



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.



Resigned - Mary Coombs

"Our life is March weather, savage and serene in one hour." -Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Note from Our President

Hello All,

If the past few weeks are any indication, it certainly appears as if March will roar in like a lion! I hope everyone survived the Blizzard of 2026!

At least thoughts of potential better weather are floating around the club in the month of March as we have the program *Basic Astrophotography by Temu Nana* (think ahead to a warm spring or summer night capturing the Milky Way or Aurora), and Landscape for the competition subject (think of a beautiful spring or summer landscape image). Ahhhh, OK, back to reality...

I would like to thank Jim Williams for working with the owner of Main Street Cafe in Marlborough, and setting up another image exhibition area there. This location is in addition to Cafe 641. I had an opportunity to view the set-up this past Sunday where Rick Beauchamp's images are currently on display. As always, Jim did an amazing and professional job laying out and installing the apparatus from which the images hang, as well as providing a great informational display about the club and the displaying photographer! If you have a chance, check it out and enjoy their delicious food! Thank you Jim!

Again, I would like to remind everyone that the Nominating Committee is seeking members to run for any of the club's four elected positions, or to volunteer for any committee. A description of the positions can be found here: [AVCC - Committees and Roles](#). These positions do not require a lot of time commitment. "Many hands make light work."

On a final weather note, the decision to hold a meeting via Zoom only because of impending or actual hazardous weather conditions is not made lightly. As a former fire chief and emergency manager, community risk reduction and management was, and continues to always be first and foremost in my mind when making important decisions. The safety of each and every club member and guest is of utmost concern. One major factor in making the decision to hold a meeting via Zoom only is that we hold our meetings at the Hudson Senior Center "after hours" and therefore it is not the highest priority for the town's road and maintenance crews to clear and salt the driveway, walkways, and stairs.

Additionally, some members travel several miles to attend the meeting and not every community maintains their roads to the same standards. The Executive Board and club member key holders look at all factors before making the decision to go Zoom only. Thank you for your understanding! Let's hope the rest of the season's meetings will be in person and via Zoom!! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

On that note, let's hope that that pesky groundhog was wrong and Spring makes an early return!

Pudge

"March was an unpredictable month, when it was never clear what might happen. Warm days raised hopes until ice and grey skies shut over the town again." — Tracy Chevalier

Note from the Editors

Note from the Editors

March, 2026

“In like a lion, out like a lamb.” It seemed simple enough when we came up with this month’s photo challenge. But then, each one of us on the newsletter team started thinking about what we would submit – and it became a little puzzling – “Wait, what did we mean?” People we met at Dan Barstow’s Meet ‘n’ Greet asked about it. People started sharing ideas, questions, brainstorms. People emailed us – “Is this right?” Then, just as we started to think maybe we’d been a little too vague, submissions started to come in. After seeing various interpretations, we felt the activity achieved all the things we were after: a mental challenge, camaraderie, expanding creativity while having fun, and doing it in a non-competitive setting. Wrapping up our own conversation about it, Mary summed it up beautifully: “Maybe a way of looking at the lion/lamb theme is that it is all things March - the unexpected snow storm, mating behaviors, a daffodil emerging through the snow, raw weather, a sunny day, migrations north – and gradually we move into the softness of spring.”

For a list of things to do and photo contests to try your hand at, see Pam’s section on “Happenings.” Included is a list of gardens to visit month by month - “Hidden Gems of New England.” Make sure to check out Cathy’s “Tips” on Lines in Composition. Since the team read this, we’ve been seeing lines all over the place. So fun. And Jim Williams contributes some info on the Total Lunar Eclipse coming up on March 3rd. You won’t see this again from the east coast till 2029, so consider joining the Night Hawks for a pre-dawn shoot.

Remember, it’s Nomination season. If you’re interested in even finding out what a particular role is about, talk to John Gill, Lynn Kerner, or Todd Mathieson, the chair of the Nominating Committee. The more you get involved, the more fun it is, especially the getting to know people.

It might not have been March when we had the last storm, but we sure heard that lion roar! Apparently a split Polar Vortex might cause us some unusually severe swings in weather, but we’re up for it, right? It’s New England after all – and Spring Training has already started. So get out there and hit some balls into the snow banks. Just use red balls.

