



# FOCAL POINT

[Assabet Valley Camera Club](#) - The club meets on the first and third 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. Email us at [avcc.digital@hotmail.com](mailto:avcc.digital@hotmail.com) for more information or if you wish to attend as a guest.



*Green Heron on nest duty - Bridget Perch*

*"Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right." — Oprah Winfrey*

## In this Issue:

<u>Note From Our President</u>	p 2
<u>Note from the Editors</u>	p 3
<u>Program Info</u>	p 4
<u>Competition Info</u>	p 8
<u>Member Snapshot</u>	p 9
<u>Members' Lens</u>	
<u>Zooming Out</u>	p 13
<u>Zooming In</u>	p 15
<u>Member Favorites '24</u>	p 20
<u>Question of the Month</u>	p 23
<u>Tips - Light in Photography</u>	p 24
<u>The Bigger Picture</u>	
<u>Workshops &amp; Programs</u>	p 28
<u>Happenings</u>	p 28
<u>Photography Contests</u>	p 29
<u>AVCC Organization</u>	p 30

## Note from Our President

---

Hello All,

Welcome to 2025, the year that marks the club's 40th anniversary!

I hope everyone had a great holiday season!

Reminder, due to the New Year holiday landing on the first Wednesday of January, the meetings this month will be on the second and fourth Wednesdays.

Mark your calendars for the annual Photo Ops, which is scheduled for February 8th from 9AM - 3PM. The team will be looking for volunteers to help set-up and break down the props that day...more to follow.

John



*Holiday Season at the Old Stone Church - John Mauro*

## Note from the Editors

---

And here we are - turning the page to 2025. What's that saying - "Another year older, another year wiser?" That seems like a lot of pressure! But here we are, some of us possibly still recovering from travel or company or lots of gatherings, and somehow, it's time to get things "back to normal."

This month we continue our theme of light, dark, and shadows. You'll see some lovely images from club members on this theme, as well as favorite images from 2024. There are also some folks' New Year's resolutions. Since we didn't gather too many, perhaps we can collect more for the February issue. It's never really too late for a resolution! We hope you enjoy your fellow members' contributions as much as we did.

Cathy's Tips and Tricks piece this month is on light specifically with indoor photography in mind. As Cathy notes, "Spending more time indoors... presents us with golden opportunities to expand our knowledge base, study photography, and learn from the masters... It may be a great time to study their work and learn from them." A couple of masters that we found (there are many, of course) are Henri Cartier-Bresson, a French street photographer who is regarded as the father of modern photojournalism (<https://www.magnumphotos.com/photographer/henri-cartier-bresson/>), and Yousuf Karsh, a famous portrait photographer. <https://karsh.org/>.

While there are not as many contests and outings at this time of year as at other times, Pam has put together some ideas for education or just enjoyment, from New England Botanical Garden at Tower Hill, to Providence, RI, to Dartmouth College in New Hampshire.

This month's Member Snapshot features Lynn Kerner. Take a peek into her life and get to know Lynn a little better. There is so much to learn about her from the other side of the lens.

While we will have about 9 hours of daylight on Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, we will have 10 hours on Jan 31<sup>st</sup>. Let us move into the light. Happy New Year, everybody!

© Lynn Kerner

*"The eye is always caught by light, but shadows have more to say." - Gregory Maguire, [Mirror Mirror](#)*

## January 2025 Program

AVCC is pleased to present “Bird and Wildlife Photography in Massachusetts and Beyond” by Shawn Carey on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 7:30 PM.

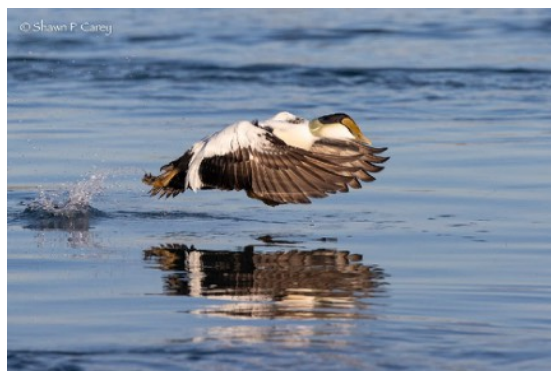
The meeting is a hybrid format; in person at the the Hudson Senior Center, 29 Church St., Hudson, or remote on Zoom (please arrive no later than 7:15).

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).

### Shawn Carey

Originally from Pennsylvania, Shawn moved to Boston, Massachusetts in 1986 and has been photographing birds and other wildlife for over 25 years. He's been teaching wildlife photography for **Mass Audubon** for the past 18 years. He's on the board of directors for **Eastern Mass HawkWatch** where he serves as their Vice President. He's also on the advisory board for the Massachusetts Audubon Society and **Mass Audubon Museum of American Bird Art**. He is past board member for the Brookline Bird Club and past council member for the Nuttall Ornithological Club. Shawn co-founded Migration Productions in 1996 with Jim Grady and the two have produced all its productions. Shawn also provides almost all digital photography used in their productions. "I LOVE the natural world; if it walks, crawls, flies, swims or slithers...I'll photograph it!"

