



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 PM with a 45 minute social time and at 7:15 a brief business meeting. Programs start at 7:30 PM. Are you interested in attending a meeting and/or seeing what the Assabet Valley Camera Club is all about? You are welcome to join as a guest member for 30 days. Just send us an [Email](#) with your name and preferred e-mail address and you will be added to the attendee list for the next 30 days.



Bald Eagles Fighting - Darlene Holman

"Peering from some high window, at the gold of November sunset and feeling that if day has to become night, this is a beautiful way."

— E. E. Cummings

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Note from Our President

Hello All,

Welcome to the month of November - it blew in in true November fashion! This is the month of gratitude and we as a club have much to be thankful for. Our volunteers have been busy!

Thanks go out to Darlene Holman for field trip organizing including a trip to Southwick Zoo, a trip to Wingmasters scheduled for next fall, and for her work on getting our AVCC shirt orders!

Thanks to Jim Williams for organizing our exhibit spaces at the Hudson Public Library and Cafe 641. There are great images on the walls of both places - I encourage you to take a look if you haven't already. Also thanks to Jim for his work as AVCC treasurer.

Thanks to Neil Swinton for taking on the role of AVCC Secretary and to Mary Coombs for serving as Vice President.

Many thanks to Tony Monteiro and John Gill for managing the membership, competitions, and setting up the meetings at the Senior Center - no easy task. They make it all happen.

Thanks to Doris Monteiro for the monthly publicity she sends out for club events.

Thanks to Linda Shelales and Linda Gilberti for organizing our banquets. Our holiday banquet will be December 3rd. Linda Shelelas will be reaching out with more information.

I would like to thank Bridget Perch for announcing the club's competitions for the past several years. Maureen Mathieson and Lou Snitkoff have joined Doris Monteiro and Pam Meoli on the competition announcing team. Thanks to the four of them!

Thanks to Robyn Saur and Todd Mathieson for representing the club and submitting images to the NECC and PSA competitions.

Thanks to the Newsletter Team, Lynn Kerner, Cathy Robotis, Pam Meoli, and Mary Coombs for putting out an awesome newsletter each month.

I'm sure I missed something/someone but in closing thanks to all of you for participating in club meetings, exhibits, and gatherings and sharing your amazing images.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Pudge

"Gratitude turns what we have into enough, and more." Melody Beattie

Note from the Editors November 2025

And just like that, it's November! We usually think of November's theme as Gratitude – and it certainly is – but we'd like to look a little further afield this time around. The woods in rusty, red, and golden hues transition to brown leaves and grey sticks by the end of November. We can credit Pam Meoli with our theme of "Stick Season" this month, a different take on November's scenery and its emotions as well. Popularized by Noah Kahan in his song, "Stick Season," November carries feelings of melancholy, change, and nostalgia as we reflect on warm weather's passing and the coming of winter's dark, storms, cold, and ice.

This month is often thought of as a windy one, and haven't we experienced THAT over the last few days as the remains of Melissa march north. The phrase, "winds of change," is just perfect not only for the weather, but in general for this time of year and it's poetically described by John Howard Bryant, "That soft autumnal time, the woodland foliage now is gathered by the wild November blast."

AVCC's members responded to the "stick season" photo challenge with the usual enthusiasm and we hope it was an adventure in a new perspective. Other things to note in this issue are a list from Glenn Fund of daily and weekly online competitions he participates in; information on exhibits of images by members Linda DeStefano Brown, Cathy Robotis, & Darlene Holman, the Cafe 641 exhibit by Lou Snitkoff, and the AVCC exhibit at the Hudson Public Library; our monthly Happenings by Pam; and Tips for Stick Season Photography by Cathy.

A word about gratitude – we are grateful for the challenge and opportunity to find beauty and interest in stick season. Often a time of year that can be difficult due to the fading light, the holidays are of course associated with the warmth of family and feasting. If things seem grey, beauty and humor may bless the day.

Let us close with Jay Leno's take:

"You can tell you ate too much for Thanksgiving when you have to let your bathrobe out."
- Jay Leno

November Program

AVCC is pleased to present “Optimizing Depth of Field in Photography: Process of Focus Stacking” by George Fellner on Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 7:30 PM. 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 with a 45 minute social time. The Zoom meeting room opens at 7:00 PM 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.

George Fellner

As a fine art photographer and architect, George Fellner is committed to a dual life-path involving visual discovery and design, relating to both the natural and built environments. His appreciation of the wonders of the Earth along with highlights from his travels are expressed through a range of photographic genres. Through an evolutionary process, he has also engaged in focused interest themes. Imaginary Realms, involves the macro photography of stones and crystals, revealing inherent compositions from within the Earth. Another series, Manifestations of Surreality involves visual exploration, juxtaposing natural worlds and the built world of architecture. A natural progression led to Thematic Fusion involving the exploratory blending of multiple images that may include landscapes/seascapes, architecture, minerals, and astrophotography. The creative process may often traverse beyond the direct representation of the physical world, implementing strategies for expressing imagery that hovers between reality and surreality. The accumulation of these genres and themes demonstrates ongoing explorations and discovery for generating unique imagery with the propensity to communicate meaning and potential insights.

