

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.



Graceful Leap -Tony Monteiro

In this Issue:

Note From Our President	p 1
Note from the Editors	p 2
Program Info	p 3
Competition Info	p 7
Member Snapshot	p 8
Members' Lens	p 11
AVCC Organization	p 23

Note from Our President

Hi All,

The next meeting of Assabet Valley Camera Club is Wednesday, March 1, at 7:00pm (Zoom only). The program is Creativity with Your Smartphone, presented by Hazel Meredith and sponsored in part by a grant from the Hudson Cultural Council.

As a reminder, images for the March competition are due March 8 at 11:59pm. Don't wait till the last minute! The themes are Music and Open. On deck for April: Nature and Open. The judges for this month are: Silvana Della Camera, David Marshak, and Jim DeLuco.

There are some hints about the current theme in the newsletter, so read on! - Elliot

Note from the Editors

Since this is being written mid-February, it might be fool-hardy to say so, but it appears that spring may come early this year. Opportunities in March perhaps for shots of swelling buds, early growth, lifting earth, mud season's interesting patterns, puddles, etc? Mundane. Common. Often unseen. But what can we discover and capture that is a new view, a different angle, a unique observation?

This month we are not publishing the regularly-featured interview since *one of us* will be slacking off in Spain for half of February. Instead, we are sharing Linda Shelales' thoughtful response to the quote we shared last month – “To me, photography is an art of observation. It's about finding something interesting in an ordinary place. . . I've found it has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them.” - Elliot Erwin. Linda also graciously wrote about her early experience with photography, the creation of her photo card business, and what led to her join AVCC in response to our questions.

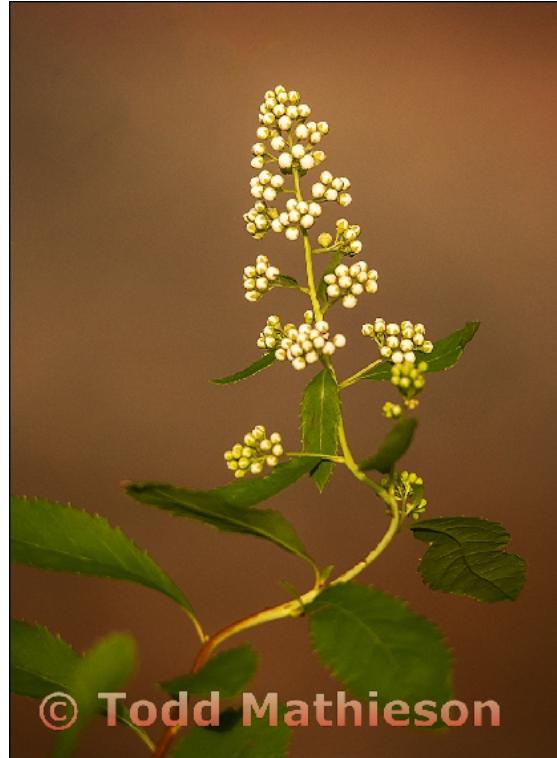
In Zooming Out we share an image of John Gill by Allan Jung from an article about the orchid show, ‘Allure’, at the New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill. To learn more about the exhibit you may be interested in reading the linked article by Veer Mudambi that appeared in the February 15 issue of the Worcester Telegram & Gazette. John has organized a club outing to Tower Hill on Thursday, March 2nd. See the details about registering on page 13.

We also have many engaging responses to our question, “What scene would make you stop in your tracks and grab your camera to capture it?” in the Zooming Out section.

This month's competition theme is **Music/Musical Performance/instruments**. It's a broad category with some items you might not have thought of, e.g. music implied - like a radio or someone dancing, something that generates music. Also, perhaps more obvious items like musical theater, loud speakers, sound stages, recording studios, images of 8 track, etc... Elliot Mednick has a great deal of experience in the field of music photography and provided us with insightful comments and informative tips for music photography - see page 17!

