

SVNP NEWSLETTER, APRIL, 2024

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE APRIL 11 MEETING

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

This meeting was held exclusively on the Zoom platform.

The Evening's Presentation - Ed McGuirk

Ed McGuirk titled his presentation *Nature's First Green is Gold*, the first line of a short poem by Robert Frost (see the end of this article). The presentation itself was a paean to the several photographic possibilities that this change of season briefly provides before “leaf subsides to leaf”. Ed suggests splitting spring into early, middle and late stages. Such classification can be based on color alone but also on density of foliage. Ed pointed out that in early spring one can still exploit the still-visible structure of the tree for affective purposes – an opportunity that will largely disappear no more than a few weeks later.

In spring's middle stage foliage begins to dominate and the possibility exists for finding scenes whose colors rival the variety if not the intensity of those of fall. Much of this profusion has to do with trees' inflorescence but a large part is due to a shortage of chlorophyll in the newly unfurling leaves.

Late spring can be characterized by the general greening of the tree canopy as it leafs out and obscures the parent structure. The understory also becomes more active. Ferns and wildflowers come on stage and invite scrutiny at a much closer scale than trees allow. The Frost quote comes in mind with the progression of much foliage from an early greenish yellow to the more marked dark greens of summer. Even so, throughout the summer, our post-processing software will classify as yellow many of the colors we consider to be green. This profusion and confusion of green and yellow is strongest in late spring. Ed particularly appreciates the opportunity to

combine soft spring colors with waterfalls, which are at their peak flow in this season.

Ed then launched into a quick, useful primer on woodland photography. The skinny is to make every effort to simplify compositions, to de-emphasize clutter and chaos and to make the attempt to introduce a sense of depth. Ed suggested several strategies. One is to get close, either by proximity or by using a long lens. Another is to shoot in heavily diffused light, thus avoiding the distracting effects of excess contrast. Further suggestions included shooting along forest edges, shooting down on the canopy from overlooks, and composing with small groups of trees and fog (natch).

As a bonus, Ed included a discussion of using post-processing software to manipulate the colors for greater definition. In Lightroom this involves successive corrections, first of color temperature and vibrance in the Basic panel, then channel-level saturation in the Camera Calibration panel and, further, manipulations of yellow and green (neighbors on the color wheel) in the Color Mixer panel with the aim of introducing more differentiation between them.

The attendees were unanimous in their praise and appreciation of Ed's efforts. As with his images, the program was compactly organized and beautifully composed, with no background clutter. The group's enthusiasm was well earned!

Nothing Gold Can Stay
Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.

Robert Frost, "Nothing Gold Can Stay" from New Hampshire: A Poem with Notes and Grace Notes. New York: Henry Holt and Co., 1923. Public Domain.

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

Member Images

Even though Zoom managed to toss a few monkey wrenches into the proceedings, there was some sharing of member images. For instance, **Jean Fain** made multiple attempts to share but Zoom stymied her attempt. We got a glimpse of a fine image of a snail kite launching but, sadly, nothing else.

Phyllis Neufeld started with three images of a peregrine falcon directly facing the camera and taking a bath in a puddle. Their effectiveness had a great deal to do with how close to the ground the camera was. She followed this with a red-bellied woodpecker looking out of its nest hole. The final image was of a peregrine falcon launching.

Barbara Peskin lead her selection with four squirrel images. For the first, a squirrel on the ground with its paw picturesquely placed on a rock as if a podium, she shared a further edit aimed at removing distracting objects. A pair of images of a squirrel shed some light on how they climb trees. The next was of a peregrine falcon perched on some rocks, throwing a quizzical (anthropomorphism alert!) look in the general direction of the camera. The last image was of her dog in full career towards the camera.

Anne Umphrey traveled to St. Albans VT to view the April 8 total solar eclipse. The period of totality there was around three and one half minutes. The images shown, taken on the iPhone, stood as a record of the general ambience at the point of totality - darkness surrounded by daylight - and gave a sense of the eeriness of the experience. One in particular stood out as a nearly impossible photograph in normal circumstances - a complete 22° halo in a layer of cirrus clouds cast by the fully eclipsed sun.

Hendrik Broekman travelled to Wendell, MA to see friends and view the partial solar eclipse. He showed one image of the peak coverage of the sun.

Upcoming SVNPN Programs

May 9-N*	Ron McAdow	<i>Concord Wetland Wildlife – Close Looks at the Animals of Thoreau’s Favorite Swamp</i>
June 13	TBD	
July 11	Phyllis Neufeld	<i>Images of Patagonia</i>

*N=Live at Newbury Court Only; Z=Zoom Only; H=Hybrid

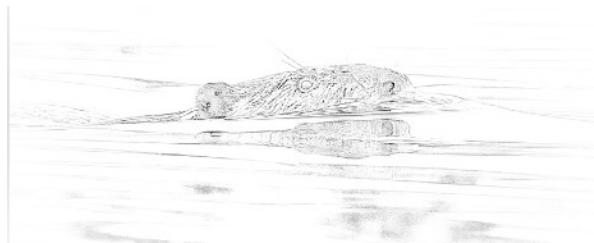
Please Note – All meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, at 7:00 pm, either via Zoom or at our location (or both):

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 no less than 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



SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

Group Exhibits

December, 2024 Goodnow Library, 21 Concord Rd., 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)
July, 2024	Barbara Peskin	Weston Public Library



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. 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



*New England Spring Colors;
photo, Hendrik Broekman*