

SVNP NEWSLETTER, JULY 2015

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE JULY 9, 2015 MEETING

Wayne called the well-attended meeting to order by reminding those present that August is slated to be semi-annual Member Images night. See below for the subject. The September program will be the continuation of Terri Ackerman's Southeast Asian journey. The joint program stemming from the just-completed six-member trip to Zion National Park has been moved to October. There were announcements of exhibit activity. Please see the exhibit section of the newsletter.

Member Images Night Theme

This time, a choice of two options (combining them is encouraged, as well):

1. Photographs from Sudbury Valley Trustees properties, in support of our upcoming November exhibit.
2. "Near and Far," using either the "wrist twist" or "foot powered" zoom methodology (or annoying zoom lever, in some cases...) - near and not-so-near images of the same subject. Explore how varying the context can affect a subject's impact or meaning. This is not at all like cropping, since it's done with the camera at shooting time, not afterwards.

Call for Programs

Although our programs are scheduled through October, there is nothing in the pipeline. If you have suggestions for programs - especially how-to's - please contact Wayne.

Art in Nature, Continuing

The SVNP exhibition, Art in Nature, organized by Carol Walsh, opened in May. 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.

Newbury Court Display Space

Even with the recent addition of Betsy's "Kite", a striking 22" x 55" canvas wrap extravaganza, 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). Come see "Kite"!

Photography as Testimony

The reliability and veracity of photography has always been a matter of contention and is currently being widely discussed, as in these three links:

<https://luminous-landscape.com/the-very-old-debate-of-image-manipulation/>

http://lens.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/06/16/posing-questions-of-photographic-ethics/?_r=0

<http://proof.nationalgeographic.com/2015/06/30/the-art-of-birds-revealed-through-an-altered-reality/>

Nature photography runs the gamut from dry reportage to highly manipulated (and manipulative) eye candy. It is incumbent on us as photographers to recognize the difference between the lily, the well-lit, well-photographed lily and the gilded lily. Each of these links has a lot to say about the spectrum between acceptable and unacceptable tinkering with an image's content and all seem well worth recommending to those who have not yet seen them. The consensus would seem to be that the style in which one chooses to work is irrelevant as long as no misrepresentation is being practiced.

<http://svnp.homestead.com>

Outdoor Photographers

Outside Photography: a curious term. Is it a happy distillation or a grand and grotesque lumping-together? Anyway, on the chance you did not receive notice of this event in your inbox directly from B&H, there seem to be a lot of useful bits of information in the videos that can be accessed from the link at the end of this paragraph. It is a promotion, true, but no purchase is necessary. I watched and can recommend the presentation on travel photography by Susan Seubert. If the others are as useful then this collection is a regular little gold mine.

<http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/promotion/11126/optic-2015.html>

The Evening's Presentations, July 9, 2015

Sue Abrahamsen: The Amazon River

On a recent trip, Sue traveled for the purpose of embarking on an Amazon River cruise. The itinerary was routed through Lima, Peru, a historic city with more than a touch of modernity to it, judging by Sue's photos of it. From there she traveled to Iquitos to join the riverboat, Aquamarina. This substantial vessel is a boxy affair looking a little shopworn but with air-conditioned cabins – desirable since the region's environment is unremittingly hot and humid, not to mention buggy. The cruise on the Peruvian Amazon (navigable for ships of 18 1/2 foot draft all the way to the Atlantic) lasted over a week. The opportunities for photography were many: birds, floral, placid sunsets, human residents at the river's edge, piranha (fresh-caught & fried). The contrast between modern Lima and the riverbank farms and villages was striking but the humanity shone through in both



