



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.



*The boys are back in town -
Catherine Robotis*

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Note from Our President

Be sure to check out the Members' Lens section of the newsletter for information about the current and upcoming Cafe 641 exhibits and for the link to the very informative NECCC You be the Judge series. We are still seeking volunteers to present how they captured award winning photos for the May program. Have you seen a member's image that you are curious about? Consider asking the maker to participate in the May program. See more information on page 22.

Editors' Note: We are happy to share this quote from Elliot: "Photography is my passion." - Elliot Mednick

Note from the Editors

April – and spring is upon us! We can smell the earth, feel the warmer sun, hear the shouts and laughter of children playing outside, watch the parents run bike-side as children go from training wheels to independence. Everything blooming and coming to life.

This month's Member Conversation is with Bridget Perch whose particular love of nature is focused on sunrises and sunsets - the opening and closing of the day. Bridget also shares her creative side and her penchant for taking on challenges.

The "Tips and Tricks" section is on photographing flowers, and Cathy, our "Tips" writer, notes the "delicate strength and unique spirit" of flowers. Isn't it so? The ground warms; a bud pushes up through the earth, or through the outer layer of a stem. Time-lapse photography can show us the process of it happening but it is still amazing, still awe-some. Because so many of you appreciate and reflect on nature, we imagine there will be a lot of photographing of buds and flowers this month. In May we'll be featuring your flower photos, whether they are something you'd submit to competition or not. You can remain anonymous if you wish. So get out there shooting. And don't forget the fun discovery of wildflowers!

"A flower's appeal is in its contradictions — so delicate in form yet strong in fragrance, so small in size yet big in beauty, so short in life yet long on effect."
– Terri Guillemets



Pop of Spring Color - Alan Mertz



*Chateau Close de Meyre Roses
- Glenn Fund*

April Program

AVCC is pleased to present “Photoshop Brushes Program” presented by Bernie Hynes on Wednesday, April 5, 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.

Bernie Hynes

Bernie is a self-taught photographer who has been involved in photography for over 50 years. He started with his own youngsters and a Kodak Brownie.

With the help of seminars, photo clubs, textbooks, and time, he started shooting weddings to support his film habit, ultimately building his own dark room and doing his own processing.

Bernie served as President of the Charter Oak Photographic Society in Hartford, CT and Print Director for the Florida Camera Club Council. He is a founding member of Photo Adventures Camera Club in Port Charlotte, FL.

He holds numerous Trophies, Plaques and Ribbons for his winning images from Photographic Society of America and Glennie Nature Salon, and has recently earned the Florida Excellence in Photography Award from the Florida Camera Club Council.



Image Courtesy of Bernie Hynes

Continued on the next page

Photoshop Brushes Program - Bernie Hynes

No painting skills required

As part of the Exploring the Toolbox series this session will look at the Brush Tool in Photoshop. This is a how to (where to click) presentation showing the controls available for the brush, including size, shape, edge characteristics, angle of application, and opacity.

We will demonstrate default brushes, as well as show you how to make your own brush, and additionally how to obtain free brushes that can be added to your Photoshop tool box.

Most importantly you will see images (before and after) showing the effect of changing the brush parameters.

Using the brush tool to its full potential can add another level of creativity and wow factor to your images.



Pink Umbrella - Image Courtesy of Bernie Hynes

Continued on the next page



Space Cadet - Image Courtesy of Bernie Hynes

*"You can't use up creativity.
The more you use, the more you have."
-Maya Angelou*



Preparing for the Hike - Lynn Kerner

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	Photoshop Brush Program	Bernie Hynes
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 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	Open	Nature	Open	4/12/2023
May	Open	Sports	Open	5/10/2023

Annual 2023 Scavenger Hunt & Multi-Screen 10 Competition Topics

(note - the 2023 Multi-Screen Competition and Scavenger Hunt were 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

Bridget Perch

Bridget got involved with AVCC in 2021 through Pam Meoli. Although she lives in Southbridge, Bridget has been able to participate easily because of the meetings being on line. She lives with her husband and son; and her daughter, son-in-law and grandson live nearby. She works for a Research and Development company - in “the background,” as she says. She describes herself as a “jack of all trades” and likes to take on special projects and try new tasks. She grew up in Fairhaven, MA, about 10 minutes from the ocean and describes the ocean as “part of me.”