Shawn Carey's photos have appeared in the Boston Globe, New York Times, Mass Audubon Sanctuary magazine, Science magazine, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary magazine, and many others. Check out Shawn and Jim's [Migration Productions](#) to see stunning bird and nature videos.



*Image courtesy of Shawn Carey*

Continued on next page



## Bird and Wildlife Photography in Massachusetts and Beyond: Where, When, and How

Over the last ten years, bird and wildlife photography has seen a surge in popularity—thanks in large part to vast improvements in digital technology. Digital cameras are better, easier to use, and more affordable than ever. But how do you choose the right one? And once you have the camera, what's next? Where do you go? When should you get there? And how do you turn those great views you're getting into memorable images that truly capture the moment?

Don't panic: wildlife photographer and educator Shawn Carey has you covered. Join Shawn as he expertly guides you through these topics and shares some tricks of the trade to help you truly enjoy your experience. He'll explore three Mass Audubon properties—Museum of American Bird Art, Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary and Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary—all of which have observation or photo blinds to help get you closer to birds and other wildlife. Along with stories of his own experiences in the field, and lots of give-and-take with the audience, the gathering is sure to be eye-opening and lively.

Section 1: Photo equipment: cameras, lenses, tripods, photo blinds and other “odds and ends.”

Section 2: Location, location, location! Where and when to photograph birds and wildlife in Massachusetts, and what you'll need when you get there—plus a few other locations in the U.S. that are well worth a visit (or two).



*Image Courtesy of Shawn Carey*



*Image Courtesy of Shawn Carey*

Continued on next page



*Image Courtesy of Shawn Carey*

***Bird and Wildlife Photography in Massachusetts and Beyond*** is supported in part by a grant from the Hudson Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.





*Golden Hour on the Dock - Sheri Craig*

## 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
3/5/24	Colors of Spring	Ed McGuirk
4/2/24	Creative Photography	Joe Pellicone
5/7/24	B&W Photography	Nancy Ori
6/4/24	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	4/19/2025
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 will be held twice a year hosted at the Greater Lynn Photographic Association (GLPA). This year's competition dates will be Saturday, October 19, 2024 and Saturday, March 29, 2025. For more information go to: [NECCC Print Competition](#)

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU: a conversation with...Lynn Kerner

---

- Tell us a little about your roots – family, where you grew up, how it influenced you.

I grew up in Central Jersey in a Catholic family. I was educated mostly in Catholic schools all the way through my master's degree in social work. Along with my introspective personality, being steeped in religious education and values gives me a strong spiritual and philosophical bent in my life.

Growing up in the greater Metropolitan NY area gave me a couple enduring things, I think – the fact that I can be a little brash and irreverent sometimes, and - even though I've lived in Massachusetts for nearly 50 years - I still can't find it in my heart to switch allegiances from the Yankees to the Red Sox. I grew up a rabid Yankees fan. My dad taught me how to score the game, which I did for pretty much every game. One of my favorite memories is a vacation to Washington D.C. which my dad booked for the same dates that the Yankees were playing there. Unbeknownst to my mom, he even booked us into the same hotel. When she finally found out, she said, "Oh, you'll never see them." But we did – at the pool, in the elevator, in the dining room, and getting on the team bus. Rabid fan's dream come true! As a kid, I played in the woods across the street from our house. I was fascinated with nature, how the roots of the trees grew, what the bark looked like. To this day I love being in the woods and observing nature. When I traveled to the southwest for two months, I found the beauty of that land stunning, but couldn't wait to return to the rich green of all the trees back home.

- How does creativity come out in you/your family? Are there artistic, technical, mechanical traits and skills? In what ways?

In terms of technical and artistic traits, neither my dad nor my mom ever used much more sophisticated tools than scotch tape and a hammer, and neither one was creative with crafts or art. I struggle with the technical aspect of photography. I find this struggle frustrating but my brain just doesn't work that way. In terms of artistic talent, I always joke that when God was handing that out, I was last in line and didn't get any. One of my sisters is a musician and the other one is an artist who designed and created wedding dresses. I think my creative side can come out in writing and in solving problems, particularly people problems. Through photography I am learning to see more deeply and in a different way.



*Lady Slipper 1*  
- Lynn Kerner

Continued on next page



## Member Snapshot - Lynn Kerner - continued from page 9

- Tell us about when you got started taking pictures, doing photography?