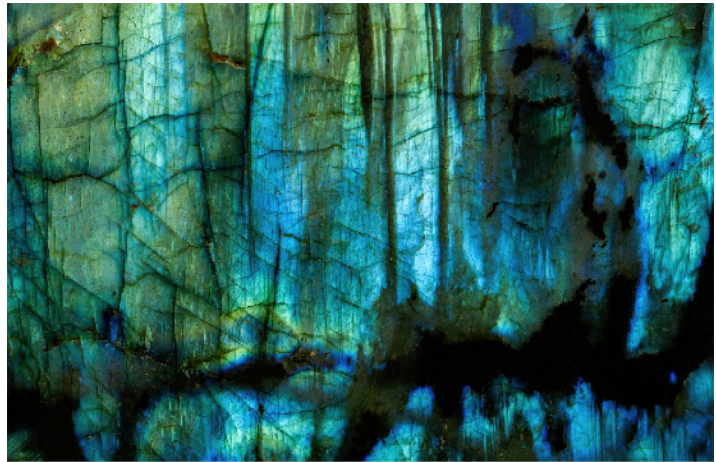


George Fellner

George's work has been exhibited in art galleries and museums, and many of his prints are part of public art/permanent collections including the New York headquarters for Nature Genetics (international science journal), Yale School of Medicine, and Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine at the University of Connecticut Health Center.

George Fellner - continued from page 4

As another form of creative expression, George's published books include *Imaginary Realms: The Visual Language of Stones and Crystals* (2016); *Essence of Architecture in East Haddam: Expressions of a Connecticut River Town* (2019); *Imaginary Realms: The Continual Exploration of Stones and Crystals* (2022); *Visual Moments in Iceland: Essence of Place, Culture, and the Natural World* (2024); and *Visual Moments in Iceland: A Winter Sequel* (2024).



Mythical Mindsets - George Fellner

An alternate visual involvement is the creation of videos that can be viewed on YouTube. George's ongoing set includes *Imaginary Realms: The Art of Stones and Crystals*; *Manifestations of Surreality: Natural and Man-made Worlds*; *Expressions of East Haddam: Land, Water, and Architecture*; *Visual Moments in Oregon: Compositions by the Earth*; *Visual Moments in Iceland: Essence of Place and Culture*; *Imaginary Realms Sequel: Exploring Stones and Crystals*; and *Visual Moments Above: Wonders of the Night Sky*.



*Cypripedium - (Lady Slipper) -
George Fellner*

With the intent of sharing with the public and offering inspirational contents, George regularly presents programs as a speaker at state and regional conferences and to architectural associations, art/photography associations and clubs, mineral clubs, along with community groups. George's passion for photography sparked while studying architecture and design. He received his Bachelor of Architecture degree from Virginia Tech and a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Florida. His ongoing work as an architect continues to inspire, influence, and complement his design sensitivities for creative photography. The integrated use of form, context, composition, light, color, and texture are both consciously as well as subliminally incorporated in his photographs.

Indeed, George's dual life-path serves as the basis for engaging both the natural and built environments. The continual opportunities for exploration and discovery along

with evolving focused interest themes fuel his innate aspirations for creating unique imagery. Ultimately, the intent is to express meaning, insights, emotional impact, and inspiration.

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Optimizing Depth of Field in Photography: Process of Focus Stacking

The realities of depth of field sometimes pose limitations for certain types of photography.

3-Dimensional subjects, particularly in macro photography, are challenging with regard to establishing sharp focus throughout the composition. The process of focus stacking involves taking a series of photographs at multiple focus points which are combined into a single photograph with optimized depth of field in sharp focus.

This presentation reviews concepts, rationale, photo shoot process, step-by-step procedures, and software options, along with graphic examples. In addition, there is a step-by-step focus stacking demonstration using Photoshop.

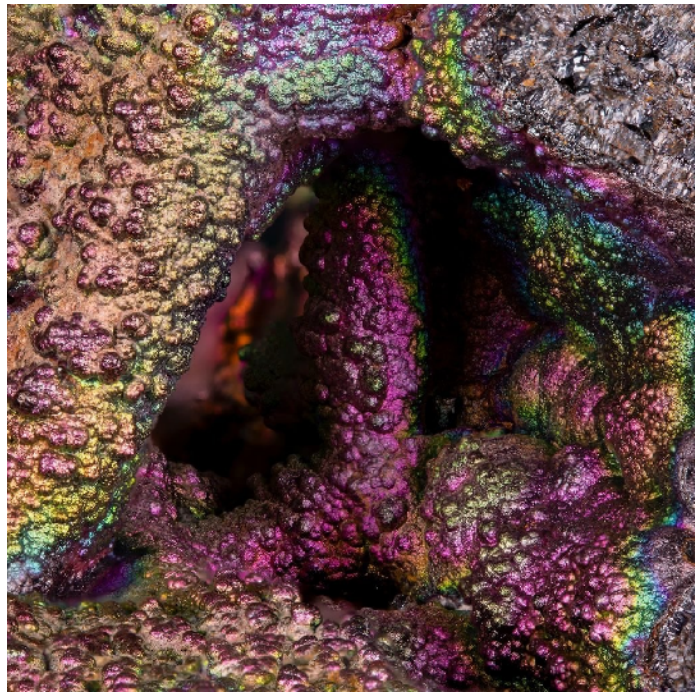


Image Courtesy of George Fellner



Field of Entropy - George Fellner



An Unusual Flower from my Bouquet - Jane Parker

Date	Program	Presenter
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 Imaging	Steve Koppel
1/7/26	"Lost in Fog"	Ed McGuirk
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	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.

