

SVNP NEWSLETTER, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER, 2024

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 8 & SEPTEMBER 12 MEETINGS

There are currently opportunities to give presentations starting as soon as January, 2025. 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.

There was some advance discussion of the upcoming group show in Sudbury and, immediately after in Auburndale (see Calendar), which, it has since been determined will be open-themed.

Both these meetings were held on the Zoom platform.

Member Images Night - From the Capes

The August 8 meeting attendance was low, perhaps due to extensive summer travel by our membership or possibly by beautiful weather. We can only hope to reap the rewards of the absences later in the form of wonderful images taken during the summer.

Hendrik Broekman showed several images from a July 2024 trip to Iceland. These images were all taken during a short bus tour that also served as transport to the airport for the flight home. The region covered was the Reykjanes Peninsula. (The Icelandic suffix *nes* means cape or peninsula.) The preferred cameras were already packed for travel, so the iPhone had to step into the breach. Subjects included a thermal vent, a sea stack and life colonizing a coastal plain comprised of broken lava. The progress of each image from original to final was demonstrated by marching up the History panel in Lightroom. The last image, one of Iceland's few black churches (situated in Hvalsnes - Whale Cape), demonstrated blending several exposures together in order to remove several fellow tourists from the composition in Photoshop.

Phyllis Neufeld displayed images taken at our local cape of major renown, Cape Cod. The subject of the first two was a juvenile osprey in the act of learning to fly. Using Luminar, Phyllis was able to remove the bird's nest mates. The following three images were of a parent tern bringing food to a chick (on approach to landing,

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approaching the chick on foot, and feeding the chick). Here, the issue was twofold. The light was poor which resulted in elevated levels of noise. To compound matters, the raw output from Phyllis' new camera (Panasonic Lumix G9 Mark II) was not yet supported by Luminar, thus jpgs were the only resource. The distance to the action exacerbated the noise problem by forcing crops, thus potentially making the noise more evident. At least over Zoom, it seemed that Phyllis was able to come to a satisfactory result. This led to a short group discussion of raw vs. jpg in several aspects.

Nicole Mordecai also spends time on Cape Cod. Her first three images also involved osprey as subjects. The first was of an adult in flight clutching some hapless victim in its talons. The second was a juvenile screaming on a post with its wings flexed partially out. The third was a blend of two images shot during an episode of two crows harassing an osprey. Of course it would work out that the crows and the osprey each had their more picturesque positions in different frames. Photoshop to the rescue. Next on offer was a lovely macro of a geranium blossom decked with water droplets. The last image, taken at day's end, was of a still pool on a rippled mud flat, the dying colors of the day reflected in the water. This relied for its effect on the close approach of the camera to the surface of the mud which, with its nicely modeled wave pattern, dominated the foreground while the other well lit features, the pool and sky, largely occupied the rest of the attention of the viewer.

September Presentation - Putting Nature Photos to Verse

As Wayne was on the brink of calling off the September 12 meeting, **Karin McQuillan** jumped into the breach with this fascinating presentation. For a host of reasons as well as for different occasions, Karin has pursued a passion for associating verse and image. The practice is laden with pitfalls, not least of which is the danger of falling into a glib, greeting-card aesthetic. Of course, a judicious choice of verse will help to guard against this. Karin started her presentation in the same way she embarked on this personal project, with well-judged quotes from Henry David Thoreau—not a writer about whom the word 'glib' comes easily to mind. Thoreau's prose is muscular in a Whitman-esque manner. This put Karin on her

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mettle to provide equally strong photos to match the sentiment—something which the group agreed she has accomplished.

Karin showed examples of different approaches she has taken, largely differentiated by the length of the text to be illuminated. Some images accompany short sentences or phrases while other, longer texts might be associated with either a single image or many, perhaps one image to as small a division as a line.

In her introduction, Karin recommended the practice as an opportunity, having first chosen a likely text, to search through one's archive for appropriate images. She appreciates the chance to reacquaint herself with older images and give them new meaning. Associating a verse with it also adds a third dimension to the photograph: time. This brings such an image into the realm of performance even on those occasions on which, unlike tonight's presentation, the poems are read silently. The act of considering a photograph (which has no fixed length and can sometimes last no more than half a glance) is extended to at least the time it takes to read the text. The more meaningful the text, the more likely the reader will extend his or her viewing of the image, possibly lingering over the pair further to tease out whatever synergy the pair may possess. And, in her summation, Karin invited each in the company to give it a try.

