



# 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](mailto:info@assabetvalleycc.com) for more information or if you wish to attend as a guest.



Frye's Measure Mill - Alan Mertz

## In this Issue:

### A Word From Our President

Note from the Editors	p 3
Program Info	p 4
Competition Info	p 9
Member Snapshot	p 11
Members' Lens	P 13
AVCC Organization	p 22

## A Word from Our President

Hello everyone,

I hope you all had an enjoyable Thanksgiving. Myself? Jo and I spent the day at Jo's brother's near Lewiston, Maine. We had a traditional turkey dinner. We were treated later by a visit into their yard by a male and female ring-necked pheasant. A lifer for me. And yes, photos to show for it.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

At this start of the holiday season (although some consider Halloween the unofficial start), I wanted to wish all of you a happy and healthy seasons greetings. I took a few minutes on Thanksgiving day to reflect on things that I am thankful for. I won't bore you with my list, but of course photography and the camera club are important parts of my life, and I am thankful for a hobby that I am passionate about, that I am half-decent at, and that keeps me busy.

I do want to thank every single one of you for being a member of the Assabet Valley Camera Club. Yes, many of you have stepped up and volunteered your valuable time. But even if you haven't; even if you don't participate in the competitions; even if you can't attend Zoom meetings; You chose join AVCC to better yourself as a photographer and/or to make to friends or find a place where you belong. Every new member validates the existence of this club, even if all they do is sit back and watch and take everything in. You chose to pay your membership dues, and become a part of all of us.

This is just another one of the things that I'm thankful for. (That, and we didn't have a mass exodus after I became president. :- )

On a consumerism note, if you are into finding deals now, I will make some observations: 1) if you're still interested in Harold Ross's light painting technique, Olight is having a sale on the flashlight he recommends for 20%-ish off. I pulled the trigger and ordered one. 2) Lenovo is having some really good deals on laptops, I bought one of those, too. (AMD, of course.) 3) I also bought a 5TB external disk drive from Best Buy for \$89. I see a lot of pretty good deals out there that are more than just raising the list prices in order to make the discount look better.

But also, consider buying local, especially at the local craft fairs. Yes, I bought some stuff at some, as well, with more to come.

Ok, back to football.

Holiday Cheers!

- Elliot



Old Encyclopedia - Elliot Mednick

## Note from the Editors

We're kicking off this month's "Note" with a big Thank You to John Gill, Sue Abrahamsen, Elliot Mednick and Tony Monteiro for getting the Hybrid Zoom/in-person club meetings started.

December's Member Snapshot is new member Leila Pelosi. Given that she does not have a combined 100 years (!) of photography experience like the Monteiros, the Snapshot is shorter, but the conversation was just as enjoyable.

You might want to explore the following work by photographer Tyrone Turner – images reflecting parallels, contrasts, cause-and-effect, commentary. It's provocative.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/pictureshow/2022/11/17/1136296744/see-the-ties-that-bind-antarctica-and-louisiana-through-one-photographers-lens>

December's program will focus on winter landscape photography and our Tips section is advice on night photography. Are we catching a theme here? Black, white, dark, light. We can also add cold and bright to the photographic possibilities. Crisp skies, brilliant stars, snow and ice. And of course, the contrast of warm holiday light.

*As we head into the darkest month, may we find gifts of beauty and light.*



Shared Reflections - Cathy Robotis

## December Program

AVCC is pleased to present “Tips for New England Winter Landscape Photography” by David Long, December 7 at 7:30PM. 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@assabetvallevcc.com](mailto:info@assabetvallevcc.com).

### Dave Long Bio

Dave has been teaching landscape photography for the last eleven years throughout New England. He has gained a following through his workshops and tours, eleven e-books on Self-Guided Photo Tours, Composition and Fall Foliage. He makes frequent appearances on photography pod casts, does camera club presentations, publishes blogs and has a large social media community.