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](#)

Member Snapshot

Glenn Fund

Glenn Fund will be our featured member in the Member Snapshot next month. Glenn is very active in many international competitions and has prepared this list of competitions for anyone wishing to participate - a great way to spend winter days! Thank you Glenn for providing this information.

Online Photo Contests

GuruShots – www.gurushots.com

Worldwide participation. Usually 1-3 day, 1, 2, 3 or 4 picture contests for individual or up to a 20 person team play. Multiple contests are introduced throughout each day. User voting and Top Photographer and Top Winner selections chosen. This is the most full-featured and complex of games that I play.

PhotoCrowd – www.photocrowd.com

Worldwide participation. Multiple challenges introduced, usually of long duration (1-4 weeks in length). You can enter between 1 (no cost), or up to 4 or 8 pictures per contest depending on the paid subscription that you have. Both judged and crowd rated voting and winner selection.

PULSEpx – www.pulsepx.com

Worldwide participation. Multiple challenges are introduced, usually of several weeks in duration. Each contest is either chosen by PULSEpx management or by the end user community.

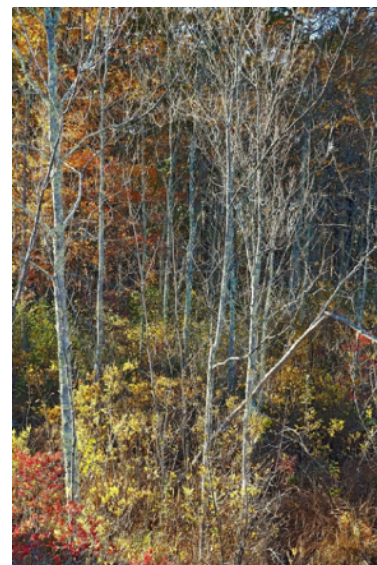
The game is played with pixels and coins that you either pay for or win as prizes. Entry fees for each contest varies. The contests with higher entry fees offer larger prizes. A single picture is entered into any contest that you choose to enter, although a second entry is possible if you pay an added pixel fee.

52Frames – www.52frames.com

Worldwide participation. A new topic is presented each week and you need to both take and submit a picture that meets the topic objectives. Since there are 52 topics introduced each year, hence the name. There are 52 winners selected each week by the 52Frame management team. If you pay a premium fee, then extra interview and photo tutorials are introduced each week. There are multiple 52Frames local and global Facebook and other support groups that have been established. This challenge, more than any other, gets you out there with your camera each week, to get that special on topic shot.

Please contact me if you would like any tutorial assistance with any of these.

Glenn Fund – gfund@comcast.net – 978-621-3939



*Assabet Rail Trail - Acton
- Glenn Fund*

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

Zooming Out

On the Wall at Cafe 641

The November exhibit at Cafe 641 features the work of Lou Snitkoff. A Meet and Greet was held on Saturday, November 1 from 12 - 1:30 PM. Check out Lou's wonderful close up images!

Rick Beauchamp will be the featured artist in December.

If you are interested in displaying your work at Cafe 641 contact Jim Williams through the AVCC website.



Lou at his Cafe 641 exhibit - Jim Williams

Continued on next page

Zooming Out - continued from page 10

Members enjoy a gathering at Cafe 641 for Blair's Meet and Greet on October 11.



*Sheri, Blair, Maureen, Mary, Jim, and Todd
at Cafe 641 - Mimi Boudreau*



Maureen and Todd - Blair Boudreau

From our Members:

Darlene Holman submitted a photo to the New England Botanical Garden at Tower Hill member photo contest last spring. The theme was "The Five Senses" and Darlene's was one of only 12 photographs selected for display. Her image, NEBG Lions Ear Hummingbird, can now be seen on the wall of the Garden lobby. Congratulations Darlene!



*NEBG Lions Ear Hummingbird
- Darlene Holman*



Congratulations also go out to **Cathy Robotis**. Her image, Dog Day Afternoon, was selected for inclusion in the juried Artists' Choice exhibit at the River Arts Gallery in Damariscotta, Maine. The exhibit is up until November 15. Here is Cathy next to her image of Lyra at the Artists' Choice reception. Image Courtesy of Cathy Robotis.

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Zooming Out - continued from page 11

Linda DeStefano Brown:

As many of you know, I search for hidden meanings beyond the visual world, beyond what we see with our eyes, focusing on what our mind's eye envisions and creating another vision of the world we live in. I rely on intuition and my own sensitivity to the world. The techniques or styles I use are irrelevant. They are used only to help convey what is beyond our visual world. It is not the objects before the camera that are important but rather the thoughtful contemplations manifested from the final image.

