

SVNP NEWSLETTER, MAY 2015

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE MAY 14, 2015 MEETING

Wayne called the meeting to order by announcing upcoming programs: Paul Smith on June 11 concerning favorite Florida birding locations and, in July, Bob Cooke and Sue Abrahamsen in separate presentations dealing with the Southern Hemisphere. A joint program stemming from the just-completed six-member trip to Zion National Park is set for September. There were announcements of exhibit activity. Please see the exhibit section of the newsletter.

Important to Note: Reminder repeated from last issues

We still need someone new to send out meeting reminders, take care of certain correspondence, help with newspaper and electronic publicity (e.g. write articles for the Concord and Lincoln Journals, post event announcements on the Internet), occasionally run the monthly meeting in Wayne's absence, etc. Please contact Wayne if you're willing to help out.

Art in Nature, Opening

The SVNP exhibition, Art in Nature, organized by Carol Walsh, opened on Sunday, May 3. A reception was held that afternoon from 2:00 – 3:30 pm. The room is spacious and easily accommodates the 33 images (most of them sizeable) collected from the 12 participating members. This is a very strong show in a wonderful space – a must-see. The exhibit will be up until July 25. The address of the Betty Meyer Gallery may be found in the exhibit listings, given below.



At the opening reception, an attendee examines the offerings. (photo: Hendrik Broekman)

Riverfest Photo Walk, June 20, 2015, 6:15pm

Just a reminder from the RSC Riverfest listing:

Sudbury Valley Nature Photographers will host a Photo Walk around the Cow Common in Wayland. 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. Folks can stay and watch (and photograph) the sunset from the Cow Common or take the 2-minute walk up to the North Cemetery and see the sun set from there. Novices and veterans, young and old - no matter. If you bring your eyes, plenty of enthusiasm, and a camera you'll fit right in. Meet at the Cow Common parking lot on Old Sudbury Road (Route 27) across from the North Cemetery. Rain date: Sunday. If you have any questions, call 508-358-2980.

<http://svnp.homestead.com>

Newbury Court Display Space

There is yet more space available on the walls of the Community Room, our present gallery space. For those who have not yet visited Newbury Court, Wayne has placed two images of a portion of the space up on the SVNP website (click on Upcoming Programs). The project to produce a self-guiding tour of the display in the Community Room has, according to Betsy, come to limited fruition in the form of “a carry-around list available on the piano”. Should you have any suggestions or questions, please get in touch with Betsy (978-369-1261 or bmga@aol.com).

The Evening's Presentation, May 14, 2015

Katherine O'Hara: Norway in Winter: Landscapes and Northern Lights

In January of this year, Katherine traveled with a Muench workshop (<http://muenchworkshops.com>) to the Lofoten Islands in northern Norway. For about a week the ten attendees and two instructors drove around the archipelago in search of places to pitch their tripods. From Å in the south to Andenes in the north, they were never far from shore (usually measured in feet) and both rocky and sandy beaches. Despite its position within the Arctic Circle, Lofoten benefits from the Gulf Stream and boasts nearly ice-free winters on the water as well as abnormally high air temperatures for the latitude. The footing easily becomes icy and visitors are forced to wear mini-crampons.

The landscapes depicted a time of year in which the illumination is largely blue and most land surfaces are coated in snow (or at least something white) with warmer color relief provided either by the human intrusions or the colors of the lingering dawn



photo: Katherine O'Hara

and dusk. Several images displayed a nicely managed balance between the ambient blue light and street lighting. The low lighting also allowed Katherine to experiment with neutral density filters to achieve several flat, milky water shots with exposures ranging from around one second to nine minutes.



photo: Katherine O'Hara

The last three days, spent in Andenes, were given over to whale watching (fin, killer and humpback whales, photographed from small inflatables). The nights were clear enough to allow some spectacular photos of the aurora once unexpected issues with light pollution were overcome.

Given that Lofoten is within the Arctic Circle as well as the time of year, tripods must have been an absolute necessity for about 21 out of each 24 hours and no mere luxury the other 3. I asked Katherine to elaborate: "A tripod was essential due to the low light that prevailed most of the time, with only an hour or so of true daylight each day and many hours of the lovely lingering twilight. The need for a tripod was even greater, of course, for long daytime exposures using neutral density filters and my nighttime aurora images. I continue to use my old but still excellent Gitzo G1228 carbon fiber tripod. It is lightweight but not flimsy, and its four sections collapse down to a small enough size to fit in my suitcase. The tripod head is equally important, as I learned when I finally upgraded from one that was too small and often drooped to a heavier but sturdier Really Right Stuff ball head (BH-55), which is fabulous and well worth its cost. Last, a remote trigger is essential for long exposure images (longer than 30 seconds) and my old-fashioned corded one worked well in the cold, which wireless triggers may not. While we needed spikes (mini-crampons) on our boots, my tripod's regular, non-spike feet worked fine."

Member Images

Sue Abrahamsen presented five fine images of birds shot in her backyard: a Cardinal, a preening Heron, a Grosbeak and two images of Wood Ducks.

