



FOCAL POINT

<http://assabetvalleycc.com> - The club meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month except July and Aug. Currently meetings are on Zoom and begin at 7:00 PM - Program starts at 7:30 PM. Email us at info@assabetvalleycc.com for more information or if you wish to attend as a guest.



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Our President

It is with heavy hearts that we say goodbye to Elliot Mednick, 2022-2023 club President and AVCC member since 2018. He passed on May 18 after a courageous battle with cancer. Elliot refused to let his illness interfere with his passion for photography and his commitment to the club. He was the driving force behind the move to the Visual Pursuits website to manage the club website. He was helpful to anyone with a concern or question. Elliot's enthusiasm for photographing planes was palpable. He applied this same zeal to learning new skills such as making composite images with the moon, setting up difficult studio shots such as his Edison light bulb, and learning to use brushes on photoshop. He loved to share what he was working on. He encouraged members to "get out there", experiment, play, and learn. Elliot peppered his communications with humor and he and his dry wit will be sorely missed. And so to you Elliot we say, "Cheers."

Note from the Editors

(The last edition for the 2022-2023 year is a little later than usual so we could incorporate the club's June happenings).

Note from the Editors

Every summer has a story – what's yours?

We tend to associate June with wrapping-up. It's a graduation month, an awards month, a celebration month and a kicking off of the summer. AVCC is no different. The last meeting of the year was held on June 7th and was a hybrid meeting. Approximately 20 people attended in person and were delighted to be seeing faces for real. Approximately 10 other folks attended via Zoom. PSA and NECCC results were announced, club awards, and "graduations" from one Class to the next were announced, and next year's E-Board was voted on. Congratulations to all winners! Details on all of this can be found further on in the newsletter.

Members Doris and Tony Monteiro will be awarded the Honor of Master Member of the New England Camera Club Council (MNEC) on June 24th. Congratulations to Tony and Doris and thank you for all you have done and continue to do. Look for the NECCC write-up (p18) of what qualified them for this award.

Do you have plans or learning goals for your photography this summer? Or will you rest from the growing and working you've been doing all year, allowing time and quiet and perhaps new spaces to integrate that learning? Check out members' responses to our question of the month (p19), "What are your summer photography goals? Do you have any exciting plans? Are you planning to try anything new?" And see John Gill's answer about his summer photography plan in the interview located in the Member Snapshot section.

If your plans include travel, remember to collect some interesting travel photos for Todd and PSA – and please sign those permission forms so he can send them. Email him through the website if you need his assistance. On the off-chance that you need motivation for summer picture-taking, remember that the first September meeting revolves around the fun presentations of your summer photos.

Your Focal Point team has thoroughly enjoyed our first year of creating this newsletter for you. Have a safe and happy summer.

"Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June." – Al Bernstein

June - 2022-2023 - Image of the Year Awards

AVCC is pleased to present The Image of the Year Awards. The awards were presented on Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 7:30 PM during a hybrid meeting which took place at the Hudson Senior Center and on Zoom. Charlie Burke chose award winning images in each class from images submitted for competition in the 2022-2023 club year. He also chose the Best in Class for each class and from the Best in Class he selected The 2022-2023 AVCC Elliot Mednick Memorial Image of the Year. See the results on the following pages. All Images copyright © of the Makers.

Assabet Valley Camera Club (AVCC) - Image of the Year Awards

The 2022-2023 AVCC Elliot Mednick Memorial Image of the Year is awarded to
Doris Monteiro.



*1st in Theme AA 2022-2023— Sports; Best in Class AA 2022-2023;
The 2022-2023 AVCC Elliot Mednick Memorial Image of the Year
Clearing Hurdles - Doris Monteiro*

Continued on the next page

Class B Awards - Theme, Open, & Nature



*2nd in Theme - In the House
Lighter than Air - Alan Mertz*



*3rd in Theme - Old
1913 Singer - Mary Coombs*



*1st in Theme - Music
One-Man Band - William Spezeski*



1st in Open - Sashay along the bay - Dawn Law

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Image of the Year Awards - Class B - continued from page 4



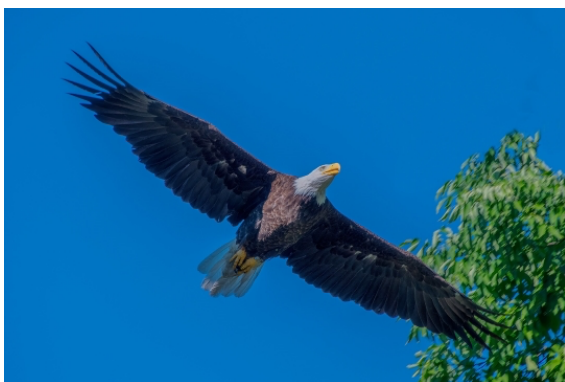
3rd in Open - Preparing for the Hike - Lynn Kerner



