

# 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.



*Roseate Spoonbill and Teaspoons at Sunset*  
- Darlene Holman

*"Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience."*  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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## Note from Our President

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Hello All,

It appears as if the weather is finally starting to turn and the warmer weather is right around the corner (fingers crossed). It also means our club season is coming to an end in just a few weeks.

Looking back on the 2025-2026 season, I believe it has been a successful year in many ways. And the success cannot come without our incredible members that make our club successful and thrive!

Out of fear for forgetting to name someone personally, I would like to start out by giving thanks to our Program Committee. This season we learned about taking candid portraits with simple lighting techniques, focus stacking, creative coastal imagery, creating interesting images in the fog, a Falkland Island adventure, basic astrophotography, refreshing our Photoshop editing skills, and infrared photography. To go along with this, thank you to Mary Coombs for applying for, and managing our Cultural Arts Council grants (among her many other club and personal duties), which offset the costs of a few of our programs.

This year's competitions have yielded many great images; it must be an incredible challenge for our judges to score and critique your amazing images! Thank you to our competition committee members, our announcers, our judges, key holders, members who provide goodies for the meetings, and our clean-up crew! A tremendous amount of work goes into making sure the competition goes off without a hitch! Also, a big thanks to our NECCC and PSA competition representatives/competition managers. We not only compete against ourselves, but against other clubs! It takes a lot of time to comb through our images and choose the right ones that fit the subject and criteria. Most importantly however, each and every member that submits images for competition deserves recognition and thanks! You commit many hours a year to capture, edit, tweak, agonize about whether the image is just right, and submitting your images into competition. Whether you realize it or not, every image you submit opens the creative minds of others, and through observation and critiques, helps to make all of us better photographers.

And thank you to our amazing newsletter team (I still do not how you can compile so much quality information into a newsletter each month with everything else you have to do in your daily lives), photo exhibit chair and participating members, field trip organizers and participants, photo ops committee and contributors, our banquet/event planners, and committee chairs and members!

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” —Helen Keller

Pudge

## Note from the Editors

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Note from the Editors

May, 2026

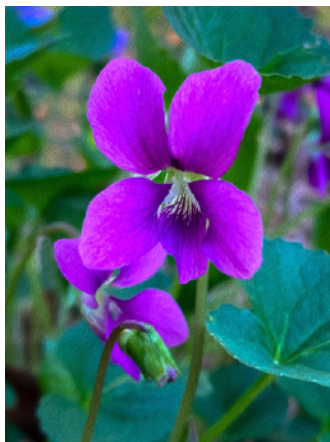
*"When April steps aside for May, like diamonds all the rain drops glisten; fresh violets open every day: to some new bird each hour we listen." — Lucy Larcom*

This quote from Lucy Larcom perfectly describes our experience of the early coming-to-life that is spring in New England. We marvel – again - at just how many birds there are in our yards, homes, meadows and rivers. We are amazed at how many songs each bird has. Being photographers means we are paying attention to the world in a way that others might not. We appreciate details like varied hues in a single leaf; we see lines, shapes, patterns, and a specialness in the every-day. Welcome to May.

This month our issue is chock full of members' images of flowers, and shapes. You'll see photos from a field trip to a carnival and this month's Meet & Greet at Cafe 641. We also have information on a number of exhibits by members, and of course, Pam's "Happenings" section. This month she gives us tips on specific subjects to focus on in various places. Cathy has once again pulled together lots of information, this month on photographing texture and patterns. Lynn provides reviews of a couple of places to photograph herons.

May gets really busy with opportunities to shoot, like the Steampunk Festival in Waltham on May 9th. But our wise friend, Winnie the Pooh, says, "Rabbit, you're absolutely right... spring is a busy time, but I think the best thing about spring is sitting and listening to the robin singing, and watching the bluebells ringing". Just add a camera and you're all set.

Lynn Kerner



*Violet - Mary Coombs*

## May Program

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AVCC is pleased to present “Infrared Photography: Processes, Exploration, and Experiences” by Frank Jansen on Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting is a hybrid format; in person at the Hudson Senior Center, 29 Church St., Hudson, or remote on Zoom (please arrive no later than 7:15).

Please Note: Frank Jansen will present his program in person at the Hudson Senior Center.

The Senior Center will open at 6:30 PM for social time. The Zoom meeting room opens at 7:00 p.m. and the AVCC business meeting starts at 7:15 p.m. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. Nonmembers interested in attending as guests should email [avcc.digital@hotmail.com](mailto:avcc.digital@hotmail.com).

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### Frank Jansen

Photography has been a significant component of Frank Jansen’s life since he captured his first images with a Kodak Pocket Instamatic camera using C110 film. These early forays into the art of photography, led to a passion in college that was fueled by viewing the world through the Olympus OM-1, which helped refine a sense of composition. After a bit of a hiatus, Frank’s interest was rekindled by the advent of digital photography, and its unlimited potential for experimentation, leading to a significant jump in learning the craft of photography, as well as its visual impact.