Member Image Sharing

Hendrik Broekman showed a selection of birds seen on a recent paddle through Gloucester Harbor. These included two different juvenile cormorants, an image of two distant Great Egrets seen through a gauzy green veil of foreground marsh grass and several images of Glossy Ibis hunting for crabs in the marsh.

Jean Fain brought a potpourri of photos taken this summer in several different locations. At Red Rail Farm Jean photographed a Chipping Sparrow perched on a moss and lichen crusted red-painted rail, with which it was nicely color coordinated. A woodchuck has moved into Jean's neighborhood and, unbeknownst to it, started its career as a photographic subject. In the pollinator garden at Gaining

Ground Farm, Jean photographed a Monarch butterfly feeding at a beautiful red flower with a patch of blue sky behind. Two other neighborhood critters, a doe and fawn, struck a quiet pose for the camera. Jean engaged the guide Nick Leadley, who specializes in wildlife around the Rangley Lakes in Maine, to find loons. Two images were shown: one of a loon engaged in display and the other of a group of seven loons in a rough line. Finally, Jean found and photographed a Great Blue Heron in stunning light along the Bruce Freeman bike trail in Concord.

Wayne Hall also expounded a summer theme. He started with an image of a couple passing a beach ball between them taken in golden light at Walden Pond. The rest of the photos were taken at the Stearns Farm CSA. First up was a sparrow on a color-matched rusted steel post. Then a Red-tail Hawk stolidly observing the goings-on from a low shed roof. This was followed by a Black Swallowtail butterfly also feeding at a flower. The last three were of bins of produce. The first two, one of hot peppers, the other of cherry tomatoes, were shot as found. The last, of heirloom tomatoes, was subjected to some modest re-arrangement by a helpful fellow CSA member.

Member News

Wayne Hall writes, "I'm sad to inform everyone that Steve (Gabe) Gabeler's wife, **Carolyn Lee**, passed away on September 9. Here is a link to her obituary:

<https://www.dewhirstfuneral.com/obituary/Carolyn-Lee>

"Please keep Gabe and his family in your thoughts in this difficult time."



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Upcoming SVNP Programs

October 10 Z	Jean Fain	<i>Big Banff Adventure</i>
November 14	Nancy Wright	<i>Photographing Owls</i>
December 12	Hendrik Broekman	<i>Glacier Bay by small boat</i>

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

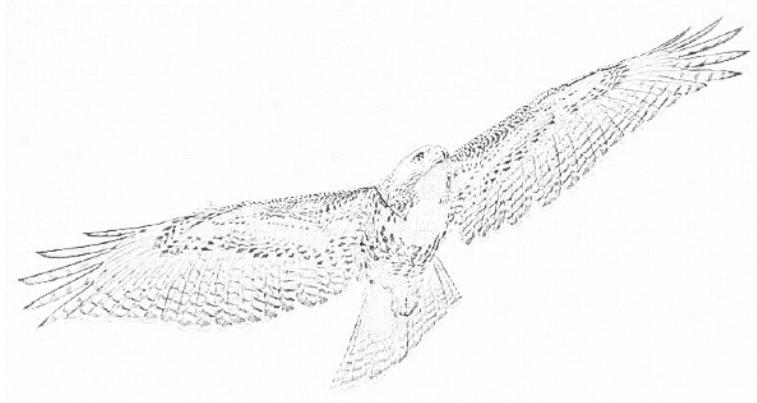
Please Note - All meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, at 7:00 pm, either via Zoom or at our location (or both):

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](http://svnp.homestead.com/files/Directions%20to%20Newbury%20Court%20Great%20Room.pdf)



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SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

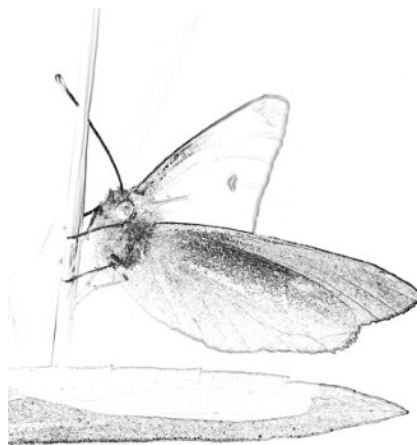
Group Exhibits

December, 2024	Goodnow Library, 21 Concord Rd., Sudbury MA - Open theme
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) 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



*Red Panda, Jardin des Plantes, Paris;
photo, Hendrik Broekman*