

THE LIPKA JOURNAL  
PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

JANUARY 2022

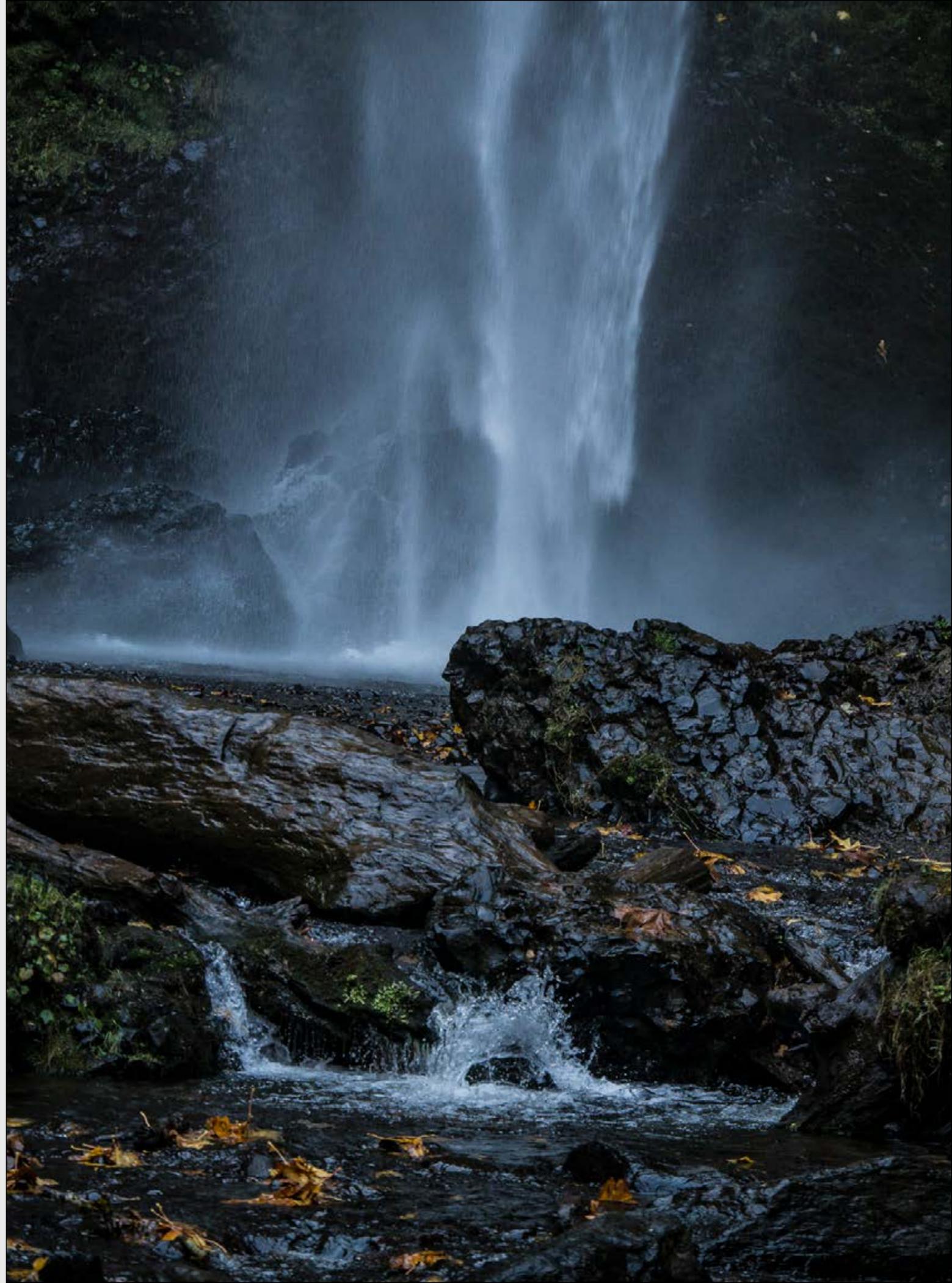
# WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL

## JANUARY 2022

We watch water tumble over the rocks, drawn downstream by gravity until it reaches its lowest level. From water's lowest level we work our way up hill following stairs to regain our elevation. Then, at the top of the hill we decide how to continue our journey.