Dave is a member of the Boston Camera Club. He has won numerous awards including:

- 2021 New England Camera Club Council Picture of the Year - B&W
- 2020 Nantucket Photo of the Year – Today’s Nantucket
- 2019 One of the Eight Best Landscape Photographers in Boston by Peerspace
- 2019 New England Camera Club Council Picture of the Year
- 2019 Ocean State International Exhibition - 2 Medal Winning Images
- 2019 1st Place in the New England Camera Club Council’s Winter Competition
- 2018 1st Place in the New England Camera Club Council’s Fall Competition
- 2018 Boston Camera Club Print Image of the Year
- 2017 Boston Camera Club Projected Image of the Year
- 2016 Appalachian Mountain Club’s Image of the Year



David Long

Dave’s images have been featured in:

- 2022 Light of New England Calendar distributed to New England retailers
- 2020 Down East Magazine
- 2020 & 2019 Newport Life Magazine
- 2019 Boston Globe
- 2018 Boston Voyager
- 2018 Discoverer e Travel Guide
- 2018 Guide to Boston – February & April
- 2018 Cape Cod Magazine 20th Anniversary Edition

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Dave lives in Shrewsbury, MA and travels extensively through New England. See his work at [www.davelongphoto.com](http://www.davelongphoto.com) and follow him on [www.instagram.com/davidlong3653](https://www.instagram.com/davidlong3653)

## TIPS FOR NEW ENGLAND WINTER LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY



Living in New England, I am blessed with ample opportunities to shoot my favorite landscapes in all four seasons. Winter is my second favorite mainly because of its juxtaposition with the other three where the scenes overflow with color; winter instead, has a stark, minimalist look that provides an entirely different opportunity in landscape photography. In winter, the point of interest in the image becomes much more important. Foreground and background elements that typically play a big roll in your composition often change radically or even disappear into a blank white canvas. The upside is that many views that are obscured in the other three seasons now present themselves. In this blog, I don't try to cover all the equipment, clothing, and preparation needed for long hikes to do winter photography; instead I present my view of the important points for those who want to do winter photography without suffering too much of the downside of winter weather.



*“Snow was falling, so much like stars filling the dark trees, that one could easily imagine its reason for being was nothing more than prettiness.” — Mary Oliver, “Snowy Night”*

## Images by Dave Long



Dave has been a Podcast Guest on:

- The Understanding Photography Show – May 5, 2019
- Master Photography Latitude Podcast – 11/5/18, 7/21/19 & 7/23/19

And a Blog Contributor:

- October 2020 – Shooting Autumn Landscapes - for Datacolor Calibration
- September 2020 - Shooting Fall Foliage in Vermont – Stowe Visitor Center
- February 2018 - Landscape Photography Location Scouting

Image by Dave Long



***"I prefer winter and Fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape--the loneliness of it, the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it, the whole story doesn't show. "***

***--Andrew Wyeth***

David Long's 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.



Made in USA - Jane Parker

## 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

Program information and presenters' bios will appear in the newsletter preceding the month of the presentation.

\* For details about how to participate in the 5/3/23 "What Went into Making My Award -Winning Image" member image program see page 21.

## 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 & Multi-Screen 10 Competition Topics (note - the 2023 Multi-Screen Competition will not occur this year - this does not affect the Scavenger Hunt)

Backyard/Parks/Gardens Flora & Fauna	National, State & City parks
Inside the House	Music/Musical Performance/instruments
Old	Minimalism
Night time Blue Hour to Blue Hour	Emotion/Feelings
Sports	Compositional element(s)

### PSA and NECCC

Selections made by the club representatives to the organization - Individual entries can be made. Please note that placeholder entries may be submitted on the website under Submit Images to a Competition.

### MEMBER SNAPSHOT

#### New Member - Leila Pelosi

Leila Pelosi and I met at – where else? – Cafe 641 - to meet and spend some time chatting about photography and learning about each other. Leila was full of questions and said she had mostly accepted the interview invitation in order to interview ME. Little did she know that I'm hardly a font of information!

