

Scene & heard

Natural wonders inspire photographer

A honeymoon trip across the country first inspired photographer Crystal Wightman of Swoyersville to do more with a camera than snap candid shots.

Wightman and her husband decided to get married and tour the U.S. in 2005 when he got home from his deployment to Iraq, she said. They spent two months



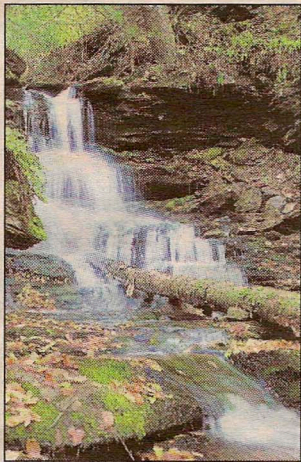
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EDITOR

visiting famous sites like the Great Smoky Mountains and the Grand Canyon.

"There's so many natural wonders out there," Wightman said.

Photography became her passion, specifically nature and wildlife photography. Her most recent work will be on display in the Widmann Gallery at King's College starting Monday. The exhibit, "The Small Side of Life," features photos of landscapes, wildlife and macro, or close-up, portraits of flowers, raindrops and insects. Many of the photos were shot locally at sites like Ricketts Glen state park.

The gallery is open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and on weekends by appointment. There will also be a



meet the artist reception on Jan. 20, 6-8 p.m. in the gallery.

"It's pretty much a night for people to get to know me," Wightman said.

Wightman is originally from Harding, and grew up loving the outdoors and animals. She received her first camera when she was six years old, a 35 millimeter Panasonic point and shoot. By the time of her cross-country honeymoon, she graduated to a digital point and shoot. She now wields a Nikon D7000. She first displayed her work, and sold her first prints, at Wild Birds Unlimited in Dallas.

"It'd be nice to display other places, but if I can't that would be OK because I just like taking pictures," she said. "It's a passion of mine. It relaxes me."