I didn't do much beyond snapshots until I was in my 40s. I met someone through work who was in AVCC in the 90s – Elaine Woods - and we would talk about photography. Somewhere I learned about the Rule of Thirds and that was life-changing. Instead of looking at others' photos and not knowing why they were good, or looking at some of my own that I thought were good but not knowing why, I now knew that I could learn *how* to take better photos, and that was a turning point for me to want a good camera, etc.



*Dubois, WY Ranch - Lynn Kerner*

- Any courses in photography or art or other things that you feel influence how you see the world or what you shoot?

I've taken a few basic courses in photography: a beginner course with Steve McGrath at Assabet Valley Regional High School 11 years ago; a course shooting the Milky Way with Silvana Della Camera this past June; and some downloadable courses with Matt Kloskowski. Mostly I've learned a LOT through all the presentations and competition critiques since I joined AVCC in 2019.



*Summer Yum - Lynn Kerner*

Continued on next page

## Member Snapshot - Lynn Kerner - continued from page 10

- Tell us about what subjects you like to shoot, or the type of photography you're drawn to. Are you someone who is an "opportunistic shooter" – shooting something sort of spontaneously or do you plan outings specifically to shoot?

Unless I'm going with someone else or doing astrophotography, I don't plan shoots. For an interesting sky event, I plan time and place, then drag myself out when I'd rather be settling in for the night. Once out there, I have a hard time returning home. The skies are just so amazing! One night I was out shooting to see if I could pick up any streaks of the Aurora. When I later checked my images, I saw streaks in the sky. I knew they weren't planes. It turns out they were meteors called Draconids which I had never heard of, but which Silvana confirmed. Magical.

I love landscapes but I struggle with how to capture what I feel is so powerful about a particular scene. I am working on that through an online course. Other growing edges for me are post-processing and trying to define my own style and voice.



*Double Meteor over Sebago - Lynn Kerner*



*Gatehouse\_NY Reservoir - Lynn Kerner*

Continued on next page

## Member Snapshot - Lynn Kerner - continued from page 11

- If you'd like, tell us a story/anecdote that tells us a little about you, or an experience where you did something extreme or different. (whether or not the experience is related to photography).

I haven't done anything exactly extreme, but I did take a risk trying to capture the Milky Way over Sebago Lake in Maine. During the day I scoped out an area that was all large rocks along the water and found a place that seemed stable and roomy enough for me and my gear. Funny how at night it's completely different when, even with a head lamp, you can't see defined rock contours, and it's hard to tell where the dark rocks end and the water begins. Fortunately, my equipment and I stayed upright, and I even got some half-decent shots, but I won't be doing that again!



*Milky Way over Emerald Point - Lynn Kerner*



*Storm's-a-Comin' - Lynn Kerner*



## Members' Lens



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

**Zooming In** - A Reflection, Musing, or Experience (travel, how I got that great shot, my favorite photo or place to shoot for example) shared by a member

**Tips and Tricks** - Members' shared suggestions for the Monthly Theme

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

Many thanks to the following members for their contributions to this month's Newsletter: Cathy Robotis, Lynn Kerner, Mary Coombs, Pam Meoli, Jim Williams, John Mauro, Linda Shelales, Nick Andruzzi, Sue Abrahamsen, Robyn Saur, Doris Monteiro, Tony Monteiro, Blair Boudreau, Bob Cooke, Louis Snitkoff, Paul Loiselle, and Terry Vachowski.

### Zooming Out

---

#### On the Wall at Cafe 641

The December and early January Cafe 641 exhibit features the AVCC Members' Winter Images. Contributing members include Blair Boudreau, Cathy Robotis, Lynn Kerner, Maureen Mathieson, Terry Vachowski, John Mauro, Mary Coombs, Sue Abrahamson and Todd Mathieson. A Meet and Greet will be held on Saturday, January 4th from 12:00 - 1:30.

We hope to see you there!

In mid January the work of Bob Cooke will be on display.



*Winter Umbrellas - Blair Boudreau*

*"Winter reminds us to slow down and appreciate the stillness of the world." - Unknown*

Continued on next page

Zooming Out - continued from page 13

### **Congratulations to Linda Gilberti!**

A life long goal of Linda's was to visit 100 countries - a goal she recently accomplished when she traveled to Laos! Look for more details about Linda's travels in a future issue.

### **Reminder from Bob Cooke:**

I've arranged for a month-long exhibition of club members' printed photos, to be hung in the large bottom floor room of the Maynard Public Library, beginning Feb.1 and ending on March1, 2025. Look for further details in an email.