Bridget has been involved in photography for many years, having taken courses in B&W photography at the Worcester Center for Crafts over 20 years ago. She learned how to frame a photo, learned about light, and how to develop her photos. Like others who moved through the evolution of photography from film to digital, she felt as if digital were “cheating.” But she came to appreciate the easy and instant feedback. She now uses both her phone, a Google Pixel 7, and her Canon Mirrorless EOSM6. Her favorite subject is nature, specifically the colors and magic of sunrises and sunsets - and *most* specifically over or around water. She enjoys the “thrill of the chase” and researches good locations to get good views. One of her most favorite places is Salisbury Beach. Her most disliked subject? People. “I hate taking photos of people - you can’t control them, they get unhappy with the shot, how they look, and you have to corral everyone. Nature doesn’t critique.”



before the sun Winter Island, Salem MA - Bridget Perch

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Member Snapshot - Bridget Perch - continued from page 8

About her passion for photography Bridget says, “I crave being creative. Photography and other creative arts such as pottery allow me to be more expressive, to focus on the positive side of things. They bring joy because of the experience of going out and doing it. You have the story of the photo. The photographer knows the story. The viewer might not.” The central question Bridget concerns herself with is, “did the subject stir emotion in me? Does someone else’s photo stir emotion?”

Bridget says she is not a technical person with the camera. She feels a good eye is most important and uses the various camera settings rather than manipulating much herself. She says she learns a lot from critiques in the competitions - especially the 2-pt spreads - and has learned not to take them personally. She credits the critiques with making her more aware of the backgrounds in her compositions, something she might not notice while shooting. She appreciates the varied themes during the year to nudge her out of her comfort zone in what she shoots. On the extremely cold weekend in February she tried something that came up in a club meeting - photographing frozen bubbles. It was definitely something new, but she says, “it did turn on the creative juices!! The process was fun and I was happy with the results. I would do it again.”



*Freezing bubble
- Bridget Perch*

Beyond participating and learning as a member of the club, Bridget has volunteered to announce the scores, the name of the maker, and the results in competition. Bridget confesses that pronunciation is not necessarily her strong suit, so she studies up on names before the competition in order to get them right. When asked why she would challenge herself in this way, she responds, “a club is only as good as its members,” and this was something needed by the club. She enjoys the challenges and the camaraderie of the club. Thank you, Bridget, for taking on the challenge!



*after the sun Salisbury beach Salisbury, MA
-Bridget Perch*

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Storm rolling in on Cadillac Mountain - Bridget Perch

*“The heart can think of no devotion Greater than being shore to the ocean -
Holding the curve of one position, Counting an endless repetition. “
- Robert Frost*



Lower Duck Pond Campobello Island Canada - Bridget Perch

Members' Lens



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, Pam Meoli, Alan Mertz, Bob Cooke, Terry Vachowski, Dave Morin, Mary Strachan, Darlene Holman, Elliot Mednick

Zooming Out

On the Wall at Cafe 641

This month's featured members at Cafe 641 are Maureen and Todd Mathieson. Installation will happen on Monday, April 3. Be sure to check it out! Look for an email about a potential meet and greet. Next up at Cafe 641 in May is John Gill followed by Alan Mertz in June.



Bee at the Bridge of Flowers



Well loved violin - Maureen Mathieson

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Zooming Out - continued from page 11

Here are some events and opportunities that our members shared:

From Dave Morin:

I'm having a solo show entire month of April 2023 at Milford Public Library, 80 Spruce Street in Milford. 508-473-2145

Monday - Thursday: 9:00am - 9:00pm

Friday: 9:00am - 6:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am - 5:00pm

This is my 9th year with a show at the library...14 photos, framed 16x20, behind the reference desk...lots of flowers and other items!

A reminder regarding Pam Meoli's new book:

There will be an Author signing at Cafe 641 on April 23 from 12:30 - 2:00 with Pam Meoli and the non-profit "Tend to You", promoting Pam's children's book "Just a Girl and Her Dog". Bring in your copy or purchase one from Pam, she will have extras. And come for a latte!



