



# 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. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM with a 15 minute social time and at 7:15 a brief business meeting. Programs start at 7:30 PM. 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.



*My Pumpkin - Tony Monteiro*

*"Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect." - Chief Seattle*

## In this Issue:

<a href="#">Note From Our President</a>	p 2
<a href="#">Note from the Editors</a>	p 3
<a href="#">Program Info</a>	p 4
<a href="#">Competition Info</a>	p 8
<a href="#">Member Snapshot</a>	p 9
<a href="#">Members' Lens</a>	
<a href="#">Zooming Out</a>	p 12
<a href="#">Zooming In - Abstracts</a>	p 16
<a href="#">Zooming In - Earth Day</a>	p 21
<a href="#">Tips - Golden Hour Photography</a>	p 26
<a href="#">The Bigger Picture</a>	
<a href="#">Spring Happenings</a>	p 29
<a href="#">Photography Contests</a>	p 31
<a href="#">AVCC Organization</a>	p 32

## Note from Our President

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Hello All,

Welcome to Spring in New England where it can be a beautiful spring day the 60s, and snowing the next. No matter what Mother Nature seems to send our way, there are always plenty of opportunities to photograph what she has to offer! As Ed McGuirk pointed out in his program “The Colors of Spring - New England’s Other Foliage Season,” dreary New England weather can provide great opportunities for photographing foliage and forests as they start to come to life. Birds are returning to the area after their snowbird travels, providing all of the beauty they have to offer. Whether it be rain, shine, fog, or gasp, snow, April is Earth month, and a great month to photograph all of that nature has to offer!

Forty years ago, several area photographers who met at an Assabet After Dark program met and started what is known as the Assabet Valley Camera Club. For 40 years, our club has been run by a very talented and dedicated group of volunteers, many of whom fill multiple roles and tasks. I am extremely grateful for all of the volunteers that make the AVCC what it is - it certainly makes what I do so much easier!

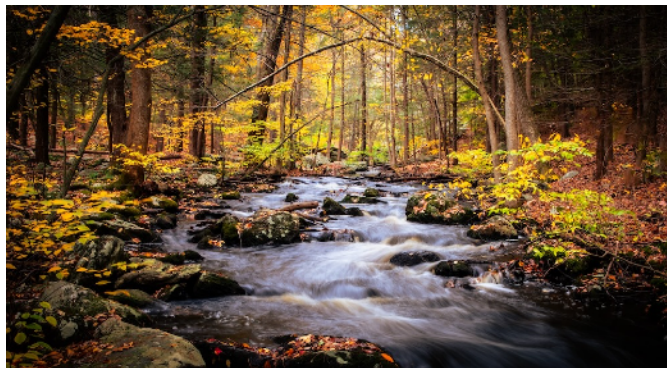
Happy Spring,

Pudge

Images to celebrate the Earth:



*Bartlett Pond Northborough - John Mauro*



*Danforth Falls Hudson - John Mauro*

*“I thought of the wilderness we had left behind us, open to sea and sky, joyous in its plenitude and simplicity, perfect yet vulnerable, unaware of what is coming, defended by nothing, guarded by no one.” - Edward Abbey*

## Note from the Editors

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### Note From the Editors

*"On Earth Day, we celebrate all the gifts the world and nature make available to us. We recognize our complete dependence on its bounty. And we acknowledge the need for good stewardship to preserve its fruits for future generations." Sen.(R) John Hoeven, N. Dakota*

April – YAY! Sights and sounds of courting birds; the smell of the moist earth and early flowers; joyous sightings of new green shoots and red leaf buds; days longer than nights; and a warm sun even in a chilly wind. Signs of life!

Numerous religions celebrate the return of life in Spring. This month Jainism, Judaism, Christianity and Hinduism celebrate themes of life, spring harvest, liberation, resurrection and transition. Lyricists and poets have written about April. Paul Simon wrote of its fullness -

“April, come she will,  
When streams are ripe and swelled with rain...” (Written by Paul Simon; recorded by Simon & Garfunkel, 1966)

In spite of not including our usual “Getting to Know You” piece, we have a very full issue. Mary reached out to the Abstract competition winners to get the original image and a description of how the maker created the abstract image. Very interesting! We also asked for your submissions related to Earth Day, which this year is April 22<sup>nd</sup>. It is an annual day of observance of the many aspects of Mother Earth, and humans’ relationship to her. While we celebrate the beauty of the earth, we also focus on the sobering realities of ways in which humans negatively affect our own environment. Members contributed photos, comments, and explanations that express these two aspects of Earth Day. Images include the grand beauty of nature, but also some stark images of humans’ carelessness and ignorance in honoring and caring for the earth. We think the contrast of these images drives home the point perfectly about why Earth Day came to be.

Speaking of..., see Pam’s piece on the beginnings of Earth Day and the environmental and sustainability movement. Then waltz through all the photo opportunities she has highlighted for the upcoming daffodil and tulip season, and a seminar in Boston by Essdras Suarez. Cathy’s Tips and Tricks continues the theme of “light.” This month she focuses on Golden Hour, and has included some gorgeous examples. In May we will wrap up Tips and Tricks for this year with Blue Hour.

We always welcome your ideas for newsletter topics, articles, your review of an exhibit or an event, or a location to shoot. We welcome your write-ups on a club outing, even with just a couple members. This month Glenn Fund has written a piece on the 52Frames, a photo challenge he participates in. Thank you, Glenn. What else would you all like to see?

Happy Spring. See you at the meeting!

© Lynn Kerner

## April 2025 Program

AVCC is pleased to present “Ideas for Creative Photography” by Joe Pellione on Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at 7:30 PM.

The meeting is a hybrid format; in person at the the Hudson Senior Center, 29 Church St., Hudson, or remote on Zoom (please arrive no later than 7:15).

The Zoom meeting room opens at 7:00 with a 15 minute social time followed by AVCC business at 7:15. The program begins at 7:30 PM. Nonmembers interested in attending as guests should email [avcc.digital@hotmail.com](mailto:avcc.digital@hotmail.com).

### Joe Pellicone

You might know me from my Neon At Night Photography! I go by NotYourAvgPhotoJoe!

I fell in love with photography at a very early age. I grew up in a traditional Italian family where everyone was at Sunday Dinner, including my Mom's cousin who was a part time wedding photographer. He encouraged me to take pictures with him when he visited.

I continued with photography as a hobby in high school and college where I was photographer for the school year books and newspapers. After college my camera got put in the closet for a while, but every so often I would take it out and continue my photography love affair.

When personal computers came out this became my new hobby and passion. I learned all I could about them. I built computers and troubleshooted them for friends and clients. I taught software programs such as Word, Excel, Powerpoint and eventually photo programs too.

I learned to use the computer and software for a tee shirt business that I ran from my home. As a result I became proficient in the use of CorelDraw and Photoshop, then later on I learned Lightroom.

