

## What is in Fred and Jan Tullock's Camera backpack?

Bet you thought we'd list camera, lenses and tripod? Nope. That's a given, so did not list them. We both have a small and large backpack. Depending on the shoot, we may use the smaller pack, and take just the essentials. Not every item is for everyone, but hope you find at least one item useful!

### Small belt-pack case

As soon as my camera is out of the bag, I put this on my belt. Contains small, often used items. Multiple compartments provide each item a home. This avoids missed shots, frequent or rushed trips to the backpack, or searching every pants and jacket pocket trying to remember where these items are.

It contains: Spare battery, memory card, polarizing filter, ND Filter, Lens cloth, tiny flashlight, camera remote, Camera viewfinder cover, slide holder size viewing aid. This is also where I put the lens cap from the camera.

### 3ft by 6ft, thick clear plastic sheet (4 mil thick).

Use nearly every day shooting. Put on ground under backpack to protect from dirt and moisture. If it rains, open it up to cover top and bottom of pack. Can sit, kneel or lay on it when shooting low in damp or loose ground. In unexpected rain can serve as a poncho, large enough to cover you and backpack. Use to diffuse light.

### If shooting waterfalls, or any water's edge (The best shots of water are often from in the water)

Wear pants that zip off to become shorts, have water shoes in the backpack. Keep waterproof boots in the car, Muck brand are very nice, but at over \$100, cheap versions can do the job. Also in car: towel and dry socks.

### If shooting close-up or macro

- In order of priority if space permits: Macro lens, extension tubes, close-up filter.
- As with other nature photography, tripod and remote are essential for depth of field, and careful framing.
- Nature close-up often needs grooming with tweezers and makeup brush.
- Kneeling pad
- Wimberley Plamp to hold subject still, or hold diffuser.
- Will not fit in backpack: google "mike moats wind box". Home made clear Plexiglas foldable box to block wind.
- Diffuser/reflector kit that folds small.
- If shooting very low, and camera screen does not tilt in all directions, a right angle adapter for optical viewfinder.
- Stainless steel shaving mirror lets me shoot the bottom of small plants and mushrooms.
- Small Bungee cords to hold unwanted branches or plants out of shot, also great for non-macro shooting.
- Small sprayer to mist plants, but so far I have not been happy with the results.

### Viewing aids

- Hoodman loupe: makes LCD screen appear much larger to aid in reviewing composition, and for viewing in bright sun.
- Hoodman eye shade: Blocks light to eye except from the viewfinder, best when sunlight is from side.

For cleaning filters or lenses. Used in order only as necessary: Rocket type blower, microfiber cloth, cleaning liquid and tissues.

### Option to carrying back pack

Baby strollers are the perfect size to carry a backpack. The \$20 folding umbrella type is fine for smoother surfaces. Much better is the jogging type stroller such as by Babytrend. Available used, for cheap or free. Has a compartment underneath perfect for tall waterproof boots.

### Rain protection gear

- Camera rain cover: Stormjacket.com has Velcro on bottom to close around tripod. Use cheap plastic unit in small bag.
- Umbrella: Also ½" PVC pipe, 18" long, stopper at 3", to provide hands free use of umbrella.
- Waterproof backpacking poncho, we got them at Dicks. Our small camera bag often only has a \$1 disposable poncho.

### Be safe, photographers often lose track of time and distance

We always have a headlamp, flashlight and cell phone. We also carry compass, water, snacks, spare eyeglasses.

### Miscellaneous

- In colder weather/ early morning: Hat and gloves that can uncover fingers to operate controls without removing gloves.
- Bug spray, small pad and pen, Ivy-X (for poison Ivy), contact cards, sunblock. Always have hiking boots in car.
- Allen wrench, bubble level, stool for milky way shooting: walkingstool.com, orange vest during hunting season.
- Shooting through glass: Bus/Airplane window, museum or aquarium. Use dollar store plunger, cut hole to fit over filter.