



◀CHIRPINGS▶

NATURALISTS' CAMERA CLUB OF TOLEDO

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

March, 2020

- DATE and TIME:** Sunday, March 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 of winter you wish to share.
- PROGRAM:** **Birds of Prey** by Jon Zabowski.

Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Jon Zabowski will present a slide program on the resident raptors of our area, with special emphasis on owls and hawks. Jon also volunteers his time as a board member of the OORC (Oak Openings Region Conservancy), is on the board of the Wild Ones Oak Openings Region and is a Metroparks volunteer, where he is heavily involved with the raptor monitoring program. A fascination with raptors since childhood, Jon is duly suited for presenting a quality program on this subject. Please join us for this intriguing look into the lives of some of the larger birds that we often see in our area, soaring through the sky, perched on telephone wires or in very high trees.

- NEXT MEETING:** **Program:** **NOTICE:** There will be no meeting in April because of Easter Sunday.
Date and Time: N/A
Location: N/A
Host: N/A
Assignment: Enjoy Easter Sunday with your family.

NEW ON THE NCCT WEBSITE

This month's homepage photo was provided by NCCT member Lynn Godfrey. To visit Lynn's album page, simply click on the homepage photo. Also new this month are new submissions in the Our Best Shots/February album by Jon Dunn, Don Godfrey, Frank Patz and Rich Irvin. Also, check out new photos in Jon Dunn's wildlife album. Remember, we'd love to see your work on the website, especially on the Our Best Shots page. It can be from any source you care to choose, either new work or archived, it really doesn't matter. This is your nature photography showcase to use however you see fit, so get your gear out and let's see what you can bring back from the wilds of Northwest Ohio and Southern Michigan.

NCCT Dues are Now Due

NCCT dues for 2020 are now due and payable to our treasurer, Don Godfrey. You can pay in person at one of our monthly meetings, or mail them directly to 2535 Scottwood Ave, Toledo, OH, 43610. Ten dollars a year covers everyone – individuals or families. Please make checks payable to: Naturalists Camera Club of Toledo. Thank you for your continued support of the NCCT. *(My apologies for posting this so late. This should have gone up on January 1st. I'm blaming it on an aging mind. - The Editor)*

Photo Arts Club Contest and Exhibit Announced

The 34th annual Photo Arts Club of Toledo contest and exhibition has been announced for 2020. This year's exhibit will be held at the National Center of Nature Photography at Secor Metropark from April 3, 2020 through May 30, 2020. A free and public reception for the show will be held at the same location on Friday, April 3rd from 6-8p. The show can then be viewed on Saturdays and Sundays from Noon-6p through May 30th. There are 7 categories to enter your photos into this year, plus a special Oak Openings Region category sponsored by the Toledo Metroparks. Entries will be accepted from 2/10/20 – 3/21/20. For drop off locations and entry fees, please see this link. <https://www.photoartscluboftoledo.com/annual-contest-2020.html>

Evergreen Lake Area Trail Closings

In a continuing effort to clear old-growth pine tree stands in the Oak Openings Preserve region, the Metroparks has resumed the harvesting of these transplanted giants this winter and that will continue into the foreseeable future. The current area of focus is the Evergreen Lake area and it's important to note that trails and various sections of the conifer forest will be closed during this period so work can continue without risk to visitor's safety. The harvested lumber is being sold and the revenue generated from that sale will be invested back into the area for restoration and the return to natural habitat of most of these areas. As can be seen by the linked aerial map below, the southeastern section of the Oak Openings Preserve – around Evergreen Lake (seen in the lower right) – will be heavily impacted. Please plan accordingly if you're going to be in that area. https://metroparkstoledo.com/media/4567/trailclosuresandroutess_phase1b_public.pdf

60 Second Photo Tip: Applying the Reciprocal Rule

The Reciprocal Rule, as it relates to photography, is something that can be used to calculate the approximate minimum exposure time (i.e. shutter speed) that will reduce camera shake when shooting without a tripod or other stabilizing mount. It might sound a little complex but in practice, it's quite simple. Its usefulness is profound because it works no matter what your working focal length happens to be at the time. The rule states that the slowest shutter speed which can be relied upon while shooting handheld is equal to the fraction: $1/(\text{your current selected focal length})$. This means that with a 50mm focal length lens, the slowest shutter speed should not go longer than approximately 1/50th of a second. When shooting at 85mm, the shutter speed shouldn't run longer (slower) than 1/85th of a second. If there is no matching shutter speed to go with the selected focal length, then round to the next fastest shutter speed. For example, 1/85th should be rounded to the faster 1/100th of a second. The focal lengths mentioned above are based on a full-frame camera. If you use an APS-C camera (A.K.A. cropped camera), you will need to adjust those numbers to match. For example, a 50mm lens on a crop-sensor (which has a multiplying factor of 1.5) is effectively a 75mm lens, so your shutter speed needs to be at least 1/75th of a second. Again, this might have to be rounded to the faster 1/80th of a second, which is usually available on most DSLR cameras made in the last few decades. Like most other photographic principles, this is one that also comes with its exceptions. The most obvious is the unique steadiness (or unsteadiness) of the photographer's hands, as one example. Other good practices when shooting at reciprocal values would include: bracing your body, if possible, against a sturdy object before tripping the shutter (e.g. a lamp post, building, tree trunk, etc.). Failing such supports, bringing your elbows sharply into the trunk of your body and holding the camera firmly against your face before pressing the shutter release button can substitute somewhat. In either situation, inhaling and holding your breath before tripping the shutter can also serve to steady your body before making the exposure. This is a very handy technique to apply when caught without a stabilizing accessory, and is easily remember, given the formula above. Knowing a ballpark minimum shutter speed allows you to have a constant to which your aperture and ISO can then be variably adjusted to achieve the results you are looking for.

	Club Officers:	
Bob Miller, Leader	Assistant Leader (Open)	Don Godfrey, Treasurer
Rich Irvin, Editor	Program Chairman (Open)	Rich Irvin, Webmaster
Bob Ellis, At Large Representative	Frank Patz, At Large Representative	Mary Figgins, At Large Representative
Mike Bohland, At Large Representative	Charlene Patz, Host Coordinator	