Fast forward to the Digital Photo Age, I discovered that I could merge two of my passions into one hobby. I loved working on computers and now I was able to bring my photos and computing together. I even learned how to make photo tee shirts for my business. Over the years I created over 25,000 graphic designs for tee shirts, banners, embroidered patches and lapel pins.

In 2000 I joined Island Photo Group, where I began to learn more about photography from the other members. But in 2001 with the attack on the World Trade Center I once again had to put my hobby on hold (I was a Police Officer for the Port Authority and we were required to work long hours for the next two years).

In 2002 I rejoined IPG because I recognized the value of learning photography from others. I was also a member of the Wantagh Camera Club. I served as President of IPG for two years and held other offices and Board positions during my membership.

I still love to take pictures, and I try to take a camera everywhere that I go.

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Noted Photo Accomplishments:

- Official Photographer for the Port Authority Police during Pope Benedict XVI Visit in 2009
- Blog Writer PlatyPod
- I worked for 5 years as a Professional Wedding Photographer and Album Designer.
- Lightroom and Photoshop Tutor

## Ideas for Creative Photography

***Ideas for Creative Photography*** is a program designed to prompt photographers to look outside the box when shooting. The program shows examples and ideas to make your photos more creative. This is a PowerPoint slideshow.



*Image Courtesy of Joe Pellicone*

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*Image Courtesy of Joe Pellicone*



*Image Courtesy of Joe Pellicone*

### **More about Joe:**

My Neon project, got me recognized and I was picked up as a blog writer for Platypod and appear on the Platypod Pros Page. <https://www.platypod.com/pages/platypod-pros>

All my Platypod Articles can be found at this [LINK](#)

Loving to challenge myself and always looking for something different to shoot, I did a two year project that started with shooting Colorful Neon Diners at night, and because I can't leave well enough alone evolved into neon artwork with photoshop and lightroom.

See my Neon At Night Project here <https://neonatnight.myportfolio.com>



*Taj Mahal - Glenn Fund*

## Looking Ahead - AVCC 2024-2025 Program Schedule

Date	Program	Presenter
9/4/24	"What I did this Summer" Member Slideshows	AVCC Members
10/2/24	Composition	Mike Roman
11/6/24	Spain and Portugal	Robyn Saur
12/4/24	Landscape Photography	Meredith Fontana
1/8/25	Bird and Wildlife Photography	Shawn Carey
2/5/25	Masks and Layers	Hazel Meredith
3/5/25	Colors of Spring	Ed McGuirk
4/2/25	Creative Photography	Joe Pellicone
5/7/25	B&W Photography	Nancy Ori
6/4/25	Image of the Year Awards	Charlie Burke

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.

### 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. Pay particular attention to the PSA definitions for [“Nature”](#), [Monochrome](#), and [Travel](#) submissions.

### Schedule of Monthly Competition Category Topics & Submission Dates

Month	Digital Theme	Open	Digital Theme and Open Submission Date
September	Balloons	Open	9/11/2024
October	Nature	Open	10/9/2024
November	Action	Open	11/13/2024
December	Nature	Open	12/11/2024
January	The Color Red	Open	1/15/2025
February	Nature	Open	2/12/2025
March	Abstract	Open	3/12/2025
April	Nature	Open	4/9/2025
May	By or On the water	Open	5/14/2025

#### PSA and NECCC Digital Interclub Competitions

Image selections to the PSA & NECCC Interclub Competitions are made by the 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.

FYI: PSA Guidelines for Borders: Not recommended for Nature but if any border is added to a Nature, Travel or PJ 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.

#### 2024-2025 NECCC Individual Print Competition

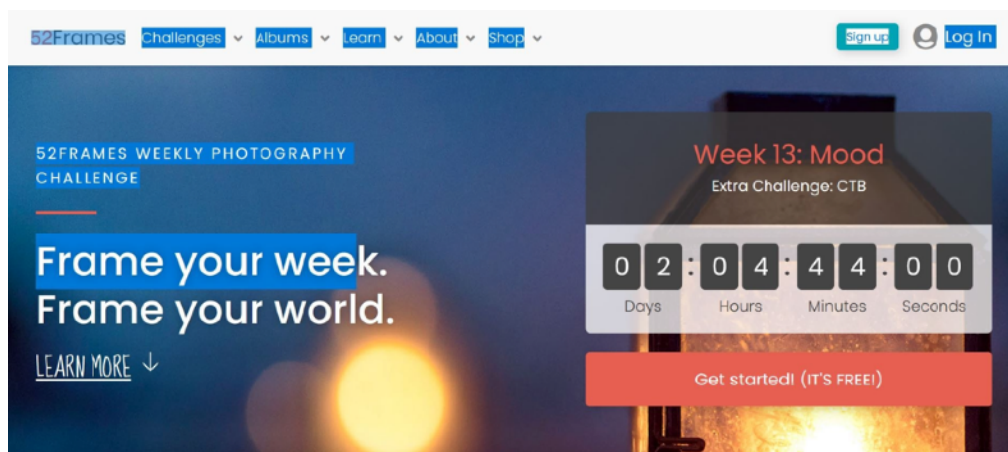
The NECCC Individual Print Competition was held on October 19 and March 29 hosted at the Greater Lynn Photographic Association (GLPA). To see the winners of the October competition go to: [NECCC October '24 Print Competition](#)



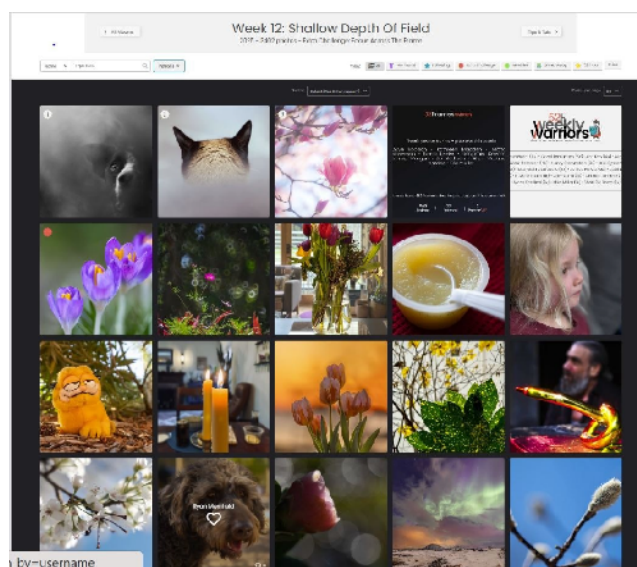
### 52Frames Weekly Online Photo Challenge - by Glenn Fund

Do you want to get involved with a little bit more photography? I'd like to introduce you all to the worldwide online photography challenge called 52Frames ([www.52frames.com](http://www.52frames.com)). Each week a new topic is presented on Sunday at midnight, and you have the entire week to take a picture using that theme and submit it online to the web site. No cheating. You must take the picture during the week of the challenge.