Lynn Kerner

“March bustles in on windy feet and sweeps my doorstep and my street.” — Susan Reiner

February Program

AVCC is pleased to present **“Intro to Basic Astrophotography”** by Temu Nana on Wednesday, March 4, 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).

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.

This program is made possible through a grant from the Hudson Cultural Council.



Temu Nana found his way to photography as a part of his career in the travel industry; making slideshows for travelers on luxury educational trips. Though a night owl, he never pointed his lens at the night sky until a scouting trip to Namibia nearly a decade ago.

With one of the clearest and darkest skies in the southern hemisphere producing spectacular, immediate results, he experimented with Milky Way, star trail, and other long-exposure imaging, both in Namibia and after returning home. Within a year he had a star tracker, and six months later a 4” refracting telescope, motorized mount, and all the trimmings needed to photographically pierce the veil of darkness above us.

When not leading photography trips around the world, Temu lives in rural New Hampshire, using simple cameras and lenses in his backyard to shoot the night sky, while also enjoying remote access to multiple, advanced imaging telescopes in CA and UT.



Jenny Lake Bridge - Temu Nana

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Intro to Basic Astrophotography

In this presentation, Temu will cover the basics of imaging the night sky, including night landscapes, single-shot Milky Way, and star trail images. He'll cover the necessary equipment and recommended settings (exposure and non-exposure), focusing techniques, as well as thoughts on how to plan a successful night shoot. Time permitting, he may tiptoe into the more complicated world of "tracked and stacked" astrophotography, using star trackers and motorized mounts for wide-field and deep space imaging.



NH Star Trails colder - Temu Nana



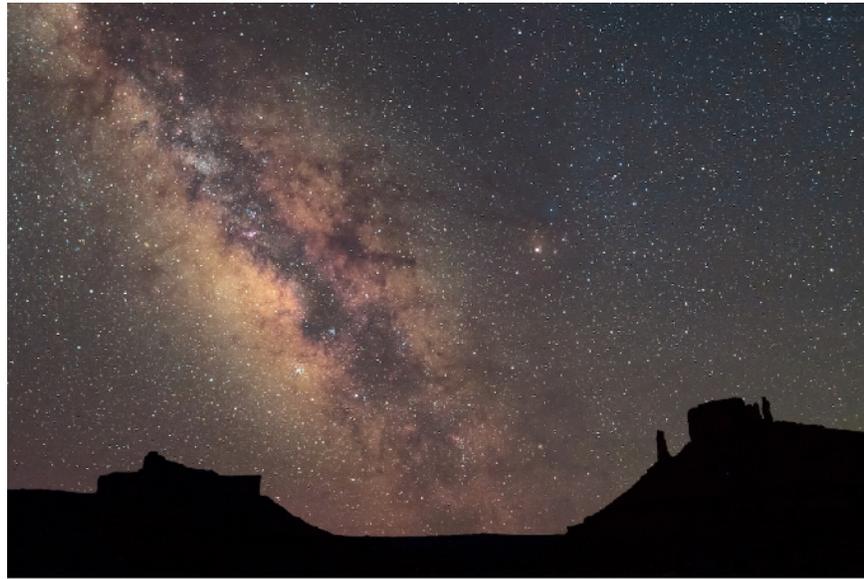
Two Trees Star Trails - Temu Nana



Lodge MW Vertical - Tem Nana

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Temu Nana - continued from page 5



Castleton Color MW - Temu Nana



Vatican Blue Sky - Temu Nana



Red House Star Trails Small - Temu Nana

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Temu Nana - continued from page 6



Polaris Pano Test - Temu Nana

Temu Nana

Astrophotography Instructor | Photo Tour Leader

Instagram (Astro): [tknana_astro](#)

Instagram (Travel): [tknana_photo](#)

Website: [TKNana Photography](#)

Travel Partner: [Open Sky Expeditions](#)

Temu Nana's *"Intro to Basic Astrophotography"* presentation is supported in part by a grant from the Hudson Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.





Can You Walk on Water - Bill MacMunn

Date	Program	Presentor
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	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 2025-2026

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 Division.

2025-2026 NECCC Individual Print Competition

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



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

On the Wall at Cafe 641

The March exhibit at Cafe 641 features the work of Ronni Silver. Ronni has chosen street photography scenes and portraits for this exhibit. Be sure to check it out!

