

Dig into classes

The Community House, 390 S. Bates in Birmingham, offers a variety of garden classes.

Register in person, by mail, by phone — (810) 644-5832 — or by fax — (810) 644-2476. You may use your MasterCard or Visa.

In "A 'Wake-Up' Call for Your Garden" 7:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 26, advanced master gardeners and organic garden consultants will explain clearing the garden, preparing the soil, creating a compost program and developing yearly schedules for pruning, maintenance, water and fertilizing. Cost is \$12.

"Successful Organic Gardening" 7:30-9:30 a.m. Monday, May 15, will show how to produce flowers and vegetables without harming yourself, wildlife or the environment. Cost is \$12. Learn to control such unwanted visitors as insects and fungus; and about ongoing maintenance, such as fertilizing, seed starting, propagation, equipment and compost.

Widen photo horizons



MONTE NAGLER

Did you know that you can dramatically widen your photographic horizons by using wide-angle lenses? Wide-angle lenses are exciting to use and are my favorite of all lenses.

A wide-angle lens will alter depth-of-field and perspective

and give you a picture quite unlike what a normal or telephoto will produce. It's a lens that "sees" more, taking in a wider expanse than other lenses.

There are several advantages to the wide-angle lens. First is the increase in depth-of-field, the range of sharpness realized in the final print. A moderate wide-angle lens such as 28mm at an aperture of f/8 will produce a depth-of-field from five feet to infinity. In contrast, a normal 50mm lens, properly focused, will give you a depth-of-field of 20 feet to infinity. This means that with the wide-angle lens more of what you see in the viewfinder will be sharp and in focus.

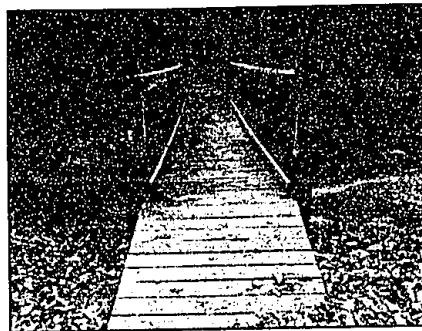
Going even wider, a 17mm lens (super wide-angle) at f/16 will produce an astounding depth-of-field of one foot to infinity. This means that if lighting conditions enable you to shoot at f/16, you never have to focus the camera as long as you are at least one foot from the subject!

Second, you can get by with much slower shutter speeds with

a wide-angle lens, a nice advantage when light is limited. The "rule" is that a lens can be handheld at the shutter speed closest to its focal length. Therefore a 28mm lens can be safely handheld at 1/30 second and a 17mm lens at 1/16 second. With slow speed films, low level light and a desire to maximize depth-of-field, this can be quite an advantage.

Many photographers ask about distortion, the bending of light rays characteristic of wide-angle lenses. Buildings will begin to "lean" and some subjects may begin to look unreal. But the inherent distortion of wide-angle lenses can be turned into one of your biggest advantages. Selective distortion can be a plus. Strength, drama and impact can be added to your photographs through proper use of distortion.

Creatively used, distortion can emphasize certain parts of a picture and give a photograph an artistic quality no other lens can produce. Sweeping foregrounds and bold subject framing are easily attainable. And you can delib-



Different angle: Wide-angle lenses can produce unusual perspectives such as this footbridge found by Monte Nagler during a hike in the woods.

erately exploit the wide-angle lens' tendency to exaggerate the size of close objects at the expense of distant ones.

Wide-angle lenses will produce truly unusual and exciting photographs for you.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message by dialing (313) 553-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then his mailbox number, 1873. His fax number is (810) 644-1314.

Workshop set

The Paint Creek Center for the Arts offers a two-session pastel figure workshop for adults 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Fridays, May 5 and 12. Registration deadline is Friday, April 28. For more information, call the PCCA at (810) 651-4110.

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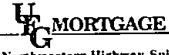
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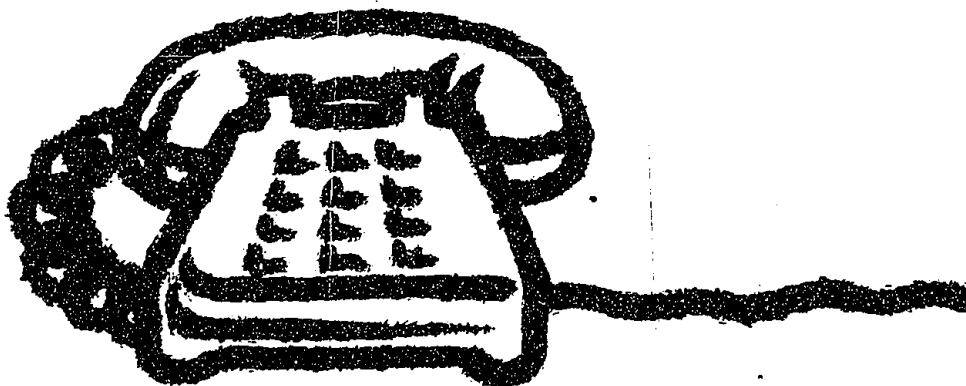
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