, Lincoln, MA
Current	Bob Cooke	Osterville Library, Osterville, MA
July, 2014	Joan Chasan	Broadmoor Sanctuary (Mass. Audubon), Natick, MA
August, 2014	Bob Cooke	Emerson Hospital, Concord, MA
9/1-10/31, 2014	Bob Cooke	Broadmoor Audubon Sanctuary, Natick, MA

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SVNP Group Exhibits

Date	Exhibit Location
Being installed now	Community Room at Newbury Court, Concord, MA
November, 2014	Raytheon Room, Wayland Public Library - annual fall exhibit