So it is with life's "ups and downs;" we continue our path forward no matter what obstacles we must face. It is the journey called life. We embark upon this journey with little knowledge of what lies in front of us. Each day we go down, we go up, we following the path in front of us.

Waterfall and Creek,  
Columbia River Gorge



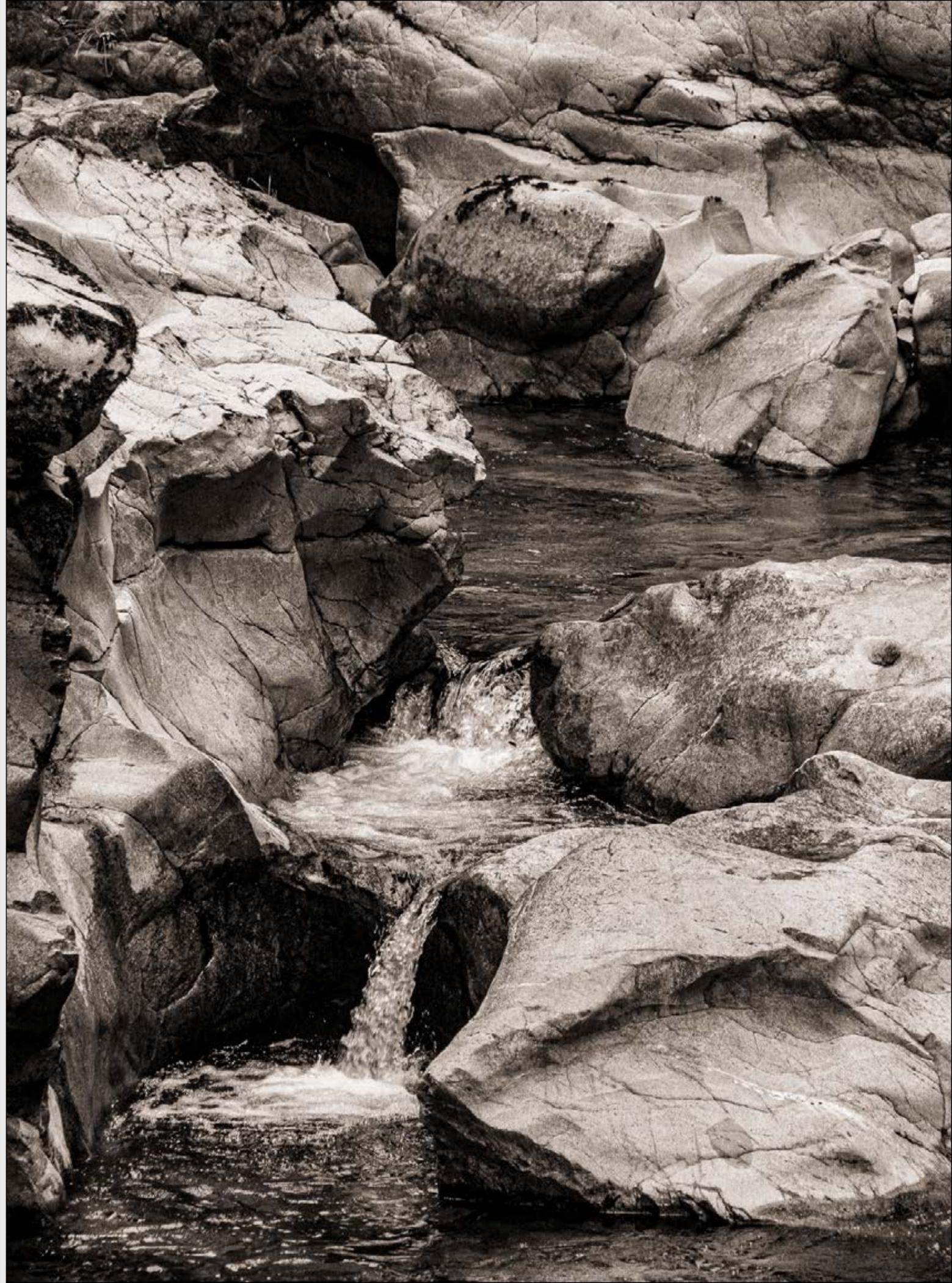


The Sound of Water

## The Sound of Water

Water has a distinctive spectrum of sounds. In steep sided canyons it whooshes and crashes on a trip downstream. At the beach sea water rumbles until there is a decisive thump of a wave against rocks. As the waves recede, there is yet another sound. Waterfalls engulf you with a mist and an all-encompassing “shush” as the water cascades over a cliff to a pool below. Gently sloped creeks will quietly gurgle or hiss as the water rolls over and around rocks.

