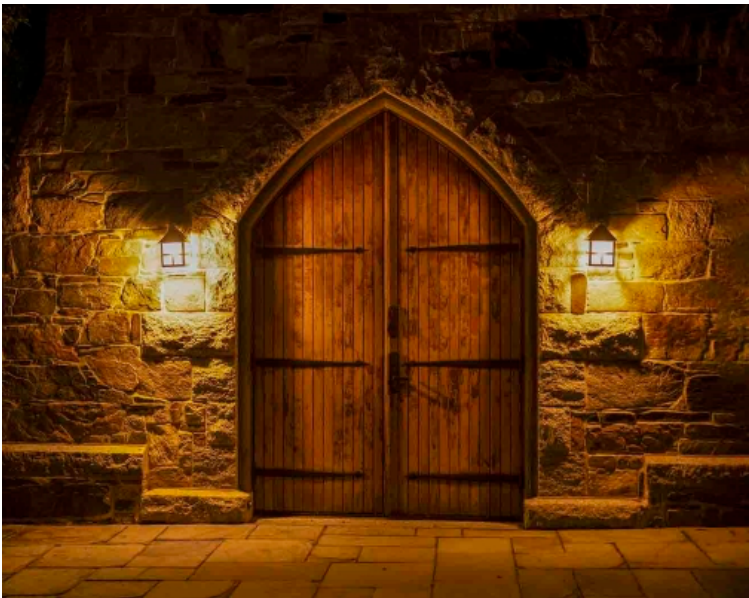




FOCAL POINT

[Assabet Valley Camera Club](#) - The club meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month except July and August. Meetings are hybrid - in person at the Hudson Senior Center, 29 Church St., Hudson and on Zoom. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with a 45 minute social time and at 7:15 a brief business meeting. Programs start at 7:30 p.m. Are you interested in attending a meeting and/or seeing what the Assabet Valley Camera Club is all about? You are welcome to join as a guest member for 30 days. Just send us an [Email](#) with your name and preferred e-mail address and you will be added to the attendee list for the next 30 days.



Golden Doorway - Mimi Boudreau

*"We have had our summer evenings, now
for October eves!" — Humbert Wolfe*

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Note from Our President

Happy October to all!

As I write this, we're still feeling the lingering remnants of a powerful early-season Nor'easter as it continues to spin away from our area. With damaging winds and coastal inundation from North Carolina to Maine (and beyond) these storms remind us of Nature's brute force.

Fitting, then, that "Nature" - in all its forms - is our assigned category this month.

It's now officially Autumn, by all criteria. The season of foliage, harvest, and Halloween, and the crisp, cooler weather that can be perfect for photography. So please take time to wander with a camera and a creative eye - whether locally, regionally, or afar. I look forward to seeing images of what you've been seeing.

And, remember this is your club, so please answer our occasional call for volunteers, enter our friendly competitions, attend our programs, and feel free to ask questions and share your ideas.

Thanks, as always, for your support.
Bones

"Creativity is piercing the mundane to find the marvelous." — Bill Moyers



shades of gray - Lou Snitkoff

Note from the Editors

Note from the Editors

October 2026

What's that saying – “Seeing is Believing”? It means that when we see something with our own eyes, as opposed to hearing or reading about it, it has more of an impact on us. It convinces us of the reality. Truly seeing something can inspire emotions, thoughts, and spiritual or philosophical connections. Seeing can inspire awe and curiosity, a deeper dive into the thing seen. Recently I walked by coneflowers with their spiky autumn seedheads and I slowed down. I looked at them carefully, down beyond the spiky-ness. I *saw* the white seeds way down inside. I'd never observed them before. Suddenly a connection was made – THAT is what the birds are eating, not the pointy parts that I've always watched them sit on. I saw, I learned, I connected to nature. Carlos Castenada had it right – “Learn to see, and then you'll know there is no end to the new worlds of our vision.”

As you might have guessed, our “Tips” writer, Cathy, has done a deep dive into this, with suggestions for increasing our awareness, our seeing. Having read her piece was what made me slow down to see the coneflower seeds. We hope that you try some of the suggested ways of increasing your seeing, and – you never know – we might be asking for some photos of your results.