Retired from her job as an appraiser, Leila moved to Hudson from Chelmsford about a year ago after her daughter and family bought a house with an in-law apartment. She joined the Senior Center as a way to meet people and saw the Camera Club notice there. She knows Doris and Tony from exercise class and approached them for more details.

Of course the whole time that Leila has been involved we've been meeting via Zoom, which has made it hard to get to know members in any real way. We talked about the field trip opportunities that are starting up again and I shared with her my recent very positive experience going with a small group to Southwick Zoo.

To date, Leila has been mostly using her iPhone to take posed and candid photos at family events. She is also familiar with a "point & shoot" camera, having taken pictures of houses for years in her job as appraiser, trying to get just the right angle to show the house to best advantage.



Prayer Plant - Leila Pelosi

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Leila has been asking club members for advice on buying a DSLR camera and – as I recall – got some good feedback during an after-meeting discussion one night. Coincidentally, while we were at Café 641, Pam Meoli was also there and told Leila that she had recently sold her cameras, lenses and tripod because she got tired of lugging around her bulky, heavy gear. Pam now has gone over to a “point & shoot.”

Leila had many questions for me re: photography and cameras. I shared my own development and learning through the club as well as noted the varying experiences, approaches and types of photography that we see in club membership. We discussed the potential for using her iPhone for shooting and Leila said she might consider taking one of the evening talks at the iPhone store on photography before making a big investment.

In addition to an interest in photography, Leila’s hobbies and activities include tennis, exercise class, mahjonn, and childcare for her grandchildren both in Hudson and Vermont.



Wilson Gingerbread House - Glenn Fund

## 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 Members' Lens: Cathy Robotis, Lynn Kerner, Mary Coombs, Glenn Fund, Doris Monteiro, and Alan Mertz

### Zooming Out

On the Wall at Cafe 641

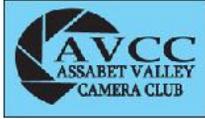
If you haven't had the opportunity to visit Cafe 641 in Hudson here is a glimpse of what the exhibit wall looked like with images by Cathy Robotis displayed in November. We are thankful to Glenn Fund for acting as liaison between AVCC and Cafe 641 and helping members install their work. He supplies the necessary materials for hanging (just bring your images ready to hang!). Glenn also provides members with a template for their bio - see Cathy's on the next page. We are also grateful to Jim Quinn for installing the hanging rail!



Glenn has arranged an AVCC group "Winter and the Holidays" exhibit for the month of December. The following members will each have an image on display:

John Gill, Elliot Mednick, Glenn Fund, Lynn Kerner, Alan Mertz, Robyn Saur, Bob Cooke, and Cathy Robotis.

The exhibit will be installed on December 5th and the meet and greet for this show will be at Cafe 641 on December 17th from 12:00-1:30. If you are interested in showing your work at Cafe 641 contact Glenn through the AVCC website.



## The Assabet Valley Camera Club Presents ...

### Photographs by Catherine Robotis Café 641 Exhibit – November, 2022



My name is Catherine Robotis, and I am a photography hobbyist. I am originally from New York City, but I have been living in Shrewsbury since 2002. I am a nurse, and I worked for several years as a School Nurse for Worcester Public Schools. I have been taking pictures for as long as I can remember, but I started to get more serious about learning the art of photography 10 years ago, when my husband gave me a Nikon camera for my 50th birthday. I have continued to learn and grow since then, and there is still much to learn.

I love to explore the world around me, camera in hand. I enjoy the changing seasons and the colors they bring, the flora and fauna around us, and the different landscapes that I encounter from the streets of bustling cities to the quiet, peaceful scenes of the countryside.

I have put together eight of my favorites, and I hope you will enjoy them.