Though the judges probably wouldn't view flowers as appropriate for the Music theme, we'll leave you with this:

“Flowers are the music of the ground.
From earth's lips spoken without
sound.” - Edwin Curran, author, [Flowers](#)



© Todd Mathieson

White Wildflower at ARNWR
- Todd Mathieson

March Program

AVCC is pleased to present “Creativity with Your Smartphone” by Hazel Meredith on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 7:30 PM. The presentation will be on Zoom. The meeting room opens at 7:00 with a 15 minute social time followed by AVCC business at 7:15. Nonmembers interested in attending as guests should email info@assabetvalleycc.com.



Hazel Meredith, APSA, HonNEC

Meredith Images

Hazel Meredith is an award-winning photographer and a sought-after teacher, speaker, and competition judge. She began teaching in 2007, and does seminars at camera clubs and conferences across the U.S. – both in-person and virtual. She offers her own workshops and webinars, and has done webinars for several software companies.

She has written two eBooks, “Working with Textures & Overlays: Turn Ho-Hum into a Work of Art”. Book 1 was released in 2015 and the sequel in April 2019. In Jan. 2022 she released her first course, “Creating Your Own Textures”. Hazel loves the creative aspect of photography and post-processing, especially the use of textures and software to create unique images. In 2017 she and her husband, Dave, founded the “Creative Photography Conference” in New England. After several successful in-person events, they began holding Virtual Conferences to reach a wider audience.



*Image courtesy of
Hazel Meredith*

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Hazel is actively involved with the photographic community, and has held leadership roles and received honorary distinctions from several organizations. In the Fall of 2020 she was the recipient of the *Ashbrook Award for Digital Imaging Instruction* from the Photographic Society of America.

She enjoys teaching to assist other photographers in realizing their own creative visions, and believes that camera clubs are a great way to share the passion of photography and keep learning and sharing new techniques.

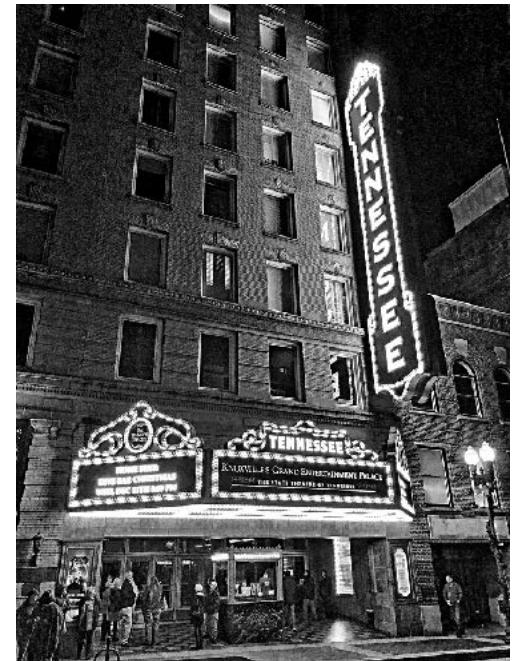
www.MeredithImages.com
www.MeredithImages.wordpress.com
www.Facebook.com/MeredithImages

Creativity with Your Smart Phone

By Hazel Meredith, APSA, HonNEC

Creative processing isn't limited to our desktop computers! Learn to create exciting, creative images on your smart phone!

We'll explore some of my favorite apps for creative processing including Snapseed, DistressedFx+, Image Blender, Retouch, and the JixiPix suite of apps. (Many apps are both iPhone/Android).