Pam has highlighted autumn photo opportunities and contests. Two out of three contests have October deadlines so check out her column pronto. One of the more unusual places she mentions is the Ouija Board Museum in Salem, MA. Who would've thought?? And of course, she has included some photo exhibits in formal spaces like the Worcester Art Museum.

October in New England is just gorgeous for any kind of photography. We hope you get out and see with new eyes.

©Lynn Kerner



Dahlia Petals - John Gill



Golden Hour at Garrison Cove - Catherine Robotis

October Program

Salute to New England Photographers: The Sequel - Barbara Rosavsky HonNEC

Barbara Rosavsky, HonNEC

Barbara Rosavsky is an Honorary Life Vice President of Greater Lynn Photographic Association. She is also a NECCC Honor Award Recipient; this honor was bestowed upon her for her accomplishments and contributions to the photographic community.

As a member of Greater Lynn Photographic Association (GLPA) Barbara wears many hats. She is the Membership Director, the Chair of the Photo Course, the Co-Chair of the Photo Ops Sessions, the Chair of the Fundamentals Group, the Chair of the Member Mini-Show, and Assistant to the Chair of the Banquets Group. At GLPA social events, Barbara often serves as emcee for the evening keeping everyone in stitches as she shares her humorous anecdotes with the membership.

Barbara is also active in the New England Camera Club Council (NECCC) where she is the Special Services Vice President serving as Chairperson of the NECCC Club Membership and the Special Events Vice President serving as Co-Event Coordinator.

Barbara is not a stranger to AVCC. She has served as a judge for AVCC competitions and AVCC was fortunate to have Barbara present her slideshow "Salute to New England Photographers" in November of 2022. We are looking forward to the Sequel!

Continued on next page

Program - continued from page 4

About the Program

At the end of the 74th NECCC Conference in 2019, Barbara was asked to put together a program using images that had been submitted to previous NECCC Interclub Competitions and to the yearly Conference Competitions. The resulting program would be shown at the 75th Conference. She received Conference images from Pam Lintner, Digital Interclub Competition images from Bill Barnett, and Conference Print Competition images from Art Vaughan.

The first Salute to NECCC Photographers program uses 698 of those images. Those images are arranged into themed segments, each set to an appropriate piece of music. The program was well received at the NECCC Conference and at other camera clubs.

With a wealth of material still to choose from, Barbara put together a second program called Salute to NECCC Photographers: The Sequel. This second presentation uses 590 images arranged into themed segments set to appropriate music.



"Discovery consists of seeing what everybody has seen and thinking what nobody has thought." — Albert Szent-Györgyi



Clementinum Library - Glenn Fund

Date	Program	Presentor
9/2/26	“What I did this Summer” Member Slideshows	AVCC Members
10/7/26	Salute to New England Photographers: The Sequel	Barbara Rozavsky
11/4/26	Tanzania: A Photographer’s Journey	Shawn Carey
12/2/26	Creating Black and White Images with Impact	Hazel Meredith
1/6/27	Earth Photography	Dan Barstow
2/3/27	Creating Landscape Images	Dave Long
3/3/27	Practical Travel Photography	Ron Wyatt
4/7/27	A Tribute to Ansel Adams	Skip Montello
5/5/27	Smartphone Photography: Unlocking the potential in your pocket	Melissa M. Needle
6/2/27	Image of the Year Awards	TBD

Link to the club website calendar for all deadline, program, and competition dates: [AVCC Calendar](#)

Or find it on the AVCC website by clicking on “Organization” at the top of the page, then “Club Calendar” in the dropdown list.

Competitions 2026-2027

Monthly Competitions:

The club holds monthly image competitions including two categories: digital theme and open. AVCC Print competitions have been suspended. The digital images are judged by a panel of three judges using a scale of 3.0-10. The final score for an image is the total of the three scores. See the [AVCC webpage](#) for more information about the rules and procedures for monthly competitions as well as the PSA and NECCC competitions.