**Two Boats:** Taken in Rockport, MA on a lovely summer afternoon.

**Splash!:** A young gosling experimenting with water at Dean Park in Shrewsbury.

**Autumn Morning at the Old Stone Church:** Beautiful in any season, but especially Fall.

**Sunset over Sounio:** The Temple of Poseidon in Attiki, Greece.

**In Bloom:** One of many colorful tulips at the Boston Public Garden this past Spring.

**Manhattan by Night:** Taken from DUMBO in Brooklyn on a perfect Summer evening.

**Standing Out While Blending In:** I found this sparrow hiding under a hedge in NYC.

**Homeless in Greece:** A stray dog with hungry eyes. Luckily, I was carrying dog kibble.

If you have any questions or thoughts regarding these prints, I would love to hear from you. If you are interested in more information or would like to know how to join the Assabet Valley Camera Club, please refer to the web site listed below. Thanks so much.

Catherine Robotis  
crobotis@gmail.com  
(508) 265-7017

Assabet Valley Camera Club: [assabetvalleycc.com](http://assabetvalleycc.com)

## Zooming In

Coming to you live from the COA!

After nearly 2 years of only Zoom meetings we were able to convene at the Hudson COA on November 16 for a hybrid meeting. Thank you to Elliot Mednick, John Gill, Tony Monteiro, and Sue Abrahamsen for working out the logistics and technology to make this possible! Nine members showed up to enjoy the competition in the presence of other members - some were meeting for the first time. The thoughts were mixed about whether attending live or Zoom was better - those in attendance really enjoyed the camaraderie and opportunity for spontaneous conversation (and the cookies!) but missed being able to communicate easily with those on the Zoom meeting. It is a work in progress and we look forward to more opportunities to gather in person! Stay tuned.

The next meeting, December 7, featuring the program “Tips for New England Winter Landscape Photography” by Dave Long, will only be on Zoom.

Snapshots of the meeting at the COA:



Old Abandoned Truck - Darlene Holman



1913 Singer - Mary Coombs

## Tips and Tricks - December's Theme: Night Photography

### Tips for Night Photography

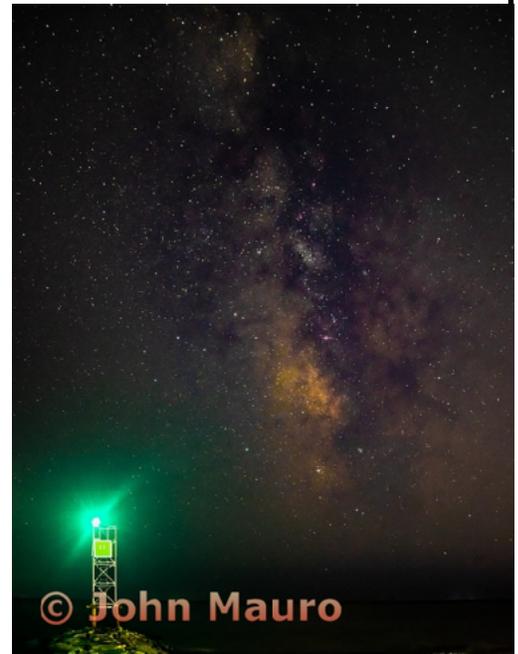
Night photography captures images outdoors at night, between dusk and dawn. From the night sky to city lights, there are many opportunities to produce stunning, compelling night photography images, highlighting the interplay of color and/or light with darkness.