Tennessee Theater
Image courtesy of Hazel
Meredith

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Hudson Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



**Supporting the Arts,
Humanities and
Interpretive Sciences
in Hudson**
hudsonculturalcouncil.org



Continued on the next page

Creativity with Your Smartphone - continued from page 4

Images courtesy of Hazel Meredith:

Amis Heritage Farm



Old Truck - Hazel Meredith



Old Barn - Hazel Meredith



Dogwood - Hazel Meredith



VA Tree - Hazel Meredith



© John Gill

The Flutist - John Gill

Looking Ahead - AVCC 2022-2023 Program Schedule

DATE	PROGRAM	PRESENTER
9/7/22	Member Showcase	AVCC Members
10/5/22	Photographing Birds	Jim DeLuco
11/2/22	Salute to NECCC Photographers	Barbara Rozavsky, HonNEC
12/7/22	Tips for New England Winter Landscape Photography	David Long
1/4/23	Certain Slant of Light	Suzanne Revy
2/1/23	Color, Contrast, Lighting, and Composition	Silvana Della Camera
3/1/23	Creativity with your Smart Phone	Hazel Meredith
4/5/23	NONE - Scavenger Hunt	N/A
5/3/23	What Went into Making My Award-Winning Image	Members TBD

* For details about how to participate in the 5/3/23 “What Went into Making My Award-Winning Image” member image program see page 22.

Competitions 2022-2023

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. Please note that the Print competition has been suspended for the time being. See the [AVCC webpage](#) for more information about the rules and procedures for monthly competitions as well as the Scavenger Hunt, Multi-Screen, and PSA, and NECCC competitions. Pay particular attention to the rules for “Nature” submissions.

Schedule of Monthly Competition Category Topics & Submission Dates

Month	Print (suspended until further notice)	Digital	Open	Digital and Open Submission Date
September	Open	Garden/Flora/Fauna	Open	9/14/2022
October	City/Nat'l Parks	Nature	Open	10/12/2022
November	Nature	Old	Open	11/9/2022
December	Minimalism	Nature	Open	12/14/2022
January	Open	Inside the House	Open	1/11/2023
February	Nighttime	Nature	Open	2/8/2023
March	Nature	Music	Open	3/8/2023
*April	10 Scavenger Hunt Images for April 5 meeting			3/15/2023
April	Open	Nature	Open	4/12/2023
May	Open	Sports	Open	5/10/2023

Annual 2023 Scavenger Hunt Categories (The Multi-Screen competition has been cancelled this year.)

Backyard/Parks/Gardens Flora & Fauna
Inside the House.
Old
Night time Blue Hour to Blue Hour
Sports

National, State & City Parks
Music/Musical Performance/instruments
Minimalism
Emotion/Feelings
Compositional element(s)

PSA and NECCC

Selections made by the club representatives to the organization - Individual entries can be made.
Placeholder entries may be submitted on the AVCC website under Submit Images to a Competition.

Member Snapshot

Member Snapshot

"To me, photography is an art of observation. It's about finding something interesting in an ordinary place. . . I've found it has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them." - Elliot Erwin

Linda Shelales - A Response

I would like to say I totally agree! How could I not? But I also think photography is a way to express love of our subjects, capturing moments that will never be again. Love leads us.

This lesson was driven home the day, years ago, when I took a photo of a Milkweed blossom. My husband & I were just returning from our walk when I spied a pretty pink blossom in the middle of a field near our home. I didn't even know it was milkweed until I got closer! I was in a hurry that day, sorely tempted to 'wait until tomorrow', but something called me. The light was soft, brightening, but not too hot so I decided to take 'just a few quick shots'. I was thrilled, had never seen milkweed blossoms like it before! I only noticed the tiny ant crawling all over the plant just as I was leaving, so had no idea he was in any of my images until later.



Ant on Milkweed Blossom - Image Courtesy of Linda Shelales

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Member Snapshot - Linda Shelales - continued from page 8

Good thing I didn't wait. The very next day the blossom had wilted! I've also never seen such a robust milkweed blossom since then, anywhere. It was 'a moment'. I was so excited about capturing the ant on the blossom I decided to share the image with our local newspaper. Somehow a Bolton Naturalist, Nan Norsen, ended up writing an entire article centered around my photo, about the vital role ants play in the survival of this plant. I was really proud to have captured such a unique, precious moment in nature!