*2nd in Open - Night
Blooming Cereus
- Mary Coombs*



*1st in Nature & Best in Class B
Here Comes Trouble - Lynn Kerner*



*2nd in Nature - Soaring Bald Eagle
- Dawn Law*



*3rd in Nature - Sleepy snowy owl
posing for pictures - Dawn Law*

Continued on the next page

Class A Awards - Theme, Open, & Nature



*1st in Theme - Sports & Best in Class A
Jake Flipping Out - John Mauro*



*2nd in Theme - Sports
Chased back to Third - Cathy Robotis*



*3rd in Theme - Music
A Tip for the Band - John Mauro*



1st in Open - Garnet Rogers - Glenn Fund

Continued on the next page

Image of the Year Awards - Class A - continued from page 6



*2nd in Open - Indignation
- Cathy Robotis*



*3rd in Open - Ponte Vecchio Bridge at dusk
- John Mauro*



1st in Nature - The 12 Apostles - Glenn Fund



*3rd in Nature - Galapagos Sally Lightfoot
Crab - Glenn Fund*



2nd in Nature - Sibling Rivalry - Cathy Robotis

Continued on the next page

Class AA Awards - Theme, Open, & Nature



*2nd in Theme - Music
Silent Musical Moment - Tony Monteiro*



*3rd in Theme - Music - Well Loved Violin
- Maureen Mathieson*



*1st in Open - Elegant Adjustment
- Tony Monteiro*



*2nd in Open - Hummingbird Eating Nectar
- Darlene Holman*

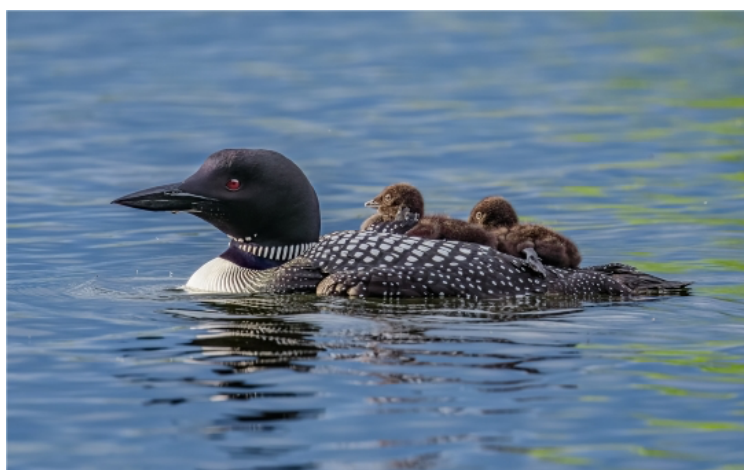
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*3rd in Open - Startled Snacker
- Tony Monteiro*



*1st in Nature - Great Blue Nabs Catfish
- Doris Monteiro*



*2nd in Nature - Loonlets riding on Mom's back
- Darlene Holman*



*3rd in Nature - mouth full
- Sue Abrahamsen*

Looking Ahead - AVCC 2023-2024

Summer may have just begun but our AVCC Board and Committees are already working on programming and competitions for 2023-2024. The Program Committee has identified some presenters and topics of interest and are busily setting these up. Program meetings will be held on Zoom next year. And a reminder - the first program of the year in September is a member summer images slide show. Details will be forthcoming.

Competition topics have been chosen for the year and summer is the perfect time to get a jump start on creating images for the themes as well as nature. See the topics for the monthly competitions on page 11. Competition meetings will be hybrid when possible with a live meeting in the downstairs room of the Hudson Senior Center with remote connection available on Zoom.

At the June 7th hybrid meeting the members voted to name this year's Image of the Year in honor of Elliot Mednick. It is named The 2022-2023 AVCC Elliot Mednick Memorial Image of the Year.

The members also voted to resume Print Competitions in 2023-2024. The following themes were decided upon: Oct – Tools; Dec – Still Life; Feb – Entryways

Details about how these competitions will take place is yet to be determined. Look for further information via email and the next issue of the newsletter.

Congratulations to four members of the club who will be moving up in class:

- Three members are moving from Class B to Class A.
Dawn Law with 453.9 points
Alan Mertz with 442.8 points
Lynn Kerner with 442.3 points
- John Mauro is moving from Class A to Class AA with 468.4 points

The 2023 - 2024 AVCC Board was also elected at the June 7th meeting. The Board Members are:

President: John Mauro
Vice President: Mary Coombs
Secretary: Pam Meoli
Treasurer: Glenn Fund

We look forward to seeing you in September!



June 7th Hybrid Meeting: Maureen Mathieson gives a big hello to the Zoom attendants from the Hudson Senior Center - Image Courtesy of Pam Meoli

Competitions 2023-2024

Monthly Competitions:

The club holds monthly image competitions including three categories: print, digital and open. The images are judged by a panel of three judges using a scale of 3.0-10. The final score for an image is the total of the three scores. See the [AVCC webpage](#) for more information about the rules and procedures for monthly competitions as well as the PSA and NECCC competitions. Pay particular attention to the PSA rules for [“Nature”](#) submissions.

Schedule of Monthly Competition Category Topics & Submission Dates

Month	Print (Details TBD)	Digital	Open	Digital and Open Submission Date
September		Monochrome	Open	9/13/2023
October	Tools	Nature	Open	10/11/2023
November		Architectural Detail	Open	11/8/2023
December	Still Life	Nature	Open	12/13/2023
January		In the Woods	Open	1/10/2024
February	Entryways	Nature	Open	2/14/2024
March		Creative (In or out of camera)	Open	3/13/2024
April		Nature	Open	4/10/2024
May		Things that Fly or are Airborne (in honor of Elliot)	Open	5/8/2024

PSA and NECCC

Image selections to the PSA & NECCC Interclub Competitions are made by the representatives to each organization. Individual entries can also be made. PSA Rep - Robyn Saur; NECCC rep - Todd Mathieson.

NECCC has moved to have individual print competitions rather than interclub print competitions. The NECCC Individual Print Competition will be hosted at the Greater Lynn Photographic Association (GLPA). The categories are B&W (mono) and Color. Competitions will be held on Nov. 4, 2023 and April 6, 2024. Prints must be mounted. More details about these competitions will be forthcoming.

FYI: PSA Nature Guidelines for Borders: any border added (to a Nature image) must be a single border of, gray, or white, no greater than 3-5 pixels in width.