Red Guitar - Pam Meoli

From Bob Cooke:

Recently I arranged a large photo show (exhibition) for members of the AVCC to be held this summer (probably August) in the bottom floor of the big library in Maynard, MA. The theme will be "Seaside Vistas," and there will be room enough for many photos (large) that will be on display for the entire month. I will oversee the project, and help hang the framed photos in the ground-floor big room, and take them down a month later. I'll also be there to help dismantle the exhibit when it's over.

*From the editors: Stay tuned for more details about this opportunity!



That Little Ol' Band from Texas - Liz Krouse

Zooming In

A note from AVCC Member Mary Strachan - Goodbye Hudson, Hello Edinburgh!

As most of you know I am moving to Scotland. There are many things & people I will miss. Right up there is the AVCC and its members.

Little did I know when my hairdresser gave me the name of a seamstress, to hem my wedding dress, that my life would change? As Sue Abrahamsen measured & pinned, I looked around at her beautiful & amazing photos. We got talking and Sue encouraged me to join the club.

My 1st year I was so intimidated by the talent that I was afraid to submit a single photo. The following year I did OK & managed to receive some awards but I only occasionally submitted. This encouraged me to keep going! With the help of members & through tutorials my skills improved. Once I became more competitive, I was submitting photos along with Leon. When he went from level B to A, I congratulated him and said well now I have a chance to move on myself. But then came along Darlene! Not a chance that year! Darlene wowed me with her talent & on she went. But the following year came Elliot! I would come home from the senior center on competition night. My husband would say how did you do? One word, Elliot! In these years only one person was advancing at a time. I would have to wait another year!

I laughed about this then & now but, it was great because all throughout this time I was learning & gaining confidence. Even though I did not advance during that time I had many photos that won certificates which I was very proud of.

I have so many people to thank I feel like it is winning at the Academy Awards, I am afraid I am leaving someone out, but I will give it a try. Tops are Tony, Doris, Todd, Maureen, John Gill, Dave Reynard, & Dave Morin. These people were the rock that kept the club going in my early days. I appreciated their encouraging words & their patience in answering my questions. I loved when Dave Reynard would quietly come to me and say "good job Mary"! John Gill has spent endless hours on the phone walking me through Photoshop! To the others I appreciate all the effort you put into the High Jinx workshops! Tony thanks for telling me about the ballerina workshop at the NECCC. That is one of my favorite photos that I have taken. Jane Parker, your photography inspires me to get back to my roots of when I 1st picked up a camera. Also, many thanks to the new officers & newsletter people who are doing a great job.

I loved the experience of the NECCC conference & greatly appreciated the courtesy enrollment. I already have made connections with a woman from Tibet who wants to explore & take photos together in Scotland. She owns The Himalayan Café that Gordon & I go to quite frequently. As much as I loved the competitions I am going to take a break & simply enjoy photography! I will stay a member for now. Maybe I will stay up wicked late & see the slide shows in September & submit my own.

Thanks to all! Slàinte!

Mary Strachan

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“What is that feeling when you're driving away from people and they recede on the plain till you see their specks dispersing? — it's the too-huge world vaulting us, and it's good-bye. But we lean forward to the next crazy venture beneath the skies.” — Jack Kerouac



Look Out Behind You - Mary Strachan



Pansy Droplets - Mary Strachan



*Scottish Robin at the Falls
- Mary Strachan*

Zooming In

Member Recommendations:

Where do you print your photos, cards, or photo books? Where do you frame your photos or buy your frames?

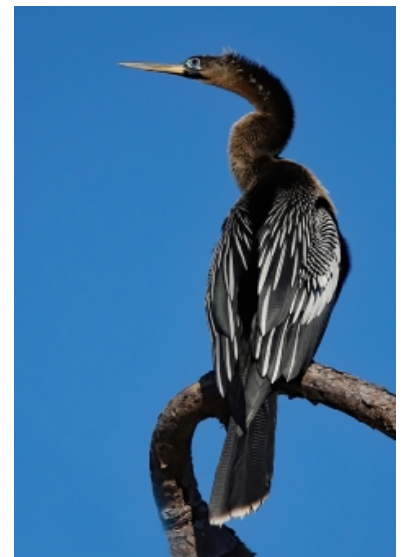
Alan Mertz: I print everything at home and buy Framatic frames, usually from Amazon or B&H or Hunts.