Photography HELPS us 'see with new eyes'. We look & look again. We try to see things in a different way & find ways to visually tell the story. Sometimes great images are found through the magic of discovery, on our way to or just poking around while waiting for other photo opps. We become like children again. We follow the light! It leads the way.

Carpe Diem!

Linda

Linda has been a member of AVCC since 2006. Here is her account of her journey into photography, her decision to join AVCC, and her photographic endeavors:

After graduating from Clark University in 2003 I decided to audit a class to help transition from 9 years of daily classwork. I wanted to take an art class, but they wouldn't accept an audit student. Their photography lab class had an opening; however, so I signed up. After all, photography is art too! Using my husband's old manual Nikon camera, I learned the basics about aperture & shutter speed. I loved seeking subjects, then watching images come to life in the lab! I took a LOT of bad photos but still managed a series of meaningful pictures. I became an avid black & white photography fan & came away from the class feeling like I'd accomplished something. While sharing my enthusiasm with my sister she urged me to try color photography & buy a point & shoot camera. "They're not expensive & digital technology offers an amazing variety of color hues!" So I bought the camera.



*Ice Cream Cones with Jimmies - Image
Courtesy of Linda Shelales*

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Member Snapshot - Linda Shelales - continued from page 9

At first I took pictures of flowers, aiming to paint some of the images during the winter. Soon I became addicted, printing probably hundreds of pictures at the old Walmart kiosk. People nearby, even department CVS clerks kept saying, "WOW, that's beautiful!" so I joked to Warren that my photos 'seem to have a Wow factor!' Then one day my elderly mom, who was always sending cards to friends & family, complained that she couldn't find colorful cards in the stores. "They're using so much black!" Then the aha moment. My flower pictures would make PERFECT cards! Thus LMSCREATIONS blank photo card business was born, circa 2004.

While I was developing my little business my husband saw a notice in "The Action Unlimited" newspaper about AVCC meetings & suggested I give it a try. Wanting to further hone my photography skills, I attended my first AVCC meeting in September of 2006. Totally impressed by Sue Abrahamsen's composition guidelines presentation, I realized that I had a LOT to learn yet! I joined AVCC that October. A LOT happened that September in 2006 which very nearly sidelined my joining, but for that part of the story you'll need to read my memoir. Too long for a newsletter!

I consider myself artistic, an amateur artist. I do pretty well, considering that I've had very little training. Unfortunately, my Communications major at Clark allowed only a few art classes. But it was gratifying to see that the teacher appreciated my work, mostly abstracts. She was Curator for WAM at the time! I took several art classes at WAM but eventually the cost became prohibitive. I've given away many paintings as gifts. After taking photography classes I took pictures of my paintings before letting them go.

I've included 3 photos I love. My youngest granddaughter sleeping at about age 2, which speaks to my heart. The ice cream on the mirror, which tweaks my artistic 'let them wonder' button. The sand patterns, which speaks to me of witnessing the rhythms & supreme power of nature at work.



*Bella Sleeping - Image Courtesy of
Linda Shelales*



*Diamond Etched Sand - Image Courtesy of
Linda Shelales*



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

Zooming In - Reflections, Musings, or Experiences (travel, how I got that great shot, my favorite photo or place to shoot for example) shared by members

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: Linda Shelales, Cathy Robotis, Lynn Kerner, Mary Coombs, Pam Meoli, Lee Arnold, Jane Parker, Terry Vachowski, John Gill, and Elliot Mednick.

Zooming Out

On the Wall at Cafe 641

This month's featured member at Cafe 641 is Mary Coombs. Installation will happen on Monday, March 6th. Be sure to check it out! Look for an email about a potential meet and greet. Next up at cafe 641 in April are Todd and Maureen Mathieson followed by John Gill in May.



Who's There? - Mary Coombs

*Faith in a Seed
-Mary Coombs*

Continued on next page

Zooming Out - continued from page 12

In the News!



John Gill at New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill - Photo Courtesy of Allan Jung

As serendipity would have it, club member John Gill was at Tower Hill recently experimenting with his new Lensbaby lens at the same time Allan Jung, photographer for the Worcester Telegram&Gazette, was there shooting images for an article by Veer Mudambi about 'Allure', the orchid exhibit now on show.