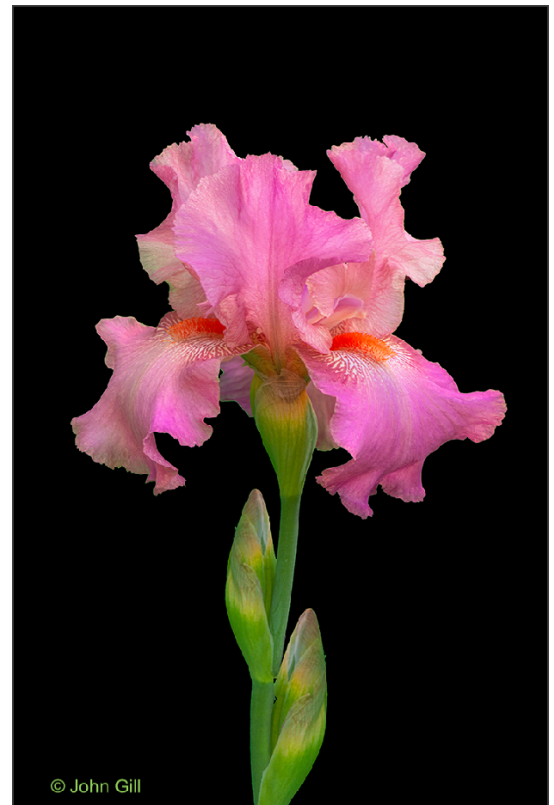
Member Snapshot

John Gill

For all the ways and all the hours that John has been involved in the club, one could be forgiven for thinking he has been a member from the very beginning. But he has “only” belonged since 2011. John served as Vice President for part of the 2016-2017 year, then as President from 2017-2021. He served as Treasurer from 2021-2023. He has been responsible for competition tasks such as getting judges, making sure that the images get to the judges, posting results, and sending out award certificates for 6 years. He has given numerous mini-tutorials on topics like using Photoshop Tools and how to set up a file and folder system for images. As a member of the Senior Center Board, he has access to the building; therefore, when meetings were in person, John, Tony and others could be found setting up for several hours prior to the meeting.

Born and raised in Medford, John went into the Navy for four years after high school. After discharge he was out one night with his best friend and was introduced to Stephanie. It was love at first sight. They married in 1973 and lived in Boxboro. One day, when John was 24, he and Stephanie happened to be in Hudson and decided to “play” at house-shopping. They looked at a few places, then fell in love with one near the lake. John chuckles, “Even though we really couldn’t afford it, we bought it.” John has now been in the house for 50 years.

John says, “I’ve always taken pictures.” He and Stephanie got started in serious photography, though, in 2011. When their usual winter travel plans changed that year, they decided to take a course together at Assabet Valley Regional Technical HS with the same teacher (Norm Eggert) as other long-term members have had. As with other students, Norm suggested they join the club. Since they were retired and had lost a lot of friends to moving away etc., they felt that another social outlet would be positive. They never looked back.



Pink Iris #1 - Image Courtesy of John Gill

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Member Snapshot - John Gill - continued from page 12

John says he got inspired by being in the club, from the presentations as well as other club members. He specifically points to Don Toothaker's presentation on "Getting it Sharp" (<https://www.toothakerphoto.com/>) and members Sue Abrahamsen, Linda Shelales, Tony & Doris Monteiro as meaningful influences. As everyone does, John and Stephanie started out in Class B and moved up as they learned and practiced. John says he is "semi-geeky" and came at it from a technical perspective first, learning by trying different lenses and by listening to others. From his point of view, John feels that a good process for someone new to photography is to first work on the technical part, then composition, then post-processing. Then keep repeating that process to make improvements on each of those steps. John's advice on becoming a better photographer is, "Create your own style. Shoot what you like. Do something different than anybody else has done with it, try to make it your own and get the best image out of the camera that you can."

John takes all kinds of shots. Each summer he decides to try something new and shoots that about 30-40% of the time. Some modes or types of photography that he has learned about through doing this are macro, infra-red, landscapes, and shooting birds better. This summer he is going to try more creative images – more fine art-like, such as with a soft focus.

A steady theme for John throughout our conversation is "the ripple effect, big and small." He says the club opens up "a whole new world," not only in photography but also "through the people you meet, and the activities and interests you learn about through them," such as the biking he does with Robyn Saur.

Besides photography John is busy with family and many other interests and activities. He is an avid gardener, growing both vegetables and flowers; an avid biker; his own handyman; and a contributor to the community where – over the years – he has been involved with AVCC, the Hudson Sr. Center and the Food Pantry. It's not surprising to hear John admit, "I have trouble slowing down, staying focused."

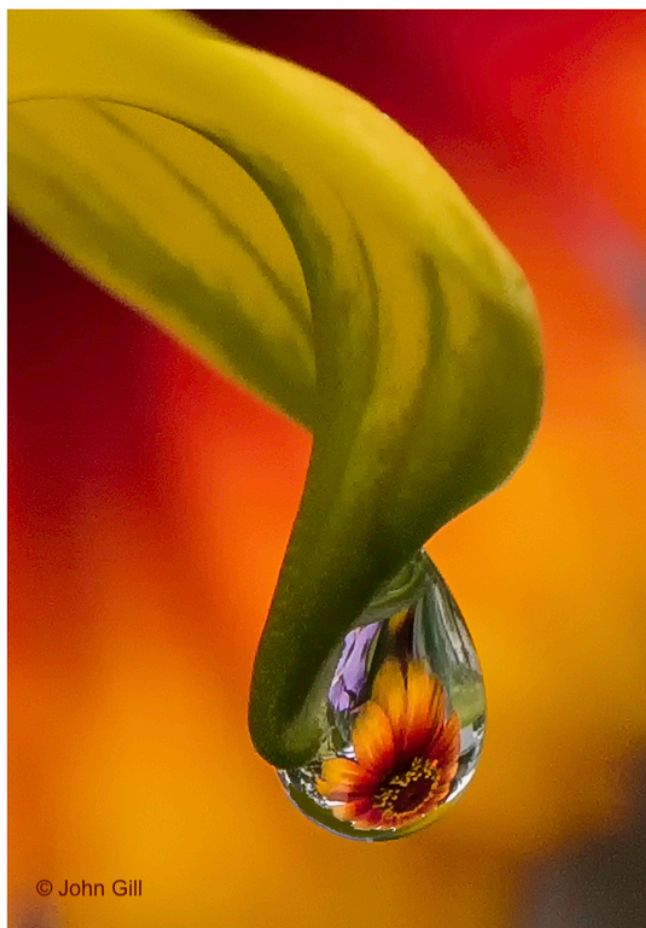
John's optimistic, let's-get-out-and-do-it attitude is sprinkled throughout the conversation. He says passionately, "go out and do things, meet people. You don't know where it is going to take you." Is it any surprise, then, that his motto is... *"Do Something Fun Today."*