Keep a look out for an email announcing a Meet and Greet sometime later in the month.

The exhibit in April will feature the work of Peter Stultz.



The Mayor - Ronni Silver



Happy - Ronni Silver

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

"Our job is to record, each in his own way, this world of light and shadow and time that will never come again exactly as it is today." — Edward Abbey

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Zooming Out - continued from page 10

On the Wall at Main Street Cafe in Marlborough

Rick Beauchamp is the first club member to have photos on display at Main Street Cafe in Marlborough. His work is currently on exhibit. Dan Barstow's NASA images will be up next sometime in early March.



Pudge at the Main Street Cafe in front of Rick's images - Mary Coombs



Members enjoying Dan's Meet and Greet (complete with visual aids!) at Cafe 641

Information about the two cafe exhibit spaces from Jim Williams:

I am hopeful that art hanging in the Main Street Cafe in Marlborough will be an advertisement for the club and generate more interest. We will be moving art from Cafe 641 to the Marlborough Cafe at the end of each month. Therefore the photos will be on display for two months, one month in Hudson and one month in Marlborough. The artist will pick up their art in Marlborough at the end of the second month. This will complicate the installation procedure, adding another location and another person to coordinate with. I would like to complete the two facilities in one afternoon as we currently do at 641. Dan Barstow's NASA images will be moving from Cafe 641 to the Main Street Cafe for March. Ronni Silver will be in Cafe 641 for March and Peter Stultz will be in there for April. I have no one signed up for the following months and I am hoping to get volunteers, please.

From our Members:

From Linda Gilberti

Linda has her travel images of Vietnam and Burma on display at the Maynard Public library for the months of February and March. For hours see [Maynard Public Library](#).

From Mary Coombs

I am a member of the Stow Area Guild of Artists and we will be holding an arts and crafts show on Saturday, March 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, March 22 from noon to 4 p.m. It will be held at the First Parish Church of Stow and Acton, 353 Great Rd, Stow. Come see the work of many talented artists! stow-artists.org

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Zooming Out - continued from page 11

NECCC Print Competition Information

Greater Lynn Photographic Association hosts the annual NECCC print competitions in October and March. For a description and links to the rules and entry form click here: [NECCC print competition](#)

Spring 2026 Print Competition

Judging: Saturday, March 28, 2026, 11 a.m. to approx. 2 p.m. (there will be no lunch break)

Deadline for Online Entry Form to be completed: Saturday, March 21, 2026

Deadline for receipt of mailed prints: March 21, 2026

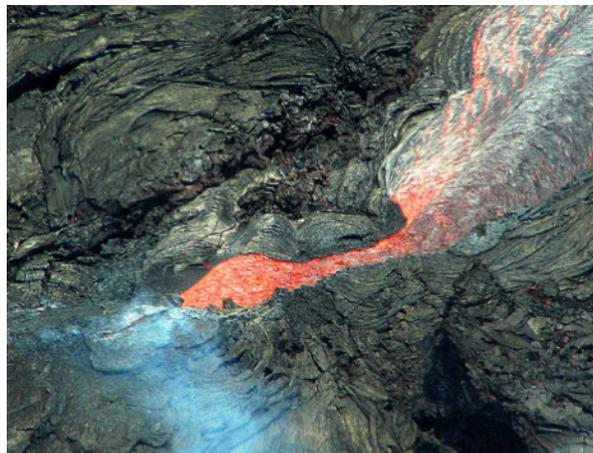
Drop Off prints time: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. on the day of judging, March 28, 2026

Competition Location

Live in-person judging is open to the public!

Competitions will be held at:

Greater Lynn Photographic Association Headquarters
564 Boston Street, Lynn, MA 01905 [Link to Map](#)



River of Fire - Peter Stultz

Night Hawks News:

From Jim Williams

A total lunar eclipse will redden the moon in the early morning hours of March 3rd. It's the last one visible from the United States until 2029. The current forecast is for partly cloudy early, with a temperature of 28 degrees for a morning low. Because the moon will be setting in the west during totality for Eastern U.S. observers, much of the best viewing will be shortly before and during the early stages of the eclipse. The dark night ends at 4:45, sunrise is at 6:18, moon set is at 6:19. The following is a timetable for the eclipse.