**A repeat of an email John Mauro sent recently:** Tony Monteiro recently discovered photographer Joel Edelman's website. While communicating with Joel (who has a link to AVCC on his site), Joel provided the following link for 21 important year end tasks for photographers. [Joel Edelman](#)

### **Get Ready for Photo Ops!**

On Saturday, February 8th please join us for the annual Photo Ops day. We will have several stations set up for you to explore and play with including water drops, rear lighting, macro photography, still life, soft boxes, flowers, black light, various backgrounds, and much more - the only limitation is your imagination. This will be a good opportunity to try out the lighting tips Cathy included in the Tips section! Bring your gear and come have some fun at the Hudson Senior Center anytime from 9am - 3pm.



*Water Drops Station - Photo Ops - 2024*



*Flowers & Still Life Stations Photo Ops 2024*



*Linda's 100th Country  
- Image Courtesy of  
Jennifer Royce*

### **Night Hawks**

The Quadrantid meteor shower is set to peak on January 3rd - 4th. Viewing may be best during predawn hours of Friday but also on Friday evening. See [earthsky.org](http://earthsky.org) for more information. To see more January night sky events visit [Star walk](#). If you are interested in being included in the Night Hawks Email group please contact Jim Williams.

### **Did you know...**

Did you know?.... **The Looney 11 Rule** can be used as a starting point for photographing the moon. Set your aperture to f/11, and make your ISO and shutter speed inversions of one another. If your ISO is 100, your shutter speed should be 1/100. For all the Night Hawks among us, give it a try, and let us know if it works.



## Zooming In - Light

---

A continuation of December's theme: We asked members to share photos reflecting the topic of light. The topic is broad and member submissions include light rays, shadows, lighting of a subject or scene, black and white, silhouettes, reflections...



*Image Courtesy of John Mauro*

*"What fire could ever equal the sunshine of a winter's day?"  
- Henry David Thoreau*



*Image Courtesy of John Mauro*



*Image Courtesy of Louis Snitkoff*



*Image Courtesy of Louis Snitkoff*

Continued on next page



*The Grid - Linda Shelales*

The sharp dark shadows cast upon steps, light both reflected & filtered thru the lattice reminds me that we can't see one without the presence of the other. Both light & shadow trick our eyes, alter shapes, make us think something is there that is not, & colors change dramatically under their influence. - Linda Shelales



*Struggling Onward and Upward  
- Linda Shelales*

I love the way the slightly leaning figure seems to be laboring to get to the top of those stairs. The shadow across his bent back symbolizes the burden of aging, struggling with pain with every step he takes... - Linda Shelales



*Shadows at Nauset - Mary Coombs*



*Water Designs - Linda Shelales*

Continued on next page

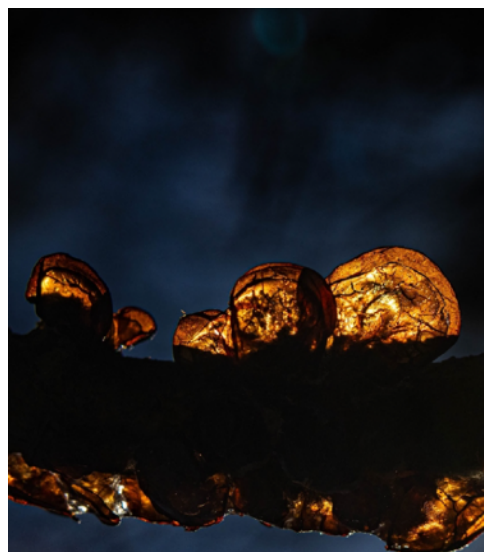




*From Forest Darkness into the Light at Trail's End  
- Nick Andruzzi*

Note from Nick:

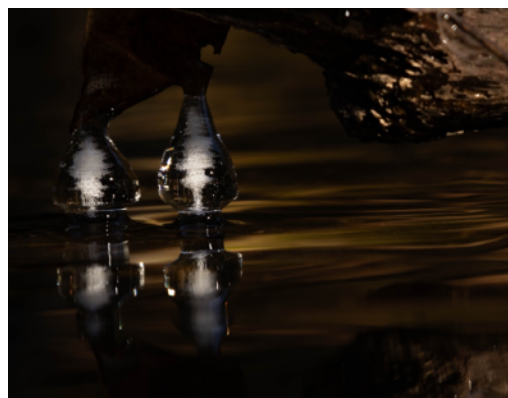
I was cleaning out a cabinet and found an old box of 120 B&W film, so I shot it while hiking over there (the Wildlife Refuge). In fact I've since found 4 more rolls, so I'll be shooting a lot of film during the winter! I actually enjoyed being totally in manual mode with my light meter, etc., but waiting 10 days to see the results was tough....