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Welcome to my pad - Image Courtesy of John Gill

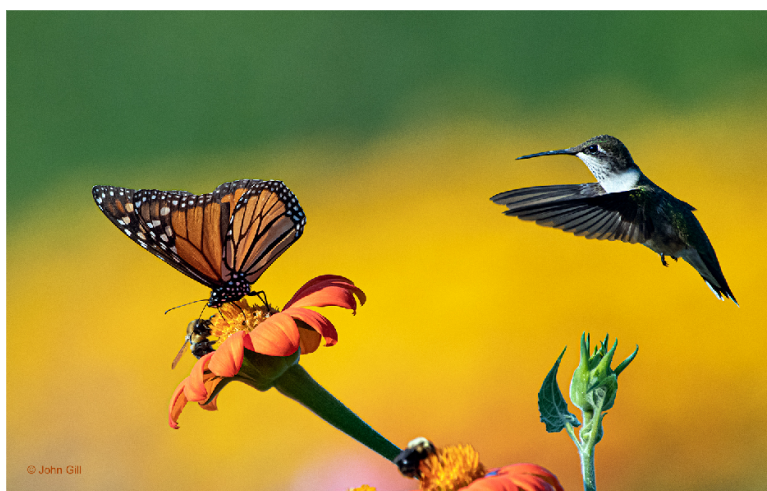
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Flower Reflection #2 - Image Courtesy of John Gill



Kabooooom!! - Image Courtesy of John Gill



Monarch, Hummingbird, and Bee - Image Courtesy of John Gill

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*Black swallowtail on thistle
Image Courtesy of John Gill*



*Purple four o'clock - Image Courtesy of
John Gill*



Zooming Out - Members and AVCC in the greater photographic community - member exhibits, competitions, meetups, field trip opportunities, workshops, etc.

Zooming In - A Reflection, Musing, or Experience (travel, how I got that great shot, my favorite photo or place to shoot for example) shared by a member

Tips and Tricks - Members' shared suggestions for the Monthly Theme

The Bigger Picture - Happenings in the World of Photography

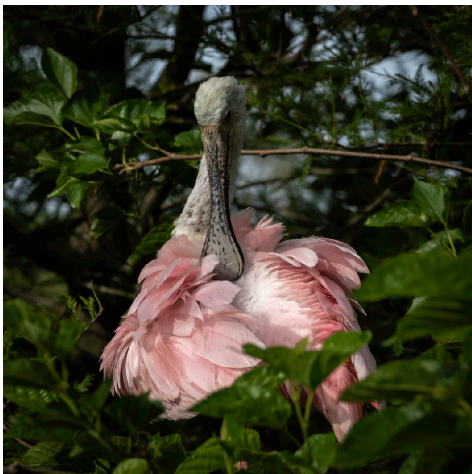
Many thanks to the following members for their contributions to this month's Newsletter: Cathy Robotis, Lynn Kerner, Mary Coombs, Doris Monteiro, Pam Meoli, Alan Mertz, Bob Cooke, John Mauro, Glenn Fund, Jane Parker, Linda DeStefano Brown, Darlene Holman, Sue Abrahamsen, John Gill

Zooming Out

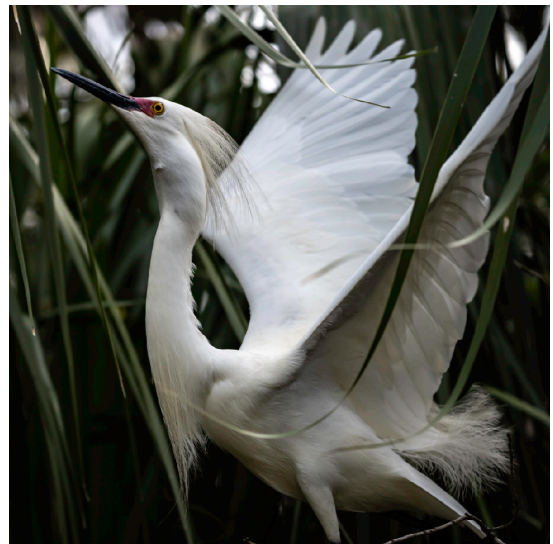
On the Wall at Cafe 641

June's featured member at Cafe 641 is Alan Mertz.
Be sure to check it out!

Next up at Cafe 641 in July is Robyn Saur followed by Linda Shelales in August, John Gill in September, and Eric Frere in October.



*Spoonbill - Image Courtesy of
Alan Mertz*



*Snowy Egret - Image Courtesy of Alan
Mertz*

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Zooming Out - continued from page 16

Congratulations are in order to those in the club who distinguished themselves in the annual competitions and to those have won PSA awards and NECCC awards.

AVCC Trifecta winners!

- Special congratulations to Darlene Holman in Class AA for a total competition score of 499.6 points and for earning the highest scores in all three competition categories Class AA!
- Congratulations also to John Mauro for earning the highest scores in all three competition categories for Class A!

