

## 8 questions with 'Four Seasons' photographer

By Gwenn Friss

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John Tunney's capture Cape Cod in all of its seasonal glories.

*Browsing through photographer John Tunney's "Four Seasons of Cape Cod" is like strolling your favorite places on the peninsula. Tunney's attention to detail, especially light and how it affects colors, captures moments that define Cape Cod. While the book focuses on photos and short captions, we asked Tunney, in an email interview, to tell us more about himself and his work, some of which is posted at his website, [jtunney.com](http://jtunney.com). If you want to meet him in person, Tunney will be at the 17th annual Eastham Hands on the Arts Festival, which runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 18 and June 19 – rain or shine – on Windmill Green on Route 6 in Eastham.*



**Can you tell us a bit about yourself?** I've been involved with photography since I was about 14. I'm basically self-taught. I studied music theory and composition in college. Half of my first career was in journalism, working as a reporter and editor for local newspapers in New Jersey, and later as a technology writer for trade publications covering things like advanced materials and biotechnology. The other half was in public relations, where I was an executive at a PR firm. I've also done stints as a yoga teacher, guitar teacher and web designer. I also had an online yoga business.

My wife and I moved to the Cape in 2002. We currently live in Brewster. I started moving into photography full-time about eight years ago. I teach classes and workshops and lead photo tours, and sell my fine-art photography at art and craft shows in the Northeast and in galleries. I also do some commercial work. I'm past president of the Cape Cod Art Association (CCAA) and the CCAA Camera Club. I still serve on the CCAA board and am chairman of the Click! photography conference.

**What made you choose "Four Seasons of Cape Cod" as a theme?**

To me, photography is more about the feeling of a place or moment than it is about the literal content of a picture. A photograph of a lighthouse isn't necessarily about the lighthouse. It's about the effect that the lighthouse and all of the other elements in the image conjure up in the viewer.

**Do you remember the first photograph you ever took?**

The first "real" photograph I took was of a bunch of bananas hanging in the corner of a fruit seller's stall. I was 14 and knew nothing. A friend pointed out the bananas and everything just clicked. It was my first lesson in the art of seeing. I learned a lot from those bananas (smiling emoji).

**Do you have a favorite place to photograph on Cape Cod? Is that also your favorite place to hang out?**

I live in Brewster so I wander around the lower and outer Cape a lot. I love the dunes in Provincetown and anywhere there's water and light. Sandy Neck in Barnstable, Orleans...it's all great. The Cape is visually rich.

**Most of your photographs seem to have an expansiveness about them – and very few people in them. Do you shoot at certain times of day to get those wide-open vistas?**

It's surprisingly easy to find secluded spots, empty beaches and wide-open spaces. I'm not much of a morning person so I usually go out late afternoon into the evening and even into the night. However, I love sunrise, so I often drag myself out of bed in the early hours too.

**When was the last time someone took a photo of you?**

Ironically, I'm not wild about being photographed. I get very tense.

**Color is so rich and yet delicately graded in your photos: Do you ever shoot in black-and-white? Is it a different equation?**

I love light and color – pastel skies, back-lit dune grass, reflections dancing on water – but I've been doing a lot of black-and-white lately. It tells a different kind of story.

**Was there ever a photo you chose not to take? Why?**

Some moments are just better experienced than photographed.