Terri Ackerman showed a before and after of one of the images she has placed in the "Art in Nature" exhibit and credits help received at a prior meeting for her success in achieving a satisfactory result. There were also images of milkweed, orchids from the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC, and an iceberg spotted in Patagonia that bore a striking resemblance to a rhinoceros.



photo: Anne Umphrey

Anne Umphrey showed a series of images taken in the Smoky Mountains at a workshop offered by Bill and Linda Lane. The images, landscapes and flowers both, spoke of a lushness and diffused lighting that must have been a photographer's heaven. One of the suggestions

made by the instructors to reduce glare from the unavoidable water standing on the leaves was to use polarizing filters, even in the absence of strong directional light. Anne was effusive in her praise of the organizers and vows to take other opportunities to work with them. <http://www.lanephotoworkshops.com>

Fast Raw Viewer

Review by Hendrik Broekman

I have been a confirmed raw shooter since about ten years ago when a Nikon D70 came to my house to stay. My approach to dealing with my photos has necessarily been centered about this personality quirk. Until now, one minor drawback has been the necessity to copy the files to a hard drive and convert the photos in order to see the actual raw file rather than the embedded camera-generated jpg that is all you see on the camera in review mode. These two can differ significantly. Since I find shuffling between sessions to be mildly disorienting, if not entirely flummoxing, I attempt to follow a strictly linear approach and deal with images in the order in which they were shot. This can result in falling way behind with current images when there is an earlier, large shoot being dealt with. For example, returning from travel with a typical trip overage simply gets in the way of considering the normal 10 or 15 dailies I shoot on the dog walks.

Fast Raw Viewer changes that. Now, after inserting the camera card in my computer, it is possible to examine raw files directly from the card (without downloading) and evaluate them at various resolutions for qualities including under- and over-exposure as well as plane of focus. It is also possible to boost the shadows exposure to judge the extent of any noise problem, if any. If the need arises, one may import a small subset (as I did with images of the Art in Nature opening), as well. There are a few other bells and whistles that may be of interest to others but I find just these few capabilities to be worth the modest cost, which is discounted further for the rest of May, 2015. Descriptions of the software may be found at <http://www.fastrawviewer.com>

Schedule of Upcoming SVNP Programs

June 11, 2015	Paul Smith - "Florida Bird Photography Hot Spots"
July 9, 2015	Bob Cooke, former Boston Globe science reporter - "The South Pole and Antarctica - 1983" and Sue Abrahamsen - "Images of the Amazon"
Aug. 13, 2015	Semi-annual "member images" night (tent.)
Sept. 10, 2015	Utah – joint presentation by participants in the recent SVNP trip to Southwest Utah
Oct. 8, 2015	Terri Ackerman – India, Cambodia, Viet Nam 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

<http://svnp.homestead.com>

SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

Group exhibits

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| Ongoing | Newbury Court - Community Room, 80
Deaconess Road, Concord, MA
rotating exhibit |
| May 3 - July 25 | Art in Nature - Betty Meyer Gallery, United
Parish of Auburndale, 64 Hancock St.,
Auburndale (Newton), MA |
| November 1-30 | Raytheon Room, Wayland Public Library,
Wayland, MA - a collaborative effort with the
Sudbury Valley Trustees |

Traveling Exhibit sponsored by the River Stewardship Council

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| Aug. 2015 | Sudbury, Goodnow Library |
| Oct. - Dec. 2015 | Carlisle, Gleason Library |

Individual Member Exhibits

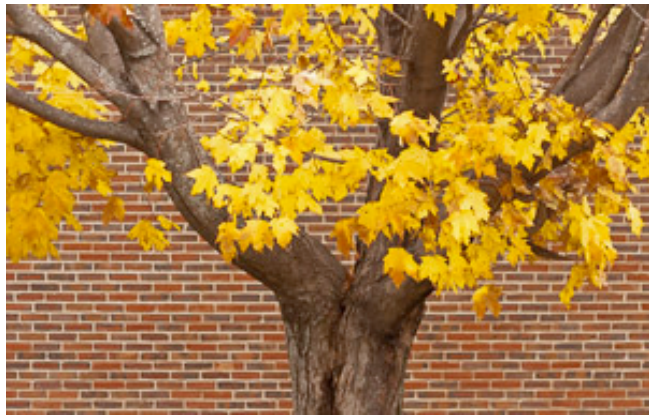
SVNP members - please notify Wayne Hall (wah@waynehallphotography.com) of your upcoming individual exhibits for posting on the SVNP website.

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)
Current	Terri Ackerman	New England Olive Oil Company, 191 Sudbury Rd., Concord, MA
Current	George Brawerman	Online exhibit in the Archives of the Pelican Cove, FL Photo Club website http://pelicancovephotographyclub.zenfolio.com/p912264185
Apr. 17 – June 5	Terri Ackerman	Harvey Wheeler Community Center, 1276 Main Street, West Concord, MA
July 17- Aug. 28	Joan Chasan	Harvey Wheeler Community Center, 1276 Main Street, West Concord, MA

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.

I especially invite presenters and members sharing images to select and submit files for illustrative purposes. I expect we could accommodate 2 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, please submit jpg files sized to no more than 300 px 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.



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Hendrik Broekman