

SVNP NEWSLETTER, JULY, 2023

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE JULY 13 MEETING

Barbara Peskin reported having a very satisfactory experience with her just-closed show at Trinity Church in Concord (SVNP had a group show there in 2022) and suggested that the group pursue exhibiting there again.

There are currently opportunities to give presentations starting as soon as October, 2023. 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 someone to recommend.

Member Images Night – Trees

Barbara Peskin showed a suite of bird-in-tree images (taken with her recently acquired Sony gear) starting with a pair of bluebirds in a couple of poses. She followed up with a visiting owl in her back yard. Two shots of a Black-crowned Night Heron taken on a gloomy day at the Winchester fish ladder elicited praise. Barbara rounded the group out with an image of a bird that has become something of a local rarity, an Evening Grosbeak, found in Royalston, MA.

Hendrik Broekman offered a collection photographs of trees in winter through spring leaf-out, all taken in Wayland in the present year. There was some discussion of processing strategies.



*Black-crowned Night Heron;
photo, Barbara Peskin*

Jean Fain, too, pursued the theme of birds in trees. Her first offering was of Bald Eagles photographed in Essex, NH (right). Great Blue Herons at Lyons Cutler followed. A seeming convention of tree swallows (9) seen at Great Meadows



Bald Eagle; photo, Jean Fain

provoked some discussion. A nesting Bald Eagle with two chicks in Orleans. Jean also had a Black-capped Night Heron taken at the Winchester fish ladder, this time in sunlight. The theme may have been broken by the finale, two does amongst trees. Come to think of it, I wonder if stags ever refer amongst themselves to does as “birds”?

Stephen Gabeler started by asserting that his challenge was in finding photographs that did not have trees in them. Nevertheless, he displayed a retrospective of photographs with trees in them that he has taken through the decades as well as trees through the millennia. How so? The oldest photo was taken fifty years ago, or so, and the oldest tree pictured dated to thousands of years before that. Gabe's presentation was a collection largely of environmental portraits of individual trees drawn from visits to either Acadia or the American southwest. The oldest photograph was of a pair of hulks, wooden sailing ships aground in Maine (long since removed) and the oldest tree was a petrified Redwood bole in Yellowstone. Presumably it is still there, biding its time.

As wide as Gabe's net may have been cast, **Carol Walsh**, SVNP's most inveterate traveler, was able to show trees growing from places as distant from each other as San Miguel Island in the Azores to Vancouver, B.C. with stops at the Bay of Fundy, Hollywood (FL) and Alabama along the Natchez Trace. The trees imaged included Kapok, palm, Redwood and swamp cypress. The trees from the Bay of

Fundy were conifers firmly planted at the top of one of the “flowerpot” rocks, sea stacks created by erosion but tall enough still to project from the water at high tide (~40 ft from low tide). Such a rock recently crumbled and tumbled during a storm. Perhaps it was Carol’s.

Wayne Hall offered images from as close as his front yard (ginkgo leaves) and as far away as the Grand Canyon (a tree seen from the Transept Trail). The majority were taken in Sudbury. The images also spanned both film and digital captures. The initial image was of a mat of tree roots to be found at the Grey Reservation in Sudbury. After the image from the Grand Canyon, a lovely film image of a path between trees in autumn with colorful leaves fallen to either side. Then, a photo of fall colors seen at Wachusett Meadow (right) followed by the ginkgo leaves.



Wachusett Meadow; photo, Wayne Hall





Beech in Winter; photo, Ed McGuirk

Ed McGuirk chose to display images of his favorite species of New England trees. Except for the birch, which was represented by its uniquely-interesting bark, each species was shown at the most colorful stage. For maple, this was fall colors; for oak, this

was during late fall colors when the intense reds have disappeared; for beech this was winter when most other trees have shed their leaves, even the oaks (left). In each of these images the impact of the foliage was intensified by the presence of snow or ice. Conifers become very colorful in the spring when fresh young needles are revealed, which was the case with the photos of hemlock and spruce boughs, respectively. To finish, Ed showed an image of tamarack in the northeast kingdom of Vermont changed into their yellow autumn livery.

Phyllis Neufield showed lovely images of Piping Plover and American Oystercatchers, each with some of their brood. Family trees, as it were.

August Preview: Creative Editing for Wildlife Photography

For her second act, **Nicole Mordecai** has embraced photography and, especially, photographic instruction. She offers help getting started with either Adobe Lightroom Classic or Adobe Photoshop and promises to ease the acquisition of skills that will help improve the appearance of wildlife images.

Around the Web

During her presentation, **Carol Walsh** mentioned wishing to show images she had made of a particular tree, Chapman's Baobab, but being unable to find them. Following her suggestion to "look it up", I did so, with at least this result:

<https://africageographic.com/stories/brief-history-chapmans-baobab/>

Staying in the department of the armchair traveler, *Filming Birdlife in America's Arctic* is a beautifully done video from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. If the Twenty-First century does nothing else for the visual arts, the continuing development of drone technology has already made incredible contributions to the documentarian's armamentarium.

<https://youtu.be/C4rkeFr98Ds>

Finally, I encountered this informative video about Ansel Adams that features the Carmel house brought to our attention by **Karin McQuillan**.

<https://youtu.be/qZlovMptjyQ>



<http://svnp.homestead.com>

Upcoming SVN Program

August 10	Nicole Mordecai	<i>Creative Editing for Wildlife Photography</i>
September 14	Jean Fain	<i>Newfoundland: A Wildlife and Landscape Photography Wonderland</i>

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

The decision to hold in-person meetings will be made on a month-to-month basis and communicated approximately a week before the meeting.

Updated directions to the Great Room and instructions for underground parking (to be available starting at 6:10pm on meeting evenings) may be found at the link immediately below.

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



<http://svnp.homestead.com>

SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

Group Exhibits

November, 2023 Goodnow Library, 21 Concord Road, Sudbury,
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
Ongoing	Marijke Holtrop	Online Exhibit on the website of the Friends of the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge (http://farnwr.org/gallery.html)

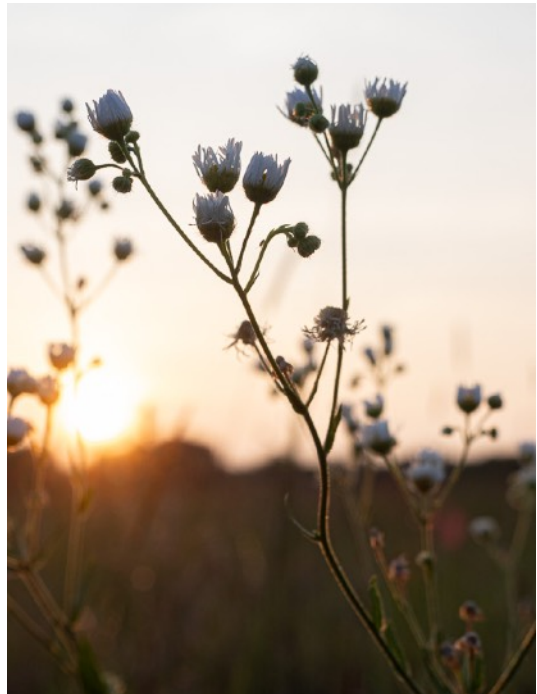


An Invitation from your Editor

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



*July Sunset;
photo, Hendrik Broekman*