

Through Their Lens

A Series of Interviews with Active Grand Photos Volunteers

Peggy Boike



An exceptionally talented photographer, Peggy generously shares her skills through volunteering as an educational instructor.

When did your interest in photography begin? My father was a member of a photo club, and his club would go on photo shoots that included spouses and children, so I had my first camera when I was about 8 years old. He taught me how to develop my film and make prints in his darkroom. As an adult, I was able to buy Nikon cameras from my employer at a huge discount, so I always had the best cameras for taking vacation photos and photos of our children. When I retired, I finally had the time to learn more about how to take better photos.

How did you arrive at Grand? We took a family vacation in Arizona when our kids were young. We loved all the interesting things there were to see and do in the state. Then, when we were approaching retirement age, there was an article in the St. Paul newspaper about Sun City Grand and St. Paul residents that had bought houses in this brand-new retirement community. We flew down for a few days, toured the models and were so impressed with SCG that we chose a lot and signed on the dotted line. That was in January, 1997.

What do you most enjoy about Grand Photos? I would have to say that the photoshoots for me are most enjoyable, including the monthly virtual photo shoots we have been doing during the pandemic. I love getting together after the shoots to view other members' photos. I have also enjoyed the Seekers & Sojourners SIG, and especially the sojourns that included lunch. It's fun getting to know other members of the club.

How did you find yourself instructing classes? I started using Photoshop Elements for post-processing when I bought my first digital camera in 2002. My sister, who worked for a newspaper and used Elements in her work, taught me the basics. When I joined Grand Photos, Stan Bormann asked me if I would "team-teach" a class with him on Elements. We did that several times in 2011 and 2012. Since then, I have taught many classes on various Elements topics. I have also taught classes on Composition, Tabletop, Macro and Nature photography.



What is it about photography that has maintained your interest over so many years? I enjoy entering competitions of all sorts; for example, in the past I participated in flower shows, dog obedience trials and bridge tournaments. More recently I have been entering lots of photo competitions: international exhibitions, ACCC and Grand Photos semi-annual competitions and monthly competitions of the St. Paul Camera Club. Of course, it's also fun to look at old family photos in my many photo albums.

What are your favorite things to photograph? When I visit art museums, I'm always drawn to still life paintings. It's no wonder that I do lots of still life photography, which often includes fresh fruits, like pears and grapes, as well as containers of fresh flowers from my garden or dried seed pods. I also do a lot of macro photography of insects and other small inanimate objects. I also enjoy taking photos on photo shoots.