Frank approaches photography not as mere documentation, but as a deliberate act of translating emotion into image. His process transforms the camera into a palette and set of brushes, allowing him to explore the planet, universe, and its inhabitants by expressing the specific emotional resonance of a captured moment. This photographic vision is deeply rooted in the visual arts, particularly the 17th-century Dutch Masters like Jan Steen and Frans Hals for their depiction of daily life, and Jacob van Ruisdael for vivid landscapes. His appreciation for Salvador Dali and Hieronymus Bosch also informs his work, pushing boundaries into surreal tableaux and non-traditional perspectives.

Experimentation is central to Frank's journey. His dedication to pushing technical boundaries led to his abstract series, “**Kryptomorphaics**”, as well as utilizing advanced techniques like **HDR imaging** to transcend representational photography. Additionally, Frank enjoys interpreting the world through the **infrared spectrum**, exploring dimensions of light beyond visible perception.

Frank is committed to the photographic community, actively sharing his experimental processes with likeminded photographers. He believes in mutual learning and cultivating the shared passion for the medium.

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Frank Jansen - continued from page 4

## **Infrared Photography: Processes, Exploration, and Experiences Program**

### **Introduction**

- Welcome and Introduction
- What is infrared photography?
- History and evolution of infrared photography

### **The Infrared Spectrum**

- Understanding the light spectrum
- What makes infrared light different?
- Why we can't see infrared with the naked eye
- The creative potential of infrared

### **How to get started**

- Infrared filters
- Camera modifications
- Lenses suitable for infrared

### **Developing an IR Eye**

- Setting up your camera for infrared
- Focusing techniques for infrared
- Exposure and white balance
- Finding suitable subjects and locations

### **Post-Processing Infrared Images**

- Converting to black and white
- Channel swapping for false color
- Editing software and plugins
- Tips for creating unique infrared effects

### **Some Examples and Q&A**

- Examples of different infrared styles
- Q&A



*Red-Brick-Road - Frank Jansen*

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*Image Courtesy of Frank Jansen*



*Image Courtesy of Frank Jansen*



*Hanging Out - Bill Northup*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Presentor</b>
9/3/25	“What I did this Summer” Member Slideshows	AVCC Members
10/1/25	Portraits with Simple Lighting Techniques	Jim DeLuco
11/5/25	Process of Focus Stacking	George Fellner
12/3/25	Creative expression through Coastal Imagery	Steve Koppel
1/7/26	Lost in a Fog	Ed McGuirck
2/4/26	Penguin Adventure - Falkland Islands	Shawn Carey
3/4/26	Intro to Basic Astrophotography	Temu Nana
4/1/26	Refresh your Basic Editing Skills in Photoshop	Hazel Meredith
5/6/26	Infrared Photography	Frank Jansen
6/3/26	Image of the Year Awards	Mike Roman

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 2025-2026

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### 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	Monochrome	Open	9/10/2025
October	Nature	Open	10/8/2025
November	Mailbox(es)	Open	11/12/2025
December	Nature	Open	12/10/2025
January	Leaf/Leaves	Open	1/14/2026
February	Nature	Open	2/11/2026
March	Landscapes	Open	3/11/2026
April	Nature	Open	4/8/2026
May	Portrait(s)	Open	5/13/2026

### 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 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 Divisions.

### 2025-2026 NECCC Individual Print Competition

The NECCC Individual Print Competition was held on October 18, 2025 and March 28, 2026 hosted by the Greater Lynn Photographic Association (GLPA). For information about the print competitions and to see the winners go to the NECCC website and go to competitions in the pull down menu. [NECCC](#)

## Members' Lens



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

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

**Tips and Tricks** - Curated Suggestions for the Monthly Theme

**The Bigger Picture** - Happenings in the World of Photography

## Zooming Out

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### On the Wall at Cafe 641

The May exhibit at Cafe 641 features the work of Dave Morin.

Be sure to check it out!

Join Dave and friends for a Meet and Greet on May 9th from noon to 1:30 p.m.

The exhibit in June will feature the work of John Mauro.



*Image Courtesy of Dave Morin*

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

*"I like to photograph anyone before they know what their best angles are."*

*— Ellen Von Unwerth*

Continued on next page

Zooming Out - continued from page 9

### **On the Wall at Main Street Cafe in Marlborough**

Peter Stultz's April exhibit at Cafe 641 is making the move to Main Street Cafe in Marlborough for the month of May. If you missed his work in Hudson here's your opportunity to see his stunning landscapes!



*AVCC Members at Peter's Meet and Greet - Jim Williams*



*Peter Stultz at Cafe 641  
- Jim Williams*

### **From Our Members**

Many members have images on display in various exhibits - see where AVCC works are on the walls.