To join is simple and is free to participate fully in the weekly challenges. Just fill out the initial online form to join, which sets up your profile.



When you are all set for the week, you submit your entry online, which will be compiled into an album with all of the other weekly submissions.



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## Member Snapshot - Glenn Fund - 52Frames - continued from page 9

If you are lucky, then your picture will be chosen by the 52Frames whittling committee, to be one of the weekly 52 Picks. Congratulations !

If you are persistent enough to submit 52 pictures in a row, you will earn the 52F Weekly Warrior badge. Some weeks it is easy. Some weeks it is a bit more difficult. Somehow you find a way to think of an idea that leads to your submission. As of this writing, I am a 52F Weekly Warrior, with 67 submissions in a row. Phew !!!

52Frames stated goals are Consistency, Community and Creativity. Creating and submitting a photo each week takes care of the Consistency and Creativity end of things. Let's talk a bit about supporting resources. There is a global Facebook group for the project named "52 Frames Photographers." General photography and 52Frames topics can be discussed in this forum. There are also more local Facebook groups that are available to join as well. I am in the "Boston 52F" group. We share submission ideas here. Since these folks are all local, there is good chance of meeting up with some of them for a photo outing or just a local get together. If you want even more, the 52Frames people will facilitate small, 10 person discussion groups. All you have to do is ask.

You might ask, how does 52Frames pay for and support this photographic endeavor. If you enjoy participating, you can optionally, and I truly mean optionally, decide to make a contribution of \$130 per year and become a Patron. In addition to knowing that you are doing a good thing for the group, 52Frames makes a generous selection of photo library videos and tips available to you as a Patron thank you. I did my complimentary join for a while before deciding I wanted to become a fully supporting Patron member.

Here are three examples of weekly themes and my entries:

Theme: Motion Blur



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Theme: On the Ground



Theme: Line from a Song



Joining 52Frames is simple, easy and very satisfying to me. It keeps me on my photographic toes each week, and I am very thankful for that. At times I challenge and surprise myself with my weekly entry. Why not give it a try ? I am always available to help you get started and with any other questions that you might have. (Glenn Fund, [gfund@comcast.net](mailto:gfund@comcast.net), 978-621-3939)





**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, Jim Williams, Glenn Fund, John Mauro, Eric Frere, Nick Andruzzi, Robyn Saur, Darlene Holman, Natalie Schiavone, Doris Monteiro, Rick Beauchamp, Terry Vachowski, Blair Boudreau, Linda DeStefano Brown, Linda Shelales.

### Zooming Out

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#### On the Wall at Cafe 641

The April exhibit at Cafe 641 features the work of Glenn Fund. A meet and greet will be held on Saturday, April 5, from 12:00 - 1:30. Come see this very interesting exhibit of the Magnificent Elephant Migration in Newport, RI and spend some time with Glenn and AVCC friends.

May will feature an exhibit by Eric Frere.



*Image courtesy of Glenn Fund*

*"We have to speak up on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves." – Peter Singer, Animal Liberation*

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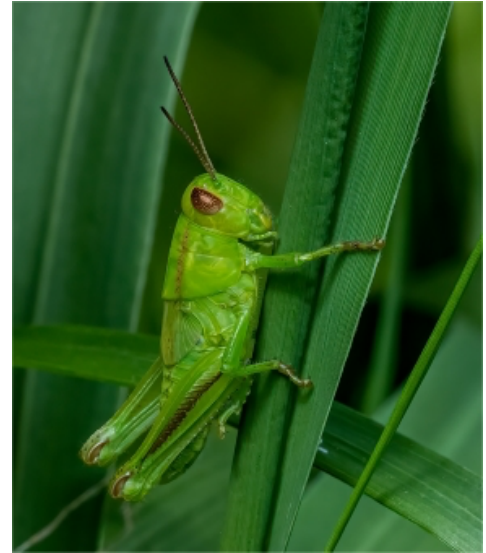
## **AVCC is Forty!**

### **Exhibition at the Hudson Public Library**

In honor of our 40th anniversary, Jim Williams has worked out the details for an exhibit at the Hudson Public Library for the months of April and May. Twenty four images will be installed on the library walls on the evening of April 1st. A reception will be held later in the month. Watch your emails for details.

### **Eric Frere**

I will be displaying some of my work at the Ellison Center for the Arts in Duxbury for the month of April and May. The Ellison Center is one of the campuses of the South Shore Conservatory and the home of the Duxbury Art Association. For more information click here - [SSC](#).



*Green Grasshopper - John Gill*

### **Night Hawks**

Chasing the Moon:

The weather forecast for the Lunar Eclipse on Thursday the 13th was not good suggesting that the clouds were coming in. Lynn and I decided we would give it a try at gate 36 on Wachusett reservoir. We were successful in getting some shots of the partial eclipse along with the clouds. As the blood moon got nearer the clouds got heavier until you could just barely make it out. We both exercised the shutter but the clouds were very heavy obscuring the focus and we had to push the ISO to the point that it was very noisy, needless to say that photo was not usable. It was also very cold and took the whole ride home to warm up. We did see the Blood moon though, such as it was. - Jim Williams

### **Earth Day Let's Celebrate! Tuesday, April 22 – time TBD**

For anyone that can join, some of us are meeting at the white rotunda gazebo at Lake Chauncy in Westborough in celebration of the day. Bring a coffee and bring your camera.

There are some nice photo ops such as the lake, swans, maybe snakes, walking through woods, walking along the lake. Stay tuned for a reminder and more details but mark your calendars!

**Did you know....?** You can create a **sun flare effect** to add a whimsical touch to your images. To create a sun flare effect, angle your camera so that your subject partially covers the sun. Then, move around until you see a flare coming out from around your subject. Give it a try! It works well with golden hour photography.

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Zooming Out - continued from page 13

**From Linda DeStefano Brown:**

I have work that will be in three exhibits during April as listed below:

**Plymouth Center for the Arts**

11 North Street, Plymouth

"Spring It On"

April 2 - May 11

**6 Bridges Gallery**

77 Main Street, Maynard

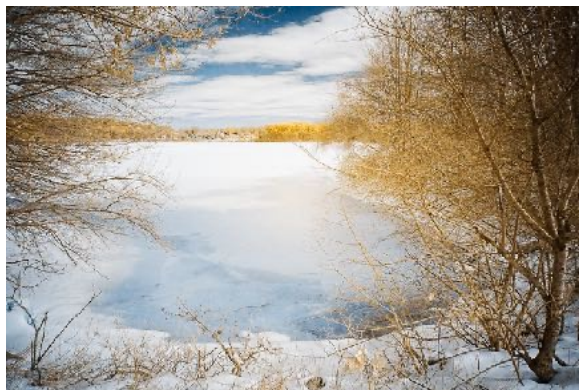
"Past and Present": 10 Celebration of past and present members

April 9 - May 17

**ArtsWayland**

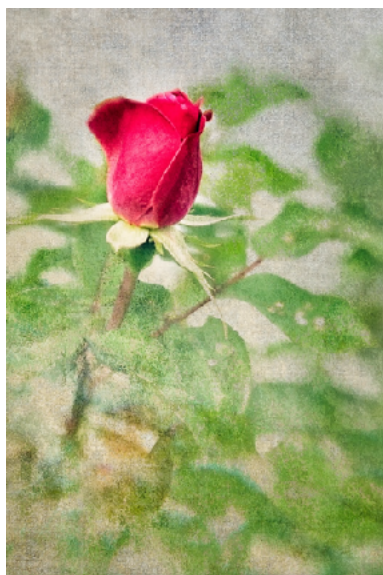
Online Only <https://artswayland.com>

April 1-31.