I have images on display in two exhibits for the month of November:

ArtsWayland, 35 Andrew Avenue, Wayland MA. Exhibit dates: November 1-30, 2025. The gallery is operated by volunteers, so please be sure to check online to see when it is open. I will be gallery sitting there November 22 and 23, 1-3 pm. Images in this exhibit are:

Urban Bliss combines the congestion of a city with the delicacy of nature's atmosphere, stars, and plant life. We live in a complicated world that requires us to assimilate its various aspects.

Joyous Energy shows us the calmness we can feel while still being energized to explore what is around us.

Beyond the Surroundings symbolizes the act of seeing what is beyond our eyes.

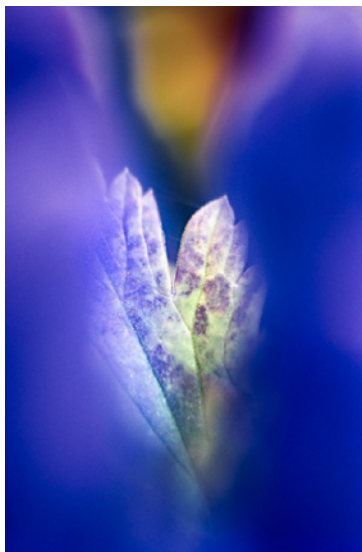
Waiting for the Crowd is about the anticipation we feel when expecting something that may or may not happen.



Joyous Energy
- Linda DeStefano Brown



Urban Bliss - Linda DeStefano Brown



Beyond the Surroundings
Linda DeStefano Brown



Waiting for the Crowd
-Linda DeStefano Brown

Continued on next page

Zooming Out - continued from page 12

Linda DeStefano Brown continued:

Ashland Public Library, 66 Front Street, Ashland MA. Exhibit now through the end of November.

The images I have in this show are:

Working Its Way Through represents the many obstacles and decisions we have to make as we journey through life. (This is an infrared image.)

Admiration is a feeling we get from a relationship between two beings that is both tender and affectionate.



Working Its Way Through - Linda DeStefano Brown



Admiration - Linda DeStefano Brown

Hope you can stop by these exhibits to enjoy all the artwork. - Linda

Hudson Library Exhibit

More than 12 AVCC members have more than 22 images in the exhibit at the Hudson Public Library until mid-December. It is great fun to walk around and try to spot all of images on display!

Lynn Kerner has shared these learning opportunities with us:

- [Landscape Photography Conference](#) - a Kelbyone Online Event - December 9-10, 2025 - Early bird pricing available until November 2.
- [Matt Kloskowski](#) - What's New In Adobe videos - Matt explains updates to Lightroom Classic



*Think Spring - John Gill
On display at Hudson Library*

From **Brian Dean** - I now offer printing services at Hudson Art and Framing. I have matte, satin, glossy and baryta paper options available now and if there is demand I could also add canvas printing. I'm trying to keep prices competitive with online printing services. I can print up to 24" wide at the moment.

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Zooming Out - continued from page 13

Darlene Holman - Wingmasters:

A few AVCC members went to Gateway Camera Club's WINGMASTERS field trip this month. We had slightly overcast skies, so the lighting conditions were ideal! Pictured is a shot of a Great Horned Owl taken during the shoot.

Our club is planning a field trip on Oct 17th 2026. The first group of eight has been confirmed with a rain date of Oct 18th. Due to high demand, we're opening a second group and will book it **once the final two of eight spots are filled**. If you are interested, register on the AVCC website or send an email to Darlene. The cost is \$100. For more information about Wingmasters click here: [Wingmasters](#)



*Great Horned Owl -
Darlene Holman*

Southwick Zoo - Lions' Birthday Party Field Trip

Darlene, Jim, Sue, Todd, and Maureen went on a field trip to Southwick Zoo on October 19th to celebrate Levanna & LJ's birthday. The siblings were born at the zoo in 2012, making them 13 years old. The lions were very active due to the many presents containing meat placed throughout their enclosure. It was a lot of fun watching them. There were many other photo ops, including the chimps and baby cheetahs, that did not disappoint.



Levanna and LJ - Darlene Holman



Image Courtesy of Jim Williams

Night Hawks:

The chase for Comet Lemmon was on in October but for the most part the comet remained elusive despite the efforts of Jim, Rick, Nick, Lynn, Darlene, Bill, and Vishnu.

From Vishnu: Taken from Wachusett Reservoir Dam on October 18. Not as good as I expected, but I was able to locate it after taking dozens of photos of the stars. - Vishnu



Image Courtesy of Vishnu Thalanki

Zooming In - Stick Season

“There’s something hauntingly beautiful about the time between fall and winter in New England - a period when the vibrant colors of autumn fade, leaving behind the stark, bare branches that give this time its name: stick season. This time carries a unique blend of melancholy and reflection.