#### **Linda DeStefano Brown:**

I have an image that was accepted for the 16th Annual Fine Art of Photography juried exhibit at the Plymouth Art Center, 11 North Street Plymouth, from now through May 31. I have attached a copy of the image that will be in that show. I hope some of you can make it there to see the entire photography exhibit. - Linda



*Sitting in Silence  
- Linda DeStefano Brown*

#### **Hudson Public Library Exhibit**

Several club members have 2 or more images each currently on display at the Hudson Public Library. The exhibit will be coming down on May 23rd so see it while you can!

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Zooming Out - continued from page 10

## Brian Dean

“The Appalachian Trail - Told Two Ways” featuring photographs by Brian Dean and the pages of a book, *Wander: a Memoir* by Ryan Benz - both thru-hikers - is on exhibit at Hudson Art and Framing until May 31st. A reception will be held May 2nd from 1- 4 p.m with a talk by Ryan Benz at 2 p.m. Meet the artists, enjoy snacks & drinks, and stick around for book signings and conversation.

## 6 Bridges “Return to Spring” Exhibit

Four AVCC members, Linda DeStefano Brown, Rick Beauchamp, Jane Parker, and Mary Coombs, have works in this non-juried show of art work and images reflecting the spirit of spring. 6 Bridges is located at 77 Main St, Maynard. The exhibit is on display from April 1 - May 9. Hours are Wednesday - Saturday 11a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information click here: [6 Bridges](#)



*Basket of Light*  
- Linda DeStefano Brown



*Mary with her image,*  
*Robin Eggs, at 6 Bridges*



*Rick (r) with a fellow exhibitor*  
*at the 6 Bridges “Return to*  
*Spring” Artist Reception*



*Feed Me! - Mary Coombs*

## Mary Coombs

I have an image, Feed Me, in the Fivesparks “BIRDS!” Exhibit, 7 Fairbank St, Harvard, MA. This juried show features the works of 95 artists that interpret the theme of BIRDS! The show is on view until May 30. Hours are Tuesday - Friday 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and Saturdays noon to 4 p.m. Many activities and events around the subject of birds are also happening during May at Fivesparks. For more information click here: [BIRDS!](#)

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Zooming Out - continued from page 11

### **Congratulations!**

Linda DeStefano Brown had two images accepted for a juried exhibit, “Depth of Field,” at Hopkinton Center for the Arts during March - early April: Dynamic Spirit and Disappearing. Disappearing was awarded first place in the show!



*Dynamic Spirit*  
- Linda DeStefano Brown



*Disappearing* - Linda DeStefano Brown

### **Dreams of Flight - Shiver the Sky**

AVCC member Dan Barstow, Director of Earth Music Theater, collaborated with The Sounds of Stow to produce a multi-media program, Dreams of Flight, featuring the choral-orchestral song cycle, Shiver the Sky, by composer Christopher Tinn. The program, on April 19, traced the history of flight from dream to reality and beyond with stunning and emotional videos and NASA imagery (Barstow) set to Tinn’s nine movement song cycle. AVCC members Sue Abrahamsen, Jim Williams, Lynn Kerner, and Mary Coombs thoroughly enjoyed the program.



*On stage at Littleton High School*  
- Mary Coombs

### **Night Hawks News:**

The month of May brings the Full Flower Moon on May 1st and The Full Blue Moon on May 31st to our skies! Here is a link to Silvana Della Camera’s tips for moon photography: [Silvana Della Camera - Moon Photography](#) . The night of May 5-6th also brings the opportunity to see the Eta Aquarids meteor shower. Go to this link for more information: [Eta Aquarids](#) and another: [tensixphotography.may-astro-events/](#)

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**In the Field:**

In search of heron rookeries - Lynn Kerner (Photos on this page courtesy of Lynn Kerner)

1. **Feeley Field, Sudbury, MA - 4 stars \*\*\*\*** second field down, behind center field. Area is wet and marshy in places - wear boots, long pants and tick spray. If you're up to it, you can fight your way through some bushy, dead-tree area in order to get shots from along the brook. This shot is from about 40 yards away, again, standing on kind of a marshy area. There are about 6-7 nests in a couple trees on this side, then a couple nests across the water as well. There are also two osprey nests across the water, and one on the light pole in the parking lot.

2. **Wollomonopoag Conservation Area, Wrentham, MA - 5 stars \*\*\*\*\***

The whole trail is a 2+ mile loop but if you stay to the right instead of going over a wooden bridge and up a hill, you don't have to walk the whole loop to get great, close-up shots. There are quite a few nests, but I didn't count them. "Well, hrumph" is taken from about 40-50 yards away with a 500mm focal length, @ ISO 100; f11.



