

# SVNP NEWSLETTER, OCTOBER, 2020

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 8, MEETING

The meeting started with discussion of the pandemic, especially in relation to the resumption of in-person meetings. It seems that the consensus of caution on this matter continues unabated.

There are currently opportunities to give presentations starting as soon as December, 2020. How the schedule may need to be further rearranged continues to be anybody's guess. Any suggestions you may have for programs – especially of a how-to nature – would be appreciated. Please email ([wah@waynehallphotography.com](mailto: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.

Please remember, 2020 marks the 25th anniversary of SVNP (October 26, to be precise - see **Betsy Moyer's** article, below). In lieu of the lost opportunity for our annual public exhibit at the Wayland Public Library it has been decided to dedicate the November online meeting to a retrospective image-sharing evening with a focus on the participation of former members. **Ed McGuirk** is doing yeoman service in assembling the presentation. There is an invitation open to any and all for any further suggestions of activities that might appropriately help celebrate the occasion.

## **The Evening's Presentation: Out of this World**

Our guest, **Marsha Wilcox**, gave a presentation entitled, "Out of this World - Photographs of the Heavens." The well-designed and information-packed program, which conveyed her enthusiasm for the subject, was organized around a succession of subjects, each more difficult to achieve than the last. From auroras (if you can find one), to Milky Way imaging, to deep sky objects, Marsha explained what equipment and resources are necessary and suggested how they might be used in the field. For instance, she employed the app *Photopills* to find a time when the possible positions for the camera would align with the Milky Way appearing over the Old North Bridge in Concord.

Marsha made the point that not all astrophotography involves high-powered lenses or telescopes. The aurora and Milky Way can be

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captured with many cameras using wide angle lenses. Many tutorials are available from the web. Marsha mentioned those to be found by National Parks at Night ([nationalparksatnight.com](http://nationalparksatnight.com)) as well as the workshops they offer.

When considering deep sky objects, on the other hand, things start to get complex and expensive. Available photons from these objects are scarce and thus, to wring the most out of the few that can be captured, it becomes necessary to increase the investment in gear, time and software. Marsha outlined the process and gear available to make it possible for competent cameras to capture some of these images. Where stacking images for capturing the Milky Way is desirable, it is downright mandatory for objects we normally can't see with the unaided eye. Software packages such as Deep Sky Stacker and PixInsight automate the process. Their mitigation of the tedium comes with a learning curve. Finally, for the truly dedicated, if one still can't get enough, one can hire time on telescopes via [slooh.com](http://slooh.com).

Marsha's presentation style is easy and easily understandable. She invites questions as they occur to listeners and immediately provides answers with a distinct lack of jargon. At the conclusion of the talk, after a spirited Q&A, the attendees were enthusiastic in their approval.

### Member Images

**Nicole Mordecai** showed several images that resulted from attending a night photography meetup on the Cape Cod. Also included were some images from a blue hour workshop. She ended with some examples of light painting done in Wellfleet.

**Terri Ackerman** brought three photos she had shown before now in newer versions and asked for the group's opinions. This initiated a lively exchange of ideas.

## **A Brief History of Sudbury Valley Nature Photographers**

October 26, 2020, will mark the 25th birthday of the Sudbury Valley Nature Photographers. Not much has changed in the philosophy of the group since those beginnings 25 years ago when 14 photographers met in the Raytheon Room of Wayland Public Library “to share informally our interest in and knowledge of photography.” We wanted no officers, no competitions, no dues, just a nurturing and sharing spirit of encouragement in which we might enjoy and improve our photographic abilities and our appreciation of nature.

The guiding spirit of SVNPN for many years was the well-known local photographer, Budd Titlow. It was Budd who actually founded the group, who led our meetings and took us on monthly field trips. Our field trips took us to almost every wildlife area of note in Massachusetts. We even made a trip to Utah to visit the national parks in that state. More recently groups have gone to Deer Isle, Maine, and to Zion National Park in Utah. In the early days we organized several lecture series, held in the Wayland Town Building, which were very informative and drew large audiences from surrounding communities

By 2001 our group had become so large we had to move our meetings from the Wayland Public Library to Traditions of Wayland, an assisted living facility with a very large and welcome meeting room. The management of Traditions installed picture molding in several of their halls, and this became an ideal location for a permanent rotating gallery for members’ prints.