John, as well as Allan, captured some wonderful images! To learn more about the exhibit please read the very informative article published on February 15 in the Worcester Telegram&Gazette (especially before going to the exhibit) or visit the New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill website: <https://nebg.org>

Link to article "Latest Botanical Garden exhibit in full bloom at Tower Hill" by Veer Mudambi:

<https://www.telegram.com/story/lifestyle/home-garden/2023/02/15/botanical-garden-at-tower-hill-shows-the-allure-of-orchids/69889660007/>

See the next page for information about a club outing to New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill to photograph the orchids. Thanks to John Gill for organizing!

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Club Outing Opportunity

Message from John Gill:

We are planning a club field trip to Tower Hill on Thursday, March 2nd @ 10am until whenever.

We are trying a new way of managing field trips.

NOTE: Check the home page periodically for notices about upcoming events.

We are asking you to simply register for the trip via the website.

This will let us know who is going, and also it will create a group e-mail for those who will be attending.

This will ensure that you will receive any info, updates, or changes to the event, and also that we will not be flooding the inboxes of those who are not attending.

To register:

- Logon to the club website. <https://www.assabetvalleycc.com>
- Go to the events tab.
You will see an event calendar.
- Click on the Mar 2 date field trip icon.
- You should see a register button; just click it
and you are all set.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

John



*Orchid #2 - Image
Courtesy of John Gill*



Orchid #1 - Image Courtesy of John Gill

Zooming In

We asked our members the following question:

What scene would make you stop in your tracks and grab your camera to capture it?

Here are the colorful responses we received:



Chase in Repose - Jane Parker

Jane Parker:

Way, way back, in photography school, the one big thing I learned, was to observe the natural light. Long, dramatic shadows created by anything, at the beginning or end of the day, always catch my attention. Soft, broad light attracts me, too. Like, when someone is standing in a large doorway, or at a window. My dog, when he's sitting in his chair and intently watching squirrels in the yard. That makes me drop everything, and run for the camera!

Lee Arnold:

Unfortunately, I did not have my camera with me. On last Tuesday (Valentines Day!) I was driving past the Sudbury Town Hall and there on the front steps was a wedding taking place. Just five people: the person performing the wedding, two witnesses and of course the Bride and Groom. What a great scene. Very high key with all that white. Great photo opportunity and a chance to do a good deed all at one time... Oh well...

Made the commitment to myself, always have your camera...



© Lee Arnold

*Sunglasses in Shadow -
Lee Arnold*

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Terry Vachowski:

I normally get a lot of inspiration from the challenge cards we carry in our pockets. I usually have my eyes peeled for scavenger hunt photos from the moment we receive them, so I have been really bad at finding good subjects this year. I am a scrapbooker, digital only right now. I'm a journalist first and a "photographer" second, usually for illustration purposes. I normally have my phone on me when I'm out and about, even if I don't want to lug a camera along. I'm always open to things that make me stop for a second for something for my Facebook page or Instagram, which probably aren't competition worthy. Things include unusual stickers on cars, scenes, flowers or other sights, mainly on my walk through the neighborhood. So great for keeping me in the present and aware of the rest of the world.



© Theresa
Vachowski

*I had this spot first -
Terry Vachowski*



Pam Meoli:

Funny you should ask....I'm a very early riser and recently my friend texted me at 6:20 on a weekday morning to look at the sunrise. The sky was on FIRE! I ran to get my phone, outside in the middle of my yard with my checkered pjs, my striped socks and polkadot bathrobe and I'm sure my hair looked like a rat's nest...didn't care. The sunrise just about brought me to tears.

By the time I got back in the house for a view out the window, it had faded. These are the gifts that make getting up early the best part of the day.

*Fire - Image Courtesy of
Pam Meoli*

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Pam Meoli, cont:

The other reason I run for my camera (usually phone, it's much quicker) would be something funny regarding my dog - like this one...