*Heron Making Nest*

<https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L1601415>

<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/massachusetts/wollomonopoag-conservation-area-loop>



*Heron at Feely Field*



*Well, hrumph*

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Zooming Out - continued from page 13

### At the Carnival

Several of us met for a last minute photo op meet up at a little town carnival in Marlborough. Lots of lights, sounds, people, and smells and a ton of opportunities for photos one would not normally see. We had a lot of fun - and of course had to end the evening with an ice cream!

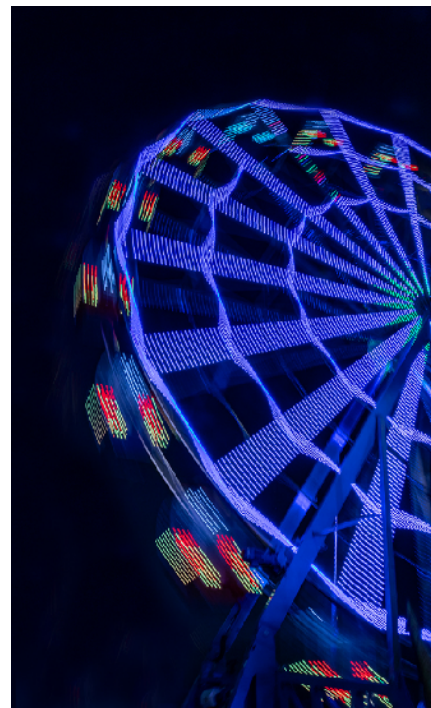
PS - sometimes last minute works the best. - Pam Meoli



*Hit the Cat  
- Todd Mathieson*



*Wheel\_multicolor - Lynn Kerner*



*Wheel\_blueredyellow  
- Lynn Kerner*



*Image Courtesy of  
Ronni Silver*



*Todd, Maureen, Ronni,  
Lynn, and Pam*



*Zero Gravity...  
-Todd Mathieson*



*The best part! - Ronni Silver*

## Zooming In

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This month we asked our members to submit images inspired by the quote, “The world laughs in flowers.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson - Enjoy!



*Spring Garden 1 - Alan Mertz*



*Spring Garden 2 - Alan Mertz*



*Spring Garden 3 - Alan Mertz*

These are photos of the first flowers of Spring from our yard. Finally, some color and I can't wait for May. - Alan



*Hyacinth Blossom  
- Linda Shelales*



*Flowers from the Yard  
- Mary Coombs*

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Zooming In - continued from page 15



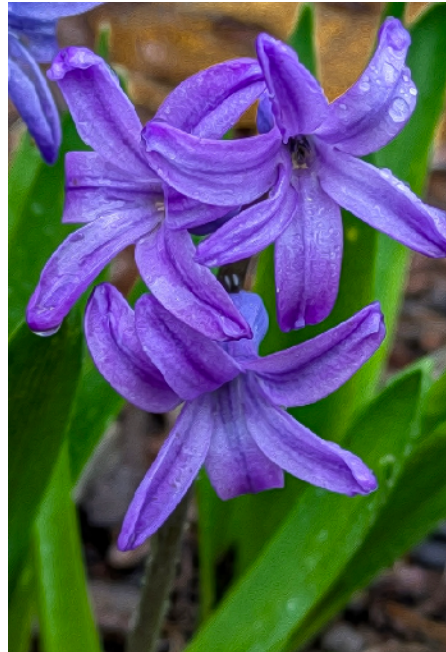
*The Iris's are coming, the Iris's are coming. - Rick Beauchamp*



*Purple Boom at Tower Hill - Todd Mathieson*



*Orchids - Todd Mathieson*



*Purple Stars - Lynn Kerner*

Continued on next page

Zooming In - continued from page 16



*Helleborus - Lenten Rose - Darlene Holman*

This is one of the earliest flowers I have seen blossomed at Tower Hill, so it's perfect for the May edition. - Darlene



*Floral Fireworks - Linda Shelales*

I chose the red & white flower for its vibrant, cheerful red with all those petals exploding outward like a fireworks display. The Hyacinth's soft pink clusters of curly-petaled blossoms remind me of a chorus of laughing children. Both children & flowers have that same way of bringing hope & joy our way! - Linda S



*Image Courtesy of Charlotte Mann*

## More Zooming In

We also asked our members to share images that use the compositional element of shapes. Here is a quote provided to inspire thinking about shapes when taking a photograph:

“What reinforces the content of a photograph is the sense of rhythm - the relationship between shapes and values.” --Henri Cartier-Bresson



*A Flower and a Shape - Lou Snitkoff*



*Image Courtesy of Lou Snitkoff*



*Shapes & Lines in Red & Gold - Lynn Kerner*



*Exploring Fort Popham - Cathy Robotis*

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*Pythagorean Sundial Flat - Peter Stultz*



*Cup - Peter Stultz*

Here are a couple of photos that I thought would be appropriate for the 'Shapes' topic. These are from a photo essay I did on shadows a few years ago.

