## Foreground objects add solid foundation to photos



As you know, all good rela-tionships are built upon a solid foundation. In photography, the same often

Today, I'm going to talk to you about a smart way to add strength and impact to your pho-

Wheel foundation: See how the old wagon wheel serves as a foundation and compliments the cactus



ference in your finished prints.

By "foundation," I'm referring to foreground objects that add a basis or facting to your composi-

basis or footing to your composition.

For example, a dazzling sunset
settling on the lake will produce
a stirring shot but it will be
much stronger if you include a
bit of shoreline or that gnarled
piece of driftwood as a "foundation." The distant, snow-capped
mountain sure looks dramatic
but don't you think an improvement would be made if you were
to add that pile of boulders in
the foreground?

The old fishing cove is indeed
charming, but how about making
your shot even better by includ-

ing some fishing boats or a bit of netting as a foundation?
Adding a basis to your scenic photographs is like adding footing and support to a structure. Your pictures will be aesthetically more pleasing and will also help to show a scale of reference. Often times a foundation will help to 'complete' your photo by giving more information to the viewer.

The meat important way you

can add foundation to your pictures is to slow down and really look." Carefully study your subject and analyze its surroundings. Ask yourself how best can I enhance the subject and show it in its best light? What complements it and how can these elements be used effectively in the composition? It's almost like accessorizing that new set of clothes so that they are worn and shown in the best possible

way.

Remember that in adding a foundation to your photographs you must pay particular attention to depth-of-field, You'll ruin what otherwise may have been a dynamic picture by having the foreground out of focus.

Use your depth-of-field scale on the lens barrel and your depth-of-field preview to make sure everything is going to be sharp. You may want to favor your wide angle lens to not only

get more in the composition but to obtain even greater depth-of-field in your shot. So get the relationship between you and your photogra-phy onto a solid basis...by using foundations when you shoot!

Monte Nagler is a fine art pho-tographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a mes sage by dialing (734) 953-2044





## **Book It**

from page B4

Trading Card Club meets 1 p.m. Saturday, March 23; Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club discusses Orson Scott Card's Ender's Game, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 21; Mystery Book Club discusses Nelson BOOK CIUD DISCUSSES NEISON DeMille's Plum Island, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 27, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, (248) 626-6804.

LIBRARY West Bloomfield Township Public Library: Review by Chris

Diaray, review by clinis Noordhoorn of Very Old Bones by William Kennedy, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 20 and 10 a.m. Friday, March 22. Kennedy's book con-tinues the sage of the Phelan family in a famillar mix of surreal flourishes and gritty naturalism.
The review will be in the Meeting
Room of the West Bloomfield Township Public Library, 4600 Walnut Lake Road. The Friends of the Library host monthly book reviews. The public is welcome

and there is no cost.

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