Bob Cooke: Framing, etc.? I take BIG favorite printed photos down to a company called “Framed in Time” on the northern side of Framingham. BUT – I only go there for mounting and matting – not framing (too damned expensive). For really good framing, I frequently poke into a big “salvage” store called SAVERS in a large shopping center on the north side of route 20 in Marlborough (near the big market is called “Price Choppers.” Then go into the huge second-hand store called SAVERS, which is visible from rte 20. On the left-side wall at the back of the Savers store is a zone showing dozens of ALREADY FRAMED pictures of various sizes (some very big). They come matted and already framed with glass. and all else. And if I’m lucky I usually go away with a few very nice frames – with images already mounted with mats, glass and frames. I remove the old images and mount my own. The cost? Anywhere from \$4 to \$40 – as is. You’ll only have to take ‘em apart, adjust things to mount your own images and you’re done. Too, some of those frames are quite elegant.

Terry Vachowski: I do my photo books with Forever Artisan software, and print them through Forever.com as the operation is seamless and the quality is great and they have lots of sales. I’ve also made notecards and other gifts through them, and upload jpgs of my printed books in their storage for saving and for sharing with my family. It’s a pretty comprehensive operation.

Pam Meoli: I sell and supply photo cards at 3 farm stands and at The Wayside Inn gift shop. I just print through Shutterfly and get insert cards on Amazon and cellophane envelopes. I frame my own photos and canvas prints but I’m cheap! I go to Michaels and buy what’s on clearance - if I like it for canvas prints. I switch my artwork out with the seasons or when I get tired of it and want a change. I usually get 16x20 prints so I can keep using the same frame. As for regular photos, I’ll go to Christmas Tree Shops, buy a matching mat and frame! (giving all my secrets away!)

Mary Coombs: For prints, cards, gifts, and books I usually use Shutterfly, but have found that Full Color, Inc. and mpix offer a much greater range of print sizes than Shutterfly and the color is better. I have found some lovely vintage and odd sized frames on Etsy through a shop called Frametowne. And then there’s Michaels - the online bulk prices are very inexpensive per frame.



Alert Anhinga - Robyn Saur

“Earth laughs in flowers.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

Tips and Tricks - April's Theme: Flower Photography

Tips for Flower Photography

It's that time of year again! We will soon be surrounded by the sights and colors of Spring as Mother Nature prepares for rebirth and a new season of growth. As flowers begin to bloom around us, we are presented with numerous beautiful opportunities to capture their essence through photography. Here are some tips and tricks for capturing the delicate strength and unique spirit of your favorite blossoms.

Preparing for your photography session:

- It's best to choose a slightly overcast day. Clouds act as natural diffusers.
- Too much sun results in flowers looking too harsh; too much shadow will result in dull flowers with not enough contrast.
- Early morning or later in the day are the best times to create dramatic warm images with attractive natural light.
- Beware of wind, unless you want to create an image with movement.
- Window light works well for indoor flower portraits

Lighting considerations:

- Consider using backlighting or side lighting. Backlighting will make your flowers glow.
- Soft and filtered light work best. You can use a diffuser to soften the light at midday.
- If you are outside and it is bright, consider underexposing slightly by -1 stop to bring out details of the flower, leaves, and stem.
- A polarizing filter may help.
- Reflectors can help with dark shadows. A gold reflector can be used for warmth. A silver or white toned reflector can be used to bounce light back onto an image.
- LED lighting may help in low light situations.
- Be careful not to blow out the details of your flower.



Backlit Flower - Lee Arnold

"A gray day provides the best light." - Leonardo da Vinci

Setting the scene:

- Study all angles to determine the best approach. Look for interesting, unusual angles. Composition is very important.
- Consider shooting your image from down low. This will offer an intimate perspective of the flower. Getting down to the level of the subject makes it appear bigger.
- Avoid a cluttered background because this can be distracting. Using a shallow depth of field will help ensure that the background is muted.
- If your flower is on a bush, avoid having the other branches in the image.
- When you choose your flower, beware of dead leaves, drooping petals, spots, and other flaws.

