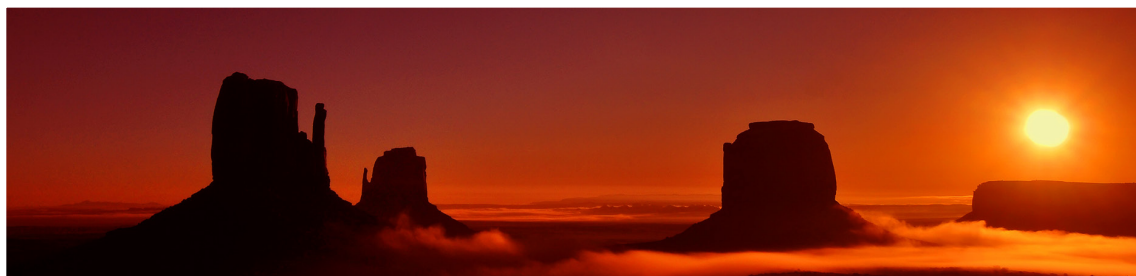


MASSACHUSETTS CAMERA NATURALISTS



JUNE 2019 ISSUE

From the Chairman's Note Pad

Over the past few months, I have had the opportunity to talk with quite a few of you and have gathered a number of useful thoughts which are summarized below:

Website: <http://camnats.org>

A team of volunteers, spearheaded by Dennis Goulet, to also include Shawn Carey, Eric Smith and Greg Pronevitz, has been formed. (Many thanks to Shiv Verma for managing the site in the last several years.)

Dennis has proposed a number of suggestions. It now has a different look and an interactive functionality that requires input from the membership. Please e-mail any member of the website team with your thoughts.

- Member Gallery is being worked on and will be available to paid members - naturally, the images can be viewed by the public.
- Collecting annual dues has been an ongoing issue. Whilst manual checks/cash to the treasurer will remain an option, paying via PayPal through the website is more efficient.
- Create a forum for local hot spots, or other useful nature discussions, for paid members.
- Special articles for the benefit of paid members.
- Images presented at the MCN meetings will be available on the website for the benefit of those that could not attend. The question remains as to whether the makers' permission is required.
- The Calendar will contain links to available nature events. It may be a good idea from time to time to visit the site and help fine tune it with your suggestions

MCN Newsletter

Mary Doo has been volunteered for this by yours truly and she has been gracious and has stepped up!

This will be an electronic communication to publish sometime after each meeting - the idea being to reflect what happened at the meeting for the benefit of those that could not make it. There will be a featured article(s) by our own members which will provide insight into photography opportunities around us. This will also be a good place to introduce our newest members. Important photography events may show up here as well - for example, the upcoming NECCC Annual conference.

Mass CamNats Exhibition

I feel that in addition to sharing our wonderful work thrice a year, we should make ourselves better known. This will be a wonderful opportunity for individuals and the organization. The Mass/RI Audubon societies come to mind. Many members are actively involved with these and are encouraged to explore this avenue.

That said, Shawn Carey and I explored the Thayer Gallery (Thayer Academy) – a well organized place managed by Karen Koskores. She was very impressed with our presentation and offered us a 1 month slot Sept 15 to Oct 15 this year! It was good to see that our membership is excited too. We think that their 40 x 32 feet space will be able to hold 40-60 photographs - they have an adaptable hanging system.

Some standardization of our presentation will help reflect our professional standards. We figured that we will use 16 x 20, 18 x 24 or 16x16 black frames. The nice thing about Thayer is that they provide the entertainment for the opening night, advertise and, best of all, do not charge a commission for work sold! Shawn and I are working on the details and will get back to the membership with the details soon. We will be the curators for this initial one. We hope to be able to accommodate at least one per member, but preferences may have to be given to those that attend meetings.

Nationally Recognized Guest Speakers

Another thing worth exploring is a National speaker program. I am sure we all love this idea but the devil is in the detail. Cost and resources being the main factors.

Canon Explorer of Light or **Nikon Ambassador** programs come to mind. Naturally one can expect these sponsors to have certain requirements - conflict of interest, appropriate exposure(200 in attendance) and so on. At least worth exploring... more to follow.

Personally, I was extremely pleased with the involvement of the club - and thank you for your interest. I am sure that many of you may have suggestions for the betterment of our club, so please do not hesitate sharing these with me.