“In the song ‘Stick Season,’ (listen [here](#)) Noah Kahan uses the barren New England landscape as a backdrop for exploring themes of loneliness, loss and the painful yet necessary transitions in life. The song dives deep into the emotional turmoil often accompanying change, particularly the kind that leaves a person feeling exposed and vulnerable, much like the trees stripped of their leaves before the first snowfall. Kahan’s lyrics paint a vivid picture of this internal struggle, using the imagery of ‘stick season’ to symbolize a time of waiting—where the past clings like a shadow, and the future remains uncertain.”

Johnson, R. (2024, August 20). *Noah Kahan’s “Stick Season” Meaning Goes Beyond New England’s Borders*. Country Thang Daily - <https://www.countrythangdaily.com/noah-kahan-stick-season/>

My November Guest

Robert Frost

My Sorrow, when she's here with me,
Thinks these dark days of autumn rain
Are beautiful as days can be;
She loves the bare, the withered tree;
She walks the sodden pasture lane.

Her pleasure will not let me stay.
She talks and I am fain to list:
She's glad the birds are gone away,
She's glad her simple worsted gray
Is silver now with clinging mist.

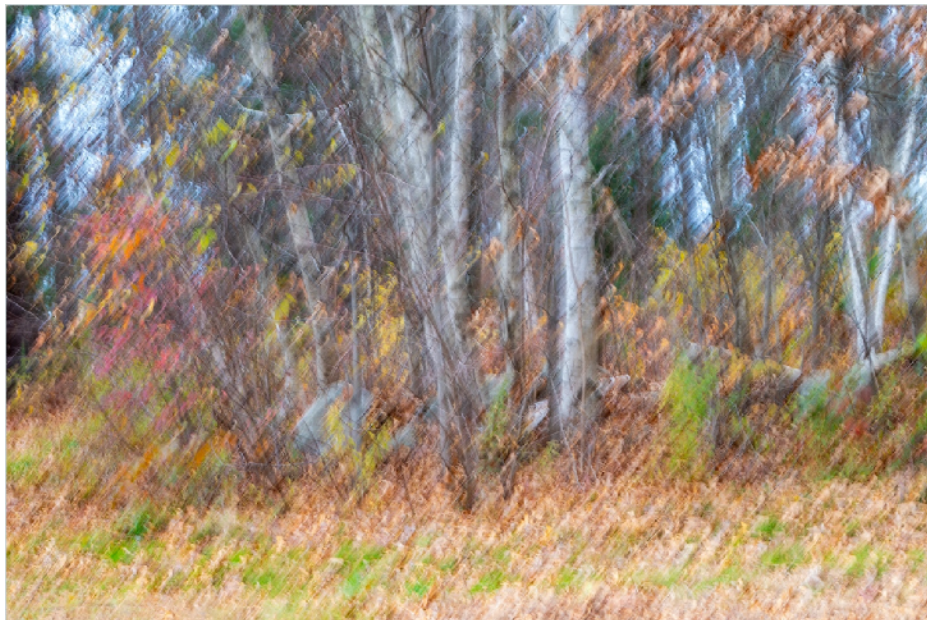
The desolate, deserted trees,
The faded earth, the heavy sky,
The beauties she so truly sees,
She thinks I have no eye for these,
And vexes me for reason why.

Not yesterday I learned to know
The love of bare November days
Before the coming of the snow,
But it were vain to tell her so,
And they are better for her praise.

As we transition from the color of fall to the chill grey of winter we asked our members to share their images of stick season. Enjoy the following images.

Continued on next page

Zooming In - Stick Season - continued from page 15



Stick Season - Darlene Holman



This is part stick, part end of foliage -
edited in Prisma - Robyn Saur



Halfway to Stick Season - Catherine Robotis

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Zooming In - Stick Season - continued from page 16



Image Courtesy of Robyn Saur

This is a live oak tree with Spanish moss. Dave Reynard always liked the look of the Spanish moss on the tree. The tree loses its leaves in winter and they come back in spring. - Robyn



Image Courtesy of Ann DeCristofaro

This was an infrared image (595 nm) taken at Carver Hill. The trees in the background (brownish) are evergreens and this beauty is an apple tree. - Ann

This was in Rosendale in upstate NY, on the west side of the Hudson River about 85 miles north of NYC. I was hiking Rosendale Mtn. at the time and came upon that spot. I believe the pedestrian bridge replaced an old railroad trestle when they turned the railroad right of way into a rail trail. The whole Hudson Valley is very scenic with plenty of trails in the mountains. - Nick



Stick Season - Nick Andruzzi

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The Mighty Has Fallen - Linda DeStefano Brown