While watching the sunlight stream through a window and move across the walls and floor I noticed the various shapes that it made at different times of day. There are the squares made by the shadow of the window grid on top of the squares of the wall tiles. There is a parallelogram and one that looks like it could be origami. The one that had first caught my eye is the one that almost looks like a 3-D Rubik's cube. These are mostly basic pythagorean shapes that change with the movement of the sun like a sundial.

The photo of the cup illustrates the comment in the last newsletter regarding the relationship between shape and form. As was stated there, photography is a 2-D medium and any representation of 3-D is really an illusion. This photo takes advantage of the gestalt effect in which the mind fills in gaps to try to make sense out of shapes. There are really only a few shapes shown here but the mind instinctively adds a third dimension and composes this minimal information into a cup.

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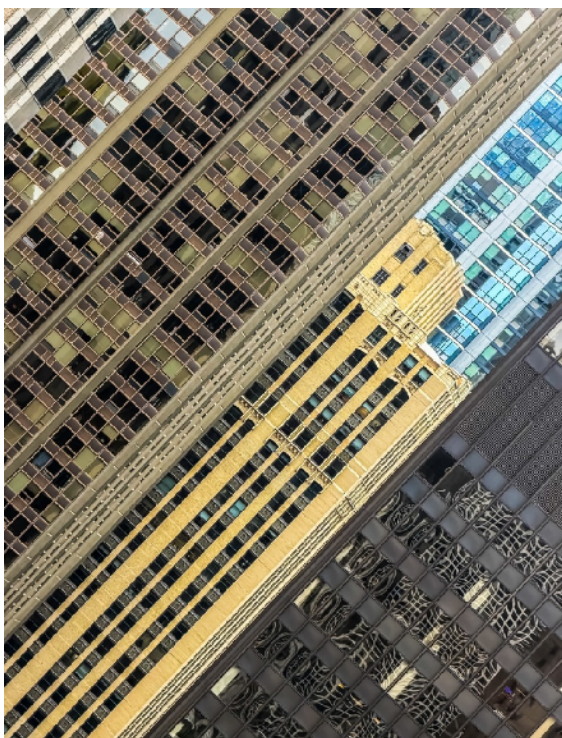
More Zooming in - Shapes - continued from page 19



*The Spiderwheel at Sunset - Todd Mathieson*



*Ellis Island Museum - Cathy Robotis*



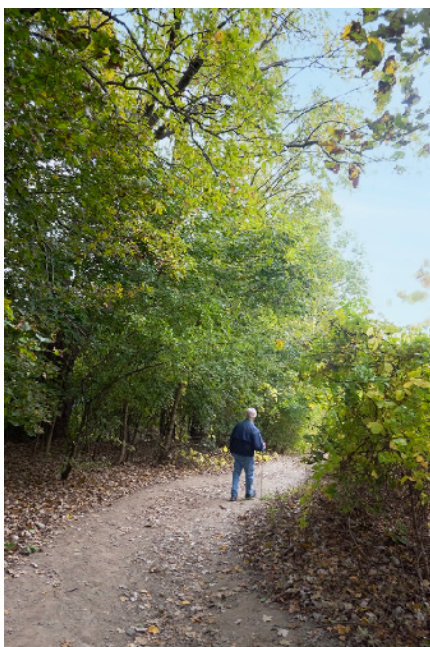
*Chicago Abstract - Cathy Robotis*



*Look Up - Pam Meoli*

This was taken in a mall in Italy. Moral of the story - "always look up - you might miss something great!" - Pam

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*Exploring Gibbet Hill  
- Linda Shelales*



*Shore Tidal Swirl - Linda Shelales*



*Duck Making waves - Rick Beauchamp*

Two ducks glide in quiet unison, their movement shaping a rhythm of ripples that catch and scatter the sun's reflection. - Rick



*Sand waves - Rick Beauchamp*

The tide leaves behind a quiet rhythm, etched in sand through repeating ridges of light and shadow. - Rick

### Tips for Composition: Texture and Patterns in Photography

Our 2025-2026 AVCC season is rapidly drawing to a close. Wow! It seems like only yesterday we were all out looking for mailboxes, and here we are in May looking for portraits. We've spent the past several months looking at elements of composition, and we hope you have found the information helpful. This month, as we wind down, we will continue to weave our way through the compositional journey by focusing on texture and patterns in photography. Textures and patterns are everywhere around us and often find their way into our images in one form or another. Incorporating and refining them adds visual interest and depth to our photographs, making them more impactful. Now that we are finally able to put away our coats (well, we hope so, anyway), it's a perfect time to grab your camera and capture our beautifully textured and patterned world.