Karl Zuzarte

Chairman

Massachusetts Camera Naturalists

Special Recognition

Harry Ahern was recognized for a milestone anniversary of 60 years with PSA. During this time he served as Chairman of the Honors Committee, Northeast Zone Director, and was a member on several different committees. He was very active in competing nationally and internationally. He chaired the Springfield Salon and worked on every exhibition. He was also on the steering committee for the Hartford PSA Convention.

Having been a member of the Springfield Photographic Society for 65 years, Harry was also recognized as the longest-standing member of the club. To express their appreciation for his many contributions to the club and to celebrate his longevity, they named the year-end Nature Digital Image the “Harry Ahern Award for Nature Digital Image”.

Wildlife Photography Mass Audubon Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary Marshfield, Mass.

By Shawn P. Carey

Wildlife photographers living in Massachusetts are always looking for a good location to photograph and the [Massachusetts Audubon Society](#) has some wonderful wildlife sanctuaries located through out the state. All Mass Audubon Sanctuaries are free to members, if you are not a member I highly recommend you become one and help support their mission to protect the natural world. For those living on the South Shore may be familiar with one of the better places in [Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary](#) (DWWS) located in Marshfield. This 575 acre sanctuary was the old Dwyer Farm purchased by Mass Audubon in 1984. After which it underwent over a years worth of “fixing up” to ready the property for visitors. Once opened to the public this mixed habitat sanctuary provided some of the best open grassland for nesting Bobolinks in the state. Anyone spending time at DWWS from mid-May through the end of June will see and hear these charismatic birds especially the males when they first arrive and are setting up their breeding territories. Nothing say the arrival of



spring at DWWS like the singing of a Bobolink! These same open grasslands also attract raptors in the late fall, winter and early spring. In years with limited snow cover it can be a good place to see and maybe even photograph, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk and Rough-legged Hawk. The best place on the sanctuary

to see most raptors is out on the Fox Hill platform. The view can be quite nice however the downside is you are not allowed beyond this point. Note you are restricted to walking on the designated trails only and during nesting season absolutely stay out of the fields.

One of the highlights of DWWS is the arrival of Tree Swallows in late April followed by Barn Swallows



in early May. The bonus for photographers is both species can be photographed from either of the large observation blinds one on each end of a small pond or “wet panne” just beyond the parking lot. This pond is actually man made and retains what water it has from snow melt and rain only. In summer with little rain most of the pond dries up except for two small sections that are deeper. There are no fish, four species of frog, two species of turtle as well as one salamander species. The above mentions observation blinds are large and can accommodate up to six photographers at once and even more room for other visitors. For photography you will want a beanbag for use in the blinds as using a tripod is not recommended. For the “regulars” that spend time photographing at the DWWS blinds know them as the “morning blind” and the “afternoon blind” respectively and coincide with the best time to use each blind for photography due to the angle of the sun. I have taken some very good photos from each blind of many species other than Tree and Barn Swallow including; Catbird, Yellow Warbler, Purple Martin, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Great Crested Flycatcher, Spotted Sandpiper, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Great Egret, Little Blue Heron, Glossy Ibis, Green

Heron, Wood Duck, Gray Fox, White-tailed Deer, Muskrat, and Painted Turtle. There are some years the Green Heron photography may be the best you will find anywhere in Massachusetts. So much so I've seen photos over the years from other photographers some I know and others I do not and if they have a photo of a Green Heron I can sometimes tell if it was photographed at DWWS.

So what makes these observation blinds such a good location for photographing birds and other wildlife. It goes back over 20+ years now and my involvement with Mass Audubon and the Sanctuary Director for Mass Audubon South Shore at the time David Clapp. I had been teaching some of my first bird photography workshops for Mass Audubon and had become friends with David as well as the property manager and caretaker for DWWS. I asked if I could place some perches in front of each blind so birds in the area would have a place to land and photographers in turn might have a chance to get some photos. Plus any of the bird watchers and public would also have a better chance for some good views. I was given permission to do this each year under the direction of the care taker for a few years then the property manager every year since. This progressed over the years and I along with some other photographer friends will do a spring clean up in front of each blind and once or twice in the late spring and early summer. I try to keep the front of the blinds maintained for good viewing and photography. For the first spring clean



up, which is usually done in late April, there is some amount of trash that has to be cleaned up along with general maintenance. Note there is no baiting with bird seed or any other food; this is simply placing perches in front of the blind at what we have decided are the best location for photography. In addition we try to replace some of the perches every year, so you are not getting the same photos in consecutive years.

