



photography

Monte Nagler

# Spring best for weather, flower, baby animal photos

Spring into action with your camera at one of the most exciting times of the year to take photographs — springtime.

Spring lighting produces beautiful effects. Because the sun is higher in the sky, there are not only more hours of daylight, but colors become brighter, and contrast is generally increased.

A MICHIGAN springtime is usually marked by changeable weather, which can produce "impact" in your pictures if you're alert. It can be raining one minute, then suddenly the sky will clear and the sun will burst through.

This moment offers you excellent photographic opportunities: wet pavement, water drops clinging to flower petals, rain droplets trickling down a window or even a rainbow itself. The most mundane scene, after a thunder-shower, will look vivid.

Be on the lookout for trees silhouetted against a receding dark storm

cloud as emerging sunbeams highlight the branches. This is one of the most dramatic scenes you'll ever see through your viewfinder.

Or use the heavy, gray clouds as a background for brightly colored subjects such as a red barn.

FLOWERS ARE usually associated with spring. We all know how beautiful flowers can be, but few people manage to capture them successfully on film. They tend to point the camera quickly in the right direction and shoot. Without careful composition and exposure calculations, the results can be disappointing.

First, get down low — on the flower's level. Concentrate your viewfinder on just a few blossoms, maybe even one, and move in close.

Make sure the background will not be distracting by throwing it out of focus. In other words, use your depth-of-field creatively.

Even consider using a small piece of dark cloth or poster board as your background.

Shoot in the morning or later afternoon, rather than at mid-day, so that crosslighting will highlight the color and delicate texture of the petals.

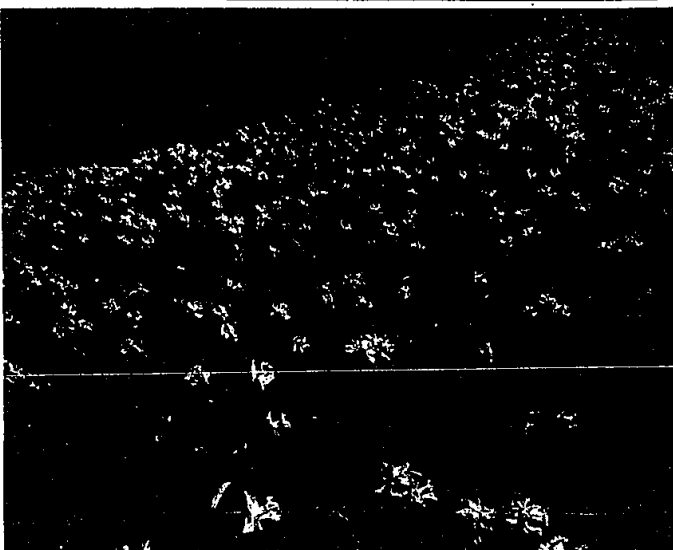
If you're taking color slides, try underexposing slightly to further deepen and enrich the colors.

PHOTOGRAPH THE progression of spring, too. A series of pictures of a lone tree in your back yard as it gets progressively thicker and thicker with darker and darker leaves will yield an exciting picture story.

Spring offers other picture possibilities — traditional festivals and celebrations. Watch the newspaper travel page and outdoors column for such events.

People become more active in springtime in both work and leisure, so look for picture potential there.

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Daffodils in a field at Cranbrook were shot at a fairly low level. Monte Nagler used his depth-of-field carefully to assure all flowers from front to back were in focus.

## Short shots

• A spring photo walk will run from 8-10:30 a.m. Saturday at Independence Oaks County Park, Sashabaw Road 1/4 miles north of I-75 at Clarkston. Photographers Hartley Anglin and Bill Barnard will aid naturalist Kathleen Dougherty. Meet at the boat rental building. Bring your own camera and film. Pre-register by calling the county parks at office at 858-0903 during weekday business hours.

• Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills has several courses beginning tonight. Call 645-3230 for registration information. Fees run from \$35 to \$45 (less for members) for three to six sessions.

Courses still open and instructors are "Creative Closeup of Spring Photography," Alan Lowy; "Landscape Photography," Dr. Charles J. Eilfent and Dr. James Wells; "Beginning Nature Photography," Norbert Davert.

Students are responsible for their own camera, film and processing.

## OCC holding solar classes and forum

Looking for a way to reduce high utility bills? Solar energy may be the remedy. If you're interested in learning more about solar energy and energy management, you may attend a series of discussions and classes at the Auburn Hills Campus of Oakland Community College, 2900 Featherstone, Auburn Heights.

A "Solar Roundtable" will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 27, in Room 119, Building F.

Speakers will provide the latest information on active solar heating, passive solar home construction, solar electricity and wind-energy technology. There will also be exhibits.

The program is part of the college's Solar Roundtable Series. Registrations may be made in advance by calling OCC at 348-0990.

The college also offers an Alternate Energy Degree Program, the only one of its kind in southeastern Michigan, said Debra Rowe, director.

More than 200 students are enrolled in the program, which includes classes on solar design, energy management, wind generators and photo-voltaic systems.

Twenty builders have enrolled in solar design classes, which incorporates solar design with energy-efficient heating, cooling and insulating for walls and ceilings.

Classes begin Wednesday, May 4. Registration will be conducted Monday, May 2, and Tuesday, May 3.

To register, call 853-4269.

## OU computer class to cover finance records

A computer course for financial record-keeping will be offered beginning Friday, May 6, by the Division of Continuing Education at Oakland University, Avon Township.

The class will be conducted 7-9 p.m. Fridays through June 17. There will be no class June 10. University budget analyst Elizabeth Kendall of Rochester will discuss estimating costs, calculating sales projections and adjusting format with a few key strokes.

Participants will work on Apple II microcomputers.

Tuition is \$90. Enrollment is limited. Registration information is available from the Continuing Education office, 377-3120, between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. weekdays.

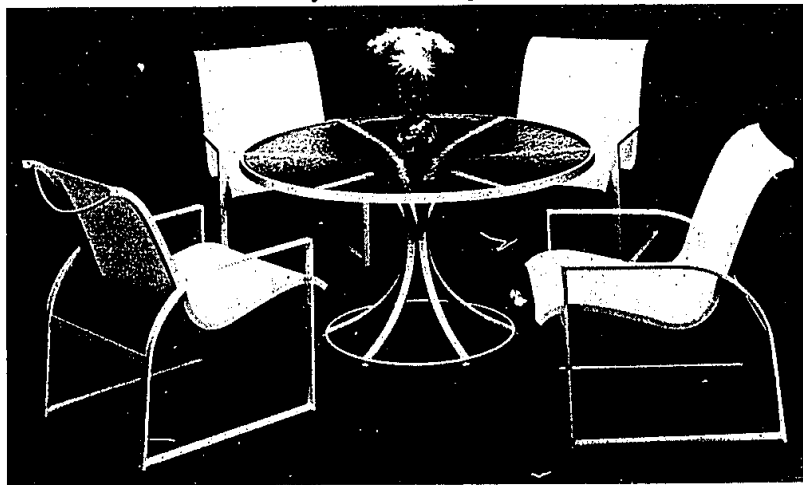


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