Schedule of Monthly Competition Category Topics & Submission Dates

Month	Digital Theme	Open	Digital Theme and Open Submission Date
September	Monochrome	Open	9/9/2026
October	Nature	Open	10/14/2026
November	Things Made by Man	Open	11/11/2026
December	Nature	Open	12/9/2026
January	Townscape/Cityscape	Open	1/13/2027
February	Nature	Open	2/10/2027
March	Typically New England	Open	3/10/2027
April	Nature	Open	4/14/2027
May	After the Rain	Open	5/12/2027

PSA and NECCC Digital Interclub Competitions

Image selections to the PSA & NECCC Interclub Competitions are made by the AVCC representatives to each organization. Individual entries can also be made to PSA competitions if you are a member. Our PSA representative is Todd Mathieson; our NECCC representative is Robyn Saur.

Members need a signed waiver to enter images into the PSA competitions. If you haven't submitted a form to Todd here is the link to the form: [PSA Waiver](#)

FYI:

Pay particular attention to the PSA definitions for ["Nature"](#), [Monochrome](#), and [Travel](#) submissions. PSA Guidelines for Borders: Not recommended for Nature but if any border is added to a Nature, Travel, or PJ (photo journalism) image it must be a small border of a neutral color (gray tones). There are no border restrictions in the PID Color or Monochrome Division.

NECCC is holding two print competitions in 2026 - 2027 - see [NECCC Print Competition](#)



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

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 - Curated Suggestions for the monthly theme.

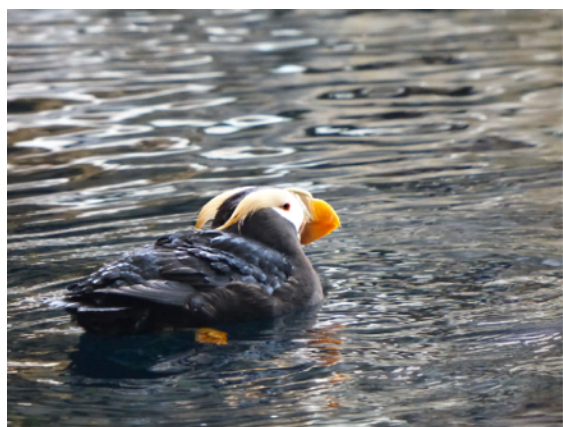
The Bigger Picture - Happenings in the world of photography.

Zooming Out

On the Wall at Cafe 641

The October exhibit at Cafe 641 features the work of Sheri Craig. A Meet and Greet will be held on Saturday, October 10 from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Drop by Cafe 641 to enjoy the wonderful images on display!



Alaskan Puffin - Sheri Craig



Derby Day with Clydesdales - Sheri Craig

Interested in displaying your work at Cafe 641 and Main Street Cafe in Marlborough? Contact Jim Williams through the AVCC website.

"There is no more difficult art to acquire than the art of observation." - Sir William

Continued on next page

Zooming Out - continued from page 8

Cafe 641

The Meet and Greet were a great way to catch up with club members, admire the exhibit images, talk photography, share photo ops, and enjoy good food!

Main Street Cafe, Marlborough

A reminder that if you miss a member's exhibit at Cafe 641 you can catch it the following month on the wall at Main Street Cafe, 182 Main Street, Marlborough.



Todd, Darlene, Maureen, Mary, Glenn, Neil, Jim, John, Ronni, Sue, and Blair at Glenn's Meet and Greet at Cafe 641 - Jim Williams

Wingmasters Field Trip

Two groups from AVCC and a few Gateway CC members plan to visit Wingmasters in Leverett, MA, on October 17 (rain date: October 18) to learn about and photograph birds of prey. With fall's arrival and the leaves turning colors, the foliage should provide a beautiful backdrop for what promises to be a great photography outing. We will also have the opportunity to visit Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory in Deerfield at the end of each of the sessions. [Wingmasters](#) [Magic Wings](#)
-Darlene



*Wingmasters Barn Owl
- Darlene Holman*

Continued on next page

Zooming Out - continued from page 9

Bugs and Blooms Group

Towards the end of summer some of us got together for a morning photo shoot at Cordelia's Farm in Berlin in their flower fields.

Despite the hot day we all got some good shots and had good fun and everyone went home with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. - Pam Meoli.