- Penumbral eclipse begins: 3:44 a.m. EST — Moon enters Earth's shadow and begins to dim.
- Partial eclipse begins: 4:50 a.m. EST — Earth's umbra starts to cover the Moon.
- Totality begins: 6:04 a.m. EST — Moon fully in Earth's umbra, taking on a reddish/orange hue, thus the name "Blood Moon."
- Totality ends: 7:03 a.m. EST — Red coloration fades.
- Eclipse ends: about 9:23 a.m. EST — Moon exits the penumbra.

I am going out that morning and plan to be setup by 5:30, in time to photograph the "Blood Moon." I have not decided where I am going yet. Is anyone interested in joining me?

Zooming In

This month we asked our members to submit images that are inspired by the “In like a lion, out like a lamb” quote that is often used to describe the month of March. We have many interpretations to share with you. Thank you to the members who submitted images. Enjoy!



The way this lion is looking at you I'd figure he was saying this about winter, " It's not over yet!" - Robyn Saur



Tom Turkey - Darlene Holman



It's a tough day to be a tulip outdoors - Neil Swinton

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Zooming In - March - continued from page 13

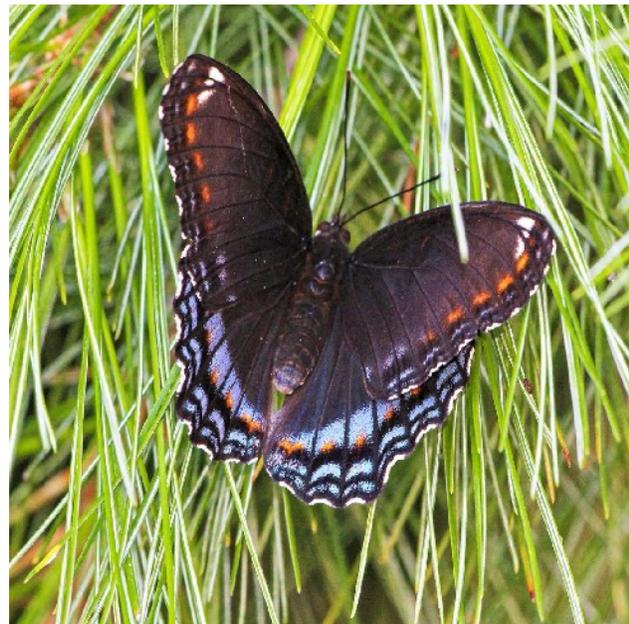
Is it cheating if I send a photo taken in April of 2020? We had a sudden storm after the Forsythia had started blooming (4/18). It just reminded me that winter isn't over until it's over. Terry Vachowski
Editors reply: Not cheating! It's a great example of the swings in weather and the herky-jerky way we get to spring!



Forsythia Snow - Terry Vachowski



In Like a Lion - Lynn Kerner



Red-spotted purple on pine - Lynn Kerner

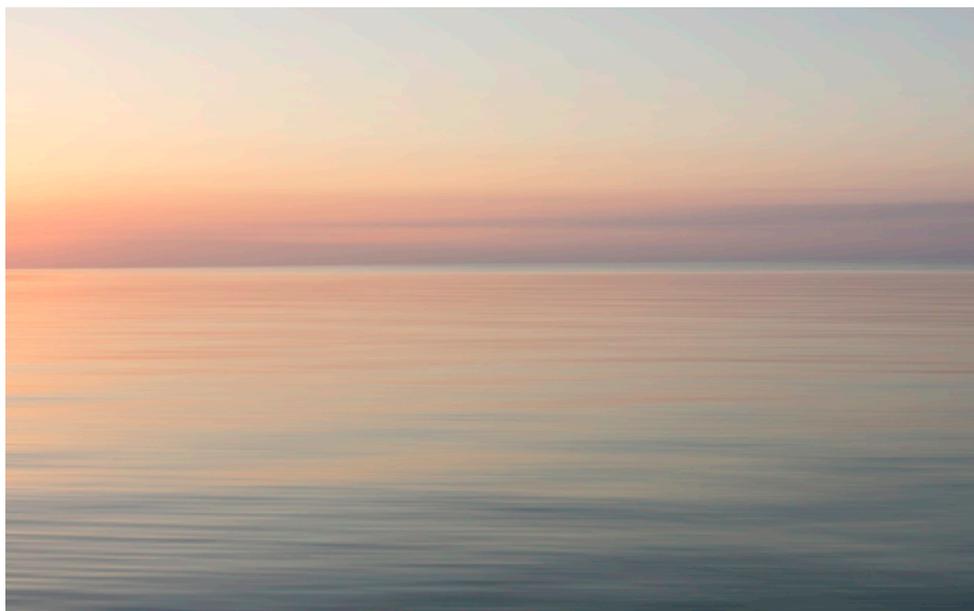
*"March comes in with an adder's head, and goes out with a peacock's tail."
- Richard Lawson Gales*