Of these sounds my favorite is the sound of water running through a small canyon. It is both refreshing and relaxing. It is that space I where I find creative moments.







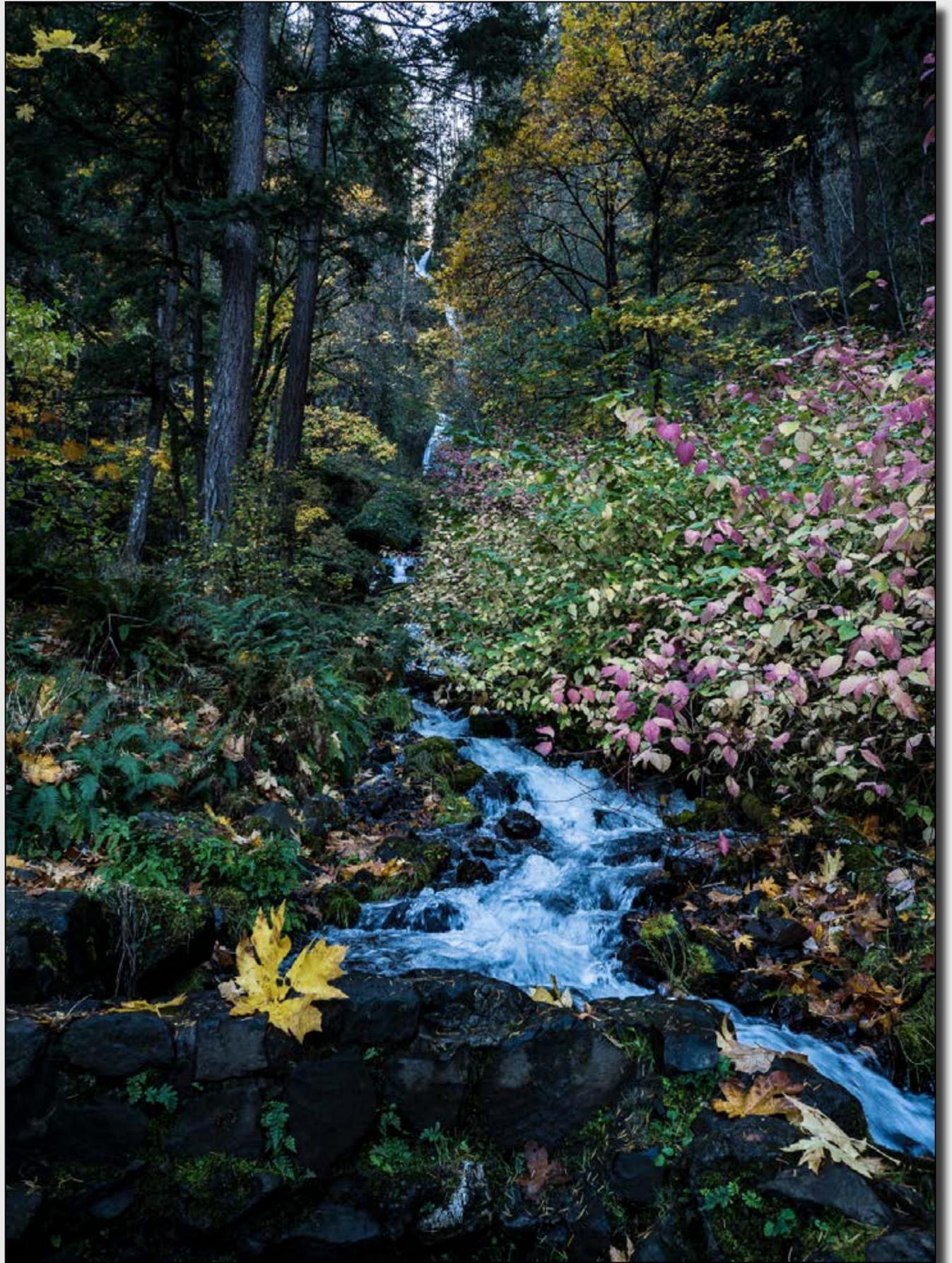
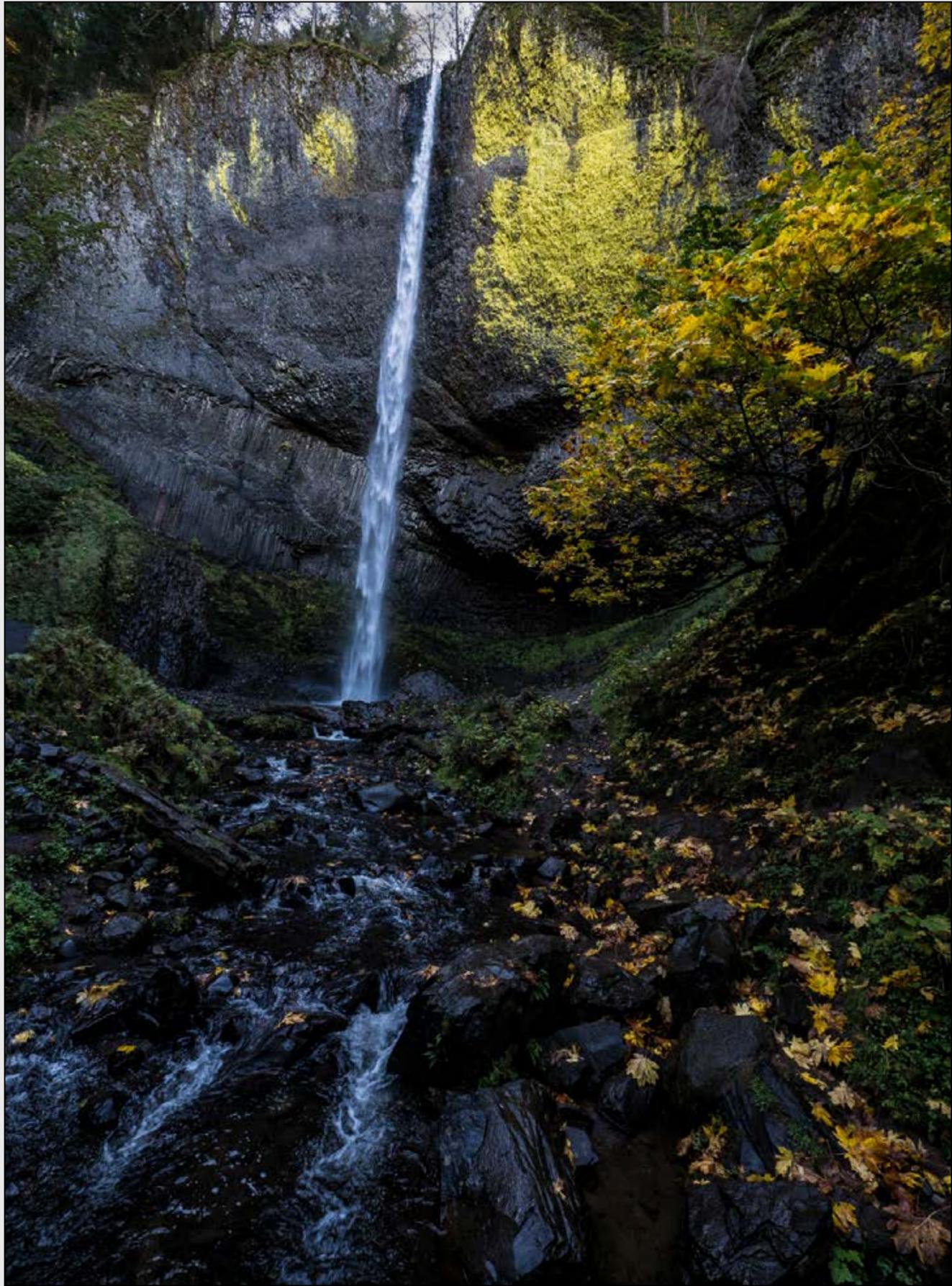
















## Six Word Project

Wyoming.