*Across the Lake - Linda DeStefano Brown*

Here are a few images of the work that will be displayed:



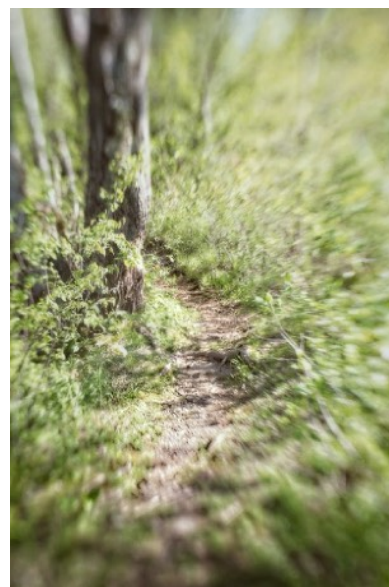
*Spring Love  
- Linda DeStefano Brown*



*A Brief Pause  
- Linda DeStefano Brown*



*Bending and Swaying  
- Linda DeStefano Brown*



*Dreamland Trail  
- Linda DeStefano Brown*



## Zooming In - Abstract Images

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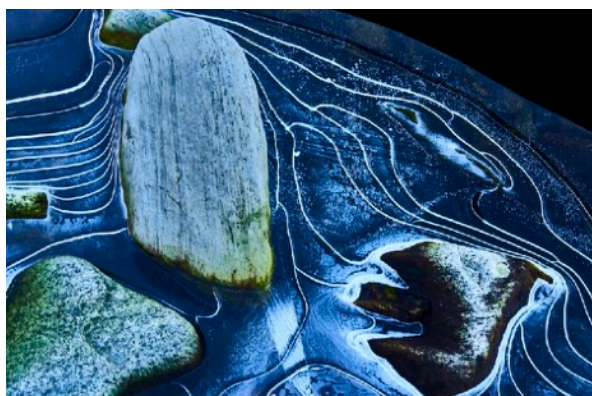
This month we asked members with winning abstract images to share their before and after shots with an explanation of their process. Here are their stories!

### Terry Vachowski - When Veggies Dance

It was pretty easy to do. In fact it's an iPhone 11 photo to start. I used the serving bowl of cooked winter root veggies to start with. I basically brightened it up and then went to Photoshop Elements. John had taught us how to spherize in one of his mini-tutorials. So I poked around to find the right settings after cropping a bit. It's under filters>distort> spherize in PS Elements, probably the same in Photoshop. It took a few trials to get what I wanted. That's it.



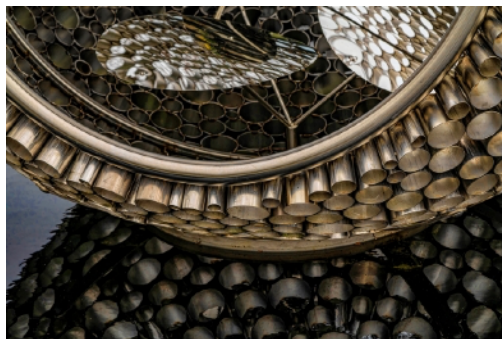
### Eric Frere - Ice and Stone



Attached is the original (cropped) and the after shots. I really didn't do much except play with the highlight, saturation and sharpness. I have to admit that I was stumped when challenged to submit an abstract photo as this is an area where I had zero experience. I was even more surprised when the photo placed silver. The photo was taken in the fall along a bay in the Lofoten Islands, Norway. It was a memorable day as I had just picked up my wife from the local airport and brought her over directly to the bay to walk and photograph the area. Soon after I had taken this photo, my wife slipped, fell and dislocated her elbow. After spending about eight hours in the hospital, we arrived at our Airbnb and were soon greeted by a spectacular show - courtesy of the northern lights!

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**Blair Boudreau**



This image of a kinetic sculpture was taken at Tower Hill. It was minimally processed and cropped.

**Lynn Kerner -  
The Color of Water**

So for the Abstract, I started with this image, which is pretty abstract in itself, then I cropped it, then played with the dimensions and the orientation.



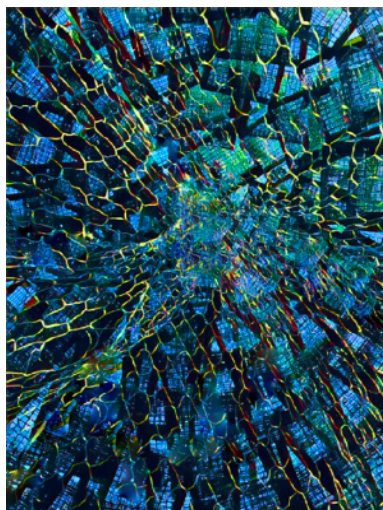
*The Color of Water*

*Beach 5 golden water*

**Pam Meoli - Nets**



*Trap Tree - Pam Meoli*



*Nets - Pam Meoli*

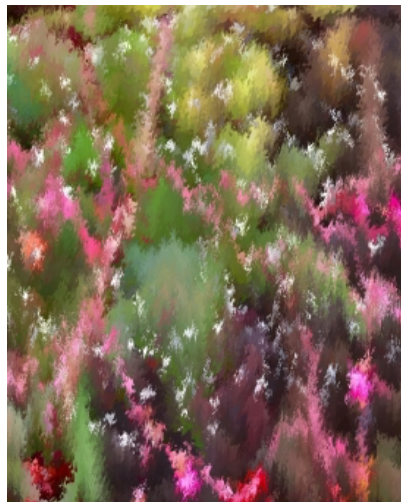
Every year at Christmas time in Gloucester, the town puts up a huge walk - in tree made of lobster traps. The towns elementary children paint bouys that adorn the outside of the tree.

I went in during the day and looked up into the middle and took the shot. All I did was run it through Prisma and added more of the yellow netting along with a slight "swirl" effect in the center in Photoshop.

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### Mary Coombs - Spider Web



I sharpened the spider web image in Topaz PhotoAI, then cropped and decreased the exposure in LRC.

I moved it into Photoshop where I had too much fun playing with the Filter tools: Pixelate >Crystalize; then Stylize>Wind; then Wind a second time.