#### Texture in Photography

Texture in photography provides tactile information about elements in an image; it tells us how something *feels* and creates a sense of *touch*. It brings vibrance and life to a scene. It provides an element of realism and adds visual interest. You may incorporate texture to add depth and detail to your subject, or texture may even be the subject itself, particularly in abstract work. Texture may be rough or smooth; it may be soft or prickly. Texture can be augmented through variations of color, shadow, line, shape, and depth, and it can be used to intensify the mood of an image or evoke emotion. Texture is generally best revealed through directional light from the side, as opposed to flat light from the front, behind, or next to you. Jagged textures may convey a sense of danger, while smooth textures convey a sense of peace and tranquility. Hard textures convey strength and firmness, while soft textures are associated with gentleness. Rough textures are associated with rough emotions.

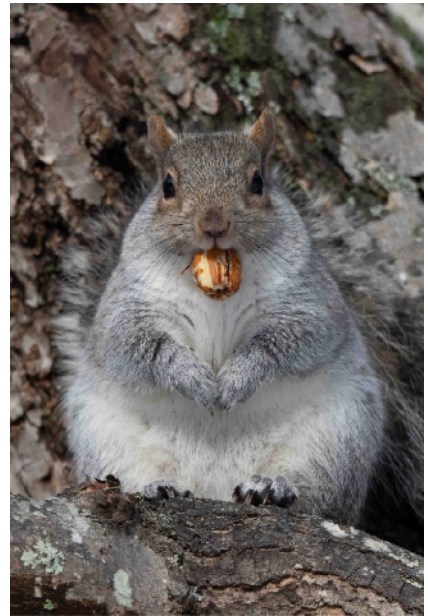


*Sea Lavender, Acadia  
- Theresa Vachowski*

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### **Making the Most of Texture in your Images**

- Look around and try to identify interesting textures. You will find plenty of different textures in nature and in the manmade environment that surrounds you. Think about the rich texture of tree bark or the delicate texture of flowers. Think about the fur and feathers of animals and birds. Picture the texture of architectural scenes. Look at your dinner table to see the variety of textures in your meal.
- When you decide on a subject, look for the best directional light that will bring out the texture. Ambient light will often be best. Soft, cool light will enhance softer, smoother textures like ice or water. Side lighting will bring out textural details. If you are working indoors with artificial lighting, try working with diffused side lighting. Avoid bright sunlight.
- Experiment with your composition, and play with the angles to see what looks best.
- Look for contrasting textures in a scene that might add additional interest. For example, you can contrast the rough texture of rocks against the smooth texture of water in a seaside scene.
- Close-up shots provide a great opportunity to highlight texture. Consider filling the frame with texture. This works very well for abstract images.
- Your texture will be more intense when elements in your image are wet (think of the texture of wet animal fur).
- In terms of your aperture, this will depend on how much you want in focus. If you are working with a variety of textures in an image, consider shooting with a small aperture to ensure they are all in focus.
- If you are working with macro, your focus will be limited. Decide what you want to be in focus, and try working with an aperture of f/8-f/11 (adjust as needed).
- Try working with an ISO of 100-400 to reduce graininess; adjust as necessary.
- Keep your camera perpendicular to your subject. Light coming from the side will then help create shadows and enhance your texture.
- If you are photographing flowers, try to capture the texture of the delicate patterns on the petals. Try backlighting to highlight the downy hairs of the flower.
- If you are photographing wood, go with the flow of the wood grain.
- Adjust your exposure compensation as necessary. For shiny subjects in reflections, try working with a negative exposure compensation. For dark subjects in shadows, try increasing your exposure compensation.



*Squirrel Munching Acorn  
- Bill MacMunn*

Here is a link for further information on Textures in Photography: [Creative Texture Photography Tips](#)

## Patterns in Photography

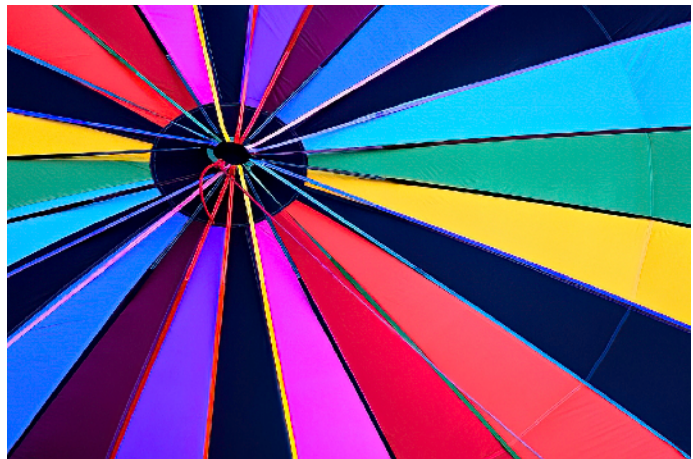
As humans, we are biologically programmed to look for patterns. This is a cognitive tendency that helps us process information about the world around us, a skill necessary for survival. Therefore, it stands to reason that patterns in photography play an important role in drawing the viewer's eye into an image. In photography, patterns are aesthetically pleasing and create visual interest in an image. Patterns in photography are seen when elements are repeated, often in a predictable way. They may be formed by repeated lines, shapes, tones, or even colors. They add depth. They create structure, rhythm, and balance, and the repetition and predictability of patterns help strengthen an image. Patterns may exist as secondary or background elements, or they may even be the subject itself, particularly in abstract compositions.

