

# SVNP NEWSLETTER, MAY, 2024

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE MAY 9 MEETING

Wayne mentioned in opening that Betsy Moyer is convalescing from a fall. I'm certain every member of the group joins in wishing her a speedy recovery.

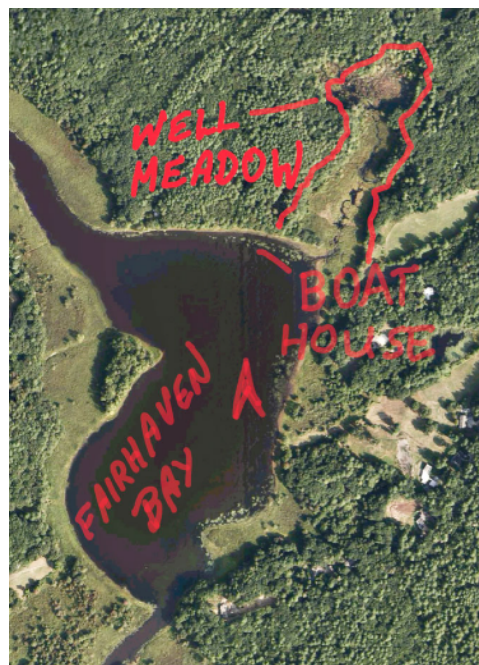
There are currently opportunities to give presentations starting as soon as September, 2024. As usual, any suggestions you may have for programs - especially of a how-to nature - would be appreciated. Please email (wah@waynehallphotography.com) or call (978-443-9226) Wayne if you are willing to give a presentation yourself or if you know of someone to recommend.

This meeting was held in person at Newbury Court.

## The Evening's Presentation - Ron McAdow

Our guest presenter, **Ron McAdow**, served for many years as the Executive Director of the Sudbury Valley Trustees. This is only one of his many accomplishments. Around the turn of the millennium, curious, and as a committed steward of his adopted Massachusetts and its wildlife, he entered the ranks of (film) trail camera users. Tonight's talk, *Concord Wetland Wildlife: Close Looks at the Animals of Thoreau's Favorite Swamp*, is one of many fruits of his efforts.

Ron organized his talk as the chronicle of a calendar year at Well Meadow. There is a spring-fed brook running down the middle of the wetland. The brook runs all year and empties into Fairhaven Bay. For many years Ron has maintained a hobby of setting self-triggering trail cameras to capture images of wildlife uninhibited by human presence. Of the three beaver dams in Well Meadow, Ron trained his trail camera at one of the ends of that dam situated furthest from the outflow into the river. This vantage point is well chosen to allow



views of both land and water. It also happily capitalizes on the dam's subsidiary functions both as a dry crossing of the brook as well as a haul-out for less water-averse sorts, such as river otters. This camera collected videos of a wide array of animals (largely mammals) at all times of day, primarily at night. The clips that Ron chose to show were fascinating on their own but really benefitted from his informative narration, given live. Some of the species represented included fox, coyote, raccoon, deer, river otter, fisher, beaver and a couple of clips of a bobcat. One extended clip of otters roistering was given a jazz score by Jonathan Klein.

The videos were fascinating, but Ron's stated subject was, after all, Well Meadow. Ron took care to represent, with fine stills, species that inhabit this wetland but which failed to trigger the trail camera. We were treated to a virtual who's-who of the swamp, both flora and fauna. Throughout, the presentation flowed easily, demonstrating Ron's broad command of his subject.

After the presentation proper, Ron was more than happy to share tips for those curious about trail cameras and their pitfalls. Rather than endure the added difficulty of finding the perfect spot on the perfect tree, he prefers to set up the camera on a tripod low to the ground and risk the hazard of having the camera dumped by curious wildlife (it has happened) or stolen. The cameras are relatively inexpensive to replace and he considers this is a good use for all the surplus tripods that typically result from not buying the more expensive, better tripod first. Ron also prefers using so-called No Glow cameras. Even so, some animals (the otters particularly) seemed to notice the camera reliably.

Examples of Ron's trail camera work are linked below. I have found videos of his both on Vimeo and YouTube.

<https://www.svtweb.org/news/nature-sightings/bobcat-concord>

<https://www.svtweb.org/news/nature-sightings/otters-concord>

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

## Member News

**Bob Cooke** writes that he is engaged in a project to put together “a program of ‘long-term displays’ of our members' prints at a newly remodeled cafe in the middle of the Town of Stow.