Group - Pam Meoli

Glenn, Darlene, and Spike - Pam Meoli



Linda, Darlene, and Lou at HPL - Lynn Kerner

Hudson Public Library Exhibit

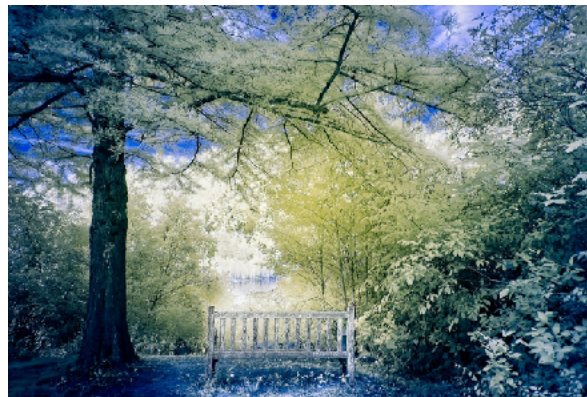
Several members met at the Hudson Public Library on the evening of October 1st to hang photos that will remain on exhibit for the next two months. Check them out!

Continued on next page

Zooming Out - continued from page 10

From Linda DeStefano Brown

I have an image that was accepted in the Annual Juried Art Show at Plymouth Center for the Arts, 11 North Street, Plymouth MA. This show will be on display from September 19 to October 25. This is the 59th year of this event which includes all forms of media. The title of my work is "*Let in the Light*". It is a colored infrared image that I framed in a dark blue metal frame and is under non-glare acrylic. A copy of the image is attached.



Looking for Light - Linda DeStefano Brown

This year, my work has also been selected for the Visual Inverse event. Only 25 works from this exhibit have been chosen for this event. Participating poets selected a work of art from the juried show that was their inspiration for an original poem. Each poet will read their poem while the artwork that inspired it is displayed on screen. I am excited to hear how someone has interpreted my work. If you are interested in attending on October 11, 2-4 PM, you can purchase a ticket (\$20) at [ARTS Plymouth - Visual Inverse](#).

Seating is limited. Refreshments will be provided. I hope to see some of you there.
Linda DeStefano Brown

From Mary Coombs

I belong to group called SAGA (Stow Area Guild of Artists) and we currently have an exhibit called "Field and Farm" on display at the Pompositticut Community Center at 509 Great Rd, Stow MA. The show has been extended through the month of October. There is a variety of 2 D art pieces on display, mostly paintings. I have two photographs in the exhibit. Hours: Mon-Fri 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Rick Beauchamp

Rick has two images in the **6 Bridges** juried exhibit "Artifacts"
On display October 7 - November 14, 2026
Reception: October 17, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
77 Main St, Maynard, MA
For more information: [6 Bridges - Artifacts](#)

Zooming In

It's October - time to dust off the witch's hat and take that drive or hike to scenic outlooks to enjoy the fall colors. We asked our members to submit October-themed photos. Fall scenes, spooky images, Halloween-themed...here is what we received - enjoy!



Covered Bridge Fall - Darlene Holman

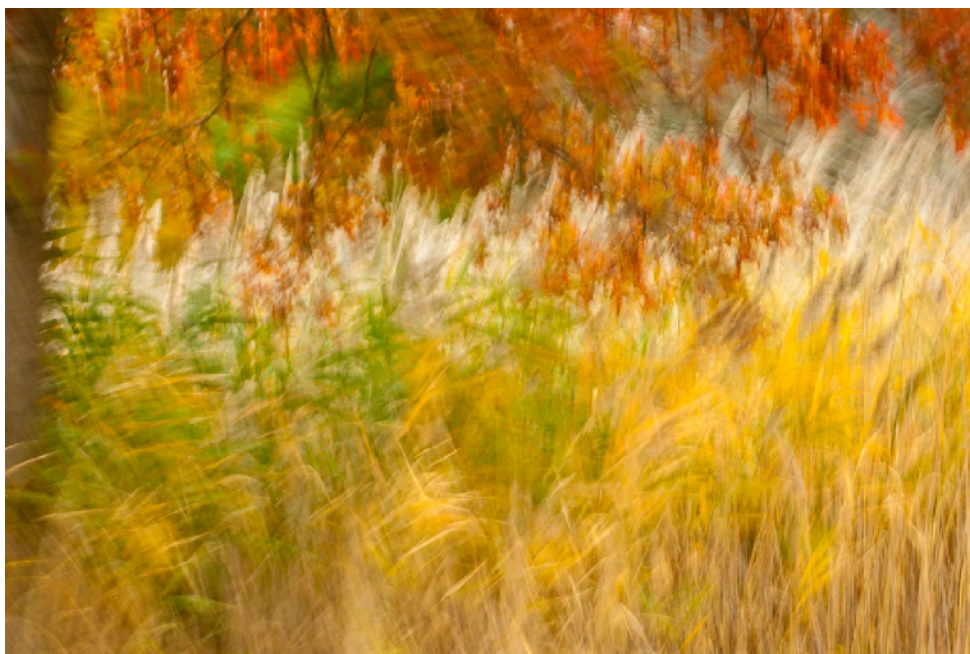
This photo was taken at Sturbridge Village. The lighting was pretty good, but I decided to take more pictures with exposure bracketing to enhance all parts of the image and create an HDR. This is the resulting image. - Darlene



