

SVNP NEWSLETTER, NOVEMBER 2015

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2015 MEETING

Wayne called the meeting to order by first welcoming a new member, Solinka Molinero. Solinka has been concentrating on nature photography, especially birds in Great Meadows and elsewhere.

Garage accessibility for meetings

With security of the residents in mind, the garage will be open to arrivals only from 6:15 to 7:15pm. If you are in the habit of using the garage, please keep this in mind.

Call for Programs

We now have programs scheduled through March, 2016. Even so, any suggestions you may have for programs – especially of a how-to nature – would be appreciated. Please contact Wayne.

November Show – Nature Preserved

This year's exhibit is a collaboration with the Sudbury Valley Trustees and is entitled "Nature Preserved". Ten member photographers are showing 33 images created on either SVT properties (see www.svtweb.org for a list, maps, etc.) or on public conservation lands adjoining SVT properties.



Photo: Steve Gabeler

A very well attended "meet the artists" reception took place Sunday afternoon, Nov. 8. The Sudbury Valley Trustees provided

valuable assistance with publicity. Terri Ackerman, Barbara Peskin and Gabe Gabeler gave talks. Gabe's talk follows:

Nature Preserved - Land Protection and Photography

The preservation and protection of land is an aspect of American culture that I find most appealing. It has gone on for a long time and on many scales – the national, the state, and the community. Many organizations have been involved, both public and private. Sudbury Valley Trustees is our own private, community-focused organization active in this endeavor of preserving land through direct purchase and ownership as well as the purchase of conservation restrictions that prevent development into the future. They act alone as well as in partnership with other organizations such as town, state and federal governments which share in this cultural tradition. What distinguishes the scale of these properties is their size, the distance they are from where we live as individuals, how long it takes for us to get there, leading to how often we visit.

The practice of photography is one of the best ways I know of learning to see – at all scales, from the grand to the intimate and very small. Walking for most of us has significant benefits for both body and soul – especially on trails in these protected landscapes. Art has also played an important cultural role in land protection. Carleton Watkins' 18x22 inch wet plate photographs of Yosemite played a key role in convincing Congress to pass a bill declaring the valley "inviolable" signed by Lincoln in 1864. This was the roadmap for the American National Park system, which, in turn, influenced the rest of the world. Thomas Moran's watercolors played the same role in establishing Yellowstone in 1916. Art has many times given a voice to the land speaking to those who have not seen it. Eliot Porter's "Intimate Landscapes" taught me to see at smaller scales when I was starting in photography as well as give voice to places that have been lost such as Glen Canyon.

One of the things that SVT focuses on is the connection of contiguous parcels that is so important to the other species, beside

our selves, that benefit from land preservation. The age and maturity of land is often key to the habitat needs of the wildlife we love to witness – both plant and animal. These are by no means “Grand” parcels and their landscapes are on a more personal scale and are frequently transient singularities lasting only briefly in a small space. It takes practice and frequent visits to see and bear witness to these things. The photograph first benefits the photographer and then perhaps travels through time and space to another and speaks.

Exploring the world is an instinct that most, if not all, of us share. We tend to value new places where we often see more attentively, especially if we have worked at a practice of seeing such as photography. The multitude and diversity of SVT properties provide us with many opportunities for this newness and their trail maps are our guides.

Steve Gabeler (Gabe)

“See how willingly Nature poses herself upon photographers’ plates. No earthly chemicals are so sensitive as those of the human soul” --- John Muir

Newbury Court Display Space

There is yet more space available on the walls of the Community Room, our present gallery space. For those who have not yet visited Newbury Court, Wayne has placed two images of a portion of the space up on the SVNP website (click on Upcoming Programs). The project to produce a self-guiding tour of the display in the Community Room has, according to Betsy, come to limited fruition in the form of “a carry-around list available on the piano”. Should you have any suggestions or questions, please get in touch with Betsy (978-369-1261 or bmga@aol.com).

Seen around the Web

Mark Hopkins suggested this item: "A friend just sent me this and I thought you might want to consider publishing the link in an upcoming newsletter. Pretty impressive seeing what one can do with a 2100 MP camera!" Think about that for a moment – that would represent a "normal" camera times 100! I'm not sure such an item exists but 216 (!) photos taken over a span of about 15 minutes stitched together can get you there. If you do click through, be certain to zoom in to your heart's content. You can mingle in a crowd but apparently you can't hide... Anybody see Waldo?

<http://www.gigapixel.com/mobile/?id=79995>

But then there is news of a 46 GP astrophotograph. More! Bigger! Better! They proved they could but should they have?

<http://petapixel.com/2015/10/23/astronomers-unveil-a-46-gigapixel-photo-of-the-milky-way-that-took-5-years-to-make/#more-187880>

I would like to mention one of the more instructive and enjoyable 83 minutes I have spent watching in quite a while: Essentials of Creative Composition in Landscape Photography, a presentation (through B&H) by Robert Rodriguez, Jr. Great photographs, clear speaker, cogent thoughts, who could want more. Example: in a throwaway line he likens identifying the subject you would like to feature as "the first sentence in your story." Another: discussing how, when photographing at the same spot one might, luckily or otherwise, encounter different conditions at different times, he explains that the adaptive course is to use "composition to take advantage of the luck." He makes copious analogies to music, which should be of interest to many of our members. Mr. Rodriguez pulls together all the threads in the last minutes, which are given to an illustrated self-critique of three images showing the elements of composition and the intentions behind their use. Think football play diagrams for photos.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oraLIpiIVzo>

<http://svnp.homestead.com>

And, finally, there's this little ad for the new Canon printer. It turns out to be only tangentially about the printer itself but directly addresses different styles of print viewing. No football team could ever run these plays!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ic3suBJDsVw>

Member News

Sue Abrahamsen and Bob Cooke report they will each be showing images in December at Nancy's Airfield Cafe in Stowe, MA.