### Ideas for Night Photography

- The night sky (moon and/or stars)
- City skylines
- Architecture (intricate buildings, ruins, monuments, museums)
- Fireworks
- Carnivals
- Neon signs
- Holiday lights
- Fountains

### Photographing the night sky

- Make sure you have extra batteries and a flashlight. Long exposures and cold weather will drain your battery more quickly.
- Bring a tripod and a cable release.
- Plan to be out on a cool, clear moonless night, unless you want to incorporate the moon.
- Sparsely placed clouds may make the image very interesting.
- The summer milky way will have more color and depth than the winter milky way.
- Your goal is to get as much light as possible using the fastest, widest lens.
- Shoot in RAW or RAW + JPEG.
- You will want to shoot in manual; make sure autofocus is deactivated.
- Consider lowering the brightness on your LCD screen so you will be able to see better to focus.
- Focus on infinity; this will help keep the stars sharp. You may have to adjust the focus dial a little to make sure the stars are actually in focus. Do some test shots and make adjustments as needed.
- Consider setting your white balance to Tungsten or Daylight (though this may produce images that are too orange).
- Set your aperture as wide as possible.
- You will want a shutter speed of 20-30 seconds or longer (bulb). You can start at 20 seconds and experiment upwards. When you get to 30 seconds or longer, you may find that the stars are blurry, due to the earth's movement. You may find that 25 seconds works very well.
- Try an ISO of 800 to start, but you may need to increase it to 1600, 3200, or higher.
- Consider turning on Long Exposure Noise Reduction on your camera.
- Consider incorporating a foreground; a silhouette in the foreground may enhance the overall image, or detail in the foreground may complement the night sky.
- Consider working with HDR (taking multiple shots with bracketing or varying exposure times and merging them).



September Milkyway - John Mauro

## City skylines and city scenes at night

- Use a tripod and a cable release. Disengage vibration reduction.
- Consider prime lenses with wide apertures (16 mm, 24 mm, 35 mm).
- Plan to shoot in manual mode and RAW.
- Use LIVE VIEW because when in Live View, the mirror is automatically locked up. If not, the motion of the mirror when the shutter is released will contribute to camera shake.
- Because you are photographing city lights, the scene will be brighter than photographing the night sky, so consider using a low ISO (100-200 or up to 800).
- For your aperture, consider using f5.6-f8 because this will give you a decent depth of field while allowing for enough light.
- Once you have set your ISO and aperture, you can adjust your shutter speed based on what the metering on your camera suggests; take test shots, and adjust as necessary.
- Consider bracketing your exposures to capture the details in the shadows and lights.
- Remember to check the histogram to make sure your exposure is correct.
- You will get the best exposure if you shoot at twilight, when the lights are lit and there is still some light in the sky.
- Look for reflections, such as off of glass and steel from city buildings or water (ponds, lakes, fountains, puddles), using a slow shutter speed to remove the ripples.
- Consider capturing streaking lights (light-trail shots) in cities, suburbs, or even rural scenes. Use a slow shutter speed (15 seconds or longer). Aperture ~f8. Low ISO (100). Use a tripod. Wait till traffic is entering the scene and then trip the shutter. If you want this to be the center-point of the photo, find a vantage point overlooking a major street or a road.
- When it comes to photographing street lights, beware of overexposure.
- Individual buildings may be very interesting in terms of their lighting. Museums may have dramatic facades.
- Look for overlooks with dramatic views of city lights: Consult guidebooks or tourist sites because they often recommend great places for views
- Bridges at night: Make sure you have a good vantage point. Use a long exposure. Try to get the lights reflecting in the water. Water in the foreground will make for a stunning image. Include passing traffic with light streaks if possible/desired.
- Fountains: Use an ISO of 100-400 and a moderate aperture ~f8. Adjust the shutter speed to get the correct exposure.



Public Garden 1 - Richard Tranfaglia

## Carnivals

- Capture spinning rides and colors.
- Shutter speed 8-15 seconds.
- Low ISO.
- Moderate aperture for sufficient depth of field.

## Fireworks

- Use shutter speed of 10-15 seconds.
- Trigger the shutter when you see the dot of the firework going up.
- You will capture the explosion from beginning to end.