I have spent many hours over the years sitting in one of the blinds and have taken some of what I believe are my best photos of certain species. However, keep in mind we live in Massachusetts, so there are plenty of days you may not take any photos. My motto is “some days you get ‘em, most days you don’t”. But on those days at DWWS when you get a great shot it reminds you why we like to spend time in the natural world observing and photographing wildlife. So I look forward to spending time in the blinds this spring and summer with other photographers in hope of getting that next great photo. Remember to help protect wildlife and wild places.

Shawn Carey

Migration Productions

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www.MigrationProductions.com



Shawn Carey is the cofounder of Migration Productions and has been teaching bird and wildlife photo workshops for Massachusetts Audubon for over 20 years. Shawn's photos have been published in the Boston Globe, New York Times, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary

Magazine, American Birding Assoc, Science magazine, Mass Audubon, National Audubon and many more. He is a member of Massachusetts Audubon Society (Advisory Council), Mass Audubon Museum of American Bird Art, Canton, MA (Advisory Board), Eastern Mass Hawk Watch (past President and current Vice President), Nuttall Ornithological Club (past Advisory Board), Bird Observer Magazine (Board of Directors), Brookline Bird Club (past Board of Directors), South Shore Bird Club, South Shore Camera Club, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Trustees of Reservations, The Purple Martin Conservation Association, the Sierra Club and The American Birding Association..



© Shawn P. Carey



© Shawn P. Carey

A Good Day at Plum Island

By Ken Jordan

I was driving through Plum Island and saw a crowd of about 25 people looking at a snowy Owl sitting on top of a cedar tree. I stopped, took out my tripod and camera and waited for it to do something. It didn't take long before it took off right over my head and out to the marsh. I thought it was great to get the shot of it flying and I thought it was over. But it came back and landed about 150 feet down the road on another cedar tree. We walked over, talked about how it was watching another owl in the marsh and maybe protecting its territory and warning the other owl. So I waited again for about ten minutes to see if I could get him flying again, and I did. He flew out to the marsh again and I thought it was going after the other owl but it wasn't. It saw a vole that was about 600 feet out and grabbed it,

It was amazing that it could see it that far away. I thought it was great to get pictures of it flying again and thought it was over. But it was still flying over the marsh with the vole and it started to turn around and headed back toward us. I couldn't believe it, it landed in the same tree with the vole in its talons. It was trying to regain its balance. Once it was stable it took the vole with its beak and it looked like it was

showing it off to everyone and making sure that we all got the picture. It lifted its head with the vole in the beak and down it went. It was like when the show was over and everyone was saying "Wow did you see that?". And it was like they were going to applaud. After that it



just sat on the tree. We couldn't ask for any more, so most of us left. It was so interesting to see the whole process from start to finish with no interruption, and to hear the people and to see how amazed they were of what they just saw.

Introducing New Members

Bernie Creswick

Bernie learned of CAMNATS from his friend Rick Alvernaz, a fellow member of Hockomock Digital Camera Club in East Bridgewater. Rick suggested that he also join CAMNATS because of his interests in bird and nature photography, and his science background.

Bernie has been a member of Hockomock Digital Camera Club for 5 years.

After retiring from a 33 year career in the biotech industry as a cell culture and process development engineer, Bernie has been spending much of his free time learning about photography in general and bird photography specifically.

Bernie became interested in birds because of his mother, and family trips to Florida as a kid. As he grew up into a full-fledged (pun intended) science geek, his interest in birds expanded into all things nature. Somewhere along the way, he started taking pictures. Sometimes with the family Polaroid to pester his older sisters, later with a 35mm Kowa while on trips with the family. He was also the photographer for the high school yearbook.

Unfortunately, life (college, career, family) got in the way. His old 35mm Minolta sat in the closet for many years, supplanted by a point-and-shoot for convenience. Eventually, an early 3mP Olympus Ultrazoom got Bernie into the digital world, and as a result of the more or less instant feedback, quality improved. Also, the fun factor increased since the cost of each photo was no longer a concern. Vacations resulted in decent travel photos, family photos looked ok. A colleague suggested classes, but he came across the Hockomock Digital Photographers first. Since joining in late 2013, Bernie has learned so many things, little tips (proper cropping), and major changes (shooting RAW instead of jpg). He has learned how to look at a photo critically, and can now see details in pictures that would have been missed before.