Image Courtesy of Louis Snitkoff



Stick Mirror - Brian Dean



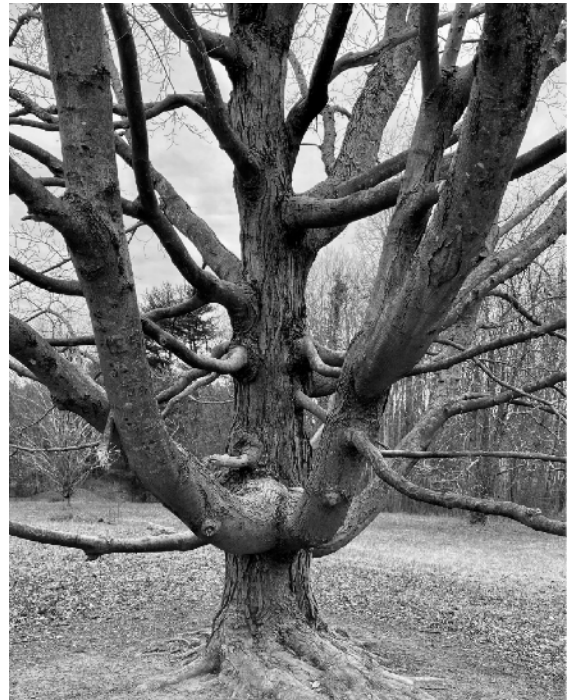
Assabet River Stick Season 2 - Lynn Kerner

"Shed of autumn's garb, posturing, a quiet landscape awaits winter." - Paul Rogers

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Stick Tree - Pam Meoli



*The Climbing Tree in Stick Season
- Mary Coombs*



Forest Moves - Linda DeStefano Brown

"The November wind has a sound different from any other, a low, dry whispering through the bare branches." - John Burroughs

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Breaking Through
- Linda DeStefano Brown



Pollack Forest
- Linda DeStefano Brown



Image Courtesy of Louis Snitkoff

Tips for Stick Season Photography

So, out of interest, what age were you when you learned that our annual seasons were not just limited to Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall? If you grew up in Vermont, you may have been raised with tales of Mud Season and Stick Season. For the rest of us, we are proving that it's never too late to learn something new. **Stick Season** is that period of time that occurs after the leaves have fallen but before the first snowfall. The trees are bare; the flowers are gone. The landscape is unclothed. The light is softer; the days become short as the nights become long. It's a time when we begin to hunker down for the winter months, with some experiencing the onset of the winter blues while others prepare to dust off their skis. If we dodge the raindrops and reach for the winter woolies, it really can be a great time to grab your camera and get outdoors. It's a time for muted colors blending beautifully together. It's a time for textures and contrast, with bare trees standing tall and resilient against the sky. If you enjoy wildlife, you may find it easier to spot animals in the brush and birds on bare branches. If you enjoy atmospheric scenes, you may hear the fog whispering your name. We have put together some general tips for photography during Stick Season, mostly focusing on bare trees. We hope you enjoy the adventure of getting out there and uncovering and capturing the beauty of Stick Season.

Preparing for your Photo Op

- As the days become colder, it's important to remember to wear layers and prepare for changeable weather.
- If you will be out in the woods, remember to bring tick spray. Proper footwear is also important with fallen leaves masking exposed tree roots and uneven terrain. Bringing a walking stick may be helpful in preventing falls.
- Remember that when the weather is cold, camera batteries may dwindle more quickly. Keep a fully charged spare battery in your bag.

Setting the Scene

- When photographing during Stick Season, it's important to focus on composition. Look for hidden details and contrasting elements. Look for organized chaos. Look for interesting textures. Look for symmetry and patterns.
- If you are photographing groups of trees, try to determine which tree is the leading actor (subject) in the scene and which elements are supportive. This will help develop your composition.
- Try to ensure that there are gaps between tree trunks; in other words, avoid having tree trunks merging within your image. Maintaining gaps between the trunks shows increased organization and cohesiveness/symmetry in the scene.
- Look for tree tunnels. **Tree tunnels** form when two organized rows of trees lead off into the distance. Think of rows of trees lining both sides of a narrow road. Tree tunnels can be especially dramatic when the path or road is winding or curved as it leads to infinity.
- Look for paths and streams that can function as leading lines or C or S curves within your image.
- Tree branches can be used to frame a landscape shot.

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Tips for Stick Season Photography - continued from page 21

- When photographing tree canopies, beware of bright spots of sky poking through the branches.
- Consider photographing trees as silhouettes. Interlocking tree branches with beautiful patterns against a bright sky or a colorful sunset/sunrise may be stunning.
- A lone tree in a field is a classic landscape image. Consider photographing a minimalist scene with a single tree in a field against a pale gray sky with desaturated tones.
- Consider using negative space to isolate a lone tree.
- Look for bare trees with whimsical shapes, such as oak trees.
- Don't forget the fallen leaves at the base of a tree, which tell a story all their own.
- Consider choosing a favorite tree and following it all year long. Take photos with the same settings from the same spot over the course of the year, and you will have a wonderful story of a year in the life of a tree.
- Consider using a lens ball for your Stick Season photography.
- Consider trying a "worm's eye view." This is where you get down on the ground and look up. Picture the impact of bare tree branches reaching for the light.
- Consider using ICM (intentional camera movement) for your Stick Season images.



