



◀CHIRPINGS▶

NATURALISTS' CAMERA CLUB OF TOLEDO

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

May, 2019

Editor's Note: Due to the fact that the second Sunday in May is Mother's Day – the same day of the month as our NCCT meetings – it was determined by the leadership committee a few years back to suspend the May meeting for the foreseeable future. This is due to a consistently low turnout on this day, which is fully understandable, given the importance of mothers in our lives. So please, enjoy the day with your mother, or if you are one yourself, Happy Mother's Day to you and we will see you all in June.

NEXT MEETING: **Program:** TBD
 Date and Time: June 9, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.
 Location: Secor Room, Nat'l Center for Nature Photography at Secor Metropark.
 Host: Bring a snack to share.
 Assignment: Any nature photos you wish to share.

We are still in the process of fleshing out our calendar for 2019 and as of yet do not have a program lined up for our June meeting. If you have a program that you'd like to present, or know of someone who does, please let anyone on the leadership committee know and we'll get you – or them – on the schedule ASAP.

New NCCT Members

We would like to welcome new members Lee Meserve and his wife Marge to the NCCT. Lee and his wife currently reside in Bowling Green, OH and were born and raised in Maine and New Jersey, respectively. Lee is a retired professor from BGSU, having taught in several medical sciences fields for 44 years. Marge also studied in the medical field, as well as earning an M.A. in art at BGSU and was a regular exhibitor at the Black Swamp Arts festival for its first 25 years of its existence. Even with all of that going on, she was also the supervisor of the blood bank at Wood County Hospital for 30 years, from which she is now retired. Both are deeply involved in master gardening and naturalist volunteering programs in the BG area, so could be our new "go to" gurus for wildflower and local flora identification. When it comes to photography, both are "really, REALLY rank" and are looking forward to learning much about their new interest from involvement in the club.

NEW ON THE NCCT WEBSITE

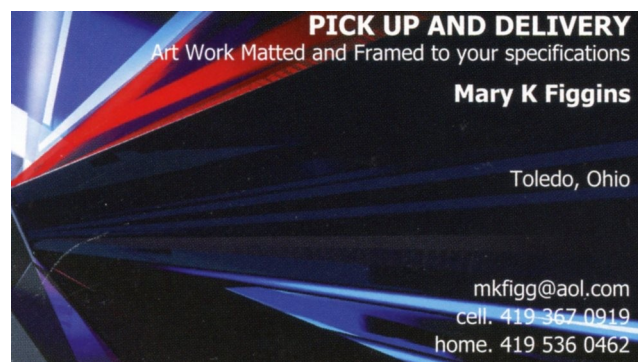
This month's home page photo was provided by our now "second newest" member, Mr. Jon Dunn. Jon is also one of our remote members, hailing from western Colorado and quite an accomplished photographer in his own right, as can be seen by his wonderful wildlife album. You can sample his work by simply clicking on the home page photo and you will be taken directly there. Just below the home page photo you'll find the large Newsletter button where you can now access the new May '19 newsletter. Also, check the Our Best Shots page for the April contributions. Photographers currently represented there include: Frank Patz, Jon Dunn, Bob Ellis, Don Godfrey, Rich Irvin, and our newest member, Lee Meserve. Don't suffer from the dreaded FOMO syndrome. Add your own photo today and join in on all the fun. There is never a time deadline for adding to a monthly OBS album page and this is not a contest, so fear of being judged need not be an issue. Everyone's a winner and we want to see your work, wherever you're from and no matter what your level of expertise.

Two Quick Reminders for Upcoming Events

Don't forget about two very important events starting very shortly in our area. First, Birding Week (May 3-12) at many locales around the area, but especially along the SW shores of Lake Erie and second, Blue Week (May 13-19), also in many areas of the Oak Openings region, including many Metroparks, nature preserves, dunes areas, wetlands areas, etc. Hope you can get out and enjoy at least some of these annual springtime events.

Lens Diffraction – The Sharpness Killer

Many lenses these days, especially for high-end DSLR cameras, can cost thousands of dollars each and many photographers, especially landscape photographers, run the risk of jeopardizing some of that high-priced quality by using these lenses in less than ideal ways. We're not talking about obvious abuse, like leaving them in the glove box of a hot car or storing them in a damp, musty basement. No, we are talking about not taking advantage of a lens' inherent "sweet spot," or optimum aperture, that are, by necessity, designed into each and every lens out there. Most things in our highly technological world these days are designed to fit a happy compromise between all the things they are tasked to do. Lenses are no different. For example, a 24-70mm, F/2.8 zoom lens may have an optimum aperture of F/5.6 or F/8.0, which means it performs best, especially in the area of sharpness, if you can maintain that setting. This does not mean you have to shoot every picture at these settings, as an aperture setting of a stop or two on either side of this ideal will probably still yield very acceptable results. The debilitating effects of diffraction usually comes into play at the smaller (narrower) aperture settings, namely F/16 and especially F/22. This is because of the physical behavior of light, whereby it tends to scatter as it passes by sharp edges, like the metal blades of a lens' aperture diaphragm. This scattering actually happens at any aperture setting, but because this scattered light makes up a far greater percentage of the amount of light getting through to the sensor with narrower apertures, it causes the image in these situations to appear softer, or less sharp, than settings that are more wide open. The best way to discover the sweet spot of your own lens is to either do a Google search of its brand and specs, which may provide you with a quick answer from already published literature, or you may want to run you own test at varying F-stops to see (under very high monitor magnification), just where your lens' sharpness begins to break down. So, if you want the sharpest images available to you, find out this "native F-stop," if you will, and use it whenever on-scene conditions allow for it.



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

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

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