"Just a Girl and Her Dog" Update from Pam Meoli:

The book is currently in the hands of my editors and will be targeting a beginning of March release date!

The cost is \$15 and proceeds are being donated to "Tend to You", a non profit out of Hudson who delivers care packages to cancer patients (and caregivers) tendtotoyou.org

**I am taking pre orders if you'd like a signed book and will pick a date in April to meet at Cafe 641 for pick up. Otherwise you can order from Amazon. Information to follow.

pammeoli@aol.com



*Rabbit Poop - Image
Courtesy of Pam Meoli*

Cathy Robotis:

In life, I am generally very upbeat and optimistic, but for some reason, when it comes to photography or music, I am very drawn to moody, atmospheric, thought-provoking themes. I love color, but I am drawn to black and white. So, the scenes that would make me run for my camera might involve fog or minimalist scenes that are contemplative or evoke feelings of loneliness. I am also drawn to items/scenes/places that are old and make me think of the past.



*The Queen in Repose -
Cathy Robotis*

"Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without." — Confucius

Tips and Tricks - March Theme: Music

Tips for Music Photography

Music is the art of “arranging sound to create some combination of form, harmony, melody, rhythm, or otherwise expressive content.” For many of us, music forms the soundtrack of our lives. As a theme in photography, capturing musicians as they perform falls into the genre of Music Photography, but music as a theme can also be reflected through images that paint a visual portrait of the elements of music and musical expression.

Elliot Mednick has professional experience photographing concerts, and he provided insight in terms of concert photography: “Any concert photograph would qualify for ‘music’. The ones a magazine would publish are not necessarily the ones that win competitions. For one thing, you can’t count on points being added just because the artist is famous. The image needs to stand alone, without context. The judges look for interesting compositions that fit the theme. Facial expressions, body positions, lighting all factor in.”



*Marko Hietala of the band Nightwish -
Image Courtesy of Elliot Mednick*

(Elliot also pointed out that the above is not an ideal music photo because the guitar is cut off. A big no-no.)

Elliot went on to suggest other types of images that would fit the theme of Music: “Apart from images of people playing instruments or singing, you can use instruments in a still-life setting, or use the light painting techniques that we learned last year. Perhaps closeups or unusual perspectives of instruments. And unusual instruments that are obviously instruments.” Further expanding, he made additional suggestions, such as “images of vinyl records, CDs, stereo units, and speakers, as long as there is something to show music, not just sound. Images of sheet music or piles of music books may work. People dancing.”

For those who may have an interest in photographing their favorite artists, we have put together some tips for capturing images of live performances. If you think you might want to try your professional hand at Music Photography, the experts suggest that you start off at small venues and build up a portfolio of your work. As Elliot mentioned above, it’s not about the fame of the artist in the photo; it’s about what you captured from that performance. Emerging artists often welcome promotional exposure through images of their performances. Once you have a portfolio, you can reach out to publicists, promoters, and venues to obtain passes for larger shows.

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Tips for Photographing Musicians and Performances:

- Shoot in RAW.
- Use auto white balance (to keep up with the changes in lighting).
- Use center focus point.
- Use spot metering.
- Avoid flash photography because this is distracting to the performer.
- You will need to use a high ISO (1600-3200) to get clear images in a low light situation.
- Shoot with a fast shutter speed (1/100, 1/200, or faster if you can). If the musicians you are photographing are very active on stage, you will need to use a faster shutter speed than if they are standing still.
- Try to use a wide aperture (as low as you can go).



