

SVNP NEWSLETTER, JUNE, 2025

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE JUNE 12 MEETING

There are currently opportunities to give presentations starting as soon as August, 2025. 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 of someone to recommend.

This meeting was held on the Zoom platform.

The Evening's Presentation - Eric Smith

Eric Smith describes himself as a storyteller by nature. This was evident in his presentation, titled *Stories of Wildlife from around New England*. Eric used his photos to help tell stories about some of his encounters in four localities scattered about our part of the world. Many of the most effective photos belonged to a series dealing with some animal and its behavior. Often, other critters figured in the story as a reminder of the roles that chance and serendipity can play in photography.

Rather surprisingly, for someone who gets out into the “wilds of New England” most weekends, the first location Eric talked about was Mount Auburn Cemetery. Although there are interesting birds to be had there, a major point of the visits turned out to be the semi-urban coyotes that have taken up residence there, especially two successive years of litters of pups. Some years foxes were also in evidence. Two series taken at Spectacle Lake in the fall, one of a Belted Kingfisher and the other of Hooded Mergansers, became a discussion of optimizing image impact. Eric managed the background here by considering the shape and size of the pond as well as the camera's point of view. In the case of the mergansers, he was able to change the point of view by shifting position, but only while the birds had their heads under water, a practice he calls “dive and dash”.

Another story was of a Great Horned Owl pair setting up a nest in a tree not far off the ground. The nest became so well known in the birding community that steps had to be taken to keep observers

at a distance comfortable for the birds. As it turned out, there was a better point of view available to those with longer lenses (i.e., Eric and his 600mm lens) a little ways up a facing hill. Eric visited the nest periodically. Consequently, this series documented several stages, from parents nesting, to very young chicks, to fledgling. Eric then turned the subject to warblers and a discussion of birds seen in less than wonderful light and partially obscured by foliage. Eric modeled patience admirably and was occasionally rewarded for his efforts. He summed up the adaptive response to such unfavorable situations by saying, "you do what you can do."

Great Meadows NWR was next, which Eric praised for the abundance of the species to be found there. Of a series he showed of Marsh Wrens, he said, "I don't need more pictures of them based on this series alone, but I keep going because, dammit, it's fun!" The last series (of many) Eric showed from GMNWR was of a Least Bittern. In another paean to patience, the bird caught a fish larger than it could comfortably swallow, but eventually succeeded.

Photographs taken at a small lake in NH near Winnepesaukee and two locations further afield in Maine rounded out the evening. These images of many species gave enjoyment to those viewing the presentation. A series of Loon photos, many with chicks, taken at the lake was a highlight, as was a sunset view Eric took in South Addison, ME, which he paired with a watercolor of the scene executed by his father.

Aside from a few tangential mentions of cropping, Eric never really discussed post-processing. The underlying points of his stories were largely confined to those aspects of photography that concern the preparation for and capture of the images – the delight of the hunt, if you will.

Eric's breezy narrative style was ingratiating and made him more than welcome company for the evening. Not only that, but the images were first rate. Even the photos that he described as misses or near-misses were there in evidence of some larger point he wanted to make.

Several members of Eric's Lincoln Library photography group who were invited to join the evening attended. The whole company appreciated Eric's presentation, which can be found at the following link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1g5iZ_tE4fmy7lokvyoH9mM6IPRDtPdU/view?usp=sharing

Across the Web

Speaking of modeling patience, I have mentioned Roger Hance, a British wildlife photographer on a few previous occasions. Two recent videos he has published seem to me to be either informative or, at very least, entertaining. One (12' 51") offers a bunch of tips and tricks for getting close to birds in the field.

<https://youtu.be/BjKDPII8gFY>

Another (13' 59") is devoted to a session of photographing (from a blind) Little Owls, a species we don't have here.

<https://youtu.be/JeFW7oQxKws>



<http://www.svnpweb.com/>

Member News

Hendrik Broekman will give an illustrated talk at the Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation about the history and issues surrounding his choice of profession, harpsichord making. This is being given in conjunction with a museum exhibit dealing with the over-thirty years spent by Hubbard Harpsichords in Waltham in the second half of the 20th century. The talk is scheduled for June 25 at 7:00pm. Attendance is free, registration is required (please follow the link below)

<https://www.charlesrivermuseum.org/events-list/2025/6/25>

May I remind you that **Wayne Hall** once again will be presenting (in modified form) the splendid, but woefully under-attended, program he gave at Newbury Court in May. This will take place at SVT's Wohlbach Farm headquarters in Sudbury at 7pm on August 7, 2025. Attendance is free, registration is required (please follow the link below)

<https://svtprograms.funraise.org/>



Outta here

<http://www.svnweb.com/>

Upcoming SVNPN Programs

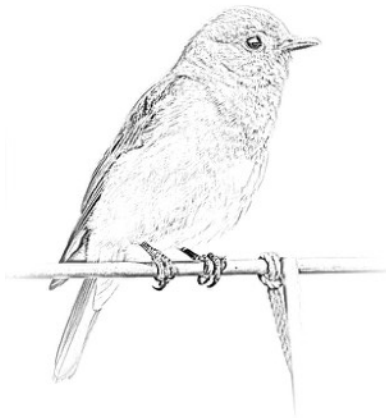
July 10 (Z)		Semi-annual Member Images Night - <i>Open Theme</i>
Aug. 14		TBA
Sept. 11 (H?)	Hendrik & Mai Broekman	<i>A Circumnavigation of Iceland</i>
Oct. 9		TBA

*N=Live at Newbury Court Only; Z=Zoom Only; H=Hybrid

Please Note – All meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, at 7:00 pm, either via Zoom or at our location (or both):

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

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



<http://www.svnpweb.com/>

SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

Group Exhibits

January, 2026	Goodnow Library, Sudbury, MA
Spring, 2026	Newbury Court (South Galleries), Concord, 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
August 7	Wayne Hall	SVT Headquarters at Wohlbach Farm (off Rt. 27 in Sudbury) [presentation time: 7:00pm]



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



*Blue Dasher;
photo, Hendrik Broekman*