



# ◀CHIRPINGS▶

## NATURALISTS' CAMERA CLUB OF TOLEDO

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

June, 2017

**DATE and TIME:** Sunday, June 11, 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 nature you wish to share.

**PROGRAM:** **Miscellaneous Topics** by members of the NCCT.

NCCT member Don Godfrey will present some pictures from Rockefeller State Park Preserve and of the John D. Rockefeller estate from the southern Hudson Valley region of New York state. We would also like to invite you to bring in any pictures of trees burls\* you would like to have psychoanalyzed. Just kidding about that latter part, but we will play a game of "What do you see in the tree burls" – akin to that old summer favorite, "Faces in the Clouds." **Please note that this will be in the small classroom off the gallery at the NCNP, not the Secor Room.**

\*Tree Burl – A burl results from a tree undergoing some form of stress. It may be caused by an injury, virus, or fungus. Almost all burl wood is covered by bark, even if it is underground. The resulting manifestations can evoke a range of emotions – anything from horror to humor, and everything in between. Insect and certain types of mold infestations are the most common causes of this condition.

**NEXT MEETING:** **Program:** The Great Black Swamp by Angela Metcalf  
**Date and Time:** July 9, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Secor Room, National Center for Nature Photography at Secor Metropark.  
**Host:** Please bring a snack to share.  
**Assignment:** Any photos depicting nature you wish to share.

Toledo Metro Parks staff member, Angela Metcalf, will present a program on the Great Black Swamp, which was so instrumental in shaping much of the biosphere in this region of NW Ohio and SE Michigan.

## NEW NCCT WEBSITE NOW UP AND RUNNING

We are pleased to announce the launch of our brand new website, which is accessible now at:  
<http://www.naturalistcameraclub.weebly.com/>

This is a complete redesign from the ground up and we hope you find it visually appealing, functional and user friendly. Your comments and suggestions are welcomed and, if you are a dues paying member, are warmly invited to send content (nature articles, photography news, videos, personal photographs, etc.) for inclusion in the new site. Since this is in conjunction with a new web hosting service, there may be some early kinks to be worked out in the near future, but we hope to have everything running smoothly in the next coming weeks. We plan on this being just the first step in revitalizing our storied camera club in a determined effort to bring it back to its old glory of days gone by.

## 22 Landscape Photography Mistakes

(Note: This is Part 1 of a three-part series taken from an ebook by Anne McKinnell. At the end of Part 3, I'll tell you how you can get a free copy, which will examine these basic ideas in more detail).

Mistake #1 ~ Crooked Horizon. Most landscape photos will feature the horizon - the foundation of a landscape photo's overall perspective. If the line dividing land and sky is not perfectly straight across, the whole picture looks totally out of whack. You'll have a strike against you before even leaving the batter's box.

Mistake #2 ~ Everything in the Center. Beginning photographers have a tendency to put the horizon in the middle of the image, cutting the image exactly in half. In some situations this is ok, but for the most part, compositions are more interesting when the horizon is either in the top third or the bottom third and not in the middle of the image. Equal parts in a photograph usually equate to a boring, static composition.

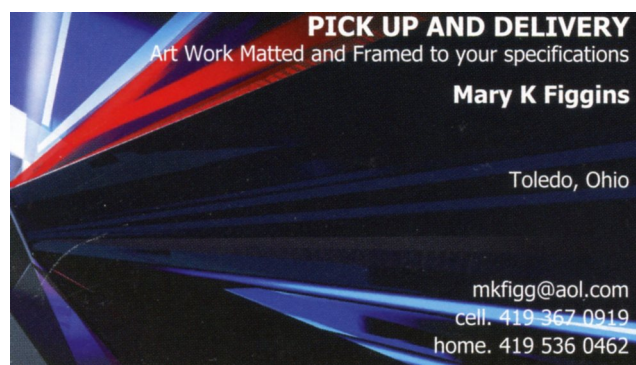
Mistake #3 ~ Eye Level Perspective. Most people photograph from an eye-level, standing position, which produces photos that look as you would expect, if you were there yourself. For a more interesting composition, try climbing on top of something, or getting close to the ground to achieve a different point of view.

Mistake #4 ~ No Focal Point. Skies and mountains are lovely, but generally, a picture can't be all background. Your photo needs a focal point to hold the viewer's interest. This can be anything - an interesting tree, a boat, a pier, a large rock - but no landscape photo is complete without a main subject.

Mistake #5 ~ Cluttered Backgrounds. The opposite also applies - be careful not to focus too much on the subject and forget about how the background comes together. Pay attention to what is behind your main subject. If it's too busy, your focal point can become lost.

Mistake #6 ~ Lack of Dimension. Even though a photo is a two-dimensional image, a strong landscape composition gives the illusion of depth. When you're setting up for shot, try to populate the frame in the foreground, the mid-ground, and background. Try to lead the viewer's eye in a sweep from front to back.

Mistake #7 ~ No Breathing Room. Pay attention to the edges of your frame and make sure that your subject is not being cut off. Leave a little breathing room around the edges to reduce tension. (To be continued)



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National Center for Nature Photography: <http://www.naturephotocenter.com/>

Toledo Naturalists' Association: <http://www.toledonaturalist.org/>