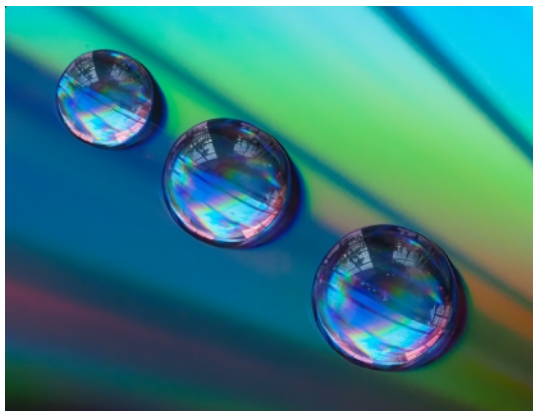
I rotated the image 90 degrees left and made a final crop.

### Glenn Fund - Tableside flower arrangement in Montepulciano, Italy

The image on the left was posterized (using a now defunct application) to get the image on the right.



### Natalie Schiavone - CD Reflection



For the abstract I put water drops on a CD. I used a macro lens and did in camera focus stacking.

- Natalie Schiavone

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### John Mauro - Twisted Balloon

I attended the Plainville Fire Company balloon festival in Plainville CT. Ellen and I got up at 3:30 (my usual time - Ellen was NOT happy LOL) to be there for the sunrise launch. The weather was perfect for the event. Balloons started setting up predawn, then launched at dawn. I met a photographer that had been attending for years while searching for the perfect location - she mentioned that the spot we were in was the best for photographs. This particular balloon launched right next to where we were, and I was able to shoot straight up in the sky.



I primarily used Lightroom for editing, but used Photoshop for the final touch. I:

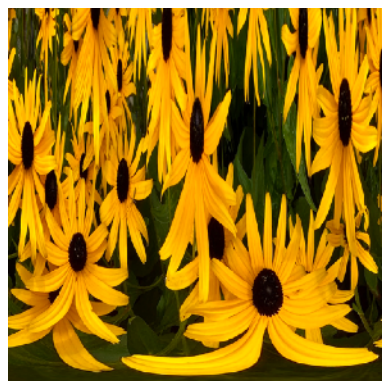
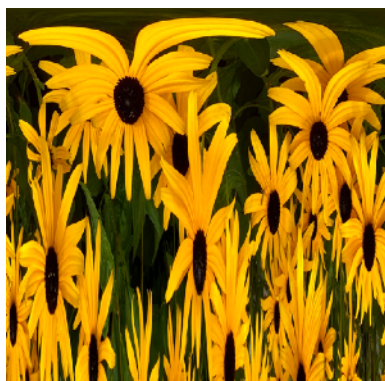
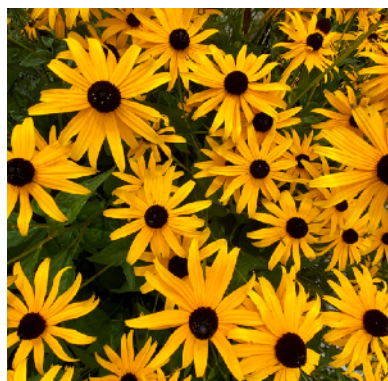
1. Cropped the image square,
2. Adjusted exposure, highlights shadows, whites and blacks
3. Dehazed the image
4. Brought into Photoshop and used the filter > distort > twirl feature.
5. I did not like the way it came out with the basket, so I used the "remove" tool to remove the basket.
6. Twirled image again, then removed one cloud that was out of place
7. Made final selective exposure and color adjustments on the balloon only

*"There is no abstract art. You must always start with something. Afterward you can remove all traces of reality. " - Pablo Picasso*

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### Robyn Saur - Prayers for Ukraine



Here are my steps to make my Abstract "Prayers for Ukraine" images:

Step 1 - resize your image to be a square

Step 2 - in Photoshop select Filter Menu apply Distort-Polar Coordinates and Select Polar to Rectangle press OK

Step 3 - Rotate image 180 degrees

Step 4 - Filter menu apply Distort -polar coordinates. this time select "Rectangle to Polar - click OK

Step 5 - change to background color by using a mask

Step 6 - Select Filter - Stylize- then oil paint

Step 7 - You can add more background by choosing canvas and make more blue around edges.

This is a personal choice and fun to create. You can experiment with other items.

*"I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say any other way – things I had no words for." – Georgia O'Keeffe*

## More Zooming In - Earth Day

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We asked members to share an image (or more) that depicts some aspect of the Earth they appreciate, are thankful for, or feel needs protection. We received many submissions - some of the disturbing effects of pollution on wildlife and the environment, some of special places now negatively altered by human encroachment, and some simply of the earth and the wonderful sights we are blessed with when we stop to look.

### Earth Day

An annual celebration each year on April 22 - honoring the achievements of the [environmental movement](#) and raising awareness of the importance of long-term ecological [sustainability](#).

On April 22, 1970:

20 million Americans participated, with a goal of a healthy, sustainable environment. Denis Hayes, the national coordinator, and his youthful staff organized massive coast-to-coast rallies. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment. Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness, and the extinction of wildlife suddenly realized they shared common values. Mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting the status of environmental issues onto the world stage.

**Calls to Action** - the following photos are grim reminders that we need to do more to protect wildlife and our natural resources:



*Image Courtesy of Natalie Schiavone*



*Image Courtesy of Natalie Schiavone*

I am attaching some photos that immediately made me think of challenges our earth faces. These are of a seal and sea lion in San Diego affected by littering and pollution. They both have some sort of plastic stuck around their bodies. So sad! - Natalie Schiavone

*"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." – Mahatma Gandhi*

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## Zooming in - Earth Day - continued from page 20



*Image Courtesy of Eric Frere*

I selected an image that depicts the struggles we have protecting our water supply. - Rick Beauchamp



*Containment II - Rick Beauchamp*



*Wildfires in Greece in 2021 -  
Catherine Robotis*



*Smoke on the Water (fire in the sky)  
- Catherine Robotis*

The first was taken from our back balcony in Marathon, Greece during the wildfire disaster of 2021. The fires did not get close enough to us to force us to evacuate, but the air quality was awful, with soot falling all over us. The second one was taken at the Olympic Rowing Center, which is about a mile away from us. - Cathy Robotis

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I feel that preservation of the glaciers is vital to our survival. - Terry Vachowski

*Image Courtesy of Terry Vachowski*

### **Special Places now Gone or Altered:**

From Linda Shelales:

I've got a few pics of areas now gone, or at least profoundly diminished.

01 - Princeton Brook dried up when someone bought part of the land & built a home upstream.

02 - The Assabet Watershed w/ Monarch, bee & ladybug was full of wildflowers but all was dug up circa 2020. An effort to remove invasives, I believe. Maybe it'll come back but it hasn't looked promising.