He has received several honorable mentions and one first place ribbon in the New England Camera



Club interclub print competitions, and honorable mentions from Photographic Society of America and Ocean State Nature Awards. Bernie's images have also been featured in calendars produced by the Taunton River Watershed Alliance for the last 5 years, including the cover for the



2017 calendar. He has received a first and two second place awards from the Taunton Art Association, and has been published in *Birds and Blooms Extra* magazine.

Bernie's photo of a ruby-throated hummingbird was the winner of the 2018 Mass Audubon Photo Contest.

Bernie has been married for 33 years, has one grown daughter, and lives in Raynham.

As a new member to CAMNATS, Bernie is grateful for the help, knowledge, inspiration and experience of the club members, and looks forward to getting to know everyone better.

Eric Smith



Eric has been a hiker and lover of nature since he was very young, spending lots of time on the conservation land right out his back door. While he did some photography when younger, he started to take it seriously when DSLRs got good. This grew into a passion for telling stories of his trips into the wilds of New England through pictures, showing people the places he'd gone and animals he'd seen. Now he teaches for Mass Audubon, gives presentations at camera and birding clubs around the state along with running a photo club. He's been published in both local and national magazines and has had several gallery shows across the state.

Editor's Note:

We wish to extend a warm welcome to Doris and Tony Monteiro, who also joined CamNats as of the last meeting.

If there is any error or omission, please accept our apologies and be sure to let us know.

Important:

This newsletter needs your active support for it to exist in a meaningful manner. Please provide your feedback, ideas, and articles. Thank you.

Cynthia Rand



Cynthia is an LICSW who is passionate about bird and wildlife photography. Currently she resides in Jefferson, Massachusetts. Cynthia demonstrates a proficiency in Nature Photography, shown by the number of blue ribbons she has won in the nature category at The Camera Club of Central New England.

On most days Cynthia spends hours in the field striving to continuously improve her skills in her chosen specialty of Nature Photography. She is known to push herself and accept nothing short of excellence in the images she produces.

Cynthia is always willing to share her knowledge. She is the Trip Chairman at her camera club and brings interested members to areas where they can view and take photos of wildlife. Cynthia is also on the Executive Board of her club, ensuring that club resources and talents are used wisely.

Another way Cynthia shares her knowledge is by giving Presentations of her photography to clubs and organizations. She has recently spoken and presented her work at The Parker River National Wildlife Refuge in Newburyport, MA. Along with her presentation there, Cynthia had her work on display at the Refuge and a number of other galleries over the last few years.

Come Join us July 12, 13, 14, 2019 for the 74th Annual NECCC Photography Conference

- Register early to get your Photo Walk, Pre-Conference Workshop, dorm, etc.
- **LOTS to do – more than just PowerPoints, much to Shoot & Learn**
- Over 90 Teaching Programs to choose from. Top USA Speakers (most new to the NECCC conference)
 - 13 pre-conference workshops!
 - 14 hands-on workshops (during the conference)
 - 13 photo walks
- Interact with Other Photographers
- Trade Show-Vendor Demos
- Camera/Lens Loaning
- Participate in Hands-on Workshops
- Photograph Models (Female and Character)
- Photo-Ops Galore: Photograph Animals, Flowers, Food, Still Life, Glass, Props, etc.
- Image Reviews
- Print and Digital Competitions
- Register online visit www.neccc.org
- Group registrants should *also* register online to ensure that they get their choice of housing, Pre-Conference Workshop, Photo Shoots, Photo Walks, etc.



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Photo by ©Matt Colleen, created at a 2018 NECCC workshop



Photograph by ©Tom Cuchara Taken at the 2018 conference

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CREATIVITY

- Mark Battista (CT)**
Composition with a Painterly Approach
How to Create Still Life Images with Impact
- Anne Belmont (IL)** (Sponsored by Lensbaby)
Creative Flower Photography: Unleashing the Creative Spirit through the Magic of Lensbaby
Capturing Stunning Images of...Most Beloved Flowers Year-Round
- Mark Hilliard (SC)**
Infrared Photography
- Padma Ingva (NJ)**
Floral Photography with Passion and "joie de vivre"
- Geri Jones (NY)**
Creating Still Life & Food Photographs with Pizzazz
- Jerry and Lori Keefer (PA)**
Light Painting: Angles & Lights & Cars. Oh My!
- Lewis Kemper (CA)**
Expanding Your Creativity with Time & Motion Techniques
- Jamie Konarski Davidson (NC)**
Creative Expression: Interpretive Techniques in Camera
- Jürgen Lobert (MA)** (Sponsored by NESQE)
Light Painting and Drawing at Night
Daytime Long Exposure Photography
- Sarah Musumeci MNEC (MA)**
Pictures to Paintings (Landscapes)
You Can Paint! Demo
- Frank Smith (PA)**
Creative Elements of Architecture: Out with the Rule Book
- Shiv Verma APSA, MNEC (MA)**
Timelapse Imagery