We all started out as film photographers; there was no such thing as digital photography. We had discussions and presentations on various kinds of film, cameras, lenses, tripods, the best and cheapest places to get film processed. Around 2002, digital photography and digital cameras gained traction, and many of us switched gradually, sometimes painfully. That was about the time our good friend and mentor, Budd, moved to North Carolina. We gave him a big sendoff party, and Wayne Hall and I morphed into co-chairs of SVNPN.

The transition from film to digital photography has had a profound effect on photography as an industry, as a profession, and as a hobby. It has been a boon for the environment, since no chemicals are used in the processing of digital images; the computer is our darkroom. We in SVNPN have become in varying degrees familiar with and knowledgeable about various digital manipulation programs: Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Elements, Lightroom, to name probably the three most popular.

In the early days our monthly meetings typically consisted of a short technical presentation as well as a more lengthy program, given by SVNPN members, often of a location that boasted a particularly fine stand of lupines in the spring or great color in the fall. Guest photographers added their expertise. Our meetings have, since the beginning, ended in what we call "member sharing," in which members show examples of their work. Comments by other members have been limited pretty much to constructive observations or praise. Criticism generally has not been offered unless asked for.

In 2013 the group moved to Newbury Court, in Concord, where we still have our meetings. This was a major physical relocation. We lost some members who found the drive too long. At the same time we gained many new wonderful members.

Through the years SVNPN has maintained a relationship with the Sudbury Valley Trustees and with Riverfest, a yearly celebration organized by SUASCO, a group dedicated to the preservation of the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers. In 2008 we were awarded a River Steward Award for an exhibit we had presented at Traditions and for our continued support. And in 2015, SVNPN member Raj Das organized a traveling exhibit which went to the public libraries of many of the towns along the three rivers.

In 1999 Wayne Hall set up and still maintains a web site that contains much information about SVNPN, about future meetings, exhibits, newsletters, and shows several member images along with links to member websites. The link to that site is <http://svnp.homestead.com>. Wayne has taken over as chair of SVNPN.

<http://svnp.homestead.com>

We've had a newsletter ever since the beginning, with Hendrik Broekman now our current editor.

SVNP meetings now are held on the second Thursday of each month, beginning at 7:00 PM, in the Great Room of Newbury Court in Concord. New members and visitors are always welcome.

*Betsy Moyer*

## UPCOMING SVNP PROGRAMS

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Oct. 8  | Special Guest, Marsha Wilcox<br><i>Astrophotography–Out of this World</i> |
| Nov. 12 | An Online Celebration of SVNP's 25th<br>Anniversary                       |
| Dec. 10 | TBA   |

Please Note – We expect meetings to be held electronically, via the web, until such time as the membership feels safe in engaging in face-to-face gatherings.

# SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

## Group Exhibits

Ongoing/ On Hiatus	Newbury Court - Community Room, 80 Deaconess Road, Concord, MA rotating exhibit
Postponed	Wayland Public Library - Raytheon Room, 5 Concord Road, Wayland, MA
May-June 2021	Trinity Episcopal Church, 81 Elm St, Concord, MA; <i>25th Anniversary Exhibition</i>

## Individual Member Exhibits

SVNP members - please notify Wayne Hall ([wah@waynehallphotography.com](mailto: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 ( <a href="http://farnwr.org/gallery.html">http://farnwr.org/gallery.html</a> )
Ongoing	Betsy Moyer	Newbury Court Senior Living, Concord MA <i>Neighborhood Flowers</i> , 5th floor, south bldg
Ongoing	David Emerson	The Gallery at 51 Walden, Concord, MA, <i>Canals of Venice</i>
Nov-Dec	Terri Ackerman	Nashoba Brook Bakery, 152 Commonwealth, W. Concord, 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](mailto: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*



*Comet NEOWISE;  
photo, Hendrik Broekman*