

# Through Their Lens

## A Series of Interviews with Active Grand Photos Volunteers

*Audrey Pavitt*

Audrey is a past president of Grand Photos. She is currently active in many volunteer activities including instructing and leading photo shoots.

**When did your interest in photography begin?** As a young adult, I owned a wilderness cabin in N.W. Ontario, Canada. Dragonflies were perched on the balcony railing drying their wings to prepare for flight and I grabbed my camera to capture what was, for me, a miraculous moment! I don't even know what kind of camera it was! My interest grew as I started traveling and acquired a Nikon SLR. I love to capture candid shots of people living lives so different from my own.



**How did you arrive at Grand?** I lived in Ahwatukee for several years and worked in downtown Phoenix. The company I worked for moved to Glendale, much too long a commute! So, the search began for a new home in the northwest valley. Like so many others, when I discovered Grand, I knew this was where I wanted to be!



**What do you most enjoy about Grand Photos?** I find Grand Photos members to be the most giving, helpful, generous group of people that you could ever imagine yourself lucky enough to belong to! I literally knew nothing about digital photography, not even how a digital camera worked, when I joined the club in late 2011. Everything I know, I learned at Grand Photos from members who gave so generously of their time and expertise through classes, special interest groups, mentoring and assisting at photo shoots. I enjoy the fact that photography is an interest of such diversity that you can never know everything about it and there is always someone ready

and available to take you on the next steps in your evolution!

**How did you find yourself volunteering for Grand Photos?** After a couple of years of soaking up everything I possibly could from all that was offered, I wanted to give something back and also pay it forward! I volunteered to be the Membership Director because it seemed like the least intimidating position open! Also, it would provide the opportunity to get to know more people at the club. I also assisted with competition-related tasks which led me to take on the position of Competition Director. One thing led to another, so I progressed to Vice President and then – during COVID year – to President. I have enjoyed teaching classes and leading photo shoots, and now I find myself involved with the Mentoring program.

**What is it about photography that has maintained your interest over so many years?** Photography is a passion without end. There's always something to explore – evolving photography and post-processing techniques, new and different genres, more modern approaches – it's a constantly expanding process and, of course, you are taking that journey in the company of kind and generous like-minded people! What could be better?

**What are your favorite things to photograph?** I love to photograph birds (I was a birder before I started photographing them) but that interest developed because of my love of nature and the great outdoors. I love shooting all creatures great and small, and the landscapes in which they live. I also enjoy travel photography, particularly trying to capture the essence of people in their unique environments. It's interesting that I'm still fascinated by tiny things, particularly insects - now through macro photography. It seems that those dragonflies I photographed decades ago still get me fired up today!