GENERAL INTEREST

- Suzette Allen & Jon Yoshinaga (CA)** (Sponsored by Panasonic/Lumix)
Multimedia for Storytelling: Hybrid Imaging Made Easy!
- William Barnett APSA, MNEC (CT)**
Selecting & Improving Images for Competition
- Katrin Eismann (NY)** (Sponsored by Sony)
Camera to Sharing without a Computer
- Mark Hilliard (SC)**
Art of Black/White Digital/Film Photography & Travel
- Karen Hutton (NV)** (Sponsored by Fujifilm)
Story, Art and the Power of Awe: Creating Signature Images from Truth and Soul
- Padma Ingva (NJ)**
Architectural Photography: Panoramas, Vectoramas in HDR
- Lori Keefer (PA)**
How to Brand Yourself to Sell Photos & Entice Clients
- Michael Koran (MD)**
Exploring Street Photography
- Jim Montanus (NY)** (Sponsored by Nikon)
The Incredible Life of Legendary Kodak Photographer Neil Montanus
- Jenn Sherry (MA)** (Sponsored by Delia's)
Memory Cards, SSD, Backing up, & Sensor Cleaning
- Frank Smith (PA)**
Light Perfected (Travel Photography)
- David Tobl (ME)** (Sponsored by DataColor)
Color Management for Fine Art Printing
- Shiv Verma APSA, MNEC (MA)**
Video for Photographers and Videographers

NATURE

- David Akoubian (CA)** (Sponsored by Tamron)
Create your own Photography Oasis
Nature: Capturing the Wild
Nature: Creating Successful Landscape Images
- Peter Baumgarten (Ontario)** (Sponsored by Olympus)
Astrophotography: Photographing the Beauty of the Night Sky
Photographing the Great Outdoors. An Exploration of Nature Photography
- Kurt Budiger (VT)**
Go with the Flow - Create Dynamic Images of Moving Water
- Steve Gettle (MI)** (Sponsored by Cognia)
A New World Opens - Getting Started in Macro
Moving in Closer - Advanced Macro Photography
- Adam Jones (NY)** (Sponsored by Canon)
Getting the Most out of your Wildlife and Nature Photos
- Jürgen Lobert (MA)** (Sponsored by NESQE)
Astro-Landscape Photography
- Chris Murray (NY)** (Sponsored by ADKPI)
The Subjective Landscape

DIGITAL

- Suzette Allen & Jon Yoshinaga (CA)** (Sponsored by Panasonic/Lumix)
Make the Magic Composites with Complexity & Creativity
- Sean Bagshaw (OR)**
Developing for Extended Dynamic Range
Photoshop: Developing for Impact
- Rad Drew (IN)**
Creating Painterly & Vintage Images in Topaz Studio
- Katrin Eismann (NY)** (Sponsored by Sony)
Partners for Life: Photoshop & Lightroom
Professional Masking & Compositing
- Adam Jones (NY)** (Sponsored by Canon)
Photoshop fun: Workflow & Composites in Photoshop
- Geri Jones (NY)**
Artistry Beyond the Lens
- Lewis Kemper (CA)**
Into the Eye of the Sun: Creating Natural Looking HDR Images
- iPhone/SMARTphone/Mobile phone**
- Rad Drew (IN)**
Creative Editing on your iPhone
SnapSeed Tips and Tricks
- Michael Koran (MD)**
Fun with Mobile Phone Photography
Mobile Phone Editing for Creative Expression

PORTRAIT

- Marc Farb ANEC (NY)** (Sponsored by Sigma)
Portraits (Characters)
- Jim Montanus (NY)** (Sponsored by Nikon)
Light This: Learn Studio Lighting and Outdoor Lighting
- Ed Pedit (MA)**
Lighting and Posing for Family Portraits