*shroom-sicles - Paul Loiselle*



*Capella di San Francesco - Paul Loiselle*



*November Ice - Paul Loiselle*

Continued on next page

Zooming In - Light Photos - continued from page 17



*Fence line, Farrar Pond trail access  
- Rick Beauchamp*



*Stairway to the beach, Sunrise Wellfleet harbor  
- Rick Beauchamp*



*Image Courtesy of Sheri Craig*



*Image Courtesy of Sheri Craig*

Continued on next page



Zooming in - Light Photos - continued from page 18



*Image Courtesy of Robyn Saur*



*Image Courtesy of Robyn Saur*



*Image Courtesy of Sheri Craig*

*"I don't know where I'm going from  
here, but I promise it won't be boring."  
— David Bowie*



*Red, Green & White - Lynn Kerner*



*Blue & Yellow - Lynn Kerner*

Continued on next page



## More Zooming In - 2024 Favorites

---

Member Favorites from 2024:



*National Parks Trip - Terry Vachowski*



*Image Courtesy of Louis Snitkoff*



*Image Courtesy of Louis Snitkoff*



*Image Courtesy of John Mauro*

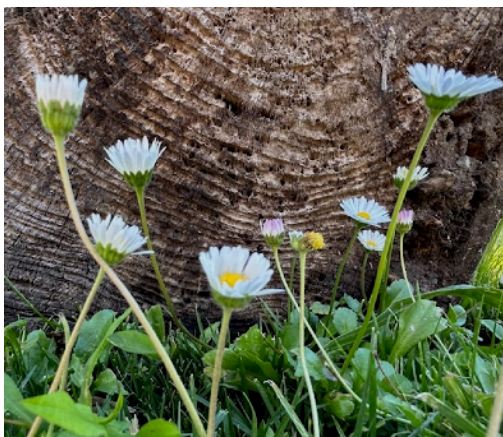


*Dark thoughts - Paul Loiselle*

Continued on next page



## Zooming In - Member 2024 Favorites - continued from page 20



*Daisies - Pam Meoli*



*Unscripted Moments - On Rodeo Beach in California, I caught my son making the most of a scene in front of him. I loved catching him sharing my passion. - Cathy Robotis*



*the photographer - Paul Loiselle*

Daisies - This was the first photo I took that gave me the idea and inspired me to do the summer project of "A Bugs Eye View". That project showed me a view of the world from a different perspective. Not only from a bug but as the summer went on and I searched for images to capture - I became aware of how being open minded in this game called "life" sure can make life more interesting. - Pam



*Northern Lights 2024: This was taken while lying on the ground outside my house, aiming for the sky and shrieking with delight. What an experience! - Cathy Robotis*



*SummitWynds - Lavender & Bee - Mary Coombs*

Continued on next page



Zooming in - Member 2024 Favorites - continued from page 21



*House wren building nest  
- Sue Abrahamsen*



*Wren struggling with stick  
- Sue Abrahamsen*



*Wren trying another stick  
- Sue Abrahamsen*

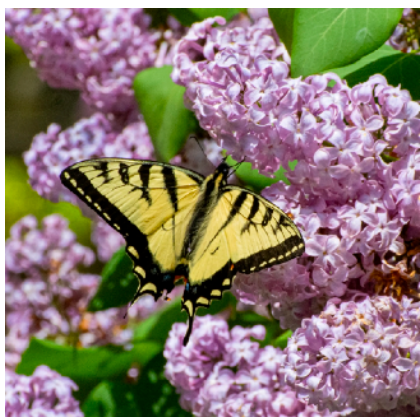
I enjoyed watching this Wren struggle to build her nest in the box. This went on for days just outside of my window. Needless to say, all I did was take pictures for a few days. It was so interesting to watch. - Sue Abrahamsen



*JP meets Great Grampa  
- Linda Shelales*



*Brimfield - Terry Vachowski*



*EasternTigerST in flight  
- Linda Shelales*



*National Parks Trip - Terry Vachowski*

## Zooming in - Question of the Month

We asked our members to share their **New Year's Resolutions** with us. While many were likely too shy to go public with their goals, here are the responses we received. Best wishes to all for success in 2025!

**Pam Meoli:** Besides loose weight - like everyone else in the planet! I plan on "focusing on focusing". I need to pay more attention to what the judges look for that I often overlook - sharp faces, hot spots- what I find annoying but understandable is when I title an image, I assume the judges know what they are looking at, but there have been times where they have it incorrect. So I need to pay attention to that also. Another thing is to look at the theme list and shoot to fulfill the theme. I never do that and I should.

**Cathy Robotis:** I always love putting together my list of resolutions for the New Year. Most of them are the same, year after year, and I often accomplish many of them (like reading 20 books, watching the movies nominated for the academy awards...). Others, like the elusive goal of being more organized will haunt me to the grave. Last year, I wanted to do something with my photography in terms of making cards and other crafts, and I succeeded in turning a few photos into gifts for family members. This year, the goal remains the same but on a broader scale. I have no business sense and will be stepping way out of my comfort zone, but I would love to try to create a few products (cards, etc) that I could sell.

**Terry Vachowski:** As for New Year goals- I really need to work on shooting more mindfully, and using my cameras and phone camera to their potential.