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Zooming In - March - continued from page 14



In Like a Lion - Lou Snitkoff



Out Like a Lamb - Lou Snitkoff

"March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb—and in between, it's just confused." – Unknown

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I drive past this seafood shanty almost every day. It's a quaint reminder on the coldest and snowiest of days that soon enough, the fields will be green, and families will once again emerge from hibernation.

- Cathy Robotis

Ready and waiting - Cathy Robotis



*Make way for daffodils
- Cathy Robotis*



*The Two Faces of March
- Mary Coombs*

"Some of the most uplifting scenes include witnessing the melting of snow and the emergence of spring flowers, and in New England, they often go hand-in-hand." - Cathy Robotis

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Zooming In - March - continued from page 16



Ice at the Gristmill Two 14 - Blair Boudreau



Frog Cruisin' Three 14 - Blair Boudreau

"March is when some days are winter and some days are spring, but it's not a smooth gradient from the beginning of the month to the end. Good thing my ducks love the merging of the two seasons."

- Jarod Kintz

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Zooming In - March - continued from page 17

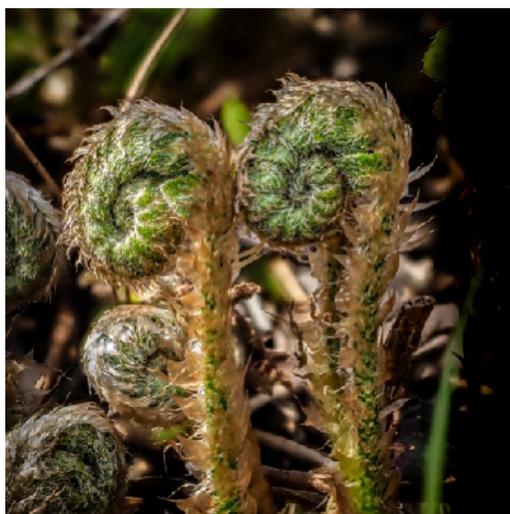


Image courtesy of Pam Meoli



Nest on tire - Pam Meoli

My interpretation of the quote this month depicts the cold, icy, snowy, rusty pick up truck, with the deserted birds nest - Filled with life in the spring.



The awakening - Ann DeCristofaro

"March: The month that mixes winter's leftovers with spring's surprise." - Unknown

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Zooming In - March - continued from page 18

The Wachusett Aqueduct reflects in the Assabet River during a late season snowstorm, and basks in the sunshine in more tranquil weather conditions. - John Mauro



Image Courtesy of John Mauro



Image Courtesy of John Mauro

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Image Courtesy of Natalie Schiavone



Image Courtesy of Natalie Schiavone

These photos are from a trip to Switzerland. The boy in the shorts and the wildflowers with the snowy Matterhorn in the background made me think of March coming in like a lion and out like a lamb. As I sit here listening to the wind from the blizzard, I am more than ready for some nice warm weather!

- Natalie Schiavone

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Zooming in - March - continued from page 20



