



## ◀CHIRPINGS▶

### NATURALISTS' CAMERA CLUB OF TOLEDO

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

September, 2017

**DATE and TIME:** Sunday, September 10, 2:00 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Secor Room, National Center for Nature Photography at Secor Metropark.  
**HOST:** Bring a snack to share.  
**ASSIGNMENT:** NOTE: We are suspending our print sharing session for this month only (see below).

**PROGRAM:** **Adventures from the Appalachian Trail** by Kevin Wietrzykowski

If you are a lover of the great 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 nearly 2,200 mile trek across 14 states in one shot (AKA: thru-hiking) is a lifelong, bucket list item for many avid hikers. 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 spellbinding 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. (NOTE: Because of the length of this program, our regular NCCT meeting – as well as our 1 pm leadership meeting, will be suspended for this month only.)

**NEXT MEETING:** **Program:** "From Camera to Print" Contest by Mary Figgins  
**Date and Time:** Sunday, October 8, 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.

Please bring your camera with an SD card and be prepared to go on a short scavenger hunt for your best photo at our October meeting. Mary Figgins has devised a contest where each member will have 15 minutes to go out into the park and grab 3 of their best shots. After returning to the Secor Room, each participant will be able to look at their photos on a larger monitor if they wish, select their best shot, and have it printed as a 4 x 6 print. Following that, Mary will provide materials for, and help with, mounting and matting our works of art to an 8x10 size. The grand finale will be a group judging contest for a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finisher with recognition prizes awarded. So don't forget your camera or you'll be left out of all the fun.

### NEW ON THE NCCT WEBSITE

This month's homepage photo was provided by NCCT member Frank Patz. Frank has also added a gallery album to his photographer's page called "Flora and Fauna from Near and Far." To be taken directly to his page, just click on his homepage photo. Club member Tim Godfrey has also started his own photographer's page, so check that out as well. Our new website <http://www.naturalistcameraclub.weebly.com/> will change each month and all current NCCT members are invited to send in their photos to be included in this new endeavor. Also, check out the new *Homepage Hall of Fame* (HP HOF) feature in the pages tabs. This will be an archive of all past homepage photos so that they will be preserved for years to come. Happy shooting!

## Top Equipment Purchase Tips for Landscape Photographers

Just as location, location, location are the three main rules in real estate, the three top rules in purchasing landscape photography equipment should be quality, quality, quality. This should start with a sturdy, adequately high (should come to at least nose level when full extended – so you don't have to stoop over all of the time), lightweight tripod. Carbon fiber is the way to go here. After miles and miles of hiking your arms and/or back will thank you. Also, make sure it is easy to operate and that you are fully versed on HOW to operate it. Practicing in the middle of a chilly, wind-swept bog might not be the best time to do that. Another good idea is to see how well you can operate it with gloves on, just in case that "chilly" becomes down right frigid (see inclement weather comments below). In that same vein, a well-made, water-resistant backpack is also a must. Find one that will be long enough to allow it to be strapped snugly around your waist/upper hips (so that part of your body shares some of the weight with your back) while also riding high enough on your upper shoulders so that your lower back doesn't bare most of the weight that a lower-riding backpack is going to cause. For this item's purchase it may be a good time to get off that computer and visit your favorite sporting goods/outdoor equipment store to try them on in person. Trying to judge backpack size and fit online can be risky, not to mention time consuming and costly if you have to continually return them to a far-away shipper somewhere. Next, buy the highest quality filters available, period. Don't be that photographer who buys the highest quality lenses on the market for their camera brand and then seeks to recoup some of that cost by buying cheap, no-name filters. All filters, be they UV, polarizer, graduated ND, or standard ND, will degrade the image quality somewhat, so at least give that 5-star lens a fighting chance to get the best image possible by going top-drawer on these accessory items. Finally, invest in good quality hiking and outdoor clothing. The best opportunity to capture great landscape photos is often in times when everyone else is harboring indoors. Namely, in cold, wet, miserable conditions where even the birds are in hiding. These are the times to have those high quality, water-proof hiking boots on your feet; that comfy, down-filled vest covered by a sturdy, wind-resistant, water-repelling nylon shell around your torso (and possibly also your legs) and those thick, woolen, knee-high hiking socks inside of those pricey boots. You can't capture great landscape photos if you are not comfortable and the best way to do that is to not skimp on these very necessary outdoor accessories as well.

**PICK UP AND DELIVERY**  
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National Center for Nature Photography: <http://www.naturephotocenter.com/>

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