

SVNP NEWSLETTER, OCTOBER, 2021

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 14, MEETING

As the meeting's numbers were building, those assembled shared their own reminiscences of time spent in New Mexico.

The plan to return to in-person meetings at Newbury Court, remains unfeasible. Wayne announced he would be sending a survey of the sentiment of the membership. This having been done and the results tabulated, any decision to move away from the Zoom platform will continue to be made on a month-by-month basis. In fact, there was substantial sentiment for devising a hybrid process that would allow in-person as well as electronic attendance. Any proposals for how to institute such a practice would be very welcome.

There are currently opportunities to give presentations starting as soon as December, 2021. 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.

At this writing, in a few days' time, the 25th Anniversary group show will be hung at the Wayland Public Library, not much past the 26th anniversary of the group. Ah, pandemic life...

The Evening's Presentation: Living in the New Mexico Bootheel

Karin McQuillan presented a narrative of images taken during the ten years in which she and her husband lived in the far southwest corner of New Mexico, known as the Bootheel. As Karin started to describe the area, it seemed ideal for pulling up roots and getting away from it all. If only. It's a sparsely populated county (1 person per square mile - Middlesex county has just shy of 2,000) that she and her husband prized for its people, landscapes, biodiversity and wonderful skies, especially at night. The wide open spaces also make it a desirable route for importers of illicit whatever, a circumstance which makes the area far more dangerous, especially after dark.

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Karin recounted incidents that don't make it into the 6 o'clock news programs but that finally persuaded them to relocate to Wyoming, well removed from the southern border.

Karin organized her presentation under five headings: Places, Plants, People, Critters and Sky. Places allowed her to show us the lay of the land. This is Basin and Range country so we were treated to mountain ranges, narrow canyons, broad valleys and the sort of light-on-the-land play we don't often see in our neck of the woods. Plants, poppies, and cactus among them, also helped establish local color. The animals ran a large gamut including insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Life finds a way. Karin's description of the people they came to know there was clearly full of love, admiration and gratitude for the warmth with which she and her husband were accepted into Bootheel citizenship. And the skies? Simply incredible. Seeing some of them was like having a Tony Hillerman sky come to life.

The group's reaction to Karin's presentation was enthusiastic, to put it mildly, and involved a lot of conversation after.

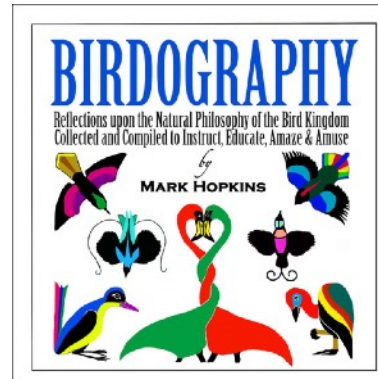
Member Images

Anne Umphrey showed images taken during a workshop held in midcoast Maine which continued her demonstration of the reasonableness of the iPhone as a serious camera. One in particular stood out - a night landscape showing ground-illuminated clouds and stars in a clear sky above.

Hendrik Broekman showed recent photographs taken around water: rain, pond and river. Critters included dragonflies, egret, swan, heron and sandpiper.

Member News

Mark Hopkins writes: “It occurs to me that the SVNP membership, with so many birders in its midst, might be interested in a new bird book I’ve just published. It’s called BIRDOGRAPHY, and you can read more about it at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and my new website: birdographythebook.com.



“We put it up on Amazon five weeks ago and it’s already gathered 10 five-star ratings. And sales are cookin’. It’s available at \$16.99 , and I’m donating all profits from those sales to worthy non-profits working in avian conservation and climate change.

Around the Web

Speaking of which... One of the dangers of browsing through the myriad photographers trying to eke out some eye time on YouTube is the chance of finding a destination that is so intensely fascinating that one’s own bucket list gets just so much longer. I had that reaction to a video presented by the fine Scottish photographer, Espen Helland, *Photographing Gannets on Bass Rock 150,000 BIRDS | Scottish Seabird Center*. I think I may subsequently have talked myself off that particular ledge, but, who knows? Perhaps not. Anyway, maybe you’ll decide that the video is just as good as being there.

<https://youtu.be/JIbb2X9APW4>

In my real life, I am involved with the historically informed performance of older music. This group, Tuba Skinny, qualifies. From what I can tell – having recently spent a good deal of time down this YouTube rabbit hole (one of my favorites) – the leader of the group is the cornettist, Shaye Cohn. She’s great, they’re all great. I find myself smiling all the way through, no exceptions. *Blue* (starts ~17:19) is exquisite.

<https://youtu.be/5nEYf5bCDoA>

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UPCOMING SVNPN PROGRAMS

November 11	Ed McGuirk	<i>Photographing Late Season</i>
		<i>Autumn in New England</i>
	Wayne Hall	<i>The Infinite Variety of Dahlias</i>

Please Note - Depending on the developing state of public resistance to the virus, SVNPN hopes to resume in-person meetings at Newbury Court as soon as safely possible. It is expected that the November meeting will again be held on the Zoom platform. Perhaps it will be possible to merge the two experiences.

SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

Group Exhibits

Ongoing/ On Hiatus	Newbury Court - Community Room, 80 Deaconess Road, Concord, MA rotating exhibit
Nov. 1-30, 2021	Wayland Public Library - Raytheon Room, 5 Concord Road, Wayland, MA
Postponed	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) 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, 5th floor, south bldg</i>

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. It should 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



*Late Harvest;
photo, Hendrik Broekman*