*01 - Princeton Brook 2006 Gone 2020  
- Linda Shelales*



*02 - Assabet Watershed Monarch, Bee,  
Ladybug - Linda Shelales*

Continued on next page



## Zooming in - Earth Day - continued from page 22

03 - Great Meadows of course is still there, a lovely walk, but the invasive water lilies are choking everything out. Efforts to control failed thus far. An invasive fish, I think Carp? is also invading that area.

04 - The Bolton Field near our Senior Center is threatened by construction of new 'Affordable' housing construction underway. I can't imagine it will be saved. I'm afraid to ask but I will! - Linda Shelales

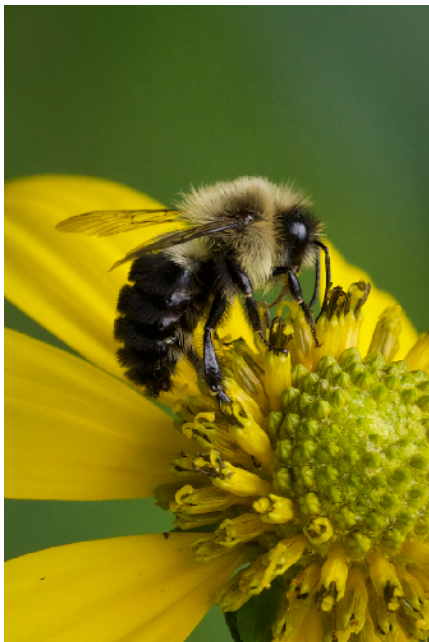


*03 - Great Meadows Concord - Invaded  
2018  
- Linda Shelales*



*04 - Bolton Field Threatened - Linda Shelales*

## What We Need to Protect (from the small to the large):



*Bumblebee on Coneflower  
- Mary Coombs*



*Moose eating Willow - Lynn Kerner*

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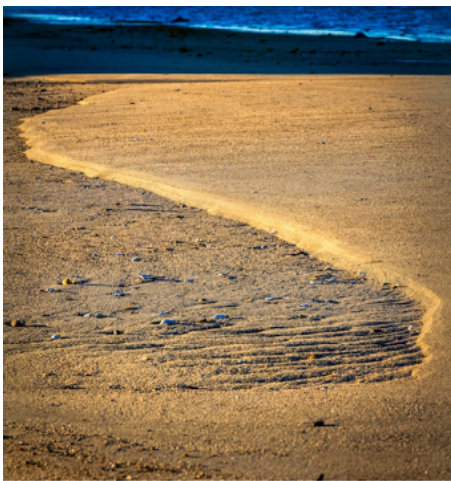


*Roots - It's just plain earth! - Blair Boudreau*

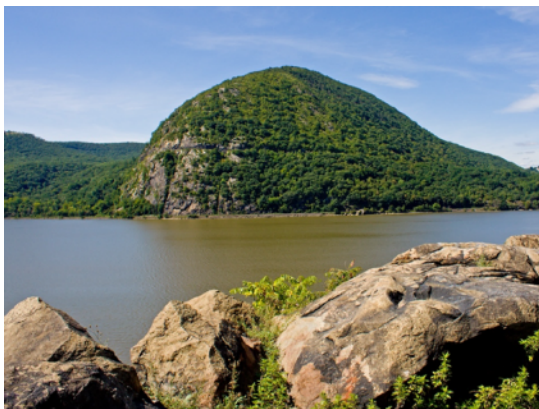


*Image Courtesy of Robyn Saur*

I thought a simple image of the changing formation of beach sand every time the tide comes in and recedes makes you think of the simple natural changes in nature that we should not take for granted. - Rick Beauchamp



*Cape Cod Sunrise on the Beach  
- Rick Beauchamp*



*"Mountains are just a Pile of Rocks"  
- Nick Andruzzi*



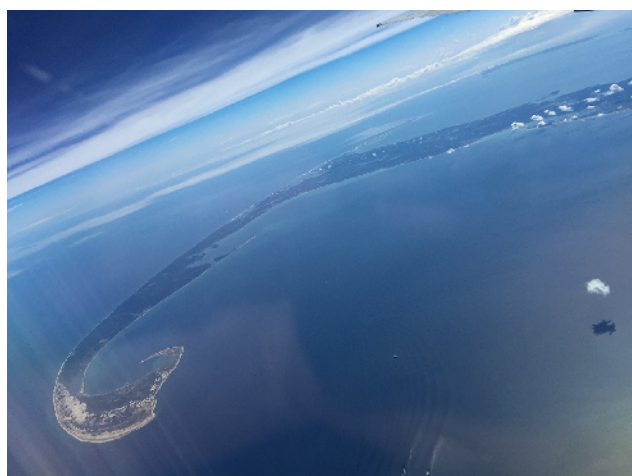
*Öxarárfoss Iceland - John Mauro*

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*Earth Day Cadillac Mountain - Darlene Holman*



*Cape Cod - Robyn Saur*



*Earth Day - Pam Meoli*

*"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now." – Nelson Henderson*

## Tips and Tricks - April's Theme: Golden Hour Photography

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### Tips for Golden Hour Photography

The Golden Hour offers some of the best natural lighting scenes in photography. It is generally thought to occur during the first hour after sunrise and the last hour before sunset. Times may vary depending on where you are and the time of year. For example, the golden hour typically lasts longer closer to the North and South poles and has a shorter timeline closer to the equator. During the golden hour, the sun is closer to the horizon, meaning that the light has to travel further to reach us. As rays of light travel through a wider layer of atmosphere to reach the earth, the atmosphere acts like a giant diffuser. The intensity of direct light is reduced, and the light that reaches us is softer, redder, and more flattering. Blue light is mostly filtered out. The soft light creates a dreamlike mood, and the warm color palette of the golden hour (red, orange, and yellow) is associated with happiness and warmth. Spring has arrived (or so they say), and Earth Day will be soon upon us. It's a wonderful time of year to capture the warm hues of rebirth bathed in the glorious light of the golden hour. Here are some tips and tricks to help you plan your next golden hour photography session.

#### Setting the Scene

- Study the light around you so you get a feel for when the golden hour occurs. When does the light start to get warm and soft in the evening? When does it start to get hard in the morning?
- Some ideas for golden hour photography include city skylines at sunset, backlit portraits, wildlife silhouettes, seascapes, landscapes, and shadowy street scenes.
- When planning an outing during the golden hour, find out where sun rises and sets to determine your best vantage point.
- [SunToday.org](http://SunToday.org) and [The Photographer's Ephemeris](http://ThePhotographer'sEphemeris.com) (TPE) are sites that can help you better plan for your golden hour photography experience, and [PhotoPills](http://PhotoPills.com) is a phone app that can help predict the golden hour based on your location, time of year, etc.
- Check the weather forecast to avoid shooting on cloudy days or during inclement weather.
- Remember that the light will be actively changing. Look for different angles and positions.
- Be wary of potential terrain and building challenges that might impede your access to the beautiful, warm light.
- Don't forget your tripod!