Untitled, Sue Abrahamsen

<http://svnp.homestead.com>

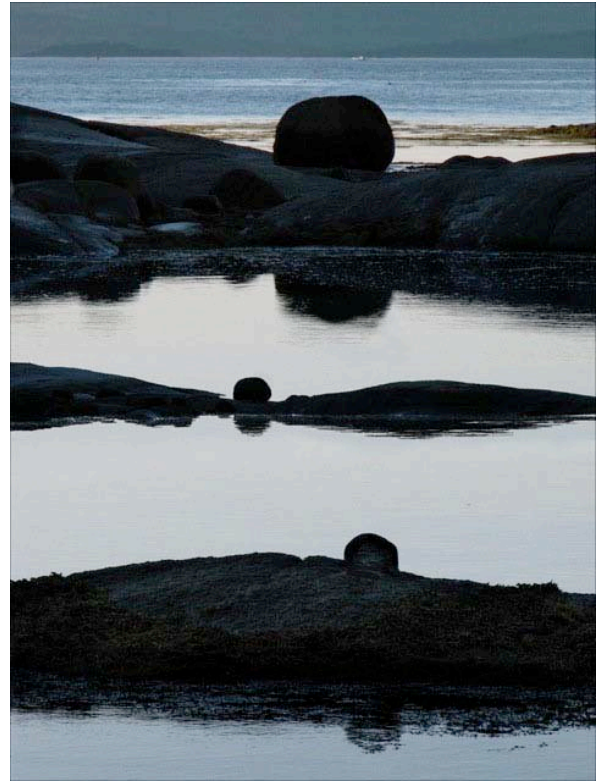
cases. Sue gave a précis of the content directly before presenting a music-enhanced slide show, lasting about 20 minutes, which followed the arc of the trip. Images were discreetly titled where necessary and well paced to keep up interest (although a bit fast for those of us taking notes). Discussions ensued.

Bob Cooke: Antarctica, 1983

During his stint as science reporter at the Boston Globe, Bob was sent in 1983 on an informational junket to Antarctica and the South Pole. Bob documented the trip with his then-new Canon AE-1 and showed the product in a narrated slide show. The images, all scanned slides, have held up remarkably well. Since the access point for Antarctica was New Zealand, Bob and his three fellow reporters had an opportunity to see some of the islands, formerly forested but now converted to pasture for the mainstay of the economy, sheep. Travel was on a New Zealand Air Force ski-equipped C-130, along with some pallets of fresh eggs. The four reporters left behind their normal clothing and traveled with cold weather gear issued for the trip. Good thing, too, as the temperature at the South Pole hovered around -40F even in constant sunlight bright enough to suggest the use of Kodachrome 25. The coastal stations were not as cold but the conditions could be equally inhospitable, white-out prominent among them. Some of the experiences Bob documented with photos were encounters with Emperor penguins, the hut at Shackleton's station maintained as a shrine, studying the physiology of Weddell seals when diving, visiting dry valleys (landscapes scoured of snow by winds from the central plateau) with their naturally eroded rock forms (wind and freeze/thaw) as well as the South Pole (including walking around the world & back - all in a good deal less than a day). It was a whirlwind tour for the attendees, too, given in an enjoyable and informative manner.

Member Images

Mark Hopkins showed five images from Saddleback Island near Stonington, Maine. Two were in his signature tall format (one of a rock cleft, the other of interlaced roots). The others were more traditionally presented. The first and last photos were taken at the last moments of sunset within steps of each other: grass back-illuminated by the sun and a selfie of Mark's shadow plastered against a large boulder (titled *Sisyphus Redux*). The remaining photo is shown here: *Three Stones*.



Three Stones, Mark Hopkins



Untitled, Katherine O'Hara

impetus for Katherine to approach their post-processing as images focused on graphic design and color.

Katharine O'Hara showed several before/after pairs taken during the recent fireworks display in Lincoln, MA. Having decided to take this opportunity to extend her pursuit of night photography, she did some preparatory reading and went prepared for eventualities. Some of the early shots were classic fireworks images, while other, later captures, transformed by the pall of smoke, provided an



Explosion, Terri Ackerman

Terri Ackermann showed images of wildlife from the greater area, mostly from SVT properties. Requesting a sense of the meeting, the last image, of milkweed found at Hazel Brook, was presented in original form, heavy crop (~ 1/4 frame) and an even heavier crop (~ 1/16 frame). The attendees could not agree on an approach to the image although your writer detected a tendency to favor the lighter crop.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SVNP PROGRAMS

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Aug. 13, 2015 | Semi-annual "member images" night on the twin subjects given on page 1, above |
| Sept. 10, 2015 | Terri Ackerman - North Vietnam and India |
| Oct. 8, 2015 | Utah - joint presentation by participants in the recent SVNP trip to Southwest Utah |

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

SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

Group exhibits

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

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)
July 17-Aug. 28	Joan Chasan	Harvey Wheeler Community Center, 1276 Main Street, West Concord, MA
Sept.-Dec.	Terri Ackerman	Reasons to be Cheerful, Commonwealth Ave. W. Concord, MA
July 15-Sept.15	Mark Hopkins, et al.	Copley Society of Art Exhibit at Dayton Home, 276 Washington St., Wellesley Hills, MA http://tinyurl.com/nodwqbw
July 6-Aug. 2	Bob Cooke	The Wings and Wheels Show Nancy's Air Field Cafe, Minute Man Air Field, Stow, 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 750 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.



Photo, Hendrik Broekman

Hendrik Broekman