Population three digits,

Elevation, four.



Cascade of Stairs

## Cascade of Stairs

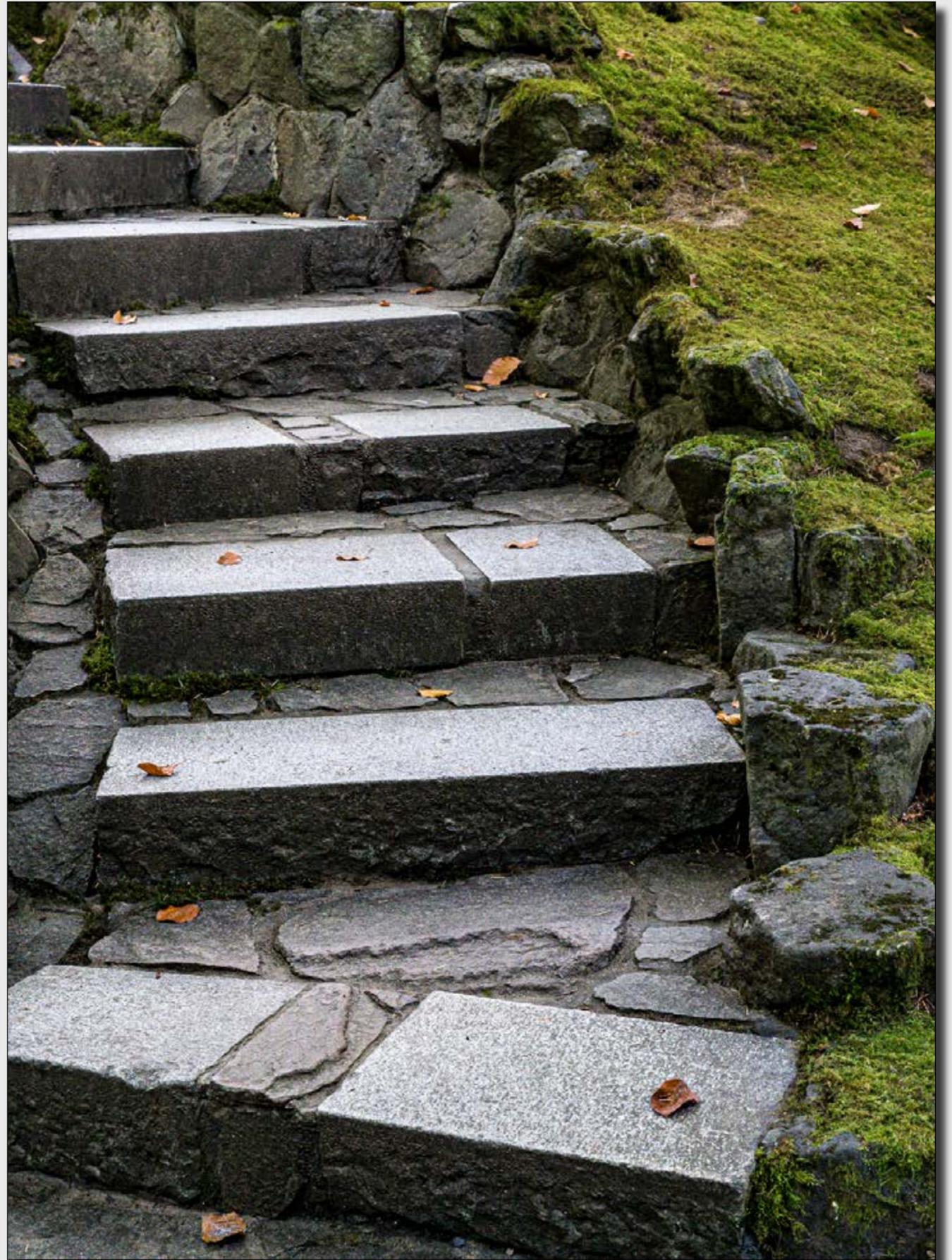
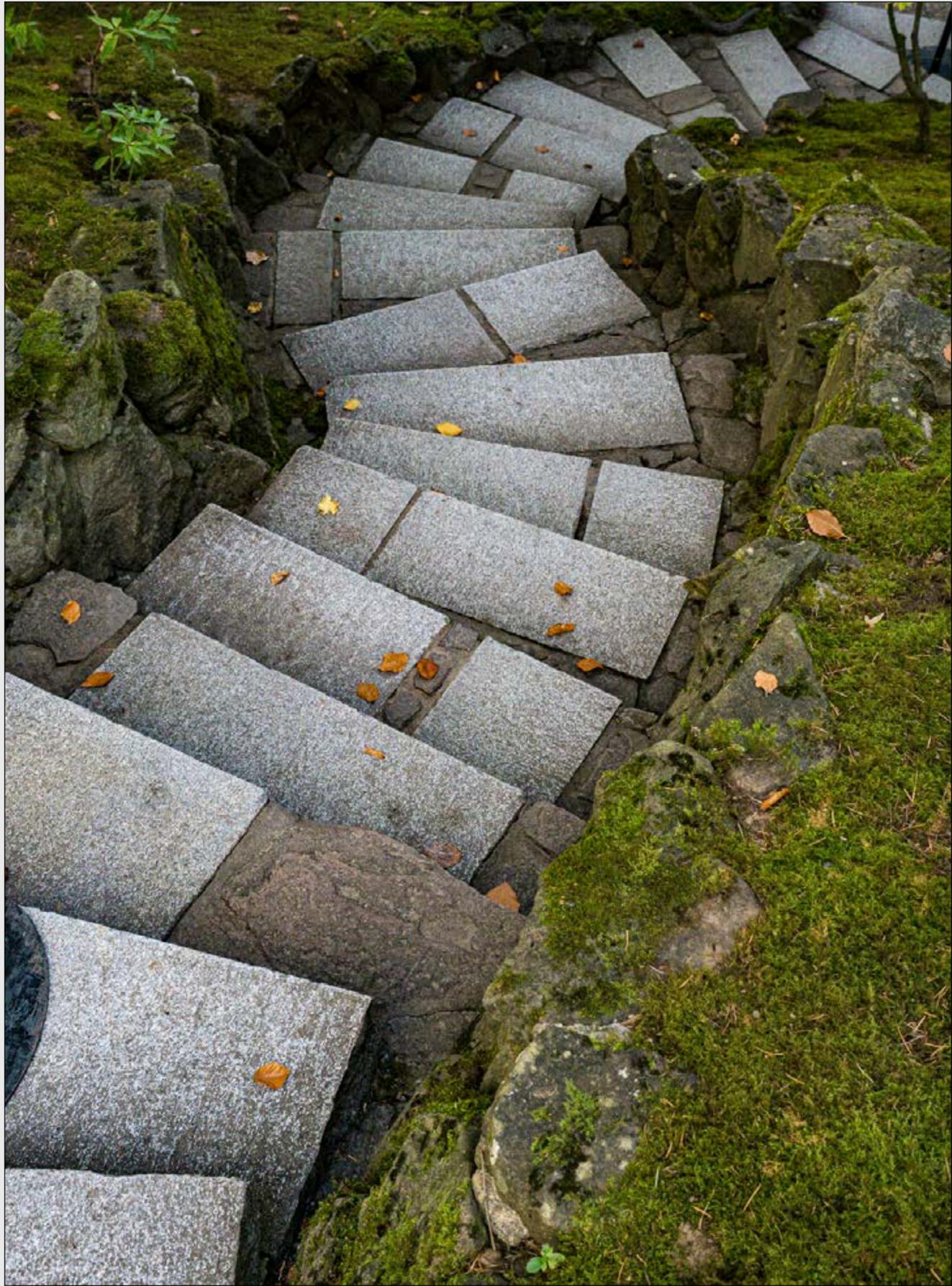
While water can only flow downhill, we can move both up and down with stairs. Moving from one level to another makes our changes in elevation convenient. We can move between floors in a building, or up the side of a house overlooking a garden. Moving up a hill or the side of a house is much easier, neater and cleaner than clambering over rocks and slick grass.