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Tips for Flower Photography - continued from page 16

- Consider moving closer and filling the frame with just part of a single flower; this will create a powerful, dramatic image. This works especially well with a large bloom. Choose the most interesting aspect of the flower (for example: the curve of a petal, how the petals join into the calyx, or the crown of stamens, and focus on that).
- You may also consider taking a minimalist approach and filling the frame with a lot of negative space around a smaller image. You might opt for a single pop of color from a flower as part of a very neutral scene.
- Water droplets add to the flower's story.

Camera Settings:

- Wide apertures have a shallow DOF, so it is tricky to determine how much is in focus at the largest setting. You will need to experiment and make adjustments as necessary.
- Unless you are aiming for a landscape shot, your goal is likely to keep a part of the flower sharp, using a shallow depth of field. You may want to use a macro lens and focus selectively to highlight certain details. Zoom in for dramatic effects.
- If you don't have a macro lens, you can consider using an extension tube on your lens.
- If you have the entire flower in focus, there is no clear focal point. Using selective focus will allow you to have a focal point for the viewer's eye to go to.
- In terms of shutter speed, 1/250 will generally provide good detail.
- You may prefer to create energy with movement using a slower shutter speed.
- Use the lowest ISO that works.



Purple 4 o'clock - John Gill



*Cactus Flower
- Theresa Vachowski*

Post-processing considerations:

- Work with contrast and saturation to enhance your dramatic effects.
- Consider B&W to emphasize composition and contrast.
- Consider adding some texture for a film-like look.

Sources:

Picturecorrect.com; damage.com; Adobe.com; myclickmagazine.com; Exposureguide.com; Iphonephotographyschool.com; naturettl.com; digitalphotographyschool.com; photographylife.com.

Tips for Flower Photography - continued from page 17

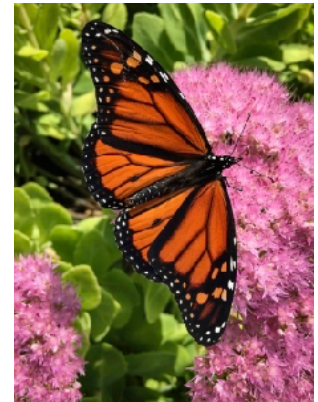
Alan Mertz: Tips for flower photos – 1) you can use backgrounds that you may have taken to use in photoshop and print them and hold them behind the flowers you want to shoot. This is a technique to blur the background when shooting flowers at small apertures for large depth of field when you only want the flower to be in focus. 2) you can go macro with focus stacking to get a dreamy feel yet in-focus flower. 3) my favorite is to go macro with a shallow depth of field to get colorful shapes without any defined object.

What is your favorite spot for photographing flowers? Member responses:

Alan Mertz: Favorite spot for flower shoots is Longwood Gardens in PA. I have been several times, and it is huge with a large variety and constantly changing.

Bob Cooke: Favorite spot for flowers? My own backyard (but I don't have one anymore) because I can get images at the peak of color, best conditions, etc. Second: up in Concord at the Old North Bridge in the garden outside the museum -- north of the Old North Bridge -- I got a gorgeous yellow peony sporting a blue fringe around the blossom. Other stuff too, depending on time of year.

I recall that following John Gill around is VERY worthwhile. I've got dozens of nice photos of lotus blossoms in all their glory, thriving in a sunken pool in a parking lot on rte 9 on the western end of Framingham. Some were just then being visited by active bumble bees – pollinating. I suspect that great pond has now been paved over, but it was a true photographic gem.



Nature's Wonder - Alan Mertz

Mary Strachan: The Butterfly Place in Westford is a nice spot for flowers and (obviously) butterflies. Dress lightly. I went on a cold day and was overdressed. Nearly passed out, seriously!

Terry Vachowski: My favorite place to photograph flowers is at Tower Hill in Boylston. On a calm windless day, I actually prefer my yard as I can take as long as I like and not bother anyone else.

Pam Meoli: AAAAhhhhhhhhhhh - flower photography. I would normally say Tower Hill is my favorite place to shoot flowers but when I shoot anything I'm thinking of competitions and I will never forget when I first joined club it was a Nature month and I submitted what I thought was a beautiful picture of tulips. The sun shining through them - much to my disappointed surprise the image was disqualified! They were hybrids! I had NO idea what that even was! So now my favorite place to shoot is Acton Arboretum. Especially in spring when the wildflower garden is in full bloom. A great place to bring a picnic.