Steve (Gabe) Gabeler has two pieces in the Landscape Show at the Post Road Art Center in Marlborough on Rte. 20.

The Evening's Presentations

Charlie Lowell presented a short slide show that provided a how-to for creating faux frames in Photoshop. This is a way to quickly emulate the double matting of a photograph with variously colored boards possessing contrasting cores. Yours truly has tested the procedure and it is quite reproducible – give it a try. The handout Charlie provided to those attending may be found here:

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

Mark Hopkins discussed his approach to photography. Part photographic reminiscence, part philosophic ramble, Mark showed the company many instances of his talent for noticing “the little things” that display great beauty but largely go unnoticed. This sensibility transfers even to his wildlife photography in which, say, he is concerned not so much with details of the bird's feathers but, rather, with the bird itself as a detail to be appreciated within the environment. After a comprehensive discussion of the several categories he finds himself shooting in, Mark took up the subject of the manipulation of photos for the purposes of communication

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versus the generally much stricter tenets of photojournalism. He drew the curtain aside and showed some examples from his photos of exquisite afters and their less promising before.

Now, with his trusty Lumix point-and-shoot, Mark keeps delving into some of the more beautiful unnoticed corners of our environment. Good eye!

Mark's website will give those who missed the presentation a better idea of its depth and breadth. It may be found at:

<http://www.markhopkinsphotoart.com>

Member Images

Katherine O'Hara showed a series of before and after images shot at the Wayside Inn. Katharine uses Lightroom to process her photos and, when she needs them, gets impressive results. Her last image, taken on the Assabet River, needed no such help.

Anne Umphrey offered several photos taken in the Dakotas on a Road Scholar photography trip. I expect her images of the badlands, a bison roundup and bighorn sheep, whetted more than a few appetites for equivalent adventure.

Barbara Peskin showed the images that make up her newly produced 2016 desk calendar of seasonal bird photographs from Snowy Owl (Jan.) to winter Chickadee (Dec.). A very neat package, indeed.

Bob Cooke, who also had several large prints displayed in the hall, offered several rock form images from a trip to Lake Powell via Lens on the Lake run by Gary Ladd. The surfaces were as convoluted as the whorls they revealed which were as haphazard as the fracturing and slipping of the rock to be seen.

Sue Abrahamsen showed wildlife images from a recent trip to Brazil including two of jaguar. This might be a teaser for the February program.

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Hendrik Broekman offered a series of images of fall colors, 2015.

Carol Walsh showed photographs taken in New Hampshire around the Sandwich Fair. The concluding series of images of leaves floating in a watering trough provoked a lot of positive comment.

Charlie Lowell displayed "matted" photographs in support of his talk.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SVNPN PROGRAMS

Dec. 10, 2015	Bob Diefenbacher will share images from two photo trips (to the Galapagos and to Arches and Canyonlands in Utah) as well as discuss his reasons for migrating from DSLR to mirrorless
Jan. 14, 2016	Hendrik Broekman; Photoshop for Nature Photographers - Beyond Simple
Feb. 11, 2016	Sue Abrahamsen & Bob Cooke; Jaguars & Wildlife of Brazil's Pantanal
Mar. 10, 2016	Art Phipps; In Africa among the Masai (Tent.)

Please Note - All meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, at 7:00 pm, at the following location:

Community Room
Newbury Court
80 Deaconess Road
Concord, MA

Directions may be found at the link immediately below

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

<http://svnp.homestead.com>

With security of the residents of Newbury Court in mind, the garage will only be open to entry from 6:15 to 7:15pm. Exit is always enabled.

SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

Group exhibits

- Ongoing Newbury Court - Community Room, 80
Deaconess Road, Concord, MA
rotating exhibit
- November 1-30 “Nature Preserved” - Raytheon Room,
Wayland Public Library, Wayland, MA - a
collaborative effort with the Sudbury Valley
Trustees
Reception Sunday, Nov. 8, 2:30-4:40pm

Traveling Exhibit sponsored by the River Stewardship Council

- Oct. - Dec. 2015 Carlisle, Gleason Library

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)
Sept.-Dec.	Terri Ackerman	Reasons to be Cheerful, Commonwealth Ave. W. Concord,
Oct.-Nov.	Mark Hopkins	"Creatures", Acton Senior Center, 50 Audubon Drive, Acton, MA
Dec.	Barbara Peskin	Lincoln Public Library, Lincoln, MA
Dec.	Sue Abrahamsen & Bob Cooke	"Brazil", Nancy's Airfield Cafe, Stowe, MA
Jan.-Feb., '16	Barbara Peskin	Bemis Hall, Lincoln, MA

An Invitation from your Editor

As you may have noticed, these newsletters have displayed a tendency to get longer. 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 (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 we could accommodate 2 images 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 to 750 px 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.



Photo, Hendrik Broekman

Hendrik Broekman