

The Wells Point Winters

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January started with a lot of warm and sunny weather, but that was because we were in California! By the end of the month, we were back in Rhode Island, where it was cold, with snow on the ground. Winter has really arrived in New England! In January, I was notified that my short documentary film "Shucking Tradition" was made an official selection for the [2025 Block Island Film Festival](#), which will run from May 28 to 30. A few images from that film are interspersed throughout this newsletter.



In late December and early January, I went through my annual ritual of deciding which gear to keep and which was time to get rid of. Because I insure my gear through a professional photographer's insurance policy, I do this annually, tending to get rid of gear I haven't used in the last few years. With a sizable box of gear in hand and the horrible fires in Los Angeles (and because of my ongoing relationship with the [LA Center for Photography](#)), I donated cameras, video, and audio gear to their gear drive. It is a small step to help photographers whose homes and photography businesses were destroyed in the fire. [The collection](#) runs until February 15, so I hope you will consider helping. If you have any leftover gear that could help somebody who is now starting over, I hope you will be in

touch with the [LA Center for Photography](#) and send the gear. Getting rid of old gear is therapeutic. It makes me decide what I really want and don't need, keeping me focused in a good way.



NEWS YOU CAN USE:

My friend [Temu](#) at [Open Sky Expeditions](#)—with whom I'll be leading photo journeys in [Morocco](#) and [India](#) in the coming year—is co-hosting a FREE Zoom presentation with tips and tricks ranging from basic to intermediate/advanced, including live editing of several images in Lightroom. This presentation will take place on February 6 and February 13, so take a look. While the presentation covers general photography tips that apply from smartphones to mirrorless and across the photographic spectrum, the more advanced tips will apply primarily to wildlife and cameras that allow full manual control. You can read more about the presentations—and sign up for one of the two dates/times—by [clicking here](#).



And more free info! If you are interested in learning more about making films with your smartphone, take a look at [Storytelling on Mobile Devices](#) from my favorite online community of filmmakers, The D-Word. The D-Word folks introduced the video writing. Filmmaker, professor, and festival director [Bart Weiss](#) is a tenured professor at the University of Texas at Arlington and the author of a book about Mobile storytelling. He led a moderated discussion and Q&A about the advantages of filming with iPhones and how to do it technically and aesthetically well.



WORKSHOP NEWS:

Cold weather reminds me why I am looking forward to the warm weather, the welcoming people, and the fascinating culture of my upcoming photography workshops in [Morocco](#), [South India](#), and [Sicily](#). Please consider joining me for one this year.



I hope you enjoyed my updates I welcome your feedback. If you know anyone

interested in getting these updates, please encourage them to [sign up for this newsletter](#).

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