



## ◀CHIRPINGS▶

### NATURALISTS' CAMERA CLUB OF TOLEDO

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

August, 2020

**DATE and TIME:** Sunday, August 9, (PICNIC CANCELED DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC)  
**LOCATION:** N/A.  
**HOST:** N/A.  
**ASSIGNMENT:** N/A.

**PROGRAM:** (COVID-19 Update Concerning the NCCT)

As mentioned in the last newsletter, our annual picnic, which is held at Secor Metropark in early August of each year, has been canceled for 2020. We'll come roaring back in 2021 with the best picnic ever in the history of the NCCT, we just know it. In the meantime, we will be breaking new ground by holding a Zoom meeting for our September get together. If you are new to the Zoom experience, see details and some possible helpful links below. This experiment could have the added benefit of allowing our remote members the chance to join us for one of our meetings, if they should desire to do so.

**NEXT MEETING:** **Program:** Zoom NCCT meeting.  
**Date and Time:** September 13, 2020 at 2 PM.  
**Location:** A digital device near you. (See more below)  
**Host:** N/A.  
**Assignment:** Give us a quick update on what you've been up to since March 8th.

### NEW ON THE NCCT WEBSITE

This month's home page photo was provided by NCCT member Marge Meserve. This is Marge's first appearance in our monthly "spotlight of honor," so a big congrats goes out to her. Also new this month are submissions to the Our Best Shots/July album by Jon Dunn, Charlene Patz, Frank Patz, and Rich Irvin. We'd love to see your work on the website, especially on the Our Best Shots page, so get your gear out and let's see what you can bring back from the wilds of Northwest Ohio and Southern Michigan. Archived images are totally accepted as well.

### Welcome to the world of Zoom

As teased above, we will be holding an all-too-brief Zoom video conference for our September meeting. What does that mean for you? Well, if you've used Zoom before, basically, nothing. You should be all set. You'll just need to look for an email in you inbox from club leader Bob Miller a few days before the meeting and use the link found there to join the meeting. We will start precisely at 2p, so you might want to log in a few minutes early to work out any possible kinks in the system before we get started. What if you've never used Zoom before? In this case you will need the following: An Internet-connectable device (computer, laptop, iPad, cellphone, etc.) that has both webcam and microphone capability, which is now built in on many devices. You will also need to download the Zoom app software on that device to use the platform (See link below). You'll also find a link to a beginner's Youtube video that can be helpful in navigating Zoom for the first time. If you've

been using computers and cellphones for any amount of time, this really is not that hard to pickup. Most navigation buttons are self-explanatory and it is a very user-friendly application. Our meeting, unfortunately, will be rather brief. The free version of Zoom only allows for meetings that last up to 40 minutes in length. If there is someone out there that has the paid version, we could springboard off of that and stay on for as long as we want, but that is probably not the case and certainly not expected. Our fearless leader has laid out the following agenda for the meeting:

- 1) Welcome and any newsy updates from Bob.
- 2) Some basic ground rules on how we will proceed during the meeting.
- 3) A 2-minute allotment for each member to “speak their mind” concerning anything NCCT related.
- 4) Use any remaining time to share pictures from the “Our Best Shots” page on the website.

If that sounds good, we hope to see you there. (BONUS) You don't have to wear pants. Just sayin'.

#### LINKS:

<https://www.zoom.us/download> (D/L Zoom to your device)

<https://youtu.be/QOUwumKCW7M> (Beginner's guide to using Zoom Youtube video – very good one!)

<https://youtu.be/ACNGhPKnmok> (How to look good on home video apps – not a requirement, just interesting)

(Note: You can find many, many other helpful tips just by Googling “Zoom” if the above don't appeal to you.)

## **17th Toledo Metropark Opens without much Fanfare**

In case you missed it, Toledo Metroparks opened its 17th Metropark in a rather low-key, matter-of-fact style recently, which slid under the radar of many Metropark lovers from around the area. The nearly 100-acre *Cannonball Prairie Metropark* has opened in the Oak Openings corridor, straddling the north fork of the Wabash Cannonball bike trail in Monclova Township. Located at 9725 Monclova Road (between Weckerly and Eber roads), the new facility includes parking, a man-made, seven-acre lake, a nearly ¾ mile hiking trail around that lake, a 1½ mile hiking trail on the south side of the bike trail which includes 3 rustic, wooded campsites for tent-only camping year round. The lake is currently only available for kayaking, but fishing will become an added attraction once a stocking program has had enough time to fully take root. Each campsite rents for \$20 per night, with a maximum of 2 tents per site and 8 people total. See the Metroparks website for reservations. Meanwhile, the newest Metropark, The Glass City Metropark, is under Phase 1 construction on the east end of the Martin Luther King bridge in East Toledo. Watch for updates here as well as the start of Phase 2, which will extend the park further northeastward toward the National Museum of the Great Lakes, as soon as additional funding can be secured. No completion date has been set for this park as of yet.

## **Metroparks Board Approves Park Levy**

The Toledo Metroparks board recently voted unanimously to put a new 2-mill levy on the November ballot. If approved, this would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home an additional \$70 a year in property taxes. Board President Scott Savage said some of the money would be used to leverage additional funding from grants and private investors and would provide an economic stimulus for the area. In a speech in support of the levy, former WTOL anchor Chrys Peterson pointed out that a recent report found that Metropark usage has increased a whopping 59 percent during the COVID-19 pandemic. “Parks aren't something nice to have. They're necessary. We needed them this year, and we always will,” she went on to say. Much of the revenue generated from the 10-year tax levy would go toward funding the new Glass City Metropark mentioned above.

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

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/>