Image Courtesy of Rick Beauchamp

From Winter's Roar to Spring's
Whisper at the Old Grist Mill.
- Rick Beauchamp



Image Courtesy of Rick Beauchamp



How Are Ewe? - Blair Boudreau

*"March is a remix of winter and spring
—on shuffle mode." — Unknown*

Tips for Composition: Lines in Photography

Lines are everywhere! If you look up from your screen right now and gaze around, you will see them: Horizontal lines, vertical lines, diagonal lines, curved lines. They are all around you. When you gaze through your camera lens, your scene is likely filled with lines. Lines in photography give structure to an image. Some lines may be very apparent; others, less so. They may exist naturally, or they may be manmade. They may be real or implied. They may enter the scene and travel through it, or they may terminate before the edges of the frame. They may take the viewer's eye out of the image altogether. They may even be the subject of the image. One thing is certain: it is almost impossible to take a photograph without lines, so it behooves us to learn to incorporate them to our advantage. Leading lines in an image are those particular lines that guide the viewer's eye to the subject or focal point and through the image. They provide a path for the viewer to follow. They may lead to the subject and end there, or they may lead to infinity. They may convey a sense of movement and create depth. They may bring balance to the scene. They are often part of the story itself. As we continue our journey through the topic of Composition, our focus this month will be on Lines in Photography.

Types of Lines

Horizontal lines convey a sense of stability, peace, and calmness. They may serve as an anchor for the composition. They may offer a sense of depth or perspective. They may cross through the image, giving the viewer the sense that they are ongoing (as in a horizon), or they may stop short of the edges and remain contained within the frame. We typically follow horizontal lines from left to right because in our culture, we read left to right.

Vertical lines show a sense of strength, height, confidence, growth, and stability. They may be used to divide a frame, and they may add a sense of tension. Thick vertical lines may appear strong and imposing, while thin vertical lines may be more fragile and elegant. Vertical lines are often used in portraiture, fashion photography, and street photography.

Curved lines are organic and natural. They are associated with softness, fluidity, and sensuality. They inspire a sense of wonder or wanderlust and can add depth. They can be used to leisurely guide a viewer through an image. A **C curve** (essentially a semi-circle) is more simple, while the **S curve** is more complex and therefore more engaging for the viewer. Diagonal curves rising through a vertical image are often more powerful than diagonal curves crossing a horizontal image because of the steeper angle of the curve in the vertical image. S curves work extremely well in scenes taken from a high vantage point looking down, as in the case of a river winding through a landscape.



*Londrangar Rock Formations
- Glenn Fund*

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Tips for Composition - Lines - continued from page 22

Diagonal lines convey a sense of drama, action, dynamism, energy, and strength in motion. They add depth to an image. Sloping lines are considered less stable and convey a sense of tension. When we see items on a diagonal surface, we subconsciously expect them to slip off, and this creates tension.

Converging lines create a sense of depth, tension, and conflict. They halt the viewer's eye at the point where the lines converge. They may be created by the parallel lines of a road converging in the distance. They may be formed by lines of trees intersecting. To maximize the impact of converging lines, try placing your subject or focal point at the point where the lines meet.

Implied lines may be created by following the gaze or gesture of a subject in an image. Implied lines help to create a sense of balance.

Jagged or zigzag lines convey a sense of emotionality and chaos.

Leading lines

- Leading lines are one or many actual or implied lines that lead to the subject or focal point of an image. Placing your subject along a leading line will help create an impactful image.
- Roads, paths, and walls may be used to create leading lines. Rows of trees, skyscrapers, people standing in line, or streetlights at regular intervals may serve as leading lines. Repetitive shapes or colors may also serve as leading lines. Implied lines (such as that of a gaze) may also act as a leading line.
- Leading lines may be straight, curved, or angular, and they may be self contained.
- You may create an image utilizing a leading line that travels to your subject and then continues, taking the viewer around the rest of the image.
- You may choose to use a leading line that travels to your subject and ends there. In this case, the viewer's eye will linger on the subject.
- You may choose to compose your image so that the subject is dominant at the start of the line. In this case, the viewer's eye will join the subject and travel along the implied path.



Construction over a Boston Sidewalk - Liz Krouse

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Horizon lines

- Your horizon should always be level. If your horizon is even 1-2 degrees off, it is likely to be noticed.
- If you purposefully choose to have a slanted horizon, make sure that it is slanted enough so that it is apparent that this is your goal.
- In symmetrical images, the horizon line should run across the center of the frame, but you should generally try to place your horizon line along the upper or lower lines created by the Rule of Thirds.
- A **low horizon line** can be used to emphasize dramatic skies or interest above the horizon.
- A **high horizon line** is best used when the interest is more in the foreground/middle ground.