**Louis Snitkoff:** My resolution for 2025 is to become involved with the Club once we are settled in Hudson. We're still under construction and hope to be there within the next 6 weeks +/- . (Right now, we're temporarily in Rockport.)

**Mary Coombs:** Watch the many how to photography videos I have bought and subscribed to!!!

**Linda Shelaes:** I'd LIKE to TRY to practice/enhance my layering skills in PS aka master finding/using 'feathering' & get comfortable working in layers. Once a week since my patience isn't what it used to be LOL!



*"Winter is not a season, it's a celebration."*

*– Anamika Mishra*

*December lights in Boston garden - Rick Beauchamp*



## Tips and Tricks - January's Theme: Light in Photography

---

### Tips for Light in Photography

Welcome, 2025! New dreams and new possibilities line the horizon! Wishing you all health, happiness, and many opportunities for growth. Continuing with our themes of Light, Darkness, and Shadows, this month we will delve a bit deeper into working with light, explore different lighting setups, and list some equipment that you might find useful. While every season presents a great opportunity for outdoor photography, those of us who can't think about camera settings when our fingertips are numb might seek comfort indoors during the cold months and pursue various indoor photo ops. Spending more time indoors also presents us with golden opportunities to expand our knowledge base, study photography, and learn from the masters. Do you have a favorite photographer? It may be a great time to study their work and learn from them. Look at some photographs that resonate with you and consider their use of light. How do they handle lighting? Which direction did their light come from? Did they use hard or soft light? Did they incorporate shadows? By studying the masters (including our own within the AVCC), we can enhance our skills in working with light.

#### Making the most of your light source

- Take the time to evaluate your own environment and study the light sources. What type of tones do you see (warm/cool)? What is the source of light? Is it diffused? How does it look in the same spot at different times of the day?
- In an image, the **key light** is the dominant light source. It is the cornerstone of your lighting set up. Outside, the key light may be the sun or the moon. Indoors, it may be an artificial light source or light filtered through a window.
- When you are taking photographs, make sure you are cognizant of your lighting. You want the light to hit your subject in a way that draws attention to it. Remember that our eyes are naturally drawn to the light, so your use of lighting may make or break an image. If you have bright spots in different corners of the image, it will take away from the subject and story you are trying to tell.
- Considering darkness as part of your process will make your images more dynamic, and remember that creative use of shadows can enhance your image.



*Fruitful Abundance - Linda Shelaes*

Continued on next page



### Working with Outdoor Lighting

- Natural daylight is considered the best light source because it is broad spectrum. In some cases, good natural lighting may be considered even more important than the subject choice. If you are planning to shoot outdoors, there is an app called **Sun Surveyor**, which can tell you the position of the sun in relation to your location and may be a useful tool as you plan your outing.
- During the first and last 3 hours of sunlight each day, the light comes from the side and not from above.
- To control the sun, you can diffuse it with a **scrim** (an object placed between the light source and subject to reduce the light or diffuse it), or you can block it completely with a heavy black fabric called a **flag**.
- If it is a cloudy day, the light is already diffused. If the day is sunny, you may want to work in the shade.

### Working with Indoor Lighting

- If you are photographing indoors with light coming through a window, you should aim for the sunlight to bounce and fill the room without directly landing on the subject.
- For your indoor photography, photographing an item by a window can provide interesting shadows. A north-facing window will yield softer, more directional light, while windows facing east or west will offer stronger light. Light from the window on a cloudy day will be softer and less edgy.
- You can use a flashlight or simple bare bulb to create shadows indoors.
- If you find your image has harsh highlights, you can use reflectors to tone them down.
- If your image has deep shadows, you can use fill lights to soften them.

### 3-point Lighting

- This is a lighting set-up that helps make your subject stand out, while avoiding a scene that looks flat.
- With 3-point lighting, three lights are strategically placed to create a more natural looking, dynamic scene, where light is distributed evenly.
- This involves setting up a key light (your main light source), a back light, and a fill light at specific locations.
- Attached is a link with more information and a diagram on [3-point lighting](#).

