

# SVNP NEWSLETTER, OCTOBER, 2023

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 12 MEETING

There are currently opportunities to give presentations starting as soon as February, 2024. 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 of someone to recommend.

## **Evening Presentation - Wildlife Photography in Massachusetts**

We were privileged to host Steve Forman, who is one of the most prolific contributors to the *Nature Sightings* [page](#) of the Sudbury Valley Trustees website. His program, entitled *Finding and Photographing Wildlife (Mostly Birds)*, was presented in person at Newbury Court with no Zoom component.

Ten years ago, as he started to contemplate his long career in mechanical engineering winding down, Steve decided to enroll in photography classes at the Danforth Museum School. Over the intervening years he has shot ever more difficult subjects with a succession of ever more competent cameras.

Steve currently shoots with a pair of Canon R5 mirrorless cameras and, for wildlife, can mount some seriously long lenses. He mentioned using a 100-500mm zoom with a 1.4x teleconverter for handholding and a 400mm *f*/2.8 lens with a 2x teleconverter attached to a gimbal head for use with a mono- or tripod. The rest of his workflow is simple enough. He prefers shooting Jpeg in manual mode and his post-processing is pretty much limited to using Apple's Photos app on an iMac (desktop). He does use Topaz Sharpen AI and DeNoise AI when necessary, likewise Photoshop Elements for elementary pixel-by-pixel manipulation.

So much for photographing wildlife. That still leaves finding subjects. Steve offered a list of places he goes to photograph wildlife which includes twenty-four individual sites. While taking notes for this article, I had a hard time keeping up with the over 100 images shown and discussed. Nevertheless, I suspect that the list of sites we were given was constructed from the images shown and may be no

more than a faint approximation of every place Steve *has ever* shot in the area. Given that Steve prefers to engage in his image collection efforts during the middle of the day when wildlife can become relatively scarce, the locations he mentions must be very productive, indeed. Midday or not, he clearly gets out and about. He asserts that this is not work but fun. (I have appended a page to the end of this Newsletter with Steve's list of productive sites.)

A list of the species of birds Steve included in the presentation would be very long and I shall not attempt one. Needless to say, all the usual suspects were represented in healthy numbers as well as many species less usually encountered. Shore birds, water birds, song birds, raptors - you name it. If it appears regularly in the area, Steve probably showed at least one fine image of one. Reptiles, insects and mammals also made appearances.

Steve ended the talk with a short primer on shooting wildlife. He explained that the quick movements of wildlife, and of birds in particular, require fast shutter speeds. The two corollaries to fast shutter speed that help achieve good exposure are maximum aperture and auto iso. Throughout the talk, Steve was available to answer questions about gear or technique. The room was enthusiastic and appreciative about the presentation and let Steve know it.

### Member News

**Nicole Mordecai** has images in two juried shows in Lexington. Already running is a show at First Parish in Lexington (7 Harrington Road, Lexington, Ma - until Nov. 19). Next is a show at Lex Art (130 Waltham St., Lexington, Ma - Oct. 28 to Nov. 19). Also, Nicole will have three photos shown at the annual curated show given by the Newton Camera Club taking place (perhaps for the last time) at the West Newton Cinema (1296 Washington St, West Newton, Ma - Nov 4 to Jan 28). Nicole is also offering two classes at Lex Art. First is *An Introduction to Lightroom and Photoshop for Complete Beginners*.(online, Nov. 8; 10am - 12:30pm). This will be followed by a workshop on still life and abstract photography scheduled to use the LexArt Holiday

Marketplace as a source for objects to shoot (LexArt, 130 Waltham St. Lexington, Ma - Dec. 4; 10am - 12:30pm).

**Karin McQuillan** writes, "My iPhone photos of people, and interiors are fine. But, when I take pictures of outdoor scenes, they are not at all pleasing - hyped up, over clarified and over sharpened with untrue colors. Does anyone have tips on how to change settings for better results?"

### Around the Web

Kim Grant is a fine Scottish photographer who regularly publishes thoughtful videos I have admired. This one is devoted to a personal project she devised which involved walking, on four successive mornings, to the same spot nearby and photograph whatever came her way in whichever conditions were to be encountered. Of course, the idea appealed to me since the dog and I have only a small number of locations for our walks and we often find ourselves walking the same trails many days in a row. Spoiler alert - she discovers more variety than she expected. Harrumph, welcome to my world.

<https://youtu.be/HxZS0j5XKY8?si=IK3aQTtu9BigXheY>

On my Wolly walks I sometimes find myself considering the relevance of four-hand piano music to society's current condition. Perhaps you do, too. If so, you're in luck. Here are two videos showing two entirely different but equally admirable piano four-hand takes on popular music written in the last (20th) century. Each of these ensembles has a substantial, easily discoverable library of similar work, just sayin'.

*I'm Just Wild About Harry* (Eubie Blake) performed by Paolo Alderighi and Stephanie Trick. Creative pianism and refreshingly simple.

<https://youtu.be/9AAAbEkdXXzE?si=NGifWniUBtMn7Owf>



<http://www.svnpweb.com/>

*West Side Story Suite* (Leonard Bernstein) arranged and performed by Greg Anderson and Elizabeth Joy Roe. If you were not already aware that *Somewhere* ("There's a place for us...") bears more than a passing resemblance to the slow movement of the Beethoven *Emperor* concerto, you will be after listening to this. They pull out all the stops for their finale, *America*. Incredible keyboard choreography: simply listening to this performance would not be good enough, it must be seen for proper appreciation of their achievement.

<https://youtu.be/TZ14uHaGKak?si=dBH43-rMZiD3K3lr>

### Upcoming SVN Program

November 9	Member Images	Subject: <i>Fall Color, Now and Then</i> (Zoom only)
December 14	Mark Hopkins	<i>Walking the Thornveld at Hluhluwe-iMfolozi</i> (Newbury Court)
January 11, 2024	Phyllis Neufeld	<i>Images of Patagonia and Antarctica</i>
February 8		TBA

Please Note – All meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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/files/Directions_to_Newbury_Court_Great_Room.pdf)

<http://www.svnpweb.com/>

# SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

## Group Exhibits

November, 2023

Goodnow Library, 21 Concord Road, Sudbury, MA



2023 SVNP Annual Exhibit at the Goodnow Library, Sudbury, MA; photos, Hendrik Broekman

## 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> )

<http://www.svnpweb.com/>

### 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 SVNPNP 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*



*Alaskan Tree Beard;  
photo, Hendrik Broekman*

From: Steve Forman, Finding and Photographing Wildlife (mostly birds), presentation to Sudbury Valley Nature Photographers, 7:00pm, October 12, 2023 in the Great Room at Newbury Court.

### Places Where I Go to Photograph Wildlife

My backyard in Framingham

Farm Pond and Foss Reservoir in Framingham

Breakneck Hill and Sudbury Reservoir in Southboro

Hager's Pond in Marlboro

Grist Mill Pond in Sudbury

Bruce's Pond in Hudson

Big and Little Chauncy Ponds in Westboro and Bartlett Pond in Northboro

Great Meadow NWR in Concord

Parker River NWR in Newburyport

Belle Isle Marsh in E. Boston, Winthrop and Revere

Revere Beach and Pines River

Lynn Shore Drive Red Rocks Park and Nearby Nahant

Waseeka Wildlife Refuge, Hopkinton, Hopkinton State Park

Rockport and Gloucester

Leverett Pond, Hammond Pond and Jamaica Pond