

CREATIVE LIVING

You don't have to go far to create great photos

FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY



MONTE

Sure, it's fun to photograph in such picturesque places as the Canadian Rockies, the California coast or even a charming village in Europe. But you can also get great shots close to home.

If you put on your "photographer's hat" and begin to look through "square eyeballs," you'll be pleasantly surprised at the photographic opportunities in your own house, in your back yard or right in the neighborhood.

Here are some ideas. Inside the house, begin in the kitchen. A still-life composed of different cooking utensils will make an

interesting shot. Use your butcher block countertop for an ideal background.

Or how about the row of plants on the window ledge? Careful framing and exposure will produce a picture of which you'll be proud.

Late afternoon light spilling shadows on the carpet or hardwood floor will work fine for your camera. Or the subtle shadows and textures of wrinkled sheets on an unmade bed will enable you to make an interesting shot.

Really "look" at your house on the outside and I guarantee you'll see many things just waiting to be photographed. Maybe it's the pattern of bricks under the window sill delicately interwoven with a vine of ivy. Or perhaps a close-up of the decorative door handle would make an excellent detail picture.

How about some of the flowers in your garden or a cluster of fallen autumn leaves? Moving in

close and simplifying can reward you with a real winner.

A foggy morning prompted me to head outside with my camera. I found the cluster of trees shown here nestled amidst a mist-shrouded background right in my neighbor's back yard. Careful composition and exposure produced this mood-filled shot for me.

This picture could have been taken in the woods of some far-away place. But it was practically in my own back yard.

So you don't have to venture far from home to produce strong pictures. Just keep your "photographic vision" in tune and you'll see many possibilities right at home.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message by calling (248) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then 111, then N.A.G.L.E.R. His fax number is (248) 644-1914.



Mist-erious: Monte Nagler didn't have to travel far for this mood-filled shot of trees and mist right in his own neighborhood.

Follow these tips to e-mail photographs

BY RICK SAMMON

It seems that hardly a day goes by that I don't send or receive a picture as an attachment to an e-mail. For professional photographers, sending electronic files is an essential part of business. But family and friends like to share fun snapshots, too.

The pictures usually bring a smile to the recipient's face, but there are some e-mails with photo attachments that aren't so well-received. These are the ones that give a screen prompt that says something like, "Download time, 11 minutes."

Here are some tips on the best way to transmit a picture.

■ Send small or cropped pictures, no bigger than 5-by-7 inches. As the size increases, so does the download time.

■ Send low-resolution pictures. Mac monitors have a resolution of 72 DPI (dots per inch).

PC monitors have a resolution of 96 DPI. If the picture is going to be used only as a screen image, a higher DPI offers no advantage. So put your digital camera on the lowest setting or scan the picture at a low resolution.

Pictures sometimes look slightly darker on PC monitors than they do on Mac monitors. Keep that in mind when adjusting the brightness of the picture you plan to send.

■ Send JPEG files. The JPEG format compresses a picture, making it fast to transmit and receive.

Sending pictures as attachments to e-mails is not the only way to share your pictures. Many photo-community Web sites let you post and share your pictures, which are protected by a password. Dozens of companies offer this service.

You can get a list of Web sites by using a search engine and typing "Photo Sharing" in the search window.

DESIGN CALENDAR

■ The Do It Yourself Center in Rochester Hills offers home decorating classes for the "talent impaired." None of the window treatments, curtains, or blinds requires sewing, and none of the furniture building classes requires the use of power tools or even a saw. Scheduled sessions include "Create Your Own Garden Art," Thursday, Feb. 22 (\$36); "Easy Five Finishes," Saturday, Feb. 24 (\$35); and "Make a Custom Headboard," Thursday, March 1 (\$35). Class size is limited due to hands-on training. To register, for a current class list or for more information, call (248) 652-4818.

■ The Southfield Pavilion Antiques Exposition will take place Friday-Sunday, Feb. 23-25, at the Southfield Civic Center, 26000 Evergreen at Civic Center Drive (10-1/2 Mile). Hours are 2-9 p.m. Friday, noon to 8 p.m. Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$6 with any ads or listings of the event, \$8 regular, free for ages 12 and under. One paid admission is good for all three days of the show. Celebrating its 21st year,

the exposition features a diverse selection of fine American, European and Oriental antiques and fine art. Antiques merchants from across the country, noted authors and nationally known experts will exhibit and sell their collections. Dining and free parking will be available. Online show previews are available at www.antique.com/M&M

■ Now through Monday, Feb. 26, at all area Art Van Furniture stores, register to win a mid-week or weekend ski vacation for two at Shanty Creek. One of each will be given away at every store. As a bonus offer, the first 100 customers Saturday, Feb. 24, will receive Shanty Creek lift tickets for two. (Two tickets per customer, age 18 or older.)

■ The Storytellers will share stories about African-American heritage and the celebration of Black History Month at Art Van Furniture stores in Livonia and on Eight Mile in Warren, 1-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 24 and 25. They will be at the Livonia store, 29905 Seven Mile, Saturday, and at the Warren store, 13856 E. Eight Mile, Sunday. The Storytellers will also demonstrate ethnic musical instruments. This enthusiastic duo performs lively presentations and encourages the participation of the children attending.

■ The Community House, 380

S. Bates in Birmingham, offers a variety of home and garden classes. The winter schedule includes "Antique Chinese Furniture," 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27, taught by Wan Ling Chia and Paul Roth, owners of Shangri-La Antiques in Birmingham. Enjoy a cup of special Chinese tea as you learn about furniture from the 1800s. Learn what to look for when considering buying; about the differences regarding style, construction, restoration and condition; and how to take care of and maintain the pieces. Fee is \$18. Call (248) 644-5832 for registration and other information.

