

# Shutterbugs of

# Volo Bog

# November 2019



**President**

**Michael Schmitt**

**Secretary**

Joe Norton

**Prints**

Jenifer kalter

**DPI/NL Editor**

Michael Schmitt

Eileen Klehr

**Membership**

Ellen Dallas

**VP Programs**

**Judge Procurer**

Gary Edwards

**Treasurer**

**Webmaster**

Wayne McGhie



*Wild Turkeys - Carl Stineman*

November  
snacks by  
Linda Willis

The Shutterbugs Camera Club meetings are held at 7 p.m. in the Visitor Center of the Volo Bog State Nature Area the 3rd Wednesday of every month, except in December. Everyone is invited to attend. Membership is \$25 per year<sup>4</sup>/single, \$30 per year/ couple.28478

<http://Brdnr.state.il.us/Lands/landmgt/parks/R2/VOLOBOG.HTM>  
[shutterbugsofvolobog.com](http://shutterbugsofvolobog.com) W Brandenburg Road815-344-1294



Fall Color – Linda Willis



Aspens with fall color –Wayne McGhie



The Fallen – Wayne McGhie



Snow coming before the leaves finished turning – Carl Stineman



The Volo Bog boardwalk in fall – Linda Willis



Snowy Cattail – Carl Stineman



Snowy Oak Leaves

Carl Stineman



Snow Fall – Eileen Klehr



Fallen leaves - Michael Schmitt



Snow in Fall – Michael Schmitt

## **October Minutes**

**SBOVB Meeting of 16 October 2019**

<https://shutterbugsofvolobog.com/>

### **Minutes**

**Secretary:** Joe Norton ([joenorton@joenorton.com](mailto:joenorton@joenorton.com) 630-715-1094)

Open 7:05pm at Volo Bog

Closed 8:30pm at Volo Bog

Michael Schmitt opened the meeting and closed the meeting.

16 People Present

Tom Wagner – Guest

Mark(?) Schmitt - Guest

**Next Meeting: Wednesday 20 November 2019, 7pm to 9pm**



We will be hosting our Competition #2. Everyone is encouraged to prepare to participate in our second 2019 nature photo competition. Members may submit digitally projected images or prints.

**There will be no meeting in December.**

**Stacy - Volo Bog Photo Contest** – Volo bog State Natural Area 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Photography Contest

<https://www.friendsofvolobog.org/copy-of-2018-2019-photo-contest>

2019-2020 Photo Contest: The pictures are up! Twenty-one (21) photographers submitted pictures this year. Be sure to visit the web site for a quick peak at the photographs submitted and be sure to drop by and vote for your favorites. Bring family and friends!

**Membership (Ellen Dallas)** – update.

**Web Site (Wayne McGhie)** – update. Everyone is encouraged to submit photographs for the gallery area. Thanks and congratulations to Wayne for the new web site were expressed.

**Judges and Speakers (Garry Edwards)** - update

**News Letter (Eileen Klehr)** – All members are requested for forward any “fall” or “autumn” wildlife pictures for use and display in our newsletter. Photographs can be from camera or from your phone camera. Please forward any photographs you may wish to submit for use in our next newsletter directly to Eileen at [ekksunny@aol.com](mailto:ekksunny@aol.com).

**October Photography Competition #1: Print and DPI.**

Judges from Lake County Camera Club

- Jim Ross
- Egon Schein
- Tony Roma

Print Competition			
Photograph	Photographer	Score	Honors
Tree Swallows	Michael Schmitt	24	BOS
Redish Egert	Michael Schmitt	24	HM
Contmplation Time	Gary Edwards	22	
I am Smiling	Gary Edwards	21	
This is my best side	Gary Edwards	21	
Oriole	Michael Schmitt	21	
DPI Competition			
Photograph	Photographer	Score	Honors
Osprey	Michael Schmitt	26	BOS
Coyote Howl	Joe Norton	24	AW
Leopard Sees You	Joe Norton	24	HM
Searching for Sustance	Michael Schmitt	24	HM
Sandhill Crane Flight	Joe Norton	24	HM
The Protector	Gary Edwards	23	HM
Polly Road Deer	Michael Schmitt	23	HM
Take Off	Bob Marx	23	HM
Painted Lady on Blazing Star	Carl Stineman	22	
Fearful Curiosity	Gary Edwards	22	
Sandhill Cranes in Step	Carl Stineman	22	
The Great Escape	Gary Edwards	21	
Balancing Act	Wayne McGhee	21	
Winterberry Holly	Wayne McGhee	21	
Prarie Smoke	Carl Stineman	21	
The Cold Shoulder	Gary Edwards	21	
Wispy Sunset	Wayne McGhee	21	
Where are You	Bob Marx	20	
Wold Bergamot - (Bee Balm)	Carl Stineman	20	
New Born	Bob Marx	20	
Bobcat Kittens Say What	Joe Norton	19	
Harrier	Bob Marx	18	
Life is Good	Michael Schmitt	18	

talk.