*“The beginnings and ends of shadow lie between the light and darkness and may be infinitely diminished and infinitely increased. Shadow is the means by which bodies display their form. The forms of bodies could not be understood in detail but for shadow.” - Leonardo da Vinci*

Continued on next page

## Tips for Photographing Shadows- continued from page 25

### Useful Equipment to Enhance Lighting

- **Flash:** A flash is a bright, direct light that will offer intense illumination for a brief period. This is helpful if you want to freeze motion or add a dramatic touch. Off-camera flashes offer more flexibility and control. You may want to use a diffuser or aim your flash towards the ceiling when possible.
- **LED lights:** These can be used anywhere, and there are color options available. You can use LED panels for continuous lighting.
- **Polarizing filter:** This will help reduce glare and create vibrant colors.
- **Diffuser:** This is a semi-transparent material positioned between the subject and light source to diffuse light as it passes through. If you don't have access to a professional diffuser, sheer curtains may work well.
- **Reflectors:** Reflectors bounce light back onto a subject and reflect light. They fill shadows and enhance highlights. They may come in silver, gold, and white.
- **Light box:** This is ideal for product photography because it allows you to eliminate shadows and enhance the product's details.
- **Ring light:** These lights have a circular design and help provide even lighting. They are useful for macro and portrait photography.
- **Soft Box:** A soft box is a light modifier that confines light from an artificial source into a wire-framed box and releases it through a layer of diffusion. It allows you to soften and diffuse light. It provides flattering light for portraits and reduces shadows in product photography.
- **Grids:** Grids are honeycombs that offer a narrow light spread, allowing for focused illumination on specific areas. They are helpful when you want to provide dramatic effects.
- **Snoots:** Snoots allow you to concentrate a tight beam of light for pinpoint accuracy. They may come in the form of a tube or similar object that fits over a light. They are often used in light painting.
- **Light meter:** While most cameras have a built-in light meter, some may find a handheld light meter to be more effective.



*Stations using assorted equipment to work with light at the 2024 Photo Ops day - John Mauro*

Continued on next page

### **Lighting in Portrait Photography**

Are you interested in portrait photography? Here are some types of lighting that might be used in portrait photography. Remember that shadows in portraits can add an element of moodiness, which will add to your story. Also be aware that soft, diffused light is very flattering for human subjects.

#### **Rembrandt Lighting**

- Position your light source 45 degrees in front of your subject.
- Adjust the light source so that it is above the head, pointing down at 45 degrees.
- Due to this specific light placement, one half of the face will be lit, while the other half of the subject's face will be in the dark, except for a small triangle-shaped light on the cheek. This sliver of light is the defining characteristic of the Rembrandt pattern.

#### **Split Lighting**

- In this form of portrait photography, the light source completely illuminates only one side of the face.
- Place your light source at a 90-degree angle to the left or right of your subject. This will cast a light on the subject's face, which is split down the middle (dark on one side).



*Enchanting Eyes  
- Doris Monteiro*

#### **Butterfly Lighting**

- This is also known as Paramount lighting.
- Place your light source slightly above and centered on the face of your subject. This results in a shadow under the nose in a butterfly pattern.

#### **Rim Lighting**

- With rim lighting, a strong light source is placed behind the subject, allowing you to “wrap the subject in light” and achieve a halo effect or “rim” around the person's outline.

#### **Sources**

Splento.com; holladayjournal.com; adorama.com; adobe.com; brentmailphotography.com; photzy.com; shutterstock.com; shotkit.com; makeuseof.com; expertphotography.com; digital-photography-school.com; orionphotogroup.com; better-digital-photo-tips.com; silvanadellacamera.com; belindajiao.com; petapixel.com; simplebooth.com; affinityspotlight.com; jillianguolding.com; orbitvu.com; tutti.space; photographylife.com; visualeducation.com; baph.co.uk; format.com; glidegear.net; studiobinder.com.

## The Bigger Picture

---

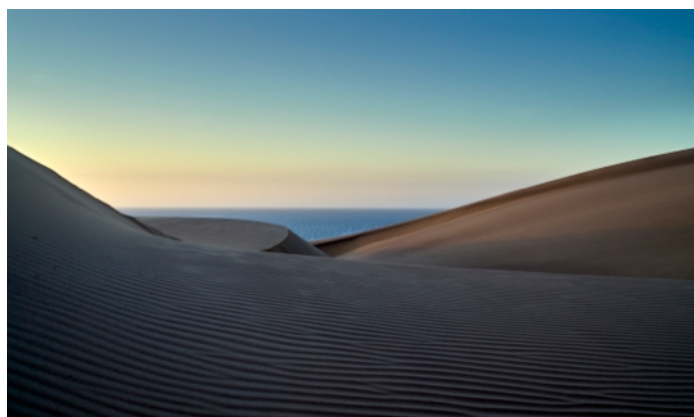
### Photography Workshops and Classes

**Hunt's Photo** - Hunt's Photo Education offers a variety of learning experiences including in person and on-line classes as well as photowalks, workshops, and photo adventures. Check it out!

### January Happenings:

\*\*There are some great things happening at Towerhill this winter that would offer photo opportunities. For instance, the "Winter Horticulture Walk & Talk" and only \$5 for members. (just signed up for this!) Or join their monthly photography club that meets on Sundays. [NEBG at Tower Hill](#)

\*\*Listed below are indoor gardens to explore this winter (Field trip anyone?)



