



## ◀CHIRPINGS▶

### NATURALISTS' CAMERA CLUB OF TOLEDO

OVER FIFTY YEARS  
OF MAKING THE PHOTOGRAPHER A BETTER NATURALIST  
AND THE NATURALIST A BETTER PHOTOGRAPHER

April, 2017

**DATE and TIME:** Sunday, April 9, 2:00 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Small classroom, National Center for Nature Photography at Secor Metropark.  
**HOST:** Bring a snack to share.  
**ASSIGNMENT:** Any photos depicting good composition or ones your wish to have critiqued.

**PROGRAM:** **Composing Pictures** by members of the NCCT.

We will have a general group discussion on the topic of *composing pictures* for our April meeting. Please bring any photos you feel depict good composition, either your own or from the web, or, any personal photos you would like to have critiqued or discussed by the club members. **Please note that this will be in the small classroom off the gallery at the NCNP, not the Secor Room.**

**NEXT MEETING:** **Program:** There will be no meeting in May in observance of Mother's Day.  
**Date and Time:** N/A  
**Location:** N/A  
**Host:** N/A  
**Assignment:** Enjoy time with your Mother. She deserves your love.

**Note:** We are tentatively planing a spring outing the week after our regular May meeting. Please see the next newsletter for details.

### PLANNING SESSION TO PRECEDE THE APRIL NCCT MEETING

Once again you are invited to join your fellow NCCT members as we make plans for the rest of 2017. We want (and need) your input as we brainstorm ideas for programs, activities, topics, field trips, etc., going forward into the coming year. This meeting will start at 1 p.m. in the classroom at the National Center for Nature Photography (one hour before our regular meeting) and we would love to see you there. Snacks will be available during this meeting, but feel free to bring your own lunch if that better suits your needs.

### 10 BASIC RULES FOR GOOD PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION

**1) Simplify the scene** ~ Try to work with the fewest number of picture elements as possible to get your photographic point across. Any more than this minimum number of "image building blocks" and your idea can quickly become muddled and confusing. As with many undertakings, keeping it simple is the wise way to go.

**2) Fill the frame** ~ Don't dilute your true photographic message by surrounding it with too much non-essential real estate. Move in if possible and, if not, create an image file that is large enough to withstand some serious cropping or use a longer focal length lens.

**3) Aspect ratio** ~ Remember to use both landscape and portrait modes in your shooting. They both have their own psychological effects on your image. Never forget that you can also crop to a square format if necessary.

**4) Avoid the middle** ~ It's very tempting, while taking pictures, to just center the subject and fire away. A good rule for hunting season, not so good for your photos. The Rule of Thirds can be a good place to start. This off-center placement can create dynamic, as opposed to static, balance, which is usually more visually pleasing.

**5) Leading lines** ~ Use this compositional element to help guide your viewers gaze to where you want it to go, namely, right to your main subject. If the viewer's eye is left to wander, it can become perplexed and the viewer can then become bored and move on before they discover what it is you wanted to convey in your image.

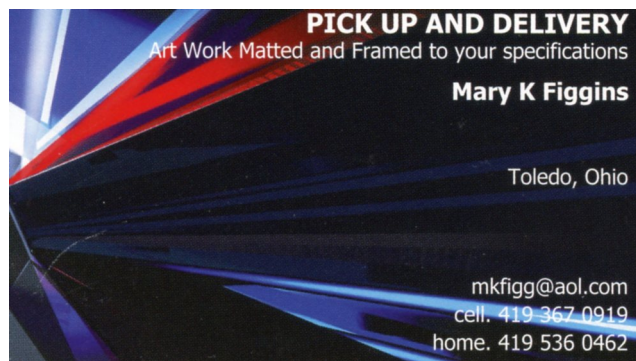
**6) Use diagonals** ~ Diagonal lines can add drama or excitement as a counterpoint to the stability and calm expressed by the more common horizontal and vertical lines found in the majority of photographs. Don't overlook them, but at the same time, don't over use them either. Incorporate them as that special spice in your photographic recipe from time to time. Try to leave your viewers wanting more with similar elements of variety.

**7) Leave space for movement** ~ If your photo depicts a moving subject (vehicle, flying animal, running athlete, etc.), leave room ahead of this apparent motion to make the image appear more balanced. If it appears that the subject is about to move rapidly out of the frame, this can create unease and tension in the viewer.

**8) Watch the background** ~ Remember to always check the background before you trip that shutter. A slight camera repositioning or using a larger aperture or a longer focal length lens can make the background less obtrusive in many cases, returning the primary point of interest to your main subject.

**9) Create with colors** ~ Don't overlook the fact that pure color is a compositional element as well. Colors that complement, colors that clash, colors that recede or advance, warm or cool colors, colors that accent or dominate, can all have a tremendous psychological effect on the ultimate composition of a photo.

**10) Dare to break the rules** ~ And, maybe saving the best rule for last – never be afraid to chuck all the conventional “wisdom” and follow your own path as to what stimulates you in a particular composition. After all, without experimentation, nothing new would ever be discovered. Follow your own eye and listen to your heart.



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Web Sites  
Check out our Web Site: <http://www.naturalistcameraclub.org/>  
E-mail: <mailto:naturalistcameraclub@gmail.com>  
National Center for Nature Photography: <http://www.naturephotocenter.com/>  
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