



◀CHIRPINGS▶

NATURALISTS' CAMERA CLUB OF TOLEDO

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

July, 2017

DATE and TIME: Sunday, July 9, 2:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Secor Room, National Center for Nature Photography at Secor Metropark.
HOST: Bring a snack to share.
ASSIGNMENT: Any photos depicting nature you wish to share.

PROGRAM: **The Great Black Swamp** by Angela Metcalf

Metroparks Program Production Specialist Angela Metcalf will present a program on the Great Black Swamp and its profound effect on the early development of this area. The natural features of northwest Ohio dictated the land's settlement. This region was one of the last frontiers for settlement well into the 1800's. Discover the ways settlers adapted the Great Black Swamp to create the communities we live in today.

NEXT MEETING: **Program:** Annual NCCT picnic.
Date and Time: Sunday, August 13, 1:00 p.m.
Location: Walnut Grove picnic shelter at Secor Metropark.
Host: Please bring a side dish to share.
Assignment: Any photos depicting nature you wish to share (PRINTS ONLY).

As in years past, the main ingredients for the picnic ~ burgers, hotdogs, buns, drinks, ice, charcoal, paper plates, plastic plasticware (especially forks), napkins, etc., will be provided. We just ask that all members bring a side dish of their choosing to augment the feast. We have never gone wanting in years past and everything is always delicious.

NEW ON THE NCCT WEBSITE

In case anyone missed it, we launched our newly redesigned website on June 1st and it can be found at:

<http://www.naturalistcameraclub.weebly.com/>

As a new feature of the newsletter, this space will be your monthly guide to what's new and exciting on the website. One of the pledges of reinvigorating the NCCT was to make the website a vital and vibrant welcoming portal to our club. To that end, we want to introduce new website content each and every month, including a new homepage photo by one of our club members. This month's honor goes to our club leader and all-around great guy Mr. Bob Miller. Check it out. Also new since our initial launch: A new bird song identification test on the Videos page, additional photos on Rich Irvin's album page, the totally new addition of Bob Miller's album page (which can be easily accessed by clicking on his homepage photo), and new additions on the Links and Schedule pages. So there you have it. Go and explore and let us know what you think. Tell us what you want to see more of as well as what you'd like to see less of. After all, this is YOUR website.

22 Landscape Photography Mistakes

(Note: This is Part 2 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 #8 ~ Empty Skies. Cloudless skies with nothing but horizon-to-horizon blue can, for many photographers, seem boring, flat, and “unexciting.” This situation can be easily remedied these days with the miracles found in post processing software, but, if that is not an option or a desire, sometimes creative cropping, camera repositioning, or even use of a polarizing filter can salvage some of these shots.

Mistake #9 ~ Bad Light. Strive to make difficult lighting situations work for you, not against you. In strong sunlight, try to use cross-lighting to bring out texture and detail, or use back lighting to dramatically light a plain subject. In overcast situations, work on close-ups to take advantage of the soft, even light.

Mistake #10 ~ Blown Out Highlights. Most nature photographers run into this problem when shooting white skies, brightly lit clouds, or snow-capped mountains. Try using your camera’s overexposure “blinkie” system to identify these areas or use a graduated ND filter to tone them down so you’ll have some data to work with later.

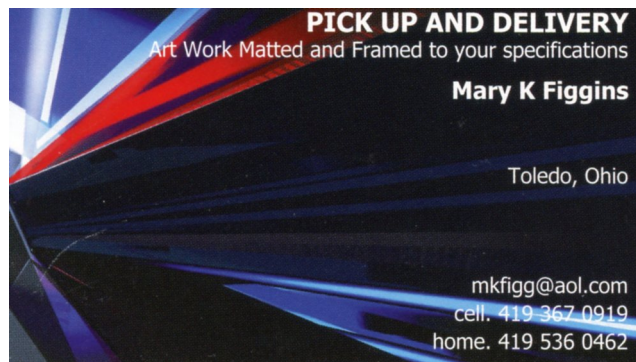
Mistake #11 ~ Shutter Speed Too Slow for Handheld Photography. This is the #1 cause of blurred photos. Increase your ISO so you can use a faster shutter speed to counter camera movement if you must handheld.

Mistake #12 ~ Not Using a Tripod. If the camera movement remedy in #11 will create too much noise or you purposely want some subject movement for artistic purposes (like moving water), then you must use a tripod.

Mistake #13 ~ Poor Camera Holding Technique. Make yourself as much like a monopod as possible. Feet slightly spread and staggered. Lens balanced in left hand. Elbows tight into sides and camera held firmly against your face. Some even practice shooting between breaths and heartbeats, like expert marksmen.

Mistake #14 ~ Aperture Too Wide. This can be tempting in situations of low light, but it can lead to issues of the depth of field being too shallow. You can usually compensate by adjusting the shutter speed or ISO.

Mistake #15 ~ Not Focusing in the Correct Place. Many photographers rely on their camera’s auto-area AF (auto focus) mode to set where the plane of focus will reside. This can be risky, especially with complex or “busy” subject matter. One way to counter this is to use a single-point AF area mode and place the AF sensor point over the part of the subject of your choosing and not leave it all up to the camera. (to be continued)



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