Key West Sunrise - Lou Snitkoff

Incorporating lines into your images

- It's important to first familiarize yourself with the multitude of lines that surround you at any given time. Practice looking for them, even when you're not taking photographs. Pretty soon, it will become second nature for you to notice them all around you.
- When going out with your camera, try to plan ahead before deciding on a place to set up your tripod. Look for scenes with bridges, roads, or railroad tracks that can be incorporated into your image. Look for areas with sharp tonal contrast, which can create an implied or actual line.
- Next, consider your subject or focal point, which is the most important part of your image and where you want to draw the viewer's eye. Place your subject/focal point in a position that takes advantage of leading lines, or move yourself around to find an angle or position that favors leading lines. Keep recomposing until you have your lines properly aligned.
- Consider working with a curved composition. This allows you to place points of interest along the curves and create a meandering path through the image.
- If you have lines that detract from the story, try to recompose your image to eliminate them. Beware of instances where lines may prevent the viewer from reaching the subject or distracting lines that may actually lead the viewer out of the image.
- Make sure the leading lines in your image compliment the story you are trying to tell. Lines leading into a scene convey a sense of mystery, while lines leading out convey a sense of openness.
- Lines that are centered convey a sense of balance, while lines that are off center convey tension.
- Lines that travel on an upward path convey a sense of growth or determination.

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Tips for Competition -Lines - continued from page 24

Post Processing

- Adjust your contrast and saturation to accentuate the lines in the image, but make sure you don't overdo it.
- Try cropping and reframing to make the optimal composition, ideally following the Rule of Thirds or other compositional rules.
- Consider working with the sharpening and clarity sliders to make the lines more defined and crisp and to bring out more detail.
- Consider color grading to add warmth or coolness as needed.

For more information, here is an interesting tutorial with Nate Torres: [Leading Lines](#)

Sources

Annastump.wordpress.com; improvephotography.com; katebackdrop.com; artwhitton.com; photographylife.com; annrichmanart.com; thoughtco.com; phlearn.com; medium.com; capturelandscapes.com; nyip.edu; tamron-americas.com; petapixel.com; snapshot.asia.canon; nyfa.edu; adobe.com; thevirtualinstructor.com; moma.org; loripickens.com; bhphotovideo.com; thelenslounge.com; learningwithexperts.com.



Keys - Sheri Craig

The Bigger Picture

Happenings:

New England Botanic Garden

Feb 7 – Mar 22

“Elevated” - An Orchid Exhibition - [Tower Hill - NEBG](#)

Gardens to visit month by month- “Hidden Gems of New England”

Late April – (Daffodils) Parsons Reserve, Dartmouth, MA - [Parsons Reserve](#)

April/May

- Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Watertown, MA
- (Tulips) Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Wellesley, MA
- [Tulip Mania](#)
- Public Garden, Boston

May

- Lyman Estate, Waltham
- Stevens Coolidge House & Gardens, North Andover
- Blithewold Manor, Bristol, RI

June – (Roses) Minot Rose Garden, Brookline, MA

August – (Sunflowers) Colby Farm, Newbury, MA

September - Castle Hill on the Crane Estate, Ipswich, MA

Suggested by our member - Dan Barstow:

“Dreams of Flight”

Presented by: Sounds of Stow Chorus & Orchestra

Sunday, April 19 @ 2 p.m. – Littleton High School

Join the voyage to the skies, stars, and beyond for the New England premier of choral-orchestral song cycle by one of today’s most innovative and influential composers, Christopher Tin, accompanied by beautiful artwork and NASA images.

Visit: [Sounds of Stow](#) for tickets and more information.

Flower Festivals in New England – don’t forget that camera!

Trustees of reservations - Naumkeag Tulip Festival - Stockbridge, MA

Thursdays - Sundays, April 18 - May 11

Picture yourself on a sweeping estate in the Berkshire Mountains, complete with a [Gilded Age mansion](#) and a massive flowering garden for you to explore on a sunny spring day.

Member tickets on sale March 12 - General public tickets go on sale March 16 - [Tulip Festival](#)

Lilac Sunday – Arnold Arboretum

May 10

Experience the springtime bloom of their collection of over 400 lilacs.