Members earning recognition in the PSA Interclub Competitions: To see all PSA Interclub results including AVCC member awards in Rounds 1 and 2 click on this link: [PSA](#)

- Rnd 3 - Nature B - John Gill scored 13 points and a Merit Award for his image “Frog Legs for Lunch”
- Rnd 3 - Pictorial C - Darlene Holman scored 13 points and a Merit Award for her image “Eastern Coyote Hunting for Voles”
- Rnd 3 - Pictorial C - Lynn Kerner scored 12 points and earned an Honorable Mention for her image “Preparing for the Hike”

Members earning recognition in the NECCC Interclub Competitions: To see all NECCC Interclub results click this link: [NECCC](#)

- Fall '22 - Pictorial Class A - Sue Abrahamsen scored 23 points and received an Honorable Mention for her image “Three Puffins”
- Winter '23 - Pictorial Class A - John Gill scored 25 points and earned an Honorable Mention for his image “Mockingbird with Porcelain Berry 2”
- Winter '23 - Pictorial Class A - Darlene Holman scored 25 points and earned an Honorable Mention for her image “Great Blue Herons and Baby On Nest”
- Winter '23 - Nature Class A - Sue Abrahamsen scored 26 points and earned an Honorable Mention for her image “Mouth full”



*Great Blue Herons and Baby on Nest
- Darlene Holman*



Three Puffins - Sue Abrahamsen

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Congratulations to Doris and Tony Monteiro!

Honors Received

In May the NECCC's Executive Board awarded Doris and Tony Monteiro the Honor of Master Member of the New England Camera Club Council (MNEC). Susan and Jacob Mosser, HonPSAs, HonNECs, submitted the Honors Proposals on their behalf. The write-ups from the NECCC Honors Committee as to why they were chosen for this prestigious award follow:

“Doris receives this honor for five years of service on the New England Camera Club Council conference model committee where she cheerfully assumed added responsibilities; for her service to the Assabet Valley Camera Club where she has been given a Lifetime Membership Award; for co-publishing a book with photos and text addressing the need for a community food bank; for serving on the bylaws and judges committees; for serving as publicity chairman and competition assistant; for service to the Greater Lynn Photographic Association as a member of the model committee; for sharing her images at meetings of the invitational Massachusetts Camera Naturalists; for judging at numerous clubs; for her proficiency as an award-winning photographer in monthly competitions at Assabet Valley and Greater Lynn and at PSA and NECCC interclub competitions; for mentoring other photographers.”

“Tony receives this honor for five years of service on the New England Camera Club Council conference model committee as a vital, responsible worker; for his leadership roles at Assabet Valley Camera Club where he has served as President, Vice President, Treasurer, PSA Rep, and various other committees and has also received a Lifetime Membership Award; for co-publishing a book with Doris regarding the need for a community food bank; for service to the Greater Lynn Photographic Association as a member of the model committee; for sharing his images at meetings of the invitational Massachusetts Camera Naturalists; for his judging experience at numerous clubs; for his proficiency as an award-winning photographer in monthly competitions at Assabet Valley and Greater Lynn and at PSA and NECCC interclub competitions; for mentoring other photographers.”

The presentation of honors will take place at the NECCC Board of Directors and Representatives Annual Meeting Luncheon on Saturday, June 24, at UMass Amherst.



Prairie Dog Love - Tony Monteiro

Zooming In

Member Share:

Question of the Month: We asked our members about their summer photography goals. We asked if they have any exciting plans or plans to travel that might generate some interesting travel photos. We asked if anyone was planning to try anything new. We also asked for ideas for summer excursions and potential photo ops that might be of interest to other members. Here are their thoughtful responses:

John Mauro: My summer goals for photography: More Milky Way/long exposure/night photography and better Nature images.

Alan Mertz: I would like to do a zoo. I missed the one last year, I think. Cape and RI are always good (especially the gardens and zoo) or historic places.

Lynn Kerner: My one goal is to understand and be able to use 3-4 new things in photoshop. Also take at least 5 competition-worthy photos on my Canada trip.

Mary Coombs: I'm hoping to learn how to use my external flash. I want to understand lighting better. And I want to learn how to make creative composites in Photoshop. Lastly, I want to figure out how to capture the soul of a flower - that shouldn't be too hard should it?!

Cathy Robotis: My greatest goal for the summer is to manage to actually learn some of the tips and tricks I accumulated over the past year and to avoid just pointing and shooting every time I see something that catches my eye. I would like to be more proactive when I turn the camera on, so that I have better images to work with in post-processing. I would like to try the summer challenges listed above (photographing the same image daily for a week and working with less used lenses). We plan to visit Greece this summer and hope to make memories with beloved family members that we have not seen in years.



Members Gathered for the "Breakfast in the Park" at Natalie Schiavoni's home on June 17th:

Back Row L-R:

Todd Mathieson, Glenn Fund, Jim Williams, John Gill, John Mauro, Maureen Mathieson, Sue Abrahamsen

Middle Row L-R:

Dave Morin, Darlene Holman, Gary Karagosian, Lynn Kerner

Front Row L- R:

Mary Coombs holding Smokey, Linda Gilberti, Pam Meoli, Natalie Schiavone

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Here are some events and opportunities that our members shared:

From Alan Mertz:

I will have a 2 month show at the Acton Senior Center in July and August. I am showing about 15 to 20 of my photos. If some of the members happen to be in Acton during those two months, they may want to drop in and take a look. Any feedback from members would be appreciated also.

Acton Senior Center, 30 Sudbury Rd., Acton.