#### Tips for Photographing during the Golden Hour

- Compose thoughtfully, using the rule of thirds, leading lines, and visual pathways (roads, fences). Frame your subject with trees or windows to add depth. Create a balance in the scene so that no one part of the image overpowers the other.
- Incorporate natural elements in your foreground to give a sense of scale.
- Soft light does not create harsh shadows and tends to decrease the dynamic range, so you can generally avoid dark shadows and bright highlights. Be mindful of the shadows, though; some will be very long.
- You may want to subtly underexpose to add vibrance.

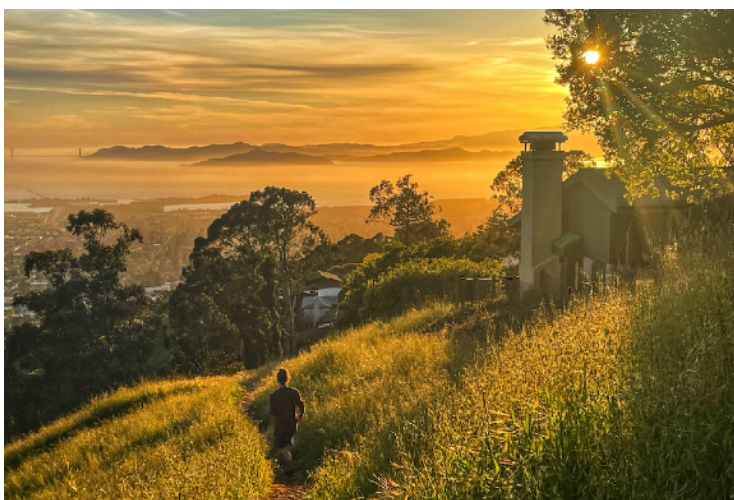
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## Tips for Golden Hour Photography - continued from page 26

- To avoid lens flare, use a lens hood or position your hand or an object to block direct light from hitting your lens. You may also choose to incorporate lens flare into your image, since it adds a whimsical effect.
- Consider using long exposure techniques with your tripod to capture the flow of time during the golden hour.
- Consider working with HDR.

### Lighting Options during the Golden Hour

- **Front lighting:** This is a lighting technique where your subject faces the sun, producing a warm and flattering effect in the golden hour that's perfect for people and wildlife. As you get closer to the end of the golden hour in the evening, the light will be even more soft.
- **Backlighting:** In this lighting situation, the sun is behind your subject. In the golden hour, this creates a soft, warm, hazy, glowing effect. Backlighting will allow the sun to create a halo or soft glow around your subject, enhancing the mood and depth of the image. If you don't want to create a silhouette, make sure to meter off of the subject and not the background. Consider using fill light or a fill flash. If using an external flash, make sure to illuminate your subject softly, so that your image looks natural.
- **Creating a Silhouette:** If you desire a silhouette, get down low, and photograph your subject against the light. Expose for the background. Add extra contrast in post-processing.
- **Side Lighting:** This will highlight textures and details.



*Golden hour in the Berkley Hills - Catherine Robotis*

### Camera settings

- **White Balance:** Consider setting your WB to Cloudy or Shade to add warmth to your photos. If you set your white balance manually, recommendations range from 3500-5000K to 5600-6500K (depending on the source) to bring out the golden hues of your image.
- You should shoot in **RAW**.
- **Manual Mode** is recommended to give you control over all of your settings, but if you are not comfortable shooting in Manual, consider working in **Aperture Mode**, so that your depth of field remains consistent, even as the sun goes down. However, you will have to keep an eye on the shutter speed that the camera chooses to ensure that your image will not be blurry. If your camera is shooting at slower than 1/60, you will likely have a blurry image unless you use a tripod.
- **ISO:** Start at 100; the range is typically 100-400. You will probably need to increase your ISO as the scene gets darker.

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## Tips for Golden Hour Photography - continued from page 27

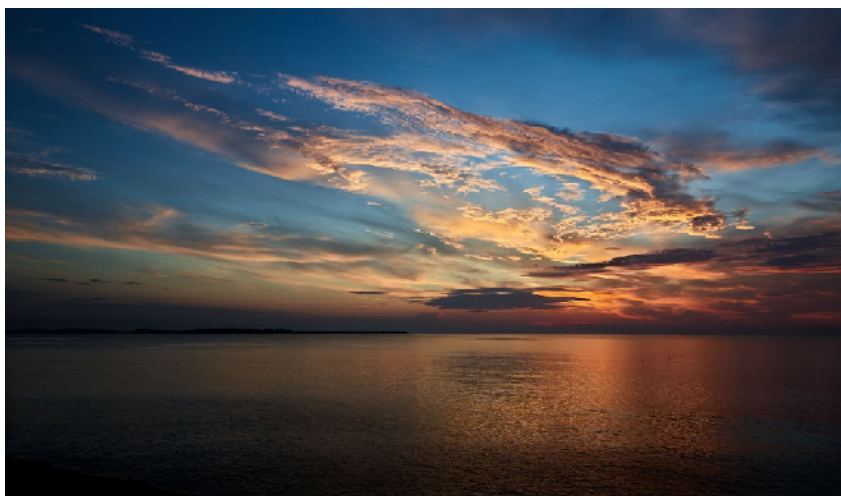
- **Aperture:** Consider working with a wide aperture (f/1.8, f/2.8, f/4, f/5.6) to create bokeh with portraits. If you are doing landscape work, f/8-f/22 (some recommend f/14) will work well to keep things sharp. Shooting with a wider aperture will give the scenes and subjects a softer look.
- **Shutter Speed:** You should consider starting with 1/60-1/250 (or up to 1/500). Your goal is to have your shutter speed fast enough to avoid motion blur and slow enough to let in sufficient light.
- Don't forget to check your histograms!

### Post-processing

- You can adjust the temperature in post-processing to increase the warmth of the image.
- For portraits, watch out for orange skin tones, and adjust as needed.
- You can use adjustment brushes to open up shadows and dim highlights to restore balance to your image as needed.

### Additional Tips for Golden Hour Photography from One of Our Members:

**Eric Frere:** Golden Hour: Although golden hour is defined as just before sunset and just after sunrise, I prefer to shoot just AFTER sunset or just BEFORE sunrise. Living on the Massachusetts coast, I often take sunrise photos. I would arrive when it is still dark to set up my tripod, etc - ready for light to appear. I start shooting about 20-30 minutes before the actual sunrise. By the time the sun peaks over the horizon, I'm already starting the pack up. If there are people around me taking photos of the sunrise, they will often tell me that I am missing the sunrise. I usually answer that I didn't, that it was 10-20 minutes ago. Unless there are clouds, shooting that great white ball is not that interesting. See photo.



*Image Courtesy of Eric Frere*

### Sources

Canva.com; digital-photography-school.com; wix.com; imagined.com; Proedu.com; miops.com; adorama.com; adobe.com; progradedigital.com.