[Lilac Sunday - Arnold Arboretum](#)



Ka POW - Jane Parker

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The Bigger Picture - continued from page 26

Dogwood Festival – Fairfield, CT

Mid-May

This blossom bonanza has been running for over 75 years. The Dogwood Festival is Fairfield's way of showing off beautiful Greenfield Hill, an expanse of pink and white dogwood trees that have been growing there for over 200 years! [Fairfield CT - Dogwood Festival](#)

Nantucket Daffodil Festival

April 23-26

Nantucket Island Chamber of Commerce proudly presents the 50th Nantucket Daffodil Festival, Thursday, April 23rd through Sunday, April 26th, 2026! "Daffy Weekend" is our most anticipated event of the year, representing the best of Nantucket charm, creativity, and community tradition.

For more info: [Nantucket Daffodil Festival](#)

Lupines of Sugar Hill - NH

June – they have a Lupine Festival mid June

Tucked away northwest of the White Mountains, the picturesque town of Sugar Hill is known as New Hampshire's lupine capital. Every year in early June, people travel from far and wide to see the lupines in Sugar Hill. The countryside becomes a canvas awash with thousands of breathtaking blooms. Purples and pinks dot the mountain vistas, making the views of Franconia and the Presidential Range even more spectacular.

For more info: [Sugar Hill Lupines](#)

Cherry Blossom Festival - New Haven, CT

Sunday, April 19

Cherry Blossom Festival, a cherished springtime tradition in New Haven. Every year, we gather to honor the breathtaking cherry trees that have become a signature landmark of Wooster Square Park—a historic treasure that continues to bloom with beauty and community spirit.

Bring your picnic blankets, chairs, and loved ones, and for an unforgettable afternoon of music, food, and fun under the blossoms.

For more info: [Cherry Blossom Festival](#)

FREE Webinar:

Mastering Motion: The Art and Science of Time-Lapse Photography

Thursday, April 2 - 6 p.m.

Silvana Della Camera is offering an upcoming free Photographic Society of America (PSA) webinar on April 2nd: Mastering Motion: The Art and Science of Time-Lapse Photography.

Registration Required - For more information, and a link to the registration page, please click on the link: [Mastering Motion](#)

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The Bigger Picture - continued from page 27

Photo Contests:

Farm Credit East

Deadline: July 31st

[Farm Credit East Photo Contest](#)

Help them fill Farm Credit East's Agricultural Views 2027 calendar with lots of 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.

Your photo entry may also earn you a \$100 cash prize!

UMass Amherst Garden Calendar Photo Contest

Deadline: April 1st

[UMass Garden Calendar Contest](#)

UMass accepts photos from the public for possible use in future Garden Calendars. Photos must be horizontally oriented with high resolution and featuring garden plants. Submissions will be judged by the calendar team at UMass Extension and may earn a spot in a future Garden Calendar. Winning photographers will be credited in the Garden Calendar and will receive 5 free calendars.

National Wildlife Photo Contest

Deadline: Mar 22nd

[National Wildlife Photo Contest](#)

Attention, nature and wildlife photographers:

You don't have to travel to remote places to capture a winning image. Their judges look for ethically taken photos that depict wildlife, landscapes and people enjoying the outdoors—including in photographers' own backyards. There are 9 categories – check the link above for more info and details.

Exhibit Opportunity:

6 Bridges Gallery, Maynard, MA - Non-Juried Spring Exhibit - Call for Artists

April 1 - May 9

As the icy dark of winter gives way to the longer, warmer days of Spring, 6 Bridges Gallery invites artists to submit work that captures the spirit of renewal, transformation, and vitality. We are seeking works that explore the awakening of nature, the blossoming of rebirth, and the vibrant colors of the season. For more info and the entry form see: [6 Bridges - Spring Exhibit](#)



*Milkweed Beetles Snuggle In
- Linda Shelales*

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



Bearded Iris #27 - John Gill

Editors' Note:

Many(!) club members work behind the scenes in various capacities to make the club run smoothly, to engage with the greater community, to reach out to prospective members, to communicate about our organization through the Facebook page, the AVCC website, the Focal Point Newsletter, 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, Darlene Holman, John Mauro, Lou Snitkoff, Doris Monteiro, Tony Monteiro, Robyn Saur, Linda Shelales, John Gill, Blair Boudreau, Rick Beauchamp, Natalie Schiavone, Terry Vachaowski, Neil Swinton, Ann DeCristofaro, Ronni Silver, Glenn Fund, Bill MacMunn, Sheri Craig, Liz Krouse, Jane Parker.