Workers from A.D. Makepeace Co. harvesting a cranberry bog in Plymouth MA provide a different kind of Fall Colors. - Pudge

Fall in Southeast Massachusetts and the Cape - John Mauro

Continued on next page



Freefall - Lou Snitkoff



Halloween Hoarder - Southwick's Zoo - Linda Shelaes

LOVE the impish hoarder hiding himself & his feasty spoils under his pumpkin-toned blanket. He just knows one of the other chimps is going to steal his treasure any minute! - Linda

Continued on next page



Owl - Pam Meoli

Volunteering at Tufts Wildlife Center is a joy when an animal gets released back into the wild - unfortunately not all make it. We have a whole bookcase of bones that are pretty creepy but cool. - Pam



Bones - Pam Meoli

Continued on next page



The morning sunlight bounces off the cover of a book I have on my coffee table and casts the most eerie reflections on the wall behind. I decided to play around with the ever changing “light beings” as I call them, combining them with shadows of my hand to create mysterious images.

- Mary

Release - Mary Coombs



Bodyguard - Lou Snitkoff

"To see a World in a Grain of Sand / And a Heaven in a Wild Flower / Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand / And Eternity in an hour." — William Blake

Continued on next page



St Bernard Cemetery, Concord, MA 2020 - Linda Shelaes

St. Bernard Cemetery in Concord, MA, where most of my family is buried, has the most gorgeous trees in autumn. This view near my parents' grave is one of my favs. It seems like the trees lean in, branches reaching out like a group hug to comfort & welcome me. The vivid tones seem to hold & honor the pain these trees have witnessed. They gently shed 'leaf tears' to Mother Earth, releasing all that sadness & loss, handing it over to Her. These trees lead me to an open field, then darkness within a distant forest. They lead to Nothing, which my son claims is God. I kinda agree! - Linda



I always find myself drawn to cemeteries at this time of year. The moodiness, the untold stories, and the sense of honor and remembrance. - Cathy

Honoring the Fallen - Catherine Robotis

Continued on next page



Old Stone Church - Frank Jansen



Sunset at Beach 5 on Frye Island - Lynn Kerner

Sunsets at Beach 5 on Frye Island in Sebago Lake, Maine are always a joy to behold, but never more so than in autumn when the light is low. I am lucky that our cottage is less than a minute's walk from this amazing beauty. Taken Sept 25, 2026. - Lynn

“After the keen still days of September, the October sun filled the world with mellow warmth...”
Elizabeth George Speare