“I've already received permission to do so, and will have maybe 20 or so large, framed prints a-hanging on the walls inside. I won the owner's permission just yesterday, and I'll be arranging month-long exhibits once I've got all the details sorted out. Too, I plan to alternate our displays of nicely framed photos with photo-members of the Assabet Valley camera club, of which I'm also a member. Others? I don't know yet.

“My plan is to invite all of our members (either solo or in groups) to mount personal, month-long exhibits in the small cafe. Details yet to be arranged, but the owner said "yes."

“To make these exhibits suitable, I'll plan for month-long shows, maybe with one-day gatherings for bragging. We'll see.

“I hope our club members will want to participate.”

**Sherry Fendell** has published a collection of her pieces titled *Finley's Adventures: 98 Good Times in New England and Beyond with a Faithful Companion*. It may be found at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

## Around the Web

Browsing YouTube in preparation for the evening's presentation, I came across these videos (5' 17"; 2' 01"; 2' 10") of what seems to be the same Great Blue Heron juvenile (note the teensy patch of white on the top of the head) dealing with three large catches. Warning: it's pretty brutal for the fishes. Shot in Rhode Island, there are plenty more posted by the creator, Elise Torello.

<https://youtu.be/CTbwKHYQvE?si=dET5cpQhMbxwLxM>

[https://youtu.be/B3LMIMTdUY4?si=I\\_2A48NjDhQjezz6](https://youtu.be/B3LMIMTdUY4?si=I_2A48NjDhQjezz6)

<https://youtu.be/mKp0tEbAKaA?si=a4QChO114ujS6cYf>

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

Now, just in case you find yourself in New Mexico with nothing to do, this short (7' 43") video by Todd Dominey might serve as a useful primer for engaging in landscape photography at White Sands NP. Conceivably, this could also be useful, however tangentially, for other fields of dunes or deserted beaches.

<https://youtu.be/L7E0JaYBmyM?si=blUexSNiKPnIo2am>

Last month's post-program image sharing was marred by Zoom's intransigence about allowing member Jean Fain to display her catch. The first, quite handsome image, which Jean identified as a snail kite launching, displayed only briefly. Intrigued, I looked up the bird, as I was unfamiliar with the species. No surprise - its range does not extend beyond south Florida. This interesting video (*This Bird Is Evolving Right in Front of Us*; 2' 46") was one of the results I was offered.

[https://youtu.be/cCBut3BAsCU?si=9OX\\_2CRW9ORyPrT](https://youtu.be/cCBut3BAsCU?si=9OX_2CRW9ORyPrT)



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

### Upcoming SVNPN Programs

June 13	Barbara Peskin	<i>TBA</i>
July 11	Phyllis Neufeld	<i>Images of Patagonia</i>
August 8		<i>Semi-annual Member Images Night (tentative)</i>

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

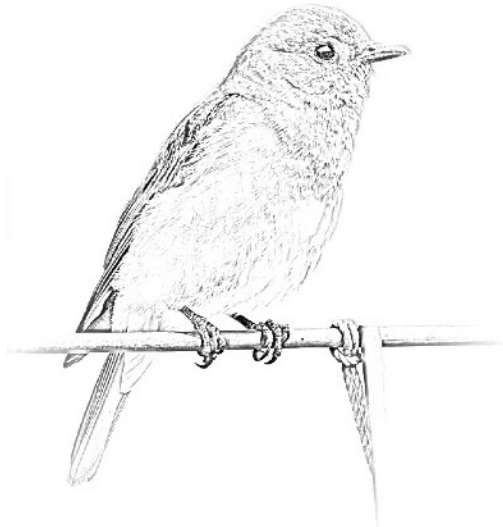
Please Note - All meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, at 7:00 pm, either via Zoom or at our location (or both):

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 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](http://svnp.homestead.com/files/Directions_to_Newbury_Court_Great_Room.pdf)



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



# SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

## Group Exhibits

December, 2024	Goodnow Library, 21 Concord Rd., Sudbury MA
January, 2025	Betty Meyer Gallery, United Parish of Auburndale, 64 Hancock St., Auburndale(Newton), MA (Continuation of the show immediately above)

## 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> )
July, 2024	Barbara Peskin	Weston Public Library
May, June, 2024	Nicole Mordecai	FOCUS Real Estate, 43 Lincoln St. Newton, MA (business hours)



<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 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*