### Types of patterns

- **Geometric:** Geometric patterns are made up of basic shapes, lines, and angles. They create repeating symmetrical patterns. They provide order and structure and are often seen in textiles and architecture.
- **Organic:** Organic patterns are often irregular, asymmetrical, or fluid. They are typically less structured. They may convey a sense of balance or movement. They are often seen in flowers, animals (zebras), trees, leaves, and waves.
- **Abstract:** Abstract patterns are made up of a combination of shapes, lines, textures, and colors. They are often non-representational and may be seen in the form of curves, swirls, blobs, or dots.

### Color patterns

- **Monochromatic:** Monochromatic patterns involve different shades and tones of a single color. They create a subtle sense of harmony.
- **Analogous:** Analogous patterns include colors adjacent to each other on the color wheel. They create harmony and unity.
- **Complementary:** Complementary patterns involve opposite colors on the color wheel; they provide a sense of contrast and vibrancy.
- **Triadic:** Triadic patterns involve three colors equidistant on the color wheel, such as red, yellow, and blue. These patterns are bold and dynamic.
- **Gradient:** Gradient patterns include shades and tones of one or multiple colors in gradual procession from light to dark or from one to another.



*Balloon, inside view - Sue Abrahamsen*

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### **Making the Most of Patterns in your Images**

- Look around, and learn to spot patterns. You may find them in nature (flowers, water, leaves). You may find them in architecture. You may find textural patterns in wood grain, sand dunes, or even cobblestone streets. You may find culture-based patterns in fabrics and ceramics. They are everywhere.
- Pay attention to how patterns interact with the environment. Incorporating them into an image will likely add a sense of symmetry and harmony. This helps to add a sense of balance.
- Patterns work best when the composition is clean and simple; try to eliminate distracting elements. Look for leading lines and try to incorporate them. Make sure there is a focal point.
- When working with patterns, experiment with angles and perspective to see what works best.
- Get close and try to capture the details. If you want a more abstract image, consider filling the frame with the pattern.
- Try combining patterns; this can be very visually engaging. For example, different patterns of different buildings standing alongside one another in a cityscape can be very interesting.
- Look for converging patterns. They help create a sense of depth.
- Consider incorporating a break in the pattern for visual impact. For example, picture the symmetrical pattern of the perfect spirals of a spider web, and then consider the interest generated by a slight disruption in that pattern.
- Consider using patterns as a frame within a frame.
- Look for patterns with strong color contrasts or complementary colors. Use contrast and color saturation to make patterns pop.
- Use light and shadow to bring out details in the pattern. Side lighting will help create shadows to emphasize texture and depth within a pattern.

For more interesting information on patterns in photography, check out this tutorial: [Patterns in Photography](#)

### **Sources**

Goodhartphotography.com; digital-photography-school.com; adobe.com; tamron.com; visualeducation.com; photographylife.com; photoeducation.weebly.com; theschoolofphotography.com; visualeducation.com; medium.com; photzy.com; adorama.com.



*Cribstone Bridge - Cathy Robotis*

## The Bigger Picture

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### **Happenings:**

#### **New England Botanical Garden**

Experience Spring at the Garden

Let the blooms begin! Celebrate the end of winter's chill and discover inspiration as the Garden wakes up for spring. A spectacular field of more than 25,000 daffodils awaits. Wander the woodland trails in search of spring ephemerals. Enjoy garden beds blooming with spring bulbs as well as fragrant magnolias, lilacs, and more. Springtime experiences at New England Botanic Garden are unmatched in the region. Enhance your visit by exploring an exhibition or event, or take part in a program, drop-in activity, or tour to celebrate the growing season ahead.

<https://nebg.org/spring-at-the-garden/>

#### **Local places to visit for great spring photography:**

- **Acton Arboretum**

Features trails, ponds, wildflower path, ornamentals – free, and open “dawn to dusk” - one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset. <https://actonarboretum.org/>

- **Elm Park (Worcester)**

What's good in May:

- Flowering trees along walking paths
- Pond reflections + bridges
- Golden-hour portrait backdrops

Best for: portraits, lifestyle shoots, casual street-style photography

- **Quinsigamond State Park (Lake Park)**

A classic Worcester-area photo location with shoreline views, docks, and tree-lined paths along Lake Quinsigamond. Great for sunrise reflections and sunset silhouettes.