Tips and Tricks - Learning to See in Photography

Learning to See in Photography

To see or not to see..... That is the question! Well, not really. On a scale of corniness, that's a bit over the top, isn't it? And it's not really whether to *see* or *not to see*; it's more a question of *looking* versus *seeing*. If you Google *Looking versus Seeing*, you will learn that *looking* involves the physical action of pointing your eyes at an object or in a certain direction. *Seeing*, on the other hand, is a deeper perception; seeing involves registering and comprehending what is in front of your eyes. When it comes to the art of photography, anyone can point a camera and press the shutter release. Certainly, some are more technically skilled than others, and they will capture well focused, well composed images at the right exposure almost every time. However, they would probably be the first to tell you that the best images are not always those that are technically perfect; the best images conjure a sense of emotion in the viewer. You may have captured a face with sharp features, but the emotion may be blurred or not at all visible. The camera can see whatever is in the scene and capture it; it's the person behind the lens who decides what is important and what story is to be conveyed. It's up to us to pave the way to emotional connections. In order to create powerful connections, we have to train ourselves to really see what's happening in front of us and determine what in that scene moves us, because chances are, if you're really moved by what you see, this will translate into a final image that is beyond just a sharp photo with a great composition and perfect light. Learning to see may be one of the hardest skills to master when it comes to photography. It's a lifelong process that builds upon our memories and experiences. As we age, we may complain about joint aches and other bodily challenges related to the aging process. Our vision in the literal sense may falter, but the evolution of our metaphorical gift of seeing is actually one of the perks of aging. It's a gift that grows over time, and those of us who have enjoyed more trips around the sun may agree that we are better visual storytellers now than we were 10 or 20 years ago.

"Seeing is the consequence of optics; observing is the consequence of imaginative contemplation."
-Ian Sample

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Visualization

Ansel Adams discussed Visualization as the practice of seeing the finished image in your mind's eye before even pressing the shutter release. He had an uncanny ability to look, see, evaluate, visualize, and express, and his images clearly show his artistic capabilities. When we come upon a scene, we don't register all the infinite details in front of us. Our brains are wired to filter out the clutter and distractions. This is a protective mechanism. Our brains are first and foremost trying to ensure that we are safe and not in danger. Interestingly, our brains process 2 billion pieces of visual data/second, but we actually only see 50 bits of this information (digital-photography-school.com). Therefore, it stands to reason that if two of us are evaluating the same scene, we will not necessarily come away with the same exact impression. Our interpretation of the scene may be different based on our own past experiences and associations. We may feel completely different emotions. This doesn't mean one of us is right or wrong; it points to our individuality. This is why it's so important to believe in our own vision and trust our own eye. If a scene stirs your soul, it's a scene worth capturing.

How do you train yourself to see better?

According to Neil Arthurs, "Photography isn't about the camera. It's about learning to see." So, is there anything we can do - besides making those yearly journeys around the sun - that will help us see better? Of course! Here are a few suggestions of ways to enhance your artistic vision.

- Study the masters. Go to museums. Look at photographs, paintings, and other forms of visual art. Do you feel an emotional pull towards certain works? When you look at a work, how do you see it? Do you see it in terms of shape and form? Are you drawn to the colors? The subject's interaction with the environment? You don't want to mimic someone else's style, but there is much to learn from the masters. How do they use lines and shapes? How do they use light? How do they compose their work?

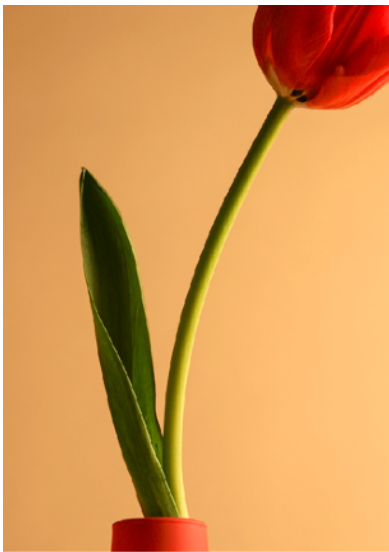


Stairway to Nowhere - Peter Stultz

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Tips - Learning to See in Photography - continued from page 19

