



◀CHIRPINGS▶

NATURALISTS' CAMERA CLUB OF TOLEDO

Our Mission:
TO MAKE THE PHOTOGRAPHER A BETTER NATURALIST
AND THE NATURALIST A BETTER PHOTOGRAPHER

MAY, 2010

DATE and TIME: **Sunday, May 9, 2:00 P.M.**
LOCATION: Secor Room, National Center for Nature Photography at Secor Metropark
HOST: Open, feel free to bring munchies to share
ASSIGNMENT: Touch of Spring
PROGRAM: **"Insect and Flower Pollination Relationships" by Roger Sutherland**

Flowers, insects and other pollinators have had millions of years to develop amazing interrelationships to insure and improve each other's survival. This slide-lecture program gives the viewer a close-up and better understanding of the flower and the pollinator. Some attention is given to the evolution and history of flowers plus the importance of the flower to humans.

*Jim Hagan and Bill Blanton will host a short Photo Walk before this meeting at 1:15 P.M. (weather permitting) If you have photo questions or would like help with your camera, please join us for this informative photo walk.

NEXT MONTH: Sunday, June 13, 2:00 P.M. (*In the Gallery instead of the Secor Room*)
Host: Ewa Jankun
Assignment: Shore Enough
Program: "Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands" by Adele Shelton

New Exhibit Opening in the Gallery

The National Center for Nature Photography is pleased to announce a new exhibit opening Saturday May 8, 2010 - "Last Stand: America's Virgin Lands" is a traveling National Geographic Museum exhibition featuring unique images that document and capture the essence of America's endangered wilderness areas. The 57 works are drawn from a National Geographic book of the same name by award winning photographer Annie Griffiths Belt and noted author Barbara Kingsolver. The exhibit is free and open to the public during NCNP open hours and by other arrangement through Sunday August 29, 2010. See the info attached to this e-mail.

Members of the NCCT are invited to the exhibit opening reception on Friday May 7th from 5 to 8 p.m. so please save the date.

Nature Photo Contest

Each year, the National Center for Nature Photography holds a photo contest and the entries are exhibited in the Gallery. Full details are available on their website: www.naturephotocenter.com. Click on Annual Contest for more info and to download the brochure with entry form. Now is the time to start searching for that winning photo.

MEETING REMINDER

There is a schedule conflict with our meeting room on June 13th, July 11th and August 8th. We will still meet at the National Center for Nature Photography on these days but in the Gallery instead of the Secor Room.

Photo Opportunities in our area

The International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) is on Saturday May 8th and is always a big event at the Ottawa Wildlife Refuge. Additional info is available at their website: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/ottawa/>

The refuge offers a monthly auto tour, weather permitting. Travel 7 miles through normally closed areas of the refuge. Be sure to pick up an auto tour guide at the beginning of the route. Auto tour guides are updated monthly and tell you where to look for recent sightings.

The gate is open from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Travel the route at your own pace. The exit gate closes at 5:30 p.m.

Club Notes

As we approach summer, please be on the lookout for possible presentations for our club meetings in 2011. If you have suggestions for speakers or presentations in 2011, please let us know. Also let us know if you have interesting ideas for our monthly assignments. You can share your ideas with us at: naturalistcameraclub@gmail.com. We will have a Board Meeting this summer to begin planning for next year.

PROTECT YOUR EQUIPMENT by Jim Hagan

Following are some thoughts about protecting your camera equipment:

- Avoid sand. Last year I got sand into the focusing part of a lens, which resulted in an expensive repair. When you return from your outing, make sure all sand is removed from your gear.
- Avoid water. Recently, while photographing skunk cabbages, I fell into muck up to my knees. My camera got just slightly wet but it was enough to fry my camera's computer – another expensive repair.
- Secure your equipment in your camera bag. Do not allow your equipment to roll around in your trunk.
- Extended warranties? You will have to decide about purchasing warranties yourself. I used to buy extended warranties for every piece of equipment I purchased. However, over the years, I only filed two claims and in both cases my claims were denied. I no longer buy any extended warranties.
- Theft. After enjoying a Florida attraction, a photographer returned his gear to his car while he went back to the attraction for lunch. When he returned to his car, he found that all his gear had been stolen. Thieves frequent popular attractions and watch for people placing items in their trunk. Although it is inconvenient, take your gear with you while in popular tourist areas. And make sure your car is always locked and your photo gear is always out of sight.
- Insurance. Insuring your equipment can be a reasonable option. You do have some coverage with your homeowner's policy but this coverage is limited and does not start until the deductible amount stated in your policy is met and it covers only named perils such as fire and theft. There is no coverage for misplacing or accidentally damaging a piece of equipment. However, you can add an endorsement to your policy and schedule those pieces of equipment you specifically want to insure. By scheduling such items, you will be able to recover the cost to repair the item or its fair market value – whichever is less. The cost will run about \$1 dollar per \$100 of coverage or about \$30 a year to insure a \$3,000 camera. You should discuss insuring your equipment with your insurance agent.
- Airlines. Airlines provide only very limited coverage (just a few hundred dollars) for damages to your equipment. My rule is if I cannot carry it on board, I don't take it. Now since airlines charge an extra \$25 per item of baggage it seldom makes sense to check any of your equipment. However, if you do need to check in a large lens then make sure you purchase specific insurance for that item.

Web Sites

Check out our Web Site: www.naturalistcameraclub.com

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

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