

# SVNP NEWSLETTER, DECEMBER, 2023

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 14 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 - Mark Hopkins

In 2004, as an Earthwatch volunteer, Mark Hopkins participated in the biennial herbivore census at the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi game reserve in South Africa, established at the end of the nineteenth century and now designated a park. The reserve is noted for its contributions to the conservation of the southern white rhinoceros. The growth of this population from around 100 animals worldwide at one point early in the twentieth century to around 20,000 in the wild in 2015 speaks to the success of the project. The park aims to maintain a population of about 1000 white rhinos (this works out to an average of about 3 animals per square mile) and it is to this purpose, as well as the general management of resources for all animals in the park, that censuses are performed.



*Southern White Rhinoceros aka Square-Lipped; photo, Mark Hopkins*

Mark's well-prepared, well-organized presentation explained some of the history and concerns relating to the park and its general area as well as its resident species. The list is long and fairly representative of sub-equatorial African fauna. The populations of each species are managed for density and relative abundance by a

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

system of auctions, a system that involves trading among and between parks and preserves. Some of the smaller, more abundant species might end up as bush meat but the large herbivores are conserved.



*Giraffes; photo, Mark Hopkins*

The census was accomplished by a process known as distance sampling. This translated into a series of early morning walks (average length just under 5 miles) over several weeks, each walk accompanied by an armed park ranger, counting animals. Each encounter was coded for observer's position, distance

and direction to the animals, species and number of individuals. Afterwards, each volunteer was responsible for entering the data he or she had gathered into a general database that the scientific investigators could use to calculate a close estimate of the population.

On their time off, the volunteers were able to see and photograph sights in the park and its surrounds. One trip was to the St. Lucia estuary, which feeds into the Indian Ocean. This excursion afforded an occasion to see hippopotamuses. His immersion in these activities allowed Mark to photograph a wide variety of the local wildlife. Over the weeks, the volunteers had many opportunities to learn from and about the Zulu park staff. Mark was particularly enthusiastic about a show of Zulu dancing, given as an appreciation for the volunteers' assistance, performed by an energetic troupe of young adults. Mark's appreciation of this and the experience as a whole shone throughout the whole presentation.

## Member Images

**Jean Fain** offered several photographs, all taken locally with her newly acquired gear. She has based her setup on a Canon R6 mark II body. The first image shown was of a coyote (seen right), caught alerting to something on its left. There were also photographs of one, two and three deer, some of which were taken at Concord's Willow Guzzle Reservation (ain't English fine?!). Another showed a juvenile swan flexing its wings and rearing from the water. More domestic critters shown were a pair of squirrels as well as one of a sheep.



*Coyote; photo Jean Fain*



*Puffins on Grimsey Island;  
photo, Anne Umphrey*

**Anne Umphrey's** fascination with Iceland continues undiminished. She started by showing images taken on Grimsey Island, part of which is the only bit of Iceland to lie north of the Arctic Circle. She had several pix of Puffins to display. There were also one each of a Barred-Tail Godwit and a Golden Plover. This Plover is cherished in Iceland where its arrival is taken as the first sign of Spring. Anne finished her

group with images taken in the highlands of the main island. The dark conditions and lack of vegetation of the first conveyed desolation but the second was a good deal cheerier - a ground-hugging rainbow.

**Hendrik Broekman** showed recent images taken during this year's autumn. Two photos were of beech leaves in their fall colors. Three were taken on the Sudbury River during golden hour showing fall colors & sunset. Critters represented were a meadowlark and a red-tail hawk in flight

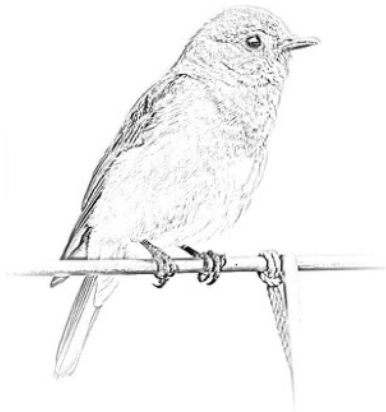
### Around the Web

Wayne recommends having a gander at Mass Audubon's 2023 photo contest winners. I concur.

<https://www.massaudubon.org/programs-events/photo-contest>

I came across a video by the British photographer James Popsys titled *The Exposure Myth in Photography*. In it, he takes a somewhat contrarian view to the notion that there is an accepted norm for exposure that needs to be observed. It's a shortish instructional rant (9:49) that boils down to (spoiler alert) *Art can trump technical correctness and you do you*.

<https://youtu.be/hH9VBrx3rnY?si=VjL1laeXPew-vukf>



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

## UPCOMING SVNPN PROGRAMS

January 11, 2024   Phyllis Neufeld   *Images of Patagonia and Antarctica*

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)



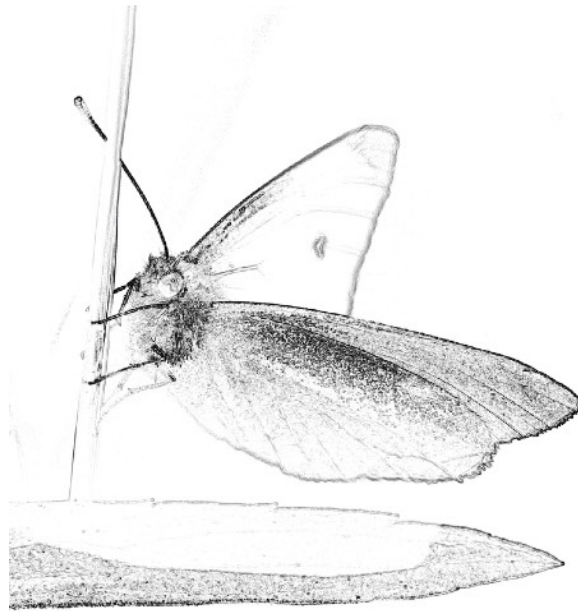
# SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

## Group Exhibits

### 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> )



### 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*



*I Love a Parade;  
photo, Hendrik Broekman*