*Patti Smith and Band -
Image Courtesy of
Cathy Robotis*

Cathy Robotis: This is a photo of Patti Smith and her band performing at the Odeon of Herodes Atticus, an ancient outdoor theater at the foot of the Acropolis in Athens. Singing along to “People have the Power” in the birthplace of Democracy is a memory I will treasure for the rest of my life. At one point, as Patti was addressing the hushed crowd, a man’s voice bellowed from the nosebleed section, shouting, “I LOVE YOU, PATTI SMITH!” A ripple of laughter from the audience ensued, followed by a pregnant pause. Then, as if on cue, Patti leaned into the mike, glanced up in the direction of the voice, and simply said, “Hmmmm..... OK, why don’t you send me a photo?” The crowd erupted into laughter and applause, thoroughly enjoying that unscripted moment on a very memorable, magical evening.

Suggested Reading:

Concert and Live Music Photography: Pro Tips from the Pit (1st Edition) by J. Dennis Thomas.

Upcoming class on Music Photography:

All Access: A Music Photography Intensive with Jeremy Saffer. 3/24/23 & 3/25/23 at Hunts Photo, 100 Main Street, Melrose, MA (\$600-\$750).

Sources: Wikipedia, Masterclass.com, expertphotography.com, Adobe.com, Format.com.

The Bigger Picture

Photography Exhibits

deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, MA

- New Formations: A mix of contemporary and vintage images celebrating leaping, jumping, and twisting through space.
- Through 3/13/23.



© Mary Strachan

Griffin Museum in Winchester, MA

- Carolle Benitah, Astrid Reischwitz, JP Terlizzi: Ties that Bind/ Threaded Narratives; 3/2/23-4/16/23.
- Anne Piessens: Origin Stories; 3/2/23-4/16/23.
- Marsha Guggenheim: Without a Map; 3/2/23-4/16/23.

Panopticon Gallery in Boston, MA

- Annual juried portfolio showcase, 2/3/23-3/31/23.

Dancing in the Moonlight
- Mary Strachen

Robert Klein Gallery in Boston, MA

- Gohar Dashti, Shadi Ghadirian, & Tahmineh Monzavi: Today's Life & War, 2/11/23-4/22/23.

Flora and Fauna of Massachusetts

- Featuring the work of 16 Boston Camera Club members.
- Mass Audubon's Boston Nature Center, 500 Walk Hill Street, Mattapan, MA 02126.
- 2/25/23-4/15/23.
- Reception 3/12/23, 1-3 pm (snow date 3/26/23).

Upcoming Photography Competitions

***Hello, Spring!* New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill Member photography contest 2023**

Six photographs taken at the Garden by NEBG at TH Members will be selected and displayed as part of our exhibition: *Hello, Spring!* Winning photographs will also be featured in the April Members Minute email. Photo submissions should relate to any and all things spring. We look forward to seeing your interpretation of our theme. (Members received an email with submission information) <http://nebg.org>

Contest Rules:

- All photographs must be taken on the grounds of New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill.
- One entry per person.
- Photos need to be submitted by **March 31, 2023**.
- Two winners will be chosen from three categories: Professional, Hobbyist, and Student (age 5 to 25)
- Winners may be asked to submit a higher resolution photo for printing purposes.
- Minors' faces (ages 18 and under) should be hidden unless consent is given.
- Photos can be from any year.

Continued on next page

Upcoming Photography Competitions continued

Nature TTL Photographer of the Year 2023

- Deadline 3/5/23.
- Website: <https://naturettl.com/poty/>
- Themes: Nature, Wildlife, Landscapes, Underwater.
- Cash prizes.

ND Awards (10th annual edition of Neutral Density Photography Awards 2023)

- Deadline 4/23/23.
- Website: www.ndawards.net
- Categories include: Abstract, Architecture, Cityscapes, Fine Art, Portrait, Photojournalism, Nature, Landscape, Nudes, Seascapes, Street, Travel, Underwater, Urban, Wildlife.
- Fees (nonprofessional): Single \$19, Series (2-5) \$24.
- Cash prizes.



Back Side of a Marsh Mallow

Monovisions Photo Awards 2023

- Deadline 5/14/23.
- Website: <https://monovisionawards.com>
- International call for photographers to submit B&W images.
- Categories: Abstract, Architecture, B&W conceptual, Fashion, Fine art, Landscape, Nature, Nudes, People, Portrait, Photo-journalism, Street, Travel, Wildlife.
- Cash prizes.