Vic is the founder of the all-volunteer Illinois Beach State Park Hawk Watch which has conducted nineteen complete seasons of full time hawk migration monitoring since the eyar 2000. In 2013, he and a few others conducted several spot counts at a new hawkwatch site at the Fort Sheriddan Forest Persserve on the shore of Lake Michigan in Highland Park, IL. The Fort Sheridan Hawkwatch has now completed five .

## Presentation:

## Raptor Photography by Vic Berardi

Vic Berardi shared with us his considerable experience and expertise in photographing raptors in the “wild” with us via his outstanding slide presentation and seasons of hawk watching and is rapidly becoming a respected hawkwatch and is contributing valuable data to the study and flow of raptors migrating along the western shore of Lake Michigan.



He began his fascination with photography as an “analog film” photographer in his late teens with a primary focus in street photography (while taking courses at Columbia College). He migrated to digital photography in 2006 with his first digital camera, a Cannon Rebel XT (8.2Mpixel), with a 400mm lens. He used this camera photographing hawks while hawk watching for use in Raptor ID presentations. In 2016 he was “still on the hill” at Brockway Mountain, Michigan counting raptors and taking pictures. You can find some of his photos at the Brockway Mountain Hawk Watch web site galleries at <http://www.thekbrg.org/gallery/>.

He shared with us his top things to consider for Raptor Photography:

1. Technique
2. Opportunity
3. Patience
4. Ethics

Technique included a discussion of the benefits of various sensor sizes, selection of lenses, the need for support and concealment, settings and exposure, as well as some examples of his post processing of his raw files.

His concealment examples were varied and enlightening and he highlighted his use of a Ghillie Suit and that Raptor Photography odds of success increases if the Raptor does not know you are there.



As for preparation guidelines he included:

- Shutter speed of 1/1000
  - F8 to F11 Aperture
  - Handheld Shooting
  - Burst Rate of 6 or more
  - Manual set up Sunny F16 Rule
- Raw processing, cropping and resize

Vic spent a nice amount of time sharing and discussing his perspectives on full manual set up of his camera for Raptor Photography and the Sunny F16 Rule for correct or best opportunity for correct exposure.








Some of his other words of wisdom and experience for us included:

- ✓ #1 Important Element is to photograph for “relaxed looks” in our shooting and compositions.
- ✓ #2 Important Element is to seek different perspectives of birds in flights or resting / roosting.
- ✓ Always be prepared and ready. Practice shooting handheld.

*A Handy Pocket Guide to*

# THE SUNNY F/16 RULE

With a shutter speed corresponding to 1/ISO  
(for instance, 1/100th at ISO 100)  
use the appropriate aperture as follows:

						
<i>On Snow or Sand</i>	<i>Normal Sun</i>	<i>Lightly Cloudy</i>	<i>Cloudy</i>	<i>Overcast</i>	<i>Sunset/ Shade</i>	<i>Dusk</i>
<i>f/22</i>	<i>f/16</i>	<i>f/11</i>	<i>f/8</i>	<i>f/5.6</i>	<i>f/4</i>	<i>f/2.8</i>

- ✓ Be hidden from Raptor sight as much as possible.
- ✓ Your care makes a great shooting blind. Shoot thru your “open” car window or from behind your car or truck.
- ✓ Learn the behaviors of your Raptors.
- ✓ Expect hours of idle time just sitting around waiting or driving around rural roads and farm fields. Be patient.
- ✓ Expected the unexpected. Sometimes Raptors will surprise you with their behavior.
- ✓ Create opportunities for great Raptor photography for yourself. Go to them.
- ✓ Great places to look for Raptors:
  - Local forest preserves
  - Open fields with trees nearby
  - Utility poles and fences along roads
  - Borders of wildlife areas
  - Newly developing industrial parks
  - Larger rivers with dams for Bald Eagles
- ✓ Ethical Photographer Behavior
  - Do not stress Raptors or any other wildlife. If a resting, sitting or roosting Raptor flies away from you, do not chase it. This will only stress the Raptor. Leave the bird alone, and when it is comfortable with your presence it will let you know. Or go find another Raptor to photograph.
  - **DO NOT BAIT** wildlife.