## Holiday lights

- Decide on a subject. Draw attention to your subject by making sure your subject is well exposed.
- Turn off your flash, unless you do not have enough light to properly see the details of your subject (such as an indoor scene of a child in front of bright Christmas lights). When in doubt, take a photo with and without the flash to see which is best. Consider turning on lights in the room to brighten the scene with ambient light instead of using a flash. Or, consider pointing your light source upwards towards the ceiling (has to be a white ceiling, though).
- You will need a slow shutter speed, so use a tripod.
- Use a fast ISO (800, 1600, or above).
- You can use noise reduction tools in post-processing, or you can use your in-camera noise reduction function.
- Consider metering your subject (for example, meter for the light that falls on the face from the Christmas tree).
- Consider turning off auto white balance because this may impact the quality of the colors captured.
- If you are taking photos of outdoor holiday lights and scenes, you will capture the best lights at twilight, when there is still some light in the sky.
- If you are taking a photo of a person in front of a brightly lit display, consider using night portraiture mode. Or, you can take 2 exposures (one capturing the best highlights and one capturing the best shadows) and combine as separate layers, tweaking the combined image as needed afterwards.

## Sources:

School of Photography/photographycourse.net; Masterclass; colesclassroom.com; Digital Photography School; New York Institute of Photography; Adobe.com; Digital Photo Mentor.



Princess Street Lights - Mary Strachen

## Editor's Note:

There are some interesting competitions and events in "The Bigger Picture" section on the next 2 pages. We would like to draw your attention to the *Sonic Imagery - A Visual Concerto* competition called for by Groton Hill. This new performance center in Groton, MA is stunning and worth a visit. The winning images of New England landscapes and culture will be displayed on a giant screen behind the orchestra during a performance in April. Think about entering! Also - note in the Events section only a few of the many winter lights celebrations happening in Massachusetts. If you search Holiday Lights in Massachusetts you will find a plethora of possibilities! Enjoy.

**January's Theme: Indoor Photography - Please submit contributions to Cathy Robotis**

## The Bigger Picture

### Suggested Books:

- *The Photographer's Eye* by Michael Freeman: This book focuses on composition and design in one's photographs.
- *Bryan Peterson's Understanding Composition Field Guide* by Bryan Peterson. This book instructs on how to "see and photograph images with impact."

### Upcoming photography contests:

#### **Sonic Imagery - A Visual Concerto**

- There will be a concert on 4/22/23 at 7:30 pm at the Groton Hill Music Center to celebrate the life, land, and culture of central New England.
- They are calling for submissions of photos that show historic centers, scenic vistas, sparkling rivers, rolling landscapes, iconic spaces, recreational activities, community events, and people who make our lives special.
- Images will be shown on a 440-square foot screen above the orchestra, set to Dvorak's Symphony No. 8.
- They are looking preferably for horizontal, color images. Please visit [grotonhill.org](http://grotonhill.org) for further requirements and information.

#### **Environmental Photography Award**

- Sponsored by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and hosted by [photocrowd.com](http://photocrowd.com).
- Deadline 1/15/23
- Categories: Polar Wonders, Humanity versus Nature, Ocean Worlds, Into the Forest, and Change Makers: Reasons for Hope.
- You can enter up to 5 images for each category.
- This is a free competition.
- Prizes include grants of 500, 1000, and 5000 euros.
- As part of the grand prize, they offer a trip (expenses paid) to visit the Amazon Research Station at the University of Ecuador to do a photographic documentary of the Ecuadorian jungle. The grand prize winner will also win a trip (expenses paid) to the 2023 Award Exhibition in the Principality of Monaco.

#### **Lens Culture Art Photography Awards 2023**

- Submissions due 12/14/22.
- LensCulture is a photography magazine based in The Netherlands.
- All types of photography are accepted for the competition.
- You can submit one photo for free. Submissions are \$10 each after the first one or 5 for \$35 or 10 for \$45.
- Competition site: [lensculture.com](http://lensculture.com).