Stick season ICM - Catherine Robotis

Weather Considerations

- Minimalist photography works well on foggy and gray days.
- If you are out on a gray day and have a companion willing to be photographed, ask them to wear a bright color (such as red) to provide sharp contrast to the muted colors.
- Fog can create a sense of spookiness, and it also provides a sense of depth.
- If you are indoors and have a landscape view from a window, think about taking photos through the window. Photos taken through fogged glass show a sense of alienation and melancholy. Similarly, photographing a scene through a window coated with raindrops paints a portrait of wistfulness. There might be interesting scenes to capture from the outside looking in, as well.
- Puddles are great for reflections. Remember to get down close to the puddle with your camera for best results.
- Seize the opportunity when you encounter **hoarfrost**. This occurs on "cold, clear, and windless nights with low humidity, when the rapid radiant heat loss from surfaces causes water vapor—not liquid water droplets, as in fog—to form delicate, needle-like crystals on certain surfaces" (westvalleynaturalists.org). It essentially occurs when frost and fog meet, and you might capture it early in the morning.

"November always seemed to me the Norway of the year." – Emily Dickinson

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Tips for Stick Season Photography - continued from page 22

Camera Equipment and Settings

- A wide angle lens works best with landscapes.
- Consider doing a long exposure, where the trees are static but the clouds and sky are blurred. A shutter speed of 1/15 can add to a sense of wind and movement. Don't forget your tripod!
- If you are working with long exposures during daylight, you may need a neutral density filter.
- Typically, you will want a narrower aperture for your landscape shots (at least f/8, up to f/16-f/22) to ensure maximum focus.
- Work with as low of an ISO as you can.
- Consider shooting in black and white/monochrome.

Sources

skylum.com; digital-photography-school.com; photocascadia.com; ellenborggreve.com; boston.com; massaudubon.org; photographylife.com; nyip.edu; aaronreedphotography.com; kendallcameraclub.org; paulrogersphotography.smugmug.com; iphonephotographyschool.com; martinvorel.com; westvalleynaturalists.org

Did you know....?

Paul Rogers is a Stowe (Vermont)-based photographer who started the Stick Season Project in 2008. During Stick Season each year, he goes out with his camera twice per week and captures 2000-4000 images that tell the story of Vermont during this distinct period of time. The project started out as muted landscapes and evolved to include snippets of life in Vermont, including local people and ordinary day-to-day living. He described Stick Season as a time when “the landscape is unadorned. It’s like a model who’s beautiful but without all that makeup.” Here is a link to Paul’s website, where you can view his beautiful collection of Stick Season photographs: [Paul Rogers](http://paulrogersphotography.smugmug.com).

Resources:

You can certainly go in your own backyard to experience this season – but if you want to venture out, here are 7 suggestions for Stick Season hikes:

[7 Stick Season Hikes](#)

Here is an article from Audubon about Stick Season:

[Audubon Stick Season Article](#)

“In New England, stick season is a reminder of the beauty in simplicity and the promise of renewal.”



Moon 2 - Pam Meoli

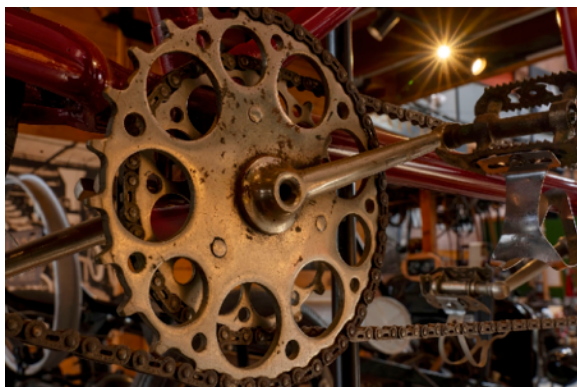
The Bigger Picture

Happenings

Looking for ideas & suggestions for photography in late fall in MA?

Themes: Coastal color, early winter mood, architecture.

- **Cape Cod National Seashore** – Windswept dunes, lonely lighthouses, and winter sea grass textures.
- **Boston's Beacon Hill & Public Garden** – Late-fall urban scenes, fallen leaves on cobblestones, early evening street lamps.
- **Mount Greylock (Berkshires)** – Early frost and late-autumn trees; great for moody black-and-white shots.
- **Rockport / Motif No. 1** – Iconic fishing shack with quiet harbor reflections.



Crankset - Mimi Boudreau

Upcoming Workshops in Worcester

Worcester Photography Group

worcesterphotographygroup.com

A variety of 2-hour themed photo-walk/workshop sessions around Worcester.

Upcoming sessions include:

“Composition in Photography” - Saturday, Nov 15 at Green Hill Park.

“Colors of Autumn” - Saturday, Nov 29 at Green Hill Park.

“Basics of Portrait Photography” - Saturday, Dec 6 at Green Hill Park.

“Winter Portraits Photography” - Saturday, Dec 20

At New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill

“Night Lights: Dazzling Gardens”

Nov 22–Jan 4 - 4-10 PM Daily

Reservations & tickets are a must – they sell out quickly! <https://nebg.org/nightlights/>

Revel in the wonder of the winter season with friends, family, and half a million lights! Enter an illuminated world where stars of the botanic garden shine, and where sparkling experiences and one-of-a-kind light displays inspire joy to last all year. It's a celebration of nature like you've never seen before —bright, bold, and full of dazzle.

