

SVNP NEWSLETTER, AUGUST, 2022

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 11, MEETING

The group wish to institute a hybrid process that would allow in-person as well as electronic attendance was frustrated this meeting, which occurred solely on the Zoom platform. It is expected that September's meeting will again be hybrid.

The group exhibit at Trinity Church in Concord, is up and running. Takedown is expected on the last Monday morning of this month.

There are currently opportunities to give presentations starting as soon as October, 2022. 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.

August Presentation - Ed McGuirk - Lost in the Fog

Ed McGuirk gave a program devoted to the sub-discipline of photographing foggy landscapes. He started by enumerating six discrete kinds of fog and illustrated each with images. One possibility is to image the fog from outside. In this case, fog is one of the component subjects making up the scene, which may be shot either from a level point of view or looking down from a less foggy vantage point. In another, the fog is shot from within. In this latter case the fog acts as a global filter that can dominate the ambience of the scene. Ed went on to discuss some of the technical pitfalls that await the unwary. Among these are the danger of underexposure and lack of contrast that accompany fog in direct measure to its density.

To a large extent, modern digital editing can ameliorate some of these effects but carries with it an associated risk of either largely erasing the fog's contribution to the mood of the image or, done with abandon, tipping the effect into an unrealistic cartoon. This suggests that if the intent is to clarify the scene in an attempt to reproduce the original effect, one's approach to post processing must be one of care and delicacy. Ed offered a formula for managing illumination and

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contrast (detail) in foggy images he has devised for use in Lightroom. In a well exposed image, this consists of modest boosts to Dehaze and Exposure balanced with an equally modest reduction in Clarity – all done to taste for the particular image. Ed's mantra here is that a little goes a long way. Ed took care to remind the group that contrast concerns not only luminance but differences in color and apparent sharpness, as well, and that these, too, should be considered for (careful) tweaking in any attempt to interpret the recorded image for optimal display effect.

Having treated technical approaches, Ed discussed some of the artistic considerations of fog in the landscape. Here, of the two viewpoints, from without and within, the greater focus was given to shooting from within the fog. Beside the obvious atmospheric effects that comes with being in fog, Ed stressed the possibilities to greatly simplify both the subject and background and enhance the perception of depth on a 2-D surface. Using strong leading lines was also suggested as a further strategy to attain this goal.

Ed finished his presentation with a medley of favorite fog images accompanied by comments describing the fog and the effect he sought when bringing each image to its current state. An extensive and constructive discussion ensued, touching on Lightroom's "Presence" adjustments (Texture, Clarity and Dehaze), creating sunstars with small apertures and perspective correction.

The program was compact but full of information and was delivered in an easy manner. Each image was accompanied by a discussion of both technical and artistic considerations. The group seemed to be persuaded that a proper reaction to the presence of fog should be, "Bring it on!"

Member Images

Brian Riccio, a guest of Ed McGuirk, offered a selection of fine photographs. In introducing himself, Brian mentioned that he regarded Ed as a long-time mentor and it was easy to see the similarity. Locales photographed were as close as the Sudbury River Valley and ranged out to norther New Hampshire. To begin with, we

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were treated to an image of Sandy Pond in Lincoln with wispy surface fog as well as a misty autumn sunrise taken from the Lincoln side of Lee's Bridge. From New Hampshire, Brian showed the stain of a leaf left on the surface of the sand with only a suggestion of its veining much in evidence and a pond in Pittsburg attended by spotty surface fog starting to wisp upwards. A sunrise picture taken at Bald Head Cliff in Maine, a milky way shot taken in Pittsburg, NH and a morning shot taken at Stone House Pond in Barrington, NH concluded the offering. The group welcomed the selection of photos.

Hendrik Broekman showed recent wildlife photos taken both far afield in Alaska and California as well as locally at Wayland conservation land and on the Sudbury.

Jean Fain displayed images taken in locales sprinkled around eastern Massachusetts. First was a studio shot of an orange slice in water, a result of mentoring by SVNP member Nicole Mordecai. Jean mentioned that Nicole is letting on a great deal about post-processing in their time together. A heron perched on a nesting box is not something you see every day. The rest of the photos were similarly eclectic. A stone gate in Westport, a tall tree on a pond near her house which Jean has photographed repeatedly, a path and low tree nicely arranged at Great Meadows, some ripening apples on a tree close to home and more of the white house on a hill in Concord that seems to serve as one of her photographic muses. Lovely stuff.



Apples Ripening; photo, Jean Fain

Terri Ackerman had an even split of wildlife and landscape photos on offer. Photos of a trio of Common Mergansers seen on the Sudbury, a squirrel seemingly praying to a bird feeder and some sort of flycatcher started the set. Two photos taken at Fairhaven Bay, one of them of the picturesque stone boat house followed with one of Terri's abstracts of foliage reflected on the surface of mildly agitated water closing out the presentation.

September Preview

Our special guest, **Suzanne Révy**, is a photographer, writer and educator who has created visual diaries of her family's life, and is currently making photographs in the landscape. She earned a BFA from the Pratt Institute and an MFA from the New Hampshire Institute of Art, and previously worked as photography editor at *U.S. News & World Report* and *Yankee Magazine*. She has exhibited her work at museums and galleries throughout New England and in New York. Révy is the Associate Editor at the online magazine *What Will You Remember*, is an adjunct professor at Clark University and serves on the board of the Photographic Resource Center in Cambridge, MA. She lives with her husband in an empty nest in suburban Boston.

Suzanne tells us, "Let's call my presentation *A Murmur in the Trees: A presentation on wandering in the footsteps of Thoreau with a camera*. I will discuss my own work, but I like to add a deep look at the folks in the history of photography who influence me and contemporary practitioners as well, along with my general philosophy on photography."

Member News

Bob Cooke writes, "I've put together a public exhibit at the Maynard Public library, beginning (I think) Aug. 26. This show is all birds, as requested by the head librarian. I think they'll be up for a month. It is, of course, open to SVNP members (and the public, too) for viewing."

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Around the Web

Thinking back to Susanna Kamon's June presentation of trail camera video clips and her observations of inter-species interactions, this YouTube video presentation on the intelligence of corvids offers independent evidence. I find interesting the suggestion that these birds may be benefitting from a similarly evolved brain structure even despite our separate species' more primitive lineages having branched away from each other hundreds of millions of years ago.

<https://youtu.be/7aWL2iEb6y4>

Hérons don't only eat fish. Here's a video of a heron successfully hunting a gopher. Why did Tennyson leave out beaks? You have been warned...

<https://youtu.be/AriuBQ48oyc>



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UPCOMING SVNPN PROGRAMS

September 8 Suzanne Révy (guest speaker); *A Murmur in the Trees: On wandering in the footsteps of Thoreau with a camera*

October 13 TBD

November 10 Semi-annual Member Images Night

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



SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

Group Exhibits

Ongoing/ On Hiatus	Newbury Court - Community Room, 80 Deaconess Road, Concord, MA rotating exhibit
Ending Aug 29, 2022	Trinity Episcopal Church, 81 Elm St, Concord, MA; <i>25th Anniversary Exhibition (Belated)</i>
December, 2022	Wayland Public Library - Raytheon Room, 5 Concord Road, Wayland, 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)
Ongoing	Betsy Moyer	Newbury Court Senior Living, Concord MA <i>Neighborhood Flowers</i> , 5th floor, south bldg
Ongoing	Bob Cooke	Maynard Public Library, 77 Nason Street, Maynard, MA

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



*Heron on the Sudbury;
photo, Hendrik Broekman*