Craters Defined by the Shadows - Nick Andruzzi

earth.org Global Wildlife and Natural World Competition 2023

- Deadline 4/28/23.
- Free to enter.
- There are 4 total cash prizes.
- Subjects include Wildlife in Peril 2023, Human Impacts on the Environment 2023, Climate Action 2023, and Overall Best Environmental Photo 2022.

National Wildlife Photo Contest

- Entries accepted 1/18/23-3/26/23.
- Website: nwf.org
- Categories: Birds, Mammals, Baby Animals, Other wildlife (reptiles, macro, and more), Landscapes and Plants, People in Nature, Mobile (entries taken with phones or tablets), Portfolio category (ups to 10 images revolving around a theme related to nature or conservation), Young Nature Photographers.
- Cash prizes.
- Fees to enter: 15 photos for \$25, 10 photos for \$20, 1 photo for \$15 (entry fees help support NWF work to protect wildlife and places).

Continued on next page

The Bigger Picture - Continued from Page 18

Events, Outings, and Learning Opportunities

New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill in Boylston, MA: Allure, An Orchid Exhibition.

- 2/11/23-3/19/23.

Hunt's Photo Walk: Wool spinning long exposures at Carson Beach

- 3/4/23, 4:30-7:30 pm in South Boston, \$99.99.

Hunt's Street Photography Walk: Chinatown in the Morning

- 3/11/23, 8-11 am in Boston, \$89.99.

Hunt's Photo Walk: Christopher Columbus Park & Faneuil Hall

- 3/18/23, 5-8 pm in Boston, \$89.99.

Hunt's Photo Walk: Nature at Horn Pond

- 3/25/23, 8-11 am in Woburn, \$89.99.

Hunt's Portrait Workshop: Posing for Portraits

- 3/11/23, 9am-2pm; Hunts Photo, 100 Main Street in Melrose; \$149.99.
- To see all of Hunt's Educational opportunities go to edu.huntsphoto.com

Creative Photography: Bending the Light

- Set-ups for reflections and shooting through water or glass.
- 3/25/23: 10am-1pm (in studio), 3/31/23: 10am-11:30am (online image review).
- Create with Photos (createwithphotos.com), Nicole Mordecai (owner).
- Nicole has many additional training opportunities listed on her website.



Chatterbox - William Spezeski



© John Ford

At home - John Ford



© Natalie Schiavone

Dragonfly dance - Natalie Schiavone

Just in:

Please read Doris Monteiro's email sent on February 27 to the membership describing an invitation to attend any or all of 3 functions in March at Greater Lynn Photographic Association. (Photo opps day, a models session, and a Spring Basic Photo Course.)

“What Went into Making My Award-Winning Image?”

Calling all members!

The AVCC Program Committee is planning the May 2023 program as a member-driven program called “What Went into Making My Award-Winning Image?” and we need your help!

How many times during competition do we see an image and think “WOW, that is an amazing image, I wonder what went into making that image?” Now is our chance to find out!

Do you have an image that scored well in competition that you want to share the secrets on how you captured and edited the image for competition? If so, we are looking for volunteers from all three classes (AA, A, and B) to share their secrets!

Items that may be of interest to other club members when sharing what went into making the image are:



Preening anhinga - Robyn Saur

- Searching for the visual image in my mind
- Scoping out photo location
- Equipment set-up
- Why you chose the composition (light angle, background, etc.)
- Camera settings (f-stop, shutter speed, ISO, lens size, etc.)
- Image view pre- and post-processing
- Post-processing software and editing used

Please reach out to John Mauro, Program Committee Chairman if you are willing to participate!

Editor’s Note:

To date John is still looking for volunteers for this exciting program opportunity! There are so many beautiful and compelling images submitted for competition - please consider sharing your “secrets” with the club!



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



*Architectural Detail in Providence RI -
Lee Arnold*

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!