“In November, the trees are standing all sticks and bones. Without their leaves, how lovely they are, spreading their arms like dancers.” – Cynthia Rylant

Continued on next page

Happenings - continued from page 24

Photo Exhibits

Bromfield Gallery

450 Harrison Ave, Boston

“People, Places, Things”

By: Gary Duehr

November 5-30

This retrospective photography exhibit skims across several decades of making photos, from people on the streets and squeezed in elevators; to places behind the scenes or blurred by speed; to things including messy car interiors and handwritten notes in public. [Bromfield Gallery](#)

Bromfield gallery is also calling for entries to be submitted for their [Annual Juried Exhibition](#), “Small Matters” - Deadline for submission is November 15.



Young Girl in Bonnet - Blair Boudreau

Worcester Art Museum

“Winter at WAM”

Welcome winter and the holidays with new art, musical performances, and events all throughout the season. Plenty of photo ops FOR SURE! The Museum is transformed **November 26–January 4** with trees and holiday décor inspired by current exhibitions. While not exclusively a photography-only exhibit, the museum has a strong history of photography-based exhibitions and frequently include photography in their shows. [Worcester Art Museum](#)



Raccoon Feeding - Lee Arnold



Adirondack Moose - Rick Beauchamp

Continued on next page

Happenings - continued from page 25

Photo Contests:

The Provincetown Independent – “Outer Cape” Photo Contest

<https://provincetownindependent.org/photo-contest/>

Deadline: **Dec 31, 2025**

Eligibility: Photos must be taken on or around Outer Cape Cod (Provincetown, Truro, Wellfleet, or Eastham)

Categories: People; Secret Places; Land & Sea; Hope; Drag; Nighttime; Animals

Fee: Free to enter

Smithsonian Magazine Photo Contest

<https://photocontest.smithsonianmag.com/photocontest>

Deadline **Dec 1 2025**

6 categories

Call for Photographers:

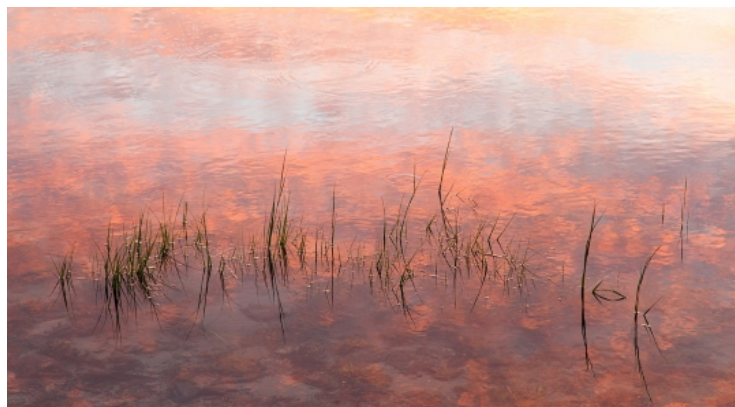
Photographic Resource Center— “Common Ground ”
Boston

<https://www.prcboston.org/>

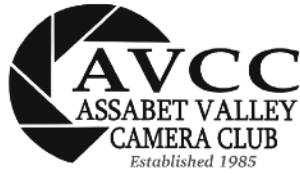
- Open to photographers (anywhere) exploring how communities form, sustain, and imagine themselves.
- Submission Deadline: **November 18**
- Selected works will be part of an online exhibition launching December 2, 2025, with a digital catalogue.
- Good fit if you’re working in any photographic medium and want regional exposure via a Boston-based institution.



Hummingbird Love - Lynn Kerner



Morning Colors - Gloucester, MA - Lou Snitkoff



AVCC is a member of the following organizations:

NECCC



PSA

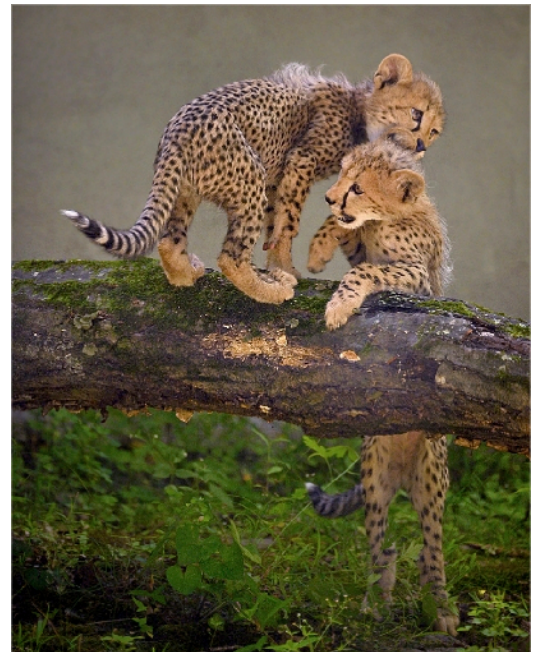


AVCC website:

<https://www.assabetvalleycameraclub.com>

2025-2026 Executive Board Members:

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



Sibling Play - Tony Monteiro

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, Ann DeCristofaro, Nick Andruzzi, Linda DeStefano Brown, Lou Snitkoff, Darlene Holman, Doris Monteiro, Robyn Saur, Glenn Fund, Brian Dean, Blair Boudreau, Mimi Boudreau, and Vishnu Thalanki.