Overall, Vic’s presentation and experience which he shared with us was outstanding!



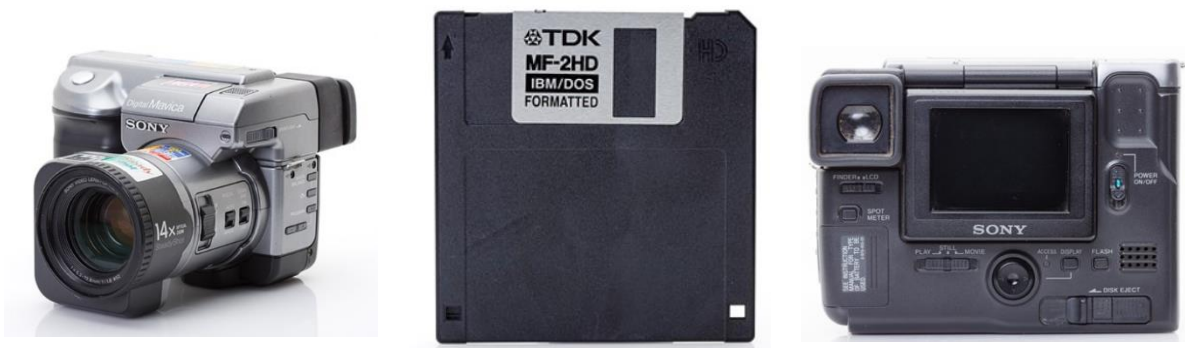
This month our Focus is on Joe Norton -

Joe Norton for SBOVB



As a child growing up I was always drawn to photographs. Especially the photo stories in Life Magazine and National Geographic. My only exposure to photography was the typical instamatic film cameras for taking family “snap-shots”. During my military service in the 70’s and in my early career in defense and aerospace with the Grumman Corporation, I was introduced to a number of “sensor” technologies and platforms, one of which was an early generation of CCD sensors used to detect heat signatures. This technology was later sold and adapted by Sony as part of their development of early CCD sensors used in early digital cameras.

My attraction to photography was renewed when Sony brought to market “affordable” retail digital cameras in the 1990’s. In 1998 I purchased a Sony Mavica MVC-FD91. It had an optically stabilized x14 Leica attached zoom lens, auto and manual focus, white balance control, full manual controls (the slowest shutter speed is 1/60 sec), a flip screen and a built-in flash. Its sensor resolution was .8Mpixels (1024x768 image) and depending on settings, you could fit anywhere from 6-13 jpeg images on one 2.5 inch floppy disk. That is correct, the recording medium was a floppy disk. You can see the floppy disk drive built into the camera in the pictures below. With full SLR controls and the 14x lens which was equal to a 37 to 518mm zoom on a 35mm full-frame camera and Sony’s then generation of lens stabilization, this camera was technical WOW!





This became my go to camera for family and other events. But over time I realized that my results were not better than snap shots. I self-taught myself all of the manual controls and could get a good exposure, but my photographs lacked something. It was in 2009 that my wife, Debra, encouraged me to participate in a photography workshop in Chicago. This workshop completely changed my photography life. The instructor, a Sony Artisan Photographer, critiqued my street photography photos during this course saying “you have a good eye. You have the technical aspect of taking photographs with your camera working for you. Let me teach you a little bit about composition.” That night he spent 2 hours with me explaining composition and how to envision “making photographs” that “tell a story” before pushing the shutter button. From that night forward the way I view everything around me changed. I began taking a camera with me everywhere I go, on all of my business trips, even just walking around my neighborhood. Every day is now a photography practice day for me.

With all my business travels I have always enjoyed travel photography and street photography. Growing up in the middle of Manhattan in New York City, wildlife was something you watched on TV. So I naturally was drawn to wildlife photography with local wildlife here in Illinois. It has gotten so that when people ask me what I do for a living, I tell them that on a really good day I am a Photographer. The rest of the time I am a business executive working to fund my photography habit. 😊 These days I try to make a special effort to schedule a trek for wildlife several times a year. Sometime this is as low key as driving out to the Mississippi River, or as simple as visiting local fields and forest preserves’. Or it is something special like my trip this summer to Montana. I even visited Manhattan this spring to go back to my boyhood home to photograph NYC skylines and bridges.

I guess it is obvious that photography has become more than just a hobby for me.





Shutterbugs of Volo Bog are delighted to have Joe Norton as our new club Secretary

Cell Phone Photography – Utah – Noelle Klehr