■ Decorating consultant Jeanine Matlow will teach a class, "Decorating with Antiques and Collectibles," 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27, through West Bloomfield Community Education. Learn innovative and affordable ways to decorate and entertain using items you have in your home. For information, call (248) 539-2290.

■ Colorworks Design Studio, 32506 Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills, hosts a winter seminar series, "Because the Details Make the Difference." Topics of the free series at the studio are "Home Office and Media Room Solutions," 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28; and "The Right Accessory in the

Right Place," 7:30 p.m. March 28. Space is limited and reservations must be made in advance; call Andrea or Laura at (248) 851-7540.

This month's seminar will cover everything needed to make the ultimate room, including "getting the look along with function," innovative design and equipment, and "design with room to grow."

■ Public tours at Oakland University's Meadow Brook Hall in Rochester are given year-round 1:30 a.m. Monday-Saturday, 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Sunday. The hall is closed most holidays, and tour hours may change during special events. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$8 for ages 62 and over, \$4 for ages 6-12, free for ages 4 and under. Reservations aren't required.

Tours for groups of 20 or more may be scheduled for other times. Advance reservations are required for group tours. Group admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for children.

■ Call (248) 370-3140 for more information about touring the hall and the Knole Cottage playhouse, or visit www.meadowbrookhall.org

Meadow Brook Hall, on the OU campus off Adams, is a 110-room, Tudor-revival style mansion built by the widow of auto pioneer John Dodge.

Antiques & Collectibles
9AM-3PM EVERY DAY!
ROYAL OAK FARMERS MARKET
 216 E. 11 Mile Rd.
 Btw. Woodward and I-75
 (248) 648-8822

DICK'S UPHOLSTERY
 Since 1979
 Custom Upholstery • Slip Covers
 10-15% OFF ALL Beacon Hill, Robert Allen, Kravet & Duralee Fabrics with this ad!
 Now thru 3-1-01
 19162 Farmington Road • N. of 7 Mile • Livonia
 (248) 471-6590

A Designer Kitchen for 1/2 the Price!

We offer...

- SOLID WOOD-OAK, CHERRY, MAPLE, MANGROVE, WALNUT
- HIGH GLOSS-THE ULTIMATE FINISH
- VENEERS-BIRDSEYE, SATIN & MORE
- VENEERS-WITH INLAY PATTERNS
- SOLID COLORS
- GRANITE-SOLID SURFACE COUNTER TOPS

Refacing With A Difference
FACTORY DIRECT KITCHEN COMPANY
 Free Estimate **248-541-5536**

PRESENTING
 MICHIGAN FAVORITE ANTIQUES SHOW
SOUTHFIELD PAVILION ANTIQUES EXPOSITION
FEBRUARY 23, 24 & 25
 SOUTHFIELD CIVIC CENTER
 SOUTHFIELD, MI
 at Evergreen Rd. (at I-75 Exit)
 Fri 2-9 • Sat 12-8 • Sun 12-5
 \$5.00 with ad - Good for all Three Days

BIGGER THAN EVER OVER 120 MERCHANTS!

*Exit Evergreen Rd South from I-480
 More info: www.antique.com/M&M

JOUR
STAIN AND ICE REMOVAL
Repairs
Roofs
Free Estimates

810-245-6082
Ask for Dan
jfourdevelopment@yahoo.com

Better Safe Than Sorry!

safes unlimited

150 Safes on Show Room Floor
 Wall Safes, Floor Safes, Gun Safes
 Complete Delivery & Installation

WE CAN PROTECT YOU
248-869-7100

2001 EVERGREEN LANE, N. • FARMINGTON HILLS, MI 48334
 Mon, Tues, Wed, Sat 9:00-5:00
 Sun 10:00-4:00

Don't Be Fooled that Sunny Smile!

All year long the sun's rays do damage to your furniture and carpets. Solar Guard film blocks harmful ultraviolet glare protecting your furniture, and your home from heat loss in winter and solar hot spots in the summer. We can eliminate 98% of the sun's rays. Most installations can be completed in 1 day and may be applied to almost any type of window, including skylights & doorwalls. All films are designed to enhance the look of your home with a wide variety of colors and shades. Call today for a free estimate.

eclipse
 Window Tinting Specialists
(313) 632-8820
 9206 Telegraph • Redford

PLUMBING TIPS
Home Show Demonstrates The Powerful TOTO Toilets

This year's home show featured many great products. One such product was the powerful line of TOTO 1.6 gallon per flush toilets. The most powerful gravity flush toilet ever. These toilets feature 2 1/2", 100% glazed trapways, the largest in the industry. Three inch flush valve in the tank vs. the standard two inch. A siphon jet in the bottom of the bowl to remove waste fast and a quick refill ballcock. These toilets are available for residential and commercial applications. There are many models to choose from. Building or remodeling insist on the best. TOTO toilets. Consumer Digest best buy. For more information contact

www.advancplumbing.com or call Advance Plumbing Supply Company at 248-669-7474.

Jeffrey Moss is vice-president of Advance Plumbing Supply Co. in Walled Lake and Detroit. Call (800) 560-7474 toll-free. Have a plumbing question? Write to Jeffrey at Advance Plumbing Supply Co., 1977 E.W. Maple Rd., Walled Lake, MI 48390.

TOTO 1.6 GPF
 Ultraquiet Toilet with SoftClose Seat. www.advancplumbing.com