Best in May for: calm water reflections + fresh spring foliage.



*Damariscotta Catch - Tony Monteiro*

Continued on next page

The Bigger Picture - continued from page 26

- **Green Hill Park (Worcester)**

One of the most versatile parks in the city with open fields, hills, historic farm buildings, and lake views.

Best in May for: wide landscape shots, wildflowers, and golden-hour portraits.

- **Moore State Park (Paxton)**

Probably one of the most photogenic spring spots near Worcester. Waterfalls, stone ruins, wooden bridges, and dense foliage. The premier Central Massachusetts state park for rhododendrons. It is renowned for its extensive, historic collections of rhododendrons, azaleas, and mountain laurels

Best in May for: waterfalls + peak greenery + rhododendrons + mossy textures.

- **Wicked Tulips Flower Farm (Kingston, RI and Preston, CT)**

Over one million tulips planted – early, mid-season, late-season. Usually gone by May 11<sup>th</sup> or so.

Timed entry, approximately \$25/ticket, online reservations. For information: [Wicked Tulips](#)

- **Best sunset spots in our area – there are many but here are 3 of the top**

- Best overall: **Wachusett Reservoir**
- Best in Worcester city: **Green Hill Park**
- Best dramatic view: **Wachusett Mountain**

## **Workshop:**

### **New England Botanic Garden Photo Workshop**

<https://nebg.org/>

Registration Required

Holds a monthly photo workshop “Seasonal Changes Through Your Lens” (if you miss the one in May – plan on the June date)

Each month, the group will focus on 3–4 areas of the Garden, using natural light, seasonal colour, and changing textures as creative inspiration. Instructor provides individualized guidance tailored to your camera or smartphone, helping you better understand your equipment and elevate your work. You'll have time to take photos, ask questions, exchange tips, and receive feedback from both instructor and fellow participants.

*“The quickest way to make money at photography is to sell your camera.” – Anonymous*

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The Bigger Picture - continued from page 27

## **Photo Contests**

- **Sterling Arts Collaborative – “Color Returns” Spring Photo Contest**

[sterlingartscollaborative.org/member-events/color-returns-2026-photography-contest](http://sterlingartscollaborative.org/member-events/color-returns-2026-photography-contest)

This is one of the most clearly May-timed local contests in our area.

- **Deadline:** May 31
- Location requirement: **Worcester County residents only**
- Theme: Spring colors / nature coming back to life
- Open to: Amateur photographers (phone, digital, film)
- Prizes: 1st, 2nd, 3rd + People’s Choice
- Very local, community-style competition with voting exposure

- **Savings Bank of Walpole – (Photos need to be taken in New Hampshire**

<https://walpolebank.com/photo-contest/>

- **Deadline:** May 31
- Eligibility: Amateur and professional photographers
- Theme: New England life, seasons, landscapes, architecture
- Prize: Calendar feature + cash prizes
- High visibility (winning images used in bank calendar + marketing)



*Horse Whisperer - Glenn Fund*



AVCC is a member of the following organizations:

NECCC



PSA

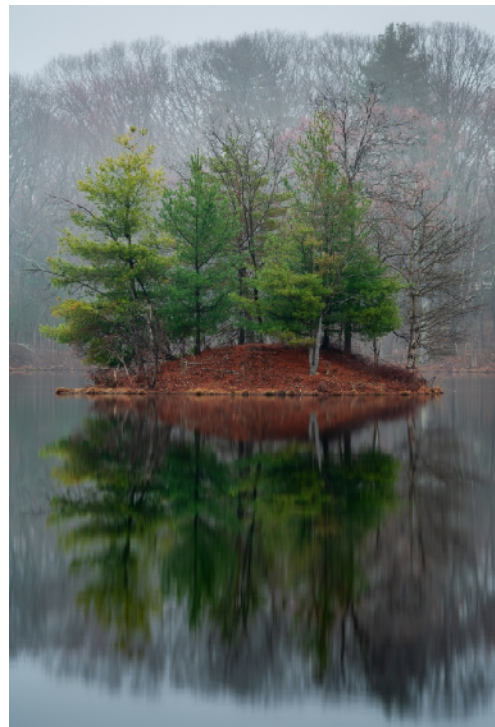


AVCC website:

<https://www.assabetvalleycameraclub.com>

2025-2026 Executive Board Members:

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



*Sudbury Reservoir Fog #5  
- Rick Beauchamp*

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.

Many thanks to the following members for their contributions to this month's Newsletter: Cathy Robotis, Lynn Kerner, Mary Coombs, Pam Meoli, Jim Williams, John Mauro, Alan Mertz, Robyn Saur, Lou Snitkoff, Peter Stultz, Doris Monteiro, Tony Monteiro, Linda Shelales, Rick Beauchamp, Ronni Silver, Todd Mathieson, Darlene Holman, Linda DeStefano Brown.