For further learning, here is an interesting tutorial by **Nate Torres**: [Golden Hour Photography](#)

## The Bigger Picture

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Spring is HERE!



Time to start planning your visits to see and photograph the amazing displays of spring flowers we are so fortunate to have close by

### **Suggestions for Daffodils:**

**Parsons Reserve**, Dartmouth, MA- <https://dnrt.org/parsons/>

A note about daffodil season:

“The flowers at Parsons Reserve were planted during World War II. We are so pleased that the daffodils have remained here for over 80 years!.”

### **Daffodil Festival on Nantucket**

The 43rd annual Nantucket Community Daffodil Flower Show is only part of the island’s weekend-long flower-themed festival. The celebration will also include tours, brunches, art shows, contests, picnics, performances, wine tastings, exhibitions, and parades—featuring kids, dogs, and antique cars. *(Friday, April 28 to Sunday, April 30 at various times)*

<https://daffodilfestival.com/>

### **The field of daffodils at New England Botanic Garden** (AKA Towerhill)

One of the most popular seasonal displays at the Garden, the Field of Daffodils signals the first signs of spring. When this field of more than 25,000 daffodils (*Narcissus cvs.*) comes into bloom, it is a dramatic sight to behold. Visitors flock to the Garden to experience this tapestry of color and take photographs. Best to check with the garden to see when they are blooming – or watch on their facebook page. <https://nebg.org/the-field-of-daffodils/>

### **Suggestions for Spring Tulips:**

**Golden Hour Tulips** – Berkley, MA - <https://goldenhourotulips.com/>

**Ferjulian’s Farm** – Hudson, MA

Tulip Picking 2025

Estimated picking dates: April 21-May 6

Tickets must be purchased ahead of time, online and will go on sales April 15 - [Ferjulian’s](#)

Continued on next page

Spring - continued from page 30

### **Wicked Tulips Flower Farm**

Exeter, RI, - Preston, CT, - Johnston, RI - New England's largest tulip farms

You need advanced tickets.

Spring will be bursting with 1.5+ million blooms! Each location is planted with over 75 tulip varieties with hundreds of thousands of tulips to stroll through! Pick as many as you like for \$1.25 a stem. 10 u-pick tulips are included in each adult ticket. [Wicked Tulips](#)

### **Tulip Festival at Cider Hill Farm**

Amesbury, MA

A gorgeous, fan-favorite variety of 100k tulips are scheduled to bloom in early May. Welcome spring with this multi-weekend festival featuring free live music, self-guided blooming orchard walks, outdoor hard cider bars, food trucks, fitness & family activities and cut-your-tulips. General entrance is free but online tickets for tulip cutting is required. Walk-in tickets will not be sold upon arrival on the farm.

The festival is scheduled for May 3-4 and May 10-11. Dates may shift based on bloom time.

### **Other places to visit this spring/summer for photo ops & fun are:**

**Blithewold Manor** – Bristol, RI (a little over an hour away) [www.blithewold.org](http://www.blithewold.org)

An American Garden Treasure

Blithewold is a 33-acre summer estate with grand views of Narragansett Bay and is nationally significant in American history as one of the most fully developed and authentic examples of the Country Place Era. The property features a 45-room mansion filled with family heirlooms and is framed by a series of lovely gardens that range in character from mysterious to exotic and from poetic to practical.

### **Patriot's Day Festival:**

[www.visitma.com/things-to-do/holidays/patriots-day](http://www.visitma.com/things-to-do/holidays/patriots-day)

The Patriot's Day Festival is an annual event held in Concord and Lexington commemorating the Battles of Lexington and Concord during the Revolutionary War.

The festival features reenactments of the battles, a reenactment of Paul Revere's Midnight ride, a candlelight vigil at the Old North Bridge Battlefield, musical performances, and a Battle Road Anniversary hike along Battle Road trail.

**New England Folk Festival:** [www.neffa.org](http://www.neffa.org)

The New England Folk Festival is an annual event in Marlborough that celebrates folk music, dance, and traditions. NEFFA features a diverse range of folk music styles, including traditional, contemporary, and world folk music.

**FYI** - MA Audubon Society is offering a New Member special from now until Jun 30th. For just \$35, you can be part of a community of more than 160,000 members who value and want to protect nature just like you. Join Mass Audubon today and enjoy up to half-off savings on new Individual and Family memberships. [MA Audubon](#)



Zooming Out - continued from page 14

### **Boston Street Photography Workshop**

For those of you who remember Essdras Suarez – he will be in Boston this summer for a 3 day “Street Photography and The Art of Seeing” workshop June 11-13. Essdras is a two time Pulitzer Prize photographer. Go here for details: [Boston Street Photography](#)

### **Photo Contests:**

#### **Bide Awhile - Nova Scotia**

Do have that purr-fect shot? Pet Photo Contest is back!

The Pet Photo Contest for the 2026 Calendar is open for entries!

Go here for the scoop: <https://bideawhile.org/fundraisers-and-events/pet-photo-contest/>

#### **Capture the Spirit of Manufacturing:**

Enter the 2026 WiM Northern New England Calendar Contest!

The Women in Manufacturing (WiM) Northern New England Chapter is excited to announce their 2026 Calendar Photo Contest! They invite you to showcase your creativity by submitting stunning images that celebrate manufacturing, innovation, and the people behind the industry.

Selected photos will be featured in our 2026 calendar, which will be sold to support our chapter’s programs, events, and initiatives empowering women in manufacturing across Northern New England.

Submit your best shots before August 31, 2025 for a chance to be part of this special project and help us highlight the beauty and impact of manufacturing in our region!

<https://www.womeninmanufacturing.org/northern-new-england>

#### **Agricultural Views Calendar Photo Contest**

Farm Credit East’s Agricultural View 2026 calendar is looking for fresh imagery that illustrates the best of Northeast farming, horticulture, forestry, and commercial fishing, as well as creative photos that celebrate country life in New England, New York, or New Jersey.

[www.farmcrediteast.com/en/resources/Calendar-Photo-Contest](http://www.farmcrediteast.com/en/resources/Calendar-Photo-Contest)

#### **Photo Contest for 2026 Calendar | Rotary Club of Rockport**

The Rockport Rotary Club will be producing a 2026 photo calendar as a fundraiser this year and is requesting amateur and professional photographers alike to submit their best high-quality photos of Rockport to be entered into their contest.

<https://www.rockportrotary.org/Stories/photo-contest-for-2026-calendar>

*“Observe the wonders as they occur around you. Don’t claim them. Feel the artistry moving through and be silent.” — Kahlil Gibran*



AVCC is a member of the following organizations:

NECCC



PSA



AVCC website:

<https://www.assabetvalleycameraclub.com>

2024-2025 Executive Board Members:

- President: John Mauro
- Vice President: Mary Coombs
- Secretary: Jim Williams
- Treasurer: John Gill



*Alice's Collection - Mary Coombs*

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.