Additional suggestions for Spring Flower Photography

- Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA.
- Lilac Days at Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain, Boston, MA.
- Wicked Tulips in Johnston, Rhode Island.
- Daffodil Days at Blithewold Mansion, Blithewold, RI.
- Rhododendron Festival, Sandwich, MA
- Ferjulian's Farm in Hudson, MA.

The Bigger Picture

Upcoming Photography Workshops and Programs

Hudson Public Library - 3 Washington St. Hudson, MA

Meet Legendary Sports Photographer Steve Babineau - Monday, April 3, 6-8 PM

- Register at huds.pl/steveb23 or contact Nancy DelVecchio - 978-568-9644 ndelvecc@cwmmars.org

Photoshop Creativity Virtual Summit - April 17 - 20, 2023

- Free - 36 online Photoshop classes - 19 instructors - for registration go to [Photoshop Virtual Summit](#)

Worcester Center for Crafts, Worcester, MA

- Intro to Digital Photography; 4/11/23-5/16/23; Tuesdays 6:30-9:30 pm; \$240.
- Intro to Darkroom Photography; 4/13/23-5/18/23; Thursdays 6:30-9:30; \$250.
- Intermediate Digital Photography; 5/23/23-6/27/23; Tuesdays 6:30-9:30 pm; \$245.
- Creating Meaningful Photographs; 6/24/23; Saturday 10 am to 5 pm; \$149.

Recommended workshop and zoom classes from Alan Mertz: I really enjoy [Mollie Isaacs Awake the Light](#) web site. I am going on a shore bird workshop in Florida in April and I have done flower workshops with her and have been very pleased. Once you have taken a class or workshop with her, she responds to questions and provides suggestions forever. Very nice person to deal with.

Darlene Holman shared thoughts and the link to the 4 Part NECCC You Be the Judge Miniseries:

The 1st Episode is worth the watch. It is really enlightening. The presenter, Rick Cloran really knows the subject inside and out. The following link is for Episode 1 and Episode 2. Episode 3 will be available soon. You can also register for the 4th episode happening on May 19. <https://group.necccc.org/judge/>

Photography by Lisa and Tom - Blog including upcoming workshops/classes with Tom and Lisa Cuchara



"Focused in a Noisy Crowd"
- Nick Andruzzi



*Painter, Rothenberg, Germany in
1955 - John McKinney*

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*Light Painting the Night Sky
- John Mauro*

Photography exhibits

Massachusetts Historical Society (masshist.org):

They have an online collection of historical photographs.

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.

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

Upcoming photography contests

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).



Clifton - Richard Tranfaglia

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Upcoming photography contests continued:

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>.

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.

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.

April prepares her green traffic light and the world thinks, "Go!" - Christopher Morley

Editors' Note:

We would like to invite members to submit flower photos for inclusion in the May newsletter - check out all the tips and tricks in this issue and look for emerging flowers to capture! Send your favorite to the Newsletter team (this is not a competition).



*One-Man Band
-William Spezeski*



Venice - Dawn Law

“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!



Eastern Coyote Hunting for Voles - Darlene Holman

How many times during a 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 are willing to share the secrets of how you captured and edited the image for competition?

If so, we are looking for volunteers from all classes (AA, A, and B) to share their secrets!

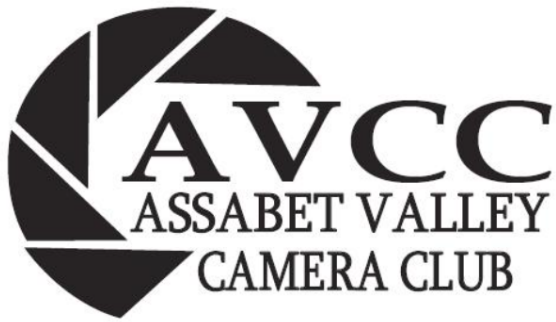
Items that may be of interest to other club members when sharing what went into making the image are:

- 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!

Editors' 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!



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



*Nightwish at the Worcester Palladium
- Elliot Mednick*

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!