



◀CHIRPINGS▶

NATURALISTS' CAMERA CLUB OF TOLEDO

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

August, 2017

DATE and TIME: **Sunday, August 13, 1:00 p.m.**
LOCATION: Walnut Grove picnic shelter at Secor Metropark.
HOST: Bring a side dish to share.
ASSIGNMENT: Any photos depicting nature you wish to share (PRINTS ONLY).

PROGRAM: **Annual NCCT Picnic**

The NCCT is once again holding its annual picnic at the Walnut Grove picnic shelter. Food will be served somewhere between 1 and 2pm, but, if you want come a little earlier to witness the ceremonial lighting of the charcoal grill, you are welcome to do so. Hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, drinks, ice, paper plates, plastic eating utensils, napkins, etc., will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share with your NCCT friends.

NEXT MEETING: **Program:** Thru-Hiking the Appalachian Trail by Kevin Wietrzykowski.
Date and Time: Sunday, September 10, 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.

If you are into the out-of-doors and nature in general, then you will not want to miss Kevin Wietrzykowski's first-hand account of thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail in 2015. Covering the 2,200 mile trek across 14 states in one shot (AKA: thru-hiking) is no mean feat, to say the least. A very small percentage of hikers who set out on this 5.5 million-step march each year end up succeeding, and to do it in one's first attempt is ever more remarkable. Delivered with humor and in jaw-dropping detail, Kevin's story will leave you awestruck, enlightened and invigorated at the stamina and determination needed to pull a challenge like this off. This saga will make hiking the 16-mile Yellow trail at Oak Openings seem like a walk to your mailbox. You do not want to miss this.

NEW ON THE NCCT WEBSITE

This month's homepage photo was provided by Rich Irvin. This feature will change each month and all current NCCT members are invited to join in on the rotation by simple request. Just let Bob Miller know and you will be added to the lineup. Related to this topic, check out the new *Homepage Hall of Fame* feature (HP HOF in the pages tabs). This will be an archive of all past homepage photos so that they will be preserved for years to come. Also new are several photos added by NCCT member and club treasurer Don Godfrey to his album page. The Links page has more than doubled in content and there is a new video to watch on the videos page. On the Internet search engine scene, good news! We have now been picked up by Bing and Yahoo, and have our fingers crossed that the granddaddy of all search engines, Google, follows soon. Check out your new and improved NCCT website here:

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

22 Landscape Photography Mistakes

(Note: This is Part 3 of a three-part series taken from an ebook by Anne McKinnell. You can find this and other free ebooks at <http://annemckinnell.com/ebooks>.)

Mistake #16 ~ Not Using Auto-Focus. Technology has provided this nearly instantaneous and highly reliable method of focusing your camera. Learn its shortcomings, but be sure to take advantage of it.

Mistake #17 ~ Not Using Manual Focus. There is one time when you should override using auto-focus, namely, when your camera is on a tripod and you are shooting at a nearly wide open aperture. The shallow depth of field will make it almost mandatory that you set the focus yourself, and not rely on the camera's AF system to hit the precise plane of focus.

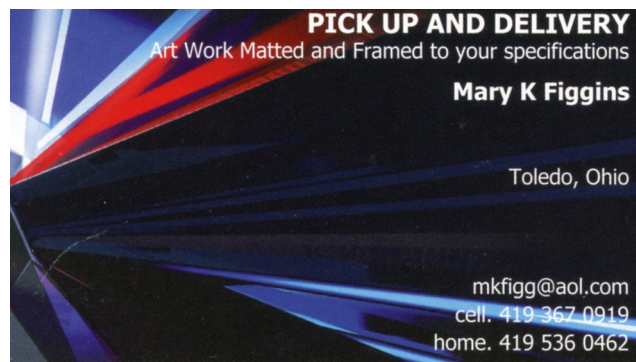
Mistake #18 ~ Using the Incorrect Focus Mode. Most modern cameras have 3 modes of auto-focus: Single shot (AF-S) for stationary subjects, continuous (AF-C) for subjects in motion, and automatic (AF-A) for those times when you don't know what your subject matter will be. Learn the differences and put them to good use.

Mistake #19 ~ Junk on or in Front of Your Lens. A big smear on the front of your lens, or even using a cheap plastic UV filter, can cause degradation of your image. Some photographers even forgo front protective filters all together, choosing to clean their lenses regularly in order to preserve lens acuteness.

Mistake #20 ~ Poor Lens Quality. Always buy the highest quality lenses you can afford. After all, the finest camera body and best accessories are all for naught if you have low-quality glass collecting all that light.

Mistake #21 ~ Not Processing Your Images. Virtually all images come out of today's cameras with less potential than is built into their metadata, especially if you shoot raw. You are the lab tech as well as the photographer in today's modern photography. Learn a post processing program and use it faithfully.

Mistake #22 ~ Not Evaluating Your Images. The best way to learn to improve your photography is to evaluate your images. Don't download them to your computer hard drive and then forget them. Use the steps in this article to critique each one. You will improve your photography as a result of your own critical judging.



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Web Sites

Treasurer, Don Godfrey
Rich Irvin, Webmaster
Mary Figgins, At Large Representative

Check out our Web Site: <http://www.naturalistcameraclub.weebly.com/>

E-mail: mailto:naturalistcameraclub@gmail.com

Webmaster: mailto:reya46@netzero.net

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

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