- We noted above that our brains cannot process everything in front of us at any given time. However, once our subconscious mind decides that we are not in imminent danger, we are better able to focus on the intricacies of the scene in front of us. Take your time. If you arrive at a place where you want to take photographs, Neil Arthurs (f-stoppers.com) suggests that you try to just sit there and take it all in for 3 to 4 minutes to allow your brain to complete sensory gating (filtering out redundant or irrelevant information). A few minutes later, you will find that you better notice important elements in the scene and the light. For example, if you are photographing disrepair at a junkyard, by taking the extra time to really see the scene, you might spot a little patch of wildflowers growing through broken concrete that really adds a sense of hope to a story about brokenness. You might choose to frame your image so that those flowers are a focal point. Of course, many of us are in the company of others when we are out photographing and can't necessarily wait 3-4 minutes at every corner. In fact, some of us may already be guilty of causing such delays. If you are in a position to take some extra time to fully process a scene, maybe give this a try and see what you come up with.
- Another strategy involves putting our cameras down and teaching ourselves to better see composition, light, and emotion without trying to capture it. As you go about your daily routines, try to recognize interesting scenes in front of you. Maybe you love the way the afternoon light falls on a garden. Maybe it's the way the boats are docked next to one another at the marina. Maybe you recognize the emotional interaction between parents and their children at the park.



tulip - Lou Snitkoff

Try to always be present and aware of what's around you. In other words, steer clear of social media and other distractions whenever you can. You might find that you begin to see potential "scenes" all around you.

- In complete contrast to the above suggestion, you might be someone who benefits from taking more photos to get your creative juices flowing. You might plan to carry a camera with you as you leave the house. If lugging equipment is inconvenient, a small camera or phone camera will do. Look for interesting scenes. You can challenge yourself to seek out particular subjects or to capture certain colors. You can pick a subject that forces you to be continuously scanning the environment in your search to complete your challenge. You could challenge yourself to use only a prime lens. This will force you to move around more and compose your scenes with more intent.

"Art demands constant observation." - Vincent Van Gogh

Continued on next page

Tips - Learning to See in Photography - continued from page 20

- On the other hand, are you someone that takes a hundred photos of one scene and then finds it overwhelming to weed through all of the images to decide which one is the best? If that is a struggle for you, consider the challenge of limiting yourself to a certain number of photos (such as 10). This exercise is helpful because it will encourage you to be more selective and deliberate as you survey your scene. Remember that before the digital age, photographers didn't have the luxury of taking hundreds of photographs. They had to pay for film and development, so they had to be much more intentional with every image. If you try this, you might learn to better see how you want your final image to appear before capturing it. You might become better at spotting distractions or inconsistencies that can be easily remedied before you sit down and try to remove them in Photoshop. You might become more skilled in Visualization.
- While you should be your own strongest supporter, you should also be your own strongest critic. Look at your images with a critical eye. Ask yourself what your image is about (for example: isolation, adventure, nostalgia, friendship, etc...). If you can't answer that question, chances are your intended audience will not feel drawn to the image. Does the subject and story reveal itself within 5 seconds? If not, the image will likely not be very impactful.

We are all unique, with our own ideas and tastes. We reviewed some different strategies to facilitate our quest to see better as photographers. Some of the suggestions even contradict one another because what works for one might not work for another. It's October, and the colors are changing by the day. It even seems like the colors are more vibrant this year, with more reds and oranges. Here's to an Autumn full of meaningful photographic moments for all of us. If any of these ideas help guide your photographic eye to seeing better, or if you have an idea of your own, please let us know what you did and how it was helpful.

Here is an interesting clip of Ansel Adams discussing Visualization:

[Ansel Adams - Visualization](#)

Here is an interesting tutorial on developing your photographic eye:

[Developing Your Photographic Eye](#)

Here is an interesting perspective on Looking versus Seeing:

[Looking versus Seeing](#)

Sources

Paolosartoriphotography.com; digital-photography-school.com; stoppers.com; alanrossphotography.com; jackgrahamphoto.com; photzy.com; joeedelman.com; medium.com; petapixel.com; melinastudios.com; 6 Proven Ways to Develop Your Photographic Eye (Gil Kreslavsky/YouTube).

The Bigger Picture

Happenings:

New England Botanic Garden has an array of great fall photo ops including some special exhibits such as:

- Fairy Hollow
- Fairies Aglow
- Weekend of Wonder
- Glass in Flight
- Gnomevember

<https://nebg.org/fall-experiences/>

Tougas Farm Oktoberfest (Northborough)

Family fun with great photo ops

<https://tougasfamilyfarm.com/events/list/>



*Hummingbird on Salvia 'Amante'
- Darlene Holman*

Massachusetts Festivals

Massachusetts hosts incredible autumn festivals that'll make your Instagram followers jealous. When leaves turn an orange-yellow hue and the weather gets cooler, it prepares people to welcome the snowy winter. From West Springfield's massive Big E celebration to Salem's spooky-season food truck gatherings, these events showcase everything locals love about New England fall traditions.

