

Through Their Lens

A Series of Interviews with Active Grand Photos Volunteers

Pam Careau

For years a very active volunteer, Pam served as monitor, photo shoot leader, education team member, instructor, Club secretary, print coordinator and gallery showcase coordinator. This year she also is facilitating the Seekers & Sojourners SIG, and serving on the Artisan Fusion committee.

When did your interest in photography begin? I can still recall the very first images I took at around age 12 with a child's version of a Polaroid camera. These photos captured more than the simple likenesses of my siblings, instilling a respect and love for the true power and magic of photography. Since then, it has been a life-long creative desire that, no matter the subject, I want to capture more than just what it is.

How did you arrive at Grand? The sly manipulation of my sister-in-law, who was a SCG resident, drew us to a 'million-dollar tour'. She waxed eloquent about all the clubs and amenities here, took us to Sedona, the Grand Canyon, and other irresistible places. Six weeks later we arrived in Grand with barely a look back.



What do you most enjoy about Grand Photos? This is the first such club I have belonged to. With help from talented members, various SIG's and classes, I was able to make, what was for me, the quantum leap from film photography to digital photography. Through the years encouragement from members and the mentorship of highly creative photographers has been an invaluable influence and brought me to a new level of satisfaction as a photographer. The Club is constantly evolving, providing instruction and new opportunities in all aspects of picture-making, print making, and photo sharing.

How did you find yourself involved as SIG facilitator? Brady was contemplating ending her tenure as the leader of her SIG. I really liked the concept of that SIG and, without really thinking it through, I suggested that I continue in her place taking it to the next logical step. I thoroughly enjoy sharing ideas and being inspired by equally enthusiastic artists. Preparing for a SIG causes me to think about the creative process and how as a community of artists we can inspire one another.

What is it about photography that has maintained your interest over so many years? Photography for me is about letting the subject matter express what it is about through my image. Every object, however humble or ordinary, has an intrinsic beauty which I hope to find and be able to share with viewers so that they, too, will see this simple truth. A successful image, for me, is one that expresses in equal parts what I saw, what I imagined I saw, and what I felt when I saw it.

What are your favorite things to photograph? The world is a smorgasbord of photo opportunity. It's not so much what I like to shoot, but the elements of line, shape, and value that catch my eye whatever the subject matter. I tend to shoot the familiar, revisiting the same places and objects over and over. Each visit provides me with new vision, seeing things I didn't see before or in new ways. Over time I have developed several themes that serve as inspiration when out and about, helping to develop a measure of depth in some of my work.