*Wind Sculpting - Eric Frere*

### [Dartmouth College Life Sciences Greenhouse](#) Hanover, New Hampshire

A dose of summer can be had every weekday at this handicapped-accessible teaching facility filled with 1,000 different orchids and 600 or so tropical, subtropical, and succulent plants. Every half dozen years or so, the greenhouse's most famous inhabitant—a gargantuan corpse flower nicknamed "Morphy"—comes into bloom, and thousands turn up to experience its notorious stench. And if you like to linger, you can "picnic" in the foliage-filled multipurpose room.

### [Lyman Estate Greenhouses](#) Waltham, Massachusetts

The urge to shed layers will hit you almost as quickly as the perfume of jasmine, bougainvillea, and citrus as you close the door of one of America's oldest greenhouse complexes behind you. Newly renovated for better accessibility, the four brick-and-glass structures burst with a variety of living oddities and heirlooms. Visit in March to see the 1820 Camellia House's century-old specimens in radiant bloom.

### [Roger Williams Park Botanical Center](#) Providence, Rhode Island

New England's largest indoor garden is a 23,000-square-foot terrarium that shows off plant life in its myriad forms, from delicate flowers to spiky cacti to pest-eating carnivorous species. Frequent public events include talks on gardening topics and opportunities to create in this inspiring space.

*"Here's to another year of pretending we know what we're doing." – Readers Digest*

Continued on next page



## The Bigger Picture - Happenings - continued from page 28

\*\*Listed and linked below are some GREAT tips and tricks from the Audubon Society regarding a variety of topics relating to photography – check them out on a cold winters day - to name a few:

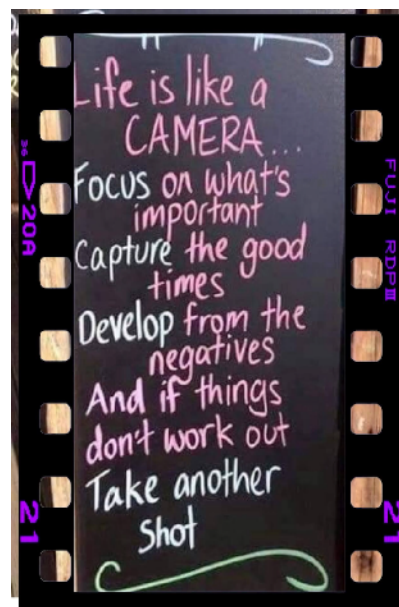
- Use Blur to Paint with Birds
- Use Your Remote Trigger to Get Closer to Birds
- Tips For Taking Great Bird Photos from the Comfort of Your Car
- How to Set Up the Perfect Perch for Backyard Bird Photography

[Audubon Tips](#)

### Photography Contests:

**For those on Facebook – there is a fun group to join:**

This is a group for people to share images taken by themselves from the 52 weekly themes posted Its all about fun. [The 52 Week Photo Challenge](#)



Help fill **Farm Credit East's Agricultural Views 2026** 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. Your photo entry may appear in Farm Credit East's Agricultural Views 2026 calendar and also earn you a \$1000cash prize! [Farm Credit East](#)

### **Nikon Photo Contest – Theme is “Inspiration”**

Significance to Enter the Nikon Film and Photo Contest:

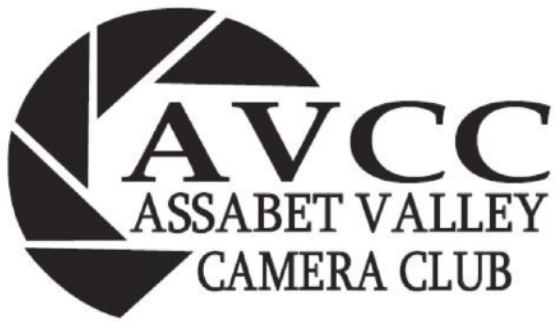
“We believe that those who enter the Nikon Film and Photo Contest have the opportunity to communicate their vision to the world, and are able to achieve personal growth while they share their diverse perspectives and inspire society at the same time.

This contest encourages the creative endeavors of creators. We provide support for the sharing of their works around the world, and we also devote our energy to promoting the community with which they are shared.” [Nikon Photo Contest](#)

**Envision Kindness:** [Kindness](#) We found this wonderful photo contest opportunity reflecting images of Kindness. Although there is no info as of yet for when 2025 submissions will be accepted, check out the pictures when you get a chance, they will surely make you smile and tug at your heart strings. We will let you know when you can submit.

[Audubon 2024 Statewide Photo Contest Winners](#) - Click the link to see the beautiful 2024 images.

*“Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365-page book. Write a good one.” – Brad Paisley*



AVCC is a member of the following organizations:

NECCC



PSA



AVCC website:

<https://avcc.visualpursuits.com>

2023-2024 Executive Board Members:

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



*Silken Pod - Lynn Kerner*

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.