Click the link and search around:

<https://newenglandcities.com/fall-festivals-in-massachusetts/>



Classic Pontiac - Neil Swinton

Continued on next page

The Bigger Picture - continued from page 22

Salem, MA, offers a variety of unique photo opportunities in October, especially during the Halloween season. Here are some top spots to consider:

Witch Pix

- A magical photo studio where visitors can engage in themed photo shoots, perfect for capturing the Halloween spirit.

Salem Witch House

- The only structure directly linked to the 1692 witch trials, providing a haunting backdrop for photos.

Ropes Mansion & Garden

- This 18th-century colonial house features beautiful gardens, ideal for picturesque autumn shots.

Ouija Board Museum

- Home to the world's largest collection of Ouija boards, offering a quirky and intriguing setting for unique photos.

These locations capture the essence of Salem's rich history.

Photo Exhibits:

Greenfield Community College - Alice Proujansky: ***Hard Times are Fighting Times*** – Proujansky uses family photographs, archival material, and contemporary images to explore her family's history.

<https://www.gcc.mass.edu/art/south-gallery/>

Arts Worcester, ***Material Needs 2026-*** exhibition includes photographs exploring Western, African and Afro-Descendant portraiture, alongside other contemporary work – free exhibit.

<https://artsworcester.org/>



eerie kapok tree - Natalie Schiavone

Continued on next page

The Bigger Picture - continued from page 23

Photo Contests:

Cape Cod Life Annual Photo Contest

Their 2026 contest included categories such as Seascapes, Recognizable Places, Kids & Pets, Cape Characters, Photographers' Choice, and Readers' Choice. The 2026 winners have already been announced, but the site is advertising **the 2027 contest as open**, so this is a particularly relevant one to enter now.

<https://capecodlife.com/annual-photo-contest/>

Berkshire Magazine Photo Contest

The Berkshire Magazine Photo Contest rules give a deadline of October 15, 2026 at 6 PM. Winning photographs are published in *Berkshire Magazine*. The rules also have fairly specific restrictions on digital manipulation, so it's worth reading them before submitting heavily edited images.

<https://www.berkshiremag.com/photo-contest-regulations>

Sterling Arts Collaborative

The Sterling Arts Collaborative's **"The Essence of Autumn"** contest opens October 1 and runs through October 31, 2026.

<https://www.sterlingartscollaborative.org/member-events/enter-2026-fall-photo-contest>

Small Stones

2027 Small Stones Festival of the Arts - January 30 - February 7, 2027

Juried art show - accepting submissions through October 8th

\$10 entry fee for each entry up to 5

[Small Stones](#)

Gallery Twist

Call for Art - 'ILLUMINATION' - AN UN-THEMED SHOW

December 4, 2026 - January 3, 2027

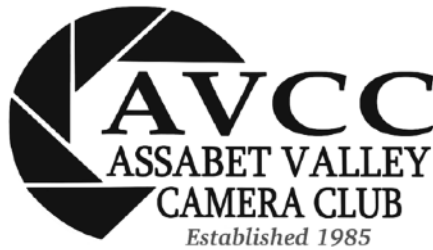
Opening Reception

Saturday, December 5 @5pm - 7pm

Submissions are due with an October 19th deadline.

For information: <https://www.gallerytwist.com/for-artists>

"October is a symphony of permanence and change." Bonaro W. Overstreet



AVCC is a member of the following organizations:

NECCC



PSA



AVCC website:

<https://www.assabetvalleycameraclub.com>

2026 - 2027 Executive Board Members:

- President: Lou Snitkoff
- Vice President: Mary Coombs
- Secretary: Neil Swinton
- Treasurer: Jim Williams



Munching Manatee - Robyn Saur

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, the Action Unlimited, and provide opportunities for competition, exhibitions, fun, learning, and camaraderie. To see (most) of the volunteer positions and members please refer to your Member packet. Please consider volunteering!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this month's newsletter!