

◀CHIRPINGS▶

NATURALISTS' CAMERA CLUB OF TOLEDO



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

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LAST CALL FOR DUES

Make check payable to:

Roger Sutherland, 5488 Warren Rd, Ann Arbor, MI

\$10.00 single or \$15.00 family

DATE and TIME: **Sunday, February 14, 2:00 P.M.**
LOCATION: Secor Room, Secor Metropark Nature Photography Center — Central Ave. Entrance
ASSIGNMENT: Wild Critters
PROGRAM: "The Wilds – Ohio's Conservation Link to the World" by Bob Jacksy
HOSTESS: Mary Sutherland

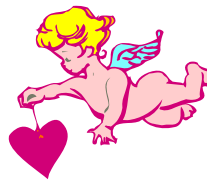
HOSTS: We are still in need of a **Host** for June . In addition, we would like to have someone offer to become the **Host Chairman!** (Perhaps two of you could work together in this capacity! – Consider that.)

Remember that starting this month just bring some cookies and something else for those who aren't able to enjoy sweets. Dinner isn't too far away.

NOTE: In March the assignment is "Nature Scenes". Don't forget that winter as well as the other seasons can offer spectacular opportunities for pictures (and we have had some great opportunities so far this year to add snow scenes!)

We may have visitors.this Sunday! If you see someone you don't know please introduce yourself and welcome them."

NEXT MONTH:
3/14/10
Assignment: Nature Scenes
Program: "Travelogue" by Art Weber
Hostess: Brent and Alex Russell



Check out our Web Site: www.naturalistcameraclub.com

THE WILDS EXPERIENCE, by BOB JACKSY
by Bob Ellis

The Wilds is a 10,000 acre conservation facility located less than an hour's drive east of Columbus, Ohio. Situated on a reclaimed coal strip mine, **the Wilds** is the largest place of its kind in the United States. Extremely rare animal species, some that are even extinct in the wild live in huge paddocks, some hundreds of acres in size. I initially visited **the Wilds** to photograph the Przewalski's horse, the only true wild horse species in existence. But, when I arrived there, my optimistic snowball of excitement began to roll.

As many people who love wildlife would, being among this dazzling assemblage of unique animals was one of the peak experiences in my life.

Giving even more meaning to this experience is the fact that my fellow Toledoan, Mr. Tom Anderson was one of the founders of **the Wilds** and according to retired Toledo Zoo Director, Bill Dennler, "**the Wilds** would not exist if it were not for the profound efforts of Mr. Anderson."

Education of these animals' uniqueness and their plight in their natural habitats are reasons enough for this place to be here. As well, cutting-edge experimental veterinary medicine and habitat restoration is practiced. Even more vital is that here is a wildlife genetic pool from which rare animals can be shared with zoos to prevent inbreeding with the ultimate goal to release these creatures into their natural habitats.

For me, it was a visceral joy to experience **the Wilds** and its dedicated animal caretakers and administrators. If you love wildlife, it is a reprieve from the news of the dismal extinctions of creatures that we share the world with. I highly recommend that you take the trip that is only a short distance east of Columbus Ohio and have **the Wilds** experience.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR METROPARKS:
Upcoming special event at the NCNP - Peregrine Falcon Update

Join Scott Butterworth, a Wildlife Biologist with the Ohio Division of Wildlife, for a presentation highlighting both the local and regional lifestyles of peregrine falcons. These fascinating birds of prey actually reside in Toledo! **Saturday, March 13 at 2:00 p.m.** in the Secor Room at the National Center for Nature Photography. Admission is free.

A new series of "Nature Shoots" in the field photography classes offered through the NCNP begins February 6 with a special opportunity to photograph reptiles at the Toledo Zoo. Oak Openings Birds of Prey is on February 20 and an Oak Openings Photo Primer on Woodpeckers is March 6. Details and registration information is at naturephotocenter.com or by calling 419-407-9757.

MY SEARCH FOR THE ULTIMATE CAMERA BAG by Jim Hagan

What should a camera bag do for you? Two things. First, protect your gear while moving it from your home to your destination. Second, provide a lightweight means of carrying the equipment out into the field. I have found that one bag will not serve both of my needs.

I was getting ready for a trip to the Caribbean and packed all my gear. My loaded camera bag weighed 22 pounds, the tripod another 7 pounds, my close up bag 5 more pounds, and my photo vest added 2 more pounds - a total of 36 pounds. Wow! Clearly, something had to be done. I eliminated the long telephoto lens, the tripod, flash unit and my close up equipment. I was then down to a svelte 19 pounds. I got to my destination with my gear in fine condition. My idea was that during the day I would carry my camera and put the lenses in the photo vest but soon found that the heavy-duty vest was just too hot for the 85-degree temperatures. I then bought a small cloth bag to carry the lenses and accessories, which worked fine. In conclusions you should have a heavy duty bag to protect your gear when traveling but when you go out in the field you need a lighter bag to carry just the gear you will need for that day's outing.

2010 TREK TO NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN

In 2010 we are planning a Trek to the northwestern portion of the lower peninsula of Michigan. Our stay will be based in Traverse City (just a five hour drive) from which two beautiful peninsulas jut out north from the city. Nearby cities include the lovely towns of Petoskey, Harbor Springs and Charlevoix. We will have a great time enjoying quaint towns, lighthouses, wineries, roadside fruit stands, lakeside views and the Sleeping Bear Dunes. The Trek will be from Sunday June 6, 2010 through Friday June 11th. Contact Jim Hagan at jimhagan@bex.net to be placed on his mailing list and to receive information that is more detailed.

Interesting Web Sites

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

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