From Linda DeStefano Brown:

Linda has two upcoming exhibitions. Two of her pieces were accepted for the 87th Regional Exhibition at the Fitchburg Art Museum, and Linda will have work in the July Members Only Exhibit with ArtsWayland. Congratulations, Linda! Details are as follows:

- Fitchburg Art Museum

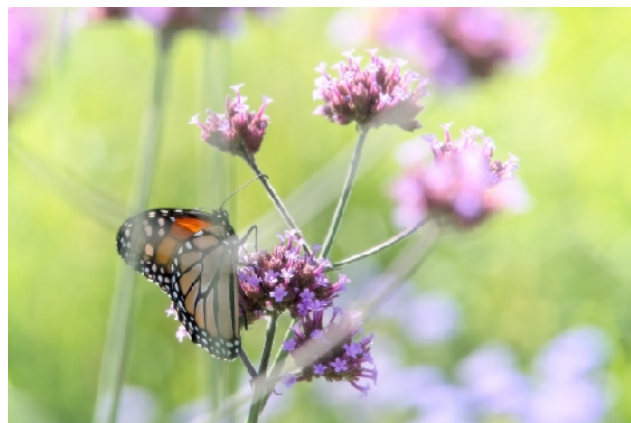
The *Regional Exhibition of Art & Craft* is one of the longest-running juried exhibitions in New England. This annual show at the Fitchburg Art Museum (185 Elm Street, Fitchburg, MA) spotlights the artists and crafters who live or work within 30 miles of Fitchburg. The Exhibit will run from 6/23/23 to 8/27/23. Contact: <https://fitchburgartmuseum.org/>

- ArtsWayland

The July Members Only exhibit with ArtsWayland will be held from 7/3/23 to 7/28/23 at the Wayland Library Raytheon Room (5 Concord Road, Wayland, MA, downstairs). It will also be online. You can go to the ArtsWayland site for more details as it gets closer to July. Their website is <https://artswayland.com>.

From Bob Cooke:

I arranged a large photo show (exhibition) for members of the AVCC to be held this summer (probably July) in the bottom floor of the big library in Maynard, MA. Images can be any size (recommend at least 11x14) and any theme. If there are more images than space allows, one image will be accepted from each member. If you are interested in submitting images to this show please contact John Gill through the AVCC website before July 1. He will provide the details about the installation.



Facing New Challenges
- Linda DeStefano Brown

"I wonder what it would be like to live in a world where it was always June." —L.M. Montgomery

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From Pam Meoli:

The Bridge of Flowers in Shelbourne, MA is an amazing place to visit. Put it on your list! However, they are taking the bridge apart next year after over 100 years in order to redo it. So, if you've ever wanted to go or are looking for a great day trip, go sooner rather than later - just my suggestion.



Bridge of Flowers - Image Courtesy of Pam Me

From Darlene Holman:

Butterfly Experience at the Farm at SummitWynds

- Saturday 8/19/23 - Sunday 8/20/23
- 60 Summit St, Jefferson, MA
- Tickets necessary - go to: [Butterfly Experience](#) for information and ticket purchase.
- ***Note - several members are planning to go on August 19th! Tickets sell out quickly.

Reminder to take the Hudson Cultural Council Survey:

Doris Monteiro sent this email on May 18. If you haven't responded to the survey please consider doing so.

Over the last six years, the Hudson Cultural Council has granted AVCC nearly \$2000 to fund club programs. This year's grants funded Tips for Winter Landscape Photography by Dave Long and Creativity with Your Smartphone by Meredith Hazel.

Each year the council conducts a community survey to gather information. Please take a few minutes to fill out this year's survey. Thank you!

HCC Community Survey

The Hudson Cultural Council needs your help! We need the people who live, work, and visit here to help advise us about how best to allocate public dollars for programs and activities in the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences. Please take our online community input survey by June 30th. The link is <https://www.hudsonculturalcouncil.org/2023-community-input-survey>.

Our municipally-appointed council receives an annual allocation from the Mass Cultural Council as well as from the Town of Hudson to fund projects.

Since the council distributes public dollars, it is essential that we gather local public opinion and learn more about what is happening in our community and what the community needs. The data from the survey will help us develop useful criteria and funding priorities to guide our future grant-making decisions.

Tips and Tricks - June's Theme: Summer Photography

Tips for summer photography

The sun rises earlier in the morning and sets later in the day. Coats, scarves, and boots have made a hasty retreat to the back of the closet, while swimsuits, sandals, and sunscreen find themselves at the forefront of the daily routine. Summer is here! Summer is a great season for photography as we spend more time outdoors, experiencing nature, exploring new places, and enjoying time with family and friends. Here are some tips for your summer photography:

- Pay attention to the summer sun. Clouds diffuse light, creating soft, even illumination, which is perfect for portraiture, flower photos, and forest landscapes. Clear skies provide hard, high-contrast light, which is great for street photography.
- Use a polarizer. This will help fight the summer haze and remove reflections on non-metallic surfaces. Polarizers will increase the overall saturation and slightly darken the image by 1.5 to 2 stops. You will need to make adjustments.
- Avoid rivers and water during the middle of the day because you will find a strong glare.
- When possible, move your subject to the shade.
- Use a lens hood.
- Adjust your white balance: Daylight mode will provide crisp, accurate white tones. Cloudy mode will provide a dramatic, warm touch by adding yellow and red tones.
- Try B&W photography.
- Use a reflector.



Kelly in towel - Lynn Kerner

"I love how summer just wraps its arms around you like a warm blanket." - Kellie Elmore

- The best time of the day to photograph is during the golden hour. When photographing during the golden hour, consider side lighting the subject to capture a lot of texture. You can also create long, dramatic shadows and beautiful silhouettes.
- You should also consider shooting during the blue hour. When the sun dips below the horizon, "soft ethereal light covers the world, creating a captivating atmosphere that can elevate portraits, landscapes, and street photos." (digitalphotographyschool.com). When taking photos during the blue hour, use a tripod, widen the aperture, increase the ISO, and try to incorporate street lights if you can (this will add interest to the photo).
- When photographing outside in bright light, your subject will likely have bright light in the background. You may find that if you turn on the camera flash (and adjust the intensity or use exposure compensation as needed), the flash will provide a nice burst of fill light to illuminate the foreground.

