

SVNP NEWSLETTER, NOVEMBER, 2023

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 9 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 - Member Images Night

Jean Fain showed pictures from around our end of Massachusetts. Her fine opening image was of an egret in flight in the mid ground set against a dark green screen of trees largely in shadow. Autumn was displayed in the foreground in the guise of marsh grasses gone gold. This was followed by a photo of a perched Red-tail Hawk looking over its shoulder as well as a shot (from a kayak) of a Great Blue Heron flying along the Sudbury River. An image of three horses grazing in Concord elicited a good deal of admiring comment. After a picture of a single fallen maple leaf floating in the Mystic River, Jean showed a photo of a fellow engaged in scallop fishing in Cape Cod waters. This last also caused a good deal of conversation.

Per usual, **Carol Walsh** has been traveling, this time starting on the west coast. While she was in Portland, OR, the weather turned gray and wet. Nevertheless, Carol went photographing some of the more florid displays of fall colors. These included several shots of Threadleaf Japanese Maple as well as some of fallen leaves on nicely cut grass. A photograph of four trees in gold autumn livery in front of a gymnasium provoked discussion particularly concerning squiggly shadows being cast (perhaps by vines trained up the walls) on the gymnasium surface by the raking light.

Hendrik Broekman showed images shot in Wayland, MA, in the past month. From the Cow Common there were a landscape of milkweed, dry grass and fall colors in sunlight in front of a threatening sky, a Royal Fern turning brown from the edges in and a sequence of three images showing an altercation between bluebirds at a bird box. From the Sudbury River there were photographs of an

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American Coot and a swimming beaver, both shot in dim conditions (late afternoon cloud cover) necessitating extreme high ISO (25,600) and heroic measures at the computer afterwards. The shot of the coot demonstrated a clear superiority (especially in color retention) at high ISO of the AI Denoise offered in the Details panel of Lightroom and Adobe Camera Raw over Topaz Denoise AI. Finally, a photo shot in full late afternoon sun of a kayak in a side stream of the Sudbury.

Karin McQuillan followed the assignment and offered several fine images of the Oxbow in Grand Teton National Park shot during fall colors season through the years. By the calendar, the month and day of the photos ranged only from 9/29 to 10/5 but the conditions in the particular years could not have been much more different - the trees ranged from peak color to completely bare. The final two images were shot in Karin's back yard, complete with elk.

Wayne Hall also showed a series devoted to a particular subject, in this case the ginkgo tree he and his wife planted on their property in Sudbury over forty years ago. Wayne inverted Karin's approach and showed his tree through the years at a selected stage (if possible) rather than a fixed time. The first and fifth images, dated 10/03/20 and 10/28/2017 (right), showed leaves at peak fall color. The second image, taken 10/19/15, showed leaves on the ground displaying only the first signs of turning. And so it went. One pair was shot in 2011 (on the 28th and 30th, respectively) and suggested some of the perils of staying on the tree too long. In the first, the leaves had hardly started to turn. In the intervening day the leaves' color change had not appreciably progressed but the weather had dealt a hand of wet, slushy snow. The final image was shot a day or two



Ginkgo turning color, 2017; photo, Wayne Arthur Hall

before this meeting (11/08/23) and showed leaves simply giving up and drying out on the branch. Wayne suggested we take this wide variation as an example of the vicissitudes of nature.

Nicole Mordecai had spent a good deal of this year's fall colors in Bavaria. She started by showing a baroque palace ([Schloss Linderhof](#)) sited, along with formal gardens and impressive water features, within a large park dotted with numerous individual trees, all nestled under commanding cliffs. The colors had just started to turn so Nicole helped them along. She followed this with two photos, taken from her Munich hotel, of a rooftop garden complete with lawn and sheep. The group had fun dealing with the cognitive dissonance. Finally, two iPhone pictures of the sun taken from the airplane on the journey home. The first photo showed a 22-degree Corona around the sun. The second featured broken clouds and a prominent [sun pillar](#). When Nicole followed by showing the original, it became evident that she had added drama and intensity quite effectively.

The balance of the meeting was devoted to discussing Karin McQuillan's query (see the October Newsletter) regarding strategies for maximizing image quality of iPhone images. The consensus for the modern versions of iPhone seems to have been to shoot in Apple Pro Raw. Always trade-offs, no matter the gear!



Member News

Nicole Mordecai has three photos in 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 a workshop on still life and abstract photography scheduled to use the LexArt Holiday Marketplace (on its last day) as a source for objects to shoot (LexArt, 130 Waltham St. Lexington, Ma - Dec. 4; 10am - 12:30pm).

Around the Web

With the fall season half way to the solstice, not to mention the recent time change, we will once again be spending a lot of time indoors. I came across this autumn-themed tutorial for photographing a colorful leaf away from its natural habitat and found myself fascinated by the techniques used, both in shooting and processing. We don't all have so well-equipped a studio but, with a little bit of ingenuity, it should be possible to mimic the results, even if not the exact recipe.

<https://youtu.be/uCckFtD2mLo?si=-nteViHAYr7CjG1Z>

Speaking both of ingenuity and those with only limited gear at hand, this interesting video shows four one-light photos taken by four different photographers with simple, improvised setups.

https://youtu.be/Vwqb_jze88E?si=OBPqFRTkztHOCjki

As a Lightroom user (since Version 1), I have no qualms in recommending any video by Julieanne Kost. She has not only spent years as an Adobe Evangelist, interacting with both the development team and the user base, but is a gifted photographer, as well. This short (4:26) video stands as a basic introduction to Lightroom best practice when dealing with exposure adjustments.

<https://youtu.be/39xbxN6vXm0?si=bjl7nZsDkZZTJmyD>

UPCOMING SVNPN PROGRAMS

December 14	Mark Hopkins	<i>Walking the Thornveld at Hluhluwe-iMfolozi (Newbury Court)</i>
January 11, 2024	Phyllis Neufeld	<i>Images of Patagonia and Antarctica</i>
February 8		TBA

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



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

SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

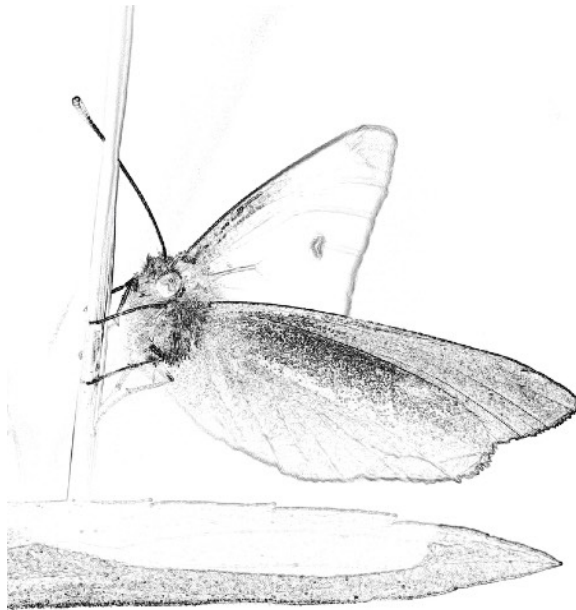
Group Exhibits

November, 2023 Goodnow Library, 21 Concord Road, Sudbury,
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)



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 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*

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!