



◀CHIRPINGS▶

NATURALISTS' CAMERA CLUB OF TOLEDO

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

December, 2020

DATE and TIME: Sunday, December 13, 2020 at 2 PM
LOCATION: A digital device near you.
HOST: Please enjoy a snack from your own cupboard.
ASSIGNMENT: Tell us (and show us?) what you've been up to for the last nine months.

PROGRAM: **Exploring a NCCT presence on Face Book** by NCCT members.

In light of our fearless leader, Mr. Bob Miller, stepping down from his post at the end of this month (after a yeoman's job for the last several years), we want to explore an avenue that may be a bit more "open structured" and "self-governing," if you will, in regards to a continued (and new) presence on the internet – that being through a Face Book Group Page. This could provide an open forum for members to interact outside of our regular monthly meetings, which have been non-existence since March 8th, as everyone is well aware of by now. Each member can then assume a virtual club "position" automatically – be it leader, program director, newsletter editor, webmaster, or just about anything else – by what they decide to self publish on the page. It would be hoped that more participation could take place without people needing to be labeled and pigeon-holed into positions they don't really want to be in with this kind of platform. There would still have to be rules and guidelines, of course, but for the most part each member would be free to post whatever they wanted to. If this sounds like something you think you could support and be involved in, please join us on Zoom at the above date and time to get your 2 cents in. We'd love to see you there and hear your ideas.

NEXT MEETING: **Program:** TBD
Date and Time: January 10th, 2021 at 2 PM.
Location: Probably Zoom
Host: N/A.
Assignment: TBD.

NEW ON THE NCCT WEBSITE

This month's home page photo was provided by NCCT member Don Godfrey. To visit Don's photographer's page, simply click on the home page photo. Also new this month are submissions to the Our Best Shots/November album by Jon Dunn, Don Godfrey, Frank Patz, Charlene Patz, and Rich Irvin. Enjoy!

NCCT Elections to Held at the December Meeting

In accordance with the NCCT bylaws, we are bound and beholden to conduct our yearly election for club leadership positions during the month of December. At this stage of pandemic lock down and lockout, these positions seem largely ceremonial at the moment, but they still need to be in place for when we do resume normal operations, sometime in 2021... (knock on wood). So please, if you feel you can serve in any of the club

positions or in any capacity what-so-ever to help the cause, please let your courage shine through and step up to fill one of these positions. The need has never been greater.

NCCT Dues to be suspended for calendar year 2021

Additionally, in Covid-related news, the leadership committee has decided to suspend membership dues for all of 2021, since we have basically zero expenses at the current time, or even looking into the unknown future, for that matter. So, if you know of someone who has been wanting to try out a naturalist-based camera club and learn some great things from some very nice people, this is the perfect time to invite them in.

Tips for Improving Your Flower Photography

Flowers, plants and natural landscapes are favorite subjects for photographers the world over. Whether you want to capture a single blossom in the woods, clusters of flowers in your garden, or that beautiful floral landscape on a trip, there are specific techniques you can employ to put your subject in the best light.

Use a Tripod ~ A tripod will enable you to focus on the element you want to highlight in your photographs. By investing in a sturdy tripod, you can adjust its position to get closer or farther away, higher or lower, as well as reduce camera shake. This is absolutely necessary for flower photography, since you are usually so close.

Watch the Weather ~ Clear blue skies and lack of cloud cover will not provide the optimal lighting for your shots. The harsh sunlight will result in too much contrast, therefore not displaying your flowers in the best light. Use reflectors to bounce soft light for the look that you're trying to achieve or shoot under bright overcast.

Remove Distractions ~ Chances are when you take a shot of a flower there are distracting elements present in the view. In a garden, perhaps there are weeds that appear in the foreground or background. In a landscape maybe there is a building that appears in the corner of the shot. Try changing your angle so those distractions aren't in your frame. Or, try a wider f-stop on your lens, say f/1.4 or f/1.8, if possible, to reduce the depth of field and blur out the foreground and background a bit more, making those unwanted elements less distracting.

Use Shade Effectively ~ It's no secret that diffused and soft lighting does wonders for so many types of photographs, and floral photography is no exception. Find a nice shaded area to shoot in and your images will be less harshly lit, the light will be glamour inducing, and you'll come home with amazing flower images. If you don't have flowers in your backyard in a nice shaded area, going out to the park or the forest should provide you with plenty of opportunities with all of the natural shade that can be found there.

Get Closer, Much Closer ~ Expansive landscapes of gorgeous flowers can be striking, but there's something intrinsically beautiful about a close up shot of a flower. The best part is that it can be done right in your own home or backyard. All you need is a good macro lens or some inexpensive close-up filters or extension tubes.

Try these tips out the next time you are out photographing flowers and look for the immediate improvements.

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| | 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 | |

Check out our Web Site: <http://www.naturalistcameraclub.weebly.com>
E-mail: <mailto:naturalistcameraclub@gmail.com>
National Center for Nature Photography: <http://www.naturephotocenter.com/>
Toledo Naturalists' Association: <http://www.toledonaturalist.org/>