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Tips for Summer Photography - continued from page 22

- If you are photographing people, consider having them look into their shadow, as this will keep them more evenly lit.
- If the background is important in a daytime shot, consider slightly underexposing your subject to keep the background better exposed. You can then brighten your subject in post-processing.
- If you are shooting in midday, consider incorporating the shadows into your photo. Shoot from above, looking down. This will also provide better color and detail.
- Consider shooting in bad weather. Crowds tend to disperse from populated places when it is raining. You may find interesting puddles, dramatic clouds, and powerful light.
- Avoid bringing your camera directly from the outdoor heat to the indoor air conditioning because of the risk of condensation forming in your camera. Try to leave your camera in the garage or in a place with an “in-between” temperature for a little while before bringing it into the air conditioning,

“Everything good, everything magical happens between the months of June and August” — Jenny Han, The Summer I Turned Pretty



*Great Mormon Butterfly -
John Mauro*



Late Bloom - Mary Strachen



*Cooper's Hawk
- Jane Parker*



*Easy as rolling off a log
- Theresa Vachowski*



Alone with His Thoughts - Nick Andruzzi

Continued on next page

Tips for Summer Photography - continued from page 23

Ideas for summer photography

- Fields of flowers, such as sunflower fields
- Milky Way photography: The Milky Way has maximum visibility from April to mid-September. The Milky Way is also less inclined and in a more vertical position in the summer.
- Capture silhouettes during the golden hour. You want a clear focus point (subject). Place the subject between you and the bright sky, and expose for the background.
- Chase shadows as the sun goes lower on the horizon.
- Summer is a great time to photograph sunsets (or sunrises).

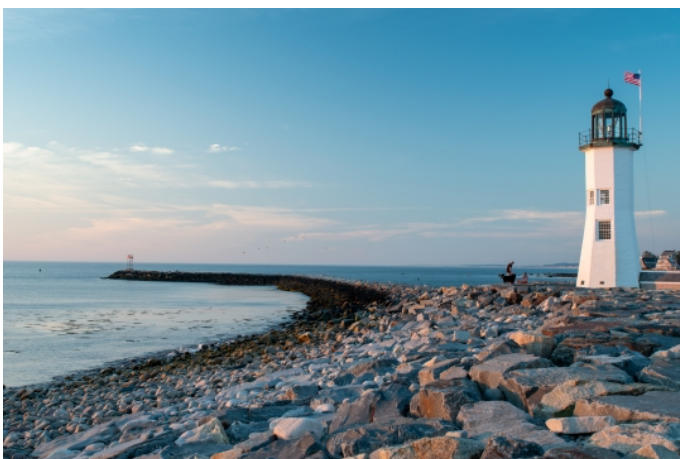
Photographing a summer sunset

- Put your camera in Aperture Mode. You will need a large depth of field (f/11-f/16).
- Your shutter speed should not be slower than 1/250.
- Use the lowest ISO that will permit you to use the smaller aperture.
- Try to create a sunburst effect by shooting with f/11 or smaller and obscuring the sun slightly behind a tree or object.

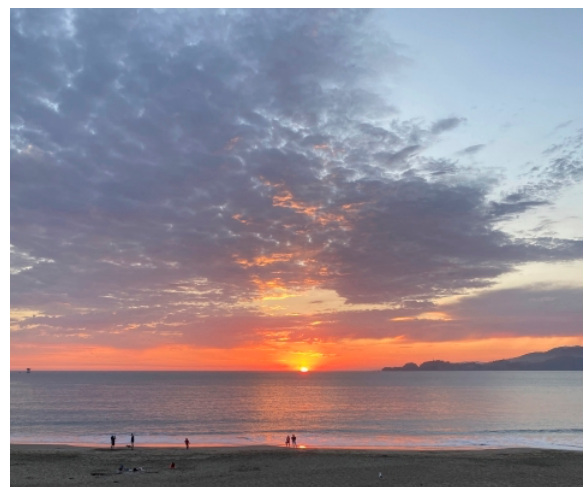
Summer Challenge: Summer is a great time to challenge yourself when it comes to photography. Here are some ideas to challenge you:

- Photograph the same subject daily for a week (or even a month, if you are up to it). Take your photos at different times of the day, and try different compositions. You will likely find that your images improve as you take the time to study your subject and explore different options in capturing your subject.
- If you have any lenses that you rarely use, consider taking them out with you and working with them. You may be pleasantly surprised by what you capture.

Sources: Digitalphotographyschool.com, Digitalphotomenter.com, Capturelandscapes.com, cnet.com, Expertphotography.com, Photography-playground.com, nikonusa.com, Lightroompresets.com.



Scituate Lighthouse - Richard Beauchamp



San Fran Sunset - Najla Nassar

The Bigger Picture

Photography exhibits in and around Massachusetts

Griffin Museum of Photography, Winchester, MA

- Liz Hickok & Phil Spittler: Cycles of Regeneration, 5/15/23-7/9/23.
- The Power of Three/Arno Rafael Minkinen: Master Class Exhibition, 5/1/23-6/30/23.
- Fern Nesson: $E=mc^2$, 6/1/23-7/9/23.
- Colleen Mullins, Christy McDonald, Jenny Sampson, and Nicole White: Rolls & Tubes Collective, 6/1/23-7/9/23.
- Various artists: Photoville x Winchester, 6/13/23-9/9/23, Griffin Pop Up.
- Ruben Natal San Miguel: Expanding the Pantheon: Women R Beautiful, 3/20/23-7/4/23 at the Lafayette City Center Passageway.

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

- Painted Tintypes: Photography for the People, 4/1/23-10/15/23.
- Who holds up the sky? This exhibit features the work of artists documenting the war in Ukraine, 1/21/23-7/3/23.
- Jess T. Dugan: Coupled, 11/23/22-6/19/23.



The Old Tree - Lee Arnold

Harvard Art Museum, Special Exhibits Gallery, Cambridge, MA

- White Shadows: Annaliese Hager and the camera-less photograph, 3/4/23-7/31/23.



*Sunrise at Bass Harbor Head Light
- John McKinney*

VanDernoot Gallery at Lesley University, Cambridge, MA

- EXPOSURE 2023: 27th annual PRC Juried Members Exhibition, 8/5/23-9/17/23.