Mayflower Beach - Jim Quinn

Continued

### **Upcoming Photography Workshops and Programs**

#### **Boston Photography Workshops ([bostonphotographyworkshops.com](http://bostonphotographyworkshops.com))**

- Offers online and in-person courses on various topics, such as composition, food photography, night photography, and portraiture.
- They are located at Midway Artist Studios, 15 Channel Center Street, Boston, MA.

#### **Digital Photo Academy**

- They offer online and in-person classes/workshops on a variety of topics.

For anyone who may find themselves in Florida in April 2023, there will be a **Florida Birds Workshop** from 4/16/23-4/21/23 in St. Augustine with Mollie Isaacs. She also offers webinars and online programs. You can visit her site at [www.awakethelight.com](http://www.awakethelight.com).

**Broad Meadow Brook** in Worcester, MA offers a variety of classes and group activities in person and online. There are classes on birding, nature, and attracting wildlife to your yard. There are organized bird walks. You can visit Broad Meadow Brook through [massaudubon.org](http://massaudubon.org). You can also check for activities and classes at other Mass Audubon Wildlife Sanctuaries.

### **Photography Exhibits**

**Cafe 641, Hudson** - AVCC Member show that changes monthly - December - group exhibit - photographs by 8 AVCC members - “Meet and Greet” on December 17th from 12:00-1:30 at Cafe 641!

#### **Griffin Museum of Photography in Winchester, MA**

- Winter Solstice 2022, various artists (12/9/22-1/8/23).
- an end and a beginning, featuring the work of Alyssa Minahan (12/8/22-1/8/23).
- The Color of Water, featuring the work of Sarah Schorr (12/8/22-1/8/23).

#### **Robert Klein Gallery in Boston, MA**

- Eat Flowers, featuring the work of Cig Harvey (10/22/22-12/17/22).

### **Events**

#### **Trustees of Reservations - Winterlights Tickets on Sale Now**

This winter season, three of our beautiful garden properties—Eleanor Cabot Bradley Estate in Canton, Naumkeag in Stockbridge, and Stevens-Coolidge House & Gardens in North Andover—will sparkle with thousands of shimmering, artfully designed holiday lights. <https://thetrustees.org>

**Tower Hill** - NIGHT LIGHTS 2022 - Friday, November 25 through Saturday, December 31

Daily, 4pm–10pm - Tickets go on sale to the general public on October 31. <https://nebg.org/nightlights/>

**Southwick Zoo - Winter Wonderland and the Festival of Illumination** - Wednesdays through Sundays now until December 31st - opening at 5:30 PM - for info and tickets go to: <https://reservations.southwickzoo.net/Info.aspx?EventID=23>

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

Calling all members!

The AVCC Program Committee is planning the May 2023 program being 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!

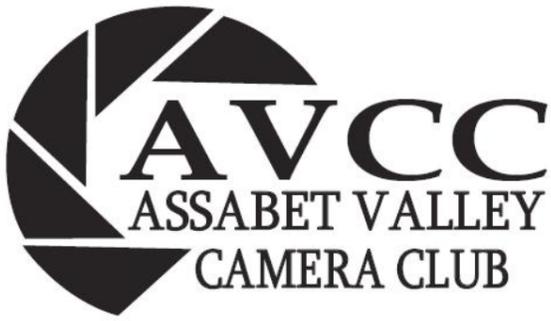
Items that may be of interest to other club members when sharing what went into making the image are:

- 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!



Autumn Bench - Pam Meoli



**AVCC is active in the following societies:**

**NECCC** - [www.neccc.org](http://www.neccc.org)

**PSA** - [www.psa-photo.org](http://www.psa-photo.org)

AVCC website: <https://www.assabetvalleycc.com>

2022-2023 Executive Board Members:

President: Elliot Mednick

Vice President: John Mauro

Secretary: Pam Meoli

Treasurer: John Gill

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!



La Vista, Varenna, Lake Como,  
Italy - John Mauro