Mass MoCA, Boston, MA

- Deep Water: Featuring photographs of Jazz and Blues musicians from the 1950s-1960s, through the summer of 2023.
- Carrie Schneider: Sphinx, through September 2023.
- Nicholas Whitman: North Adams' Abandoned Sprague Electric Company Factory.

Continued on next page

Upcoming photography contests:

Monochrome Awards

- International B&W Photo Contest.
- Deadline 7/2/23.
- Cash prizes.
- Contact: www.monoawards.com.

Epson International Pano Awards 2023

- Panoramic photography.
- Deadline 7/17/23.
- Contact: www.thepanoawards.com.



Bass Harbor Head Light 1858 - Bridget Perch

Blue Hills Photo Contest 2023

- You can submit up to 5 images for free.
- Deadline: 9/1/23 at 5 pm.
- Subjects: What lives in the Blue Hills (plants, animals, insects)? Who visits the Blue Hills (showcasing park visitors and activities they enjoy in the Blue Hills)?
- Winners will receive a \$250 gift certificate to Page & Waterman Gallery and Framing in Wellesley, MA.
- Contact: friendsofthebluehills.org/photo-contest/.

Audubon Society of Rhode Island: Images of birds and wildlife calendar competition

- You can submit up to 2 photos.
- Deadline 9/15/23.
- Images have to have been taken in Rhode Island.
- Winners will receive photo credit in the calendar and a copy of the calendar.
- Contact: [asri.org. \(https://asri.org/audubon-calendar.html\)](https://asri.org/audubon-calendar.html).

Audubon Community Nature Center

- Each entry costs \$15.
- Deadline: 7/2/23.
- Categories: Wildlife, landscapes, and plants.
- There is a \$200 prize.
- Contact: <https://www.gogophotocontest.com/acncphotocontest2023>.

“Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is hardly a waste of time.” - John Lubbock

Continued on next page

The Bigger Picture - Continued from page 26

2023 Guest Photo Contest at Backroads

- You can submit a maximum of 25 digital photos showing your backroads trip.
- Deadline: 12/31/23.
- There are cash prizes.
- Contact: backroads.com photo contest

Yesterday's Island Photo Contest

- They are accepting photos of Nantucket.
- Submissions accepted from 9/30/22-9/12/23.
- There are cash prizes.
- Contact: nantucket.net photo-contest-entry.



Schoodic - Richard Tranfaglia

Massachusetts Agriculture Calendar 2023 Photo Contest

- They are looking for images that depict an aspect of MA agriculture or horticulture.
- Deadline: 7/1/23.
- Photos have to have been taken in MA in the last 3 years.
- Photos of farms will be given a higher ranking.
- Winners will be credited in the calendar and receive complimentary copies, and they will be recognized at the Big E on Massachusetts Day. Winning photos will also be featured on MDAR's "MassGrown" website.
- Contact: aginclassroom.org.

MyCapeCod Photo Contest

- They are accepting photos taken on Cape Cod that answer the question: What makes Cape Cod an extraordinary place to live?
- Categories: #mycapecod Winter, #mycapecod Spring, #mycapecod Summer, and #mycapecod Fall.
- You must be a resident of Massachusetts to enter.
- Entries accepted from 4/3/23-8/31/23.
- Contact: thecooperativebankofcapecod.com (Search: Photo Contest).

Upcoming workshops, courses, and seminars

NECCC Special Online Event featuring Art Wolfe and Bryan F. Peterson

- Art Wolfe is presenting "[Night on Earth](#)" and Bryan F. Peterson is presenting "[Understanding Color](#)".
7/15/23, 1 - 4pm, \$20 if you register by June 30. For registration and more information go to: [NECCC](https://neccc.org).

bostonphotographyworkshops.com

- They offer online courses on shutter speed, aperture, ISO, lenses, composition, improving color/white balance, filters, and photo projects.

Hunt's Photo Education

- Many offerings! Check out their website: [Hunt's Photo](https://huntsphoto.com).

Continued on next page

The Bigger Picture - Continued from page 27

Worcester State University

- Discover Digital Photography: 6-week courses with start dates 7/12/23, 8/16/23, and 9/13/23, \$115.

Worcester Craft Center

- Intro to Digital Photography: 7/11/23-8/15/23, Tuesdays 6:30-9:30, \$240.

Worcester Art Museum

- Photo Editing: Photoshop, and Photoshop Elements, 6/18/23-7/30/23, Sundays 10am to 1pm, with Richard Hoyer, \$180.
- Intro to Digital Photography, 7/11/23-8/1/23, Tuesdays 6pm to 9pm, with Katie Doyle, \$120.
- Photography in the City, 7/22/23-8/12/23, Saturdays 10am to 1pm, with Katie Doyle, \$120

Local Interest:

- Music in Bloom, New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill, 6/25/23 6-8:30 pm, Boylston, MA.
- Green River Festival, 6/23/23-6/25/23, Greenfield, MA.



Dreaming of Summer Days - Pam Meoli

"And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer."

- F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby



AVCC is a member of the following organizations:

NECCC



PSA



AVCC website:

<https://www.assabetvalleycc.com>

2022-2023 Executive Board Members:

- President: Elliot Mednick
- Vice President: John Mauro
- Secretary: Pam Meoli
- Treasurer: John Gill



*Here's looking at you!
-Maureen Mathieson*

Editors' Note:

Many(!) club members work behind the scenes in various capacities to make the club run smoothly, to engage with the greater community, to reach out to prospective members, to communicate about our organization through the Facebook page, the AVCC website, the Focal Point Newsletter, and provide opportunities for competition, fun, learning, and camaraderie.

To see (most) of the volunteer positions and members please refer to your 2022-2023 Member packet. Consider volunteering for a committee in the 2023-2024 year!