Reaching the top of the stairs gives us a chance to catch our breath and to view the next phase of our journey, be it back down the stairs to our starting point or lets us continue our journey.



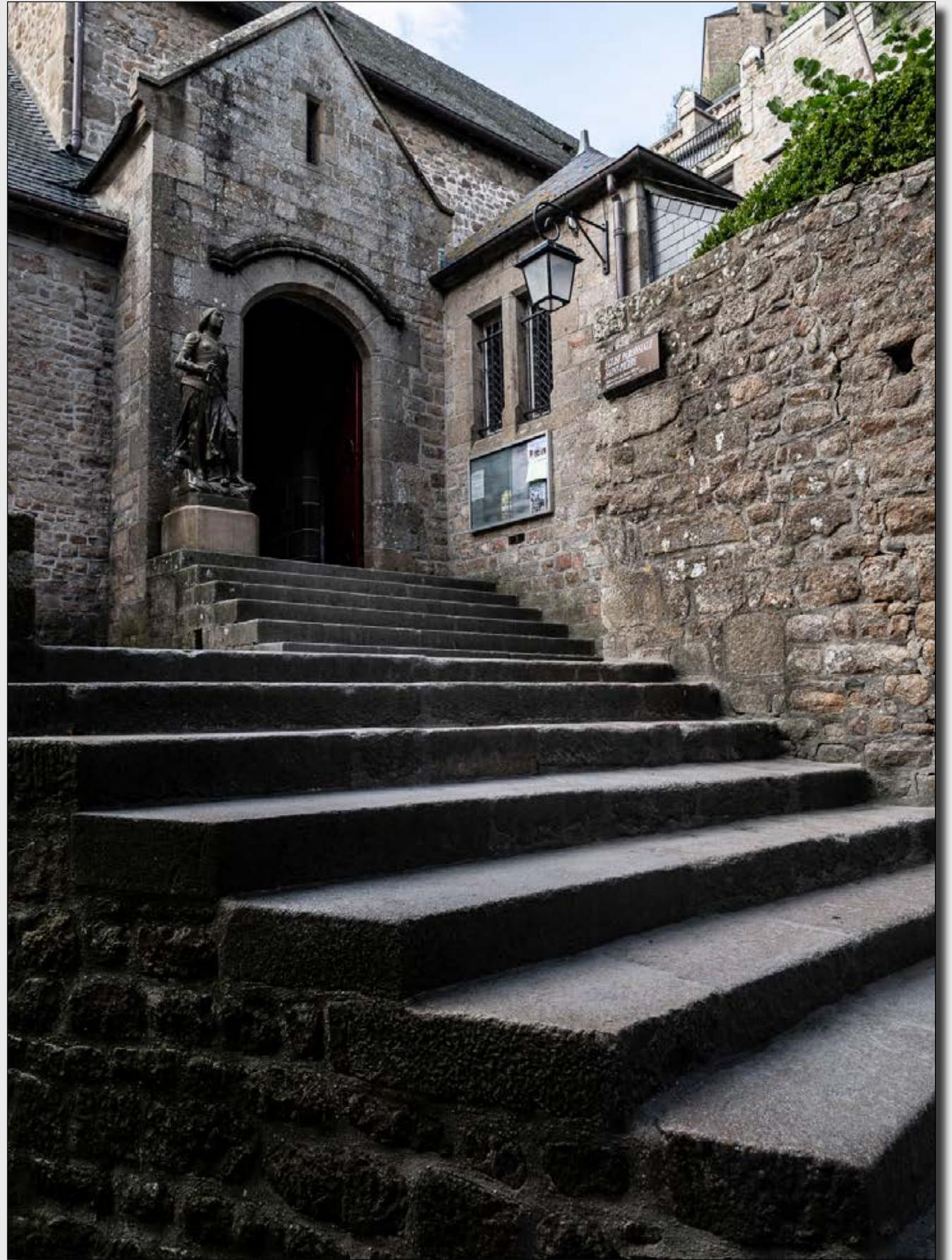
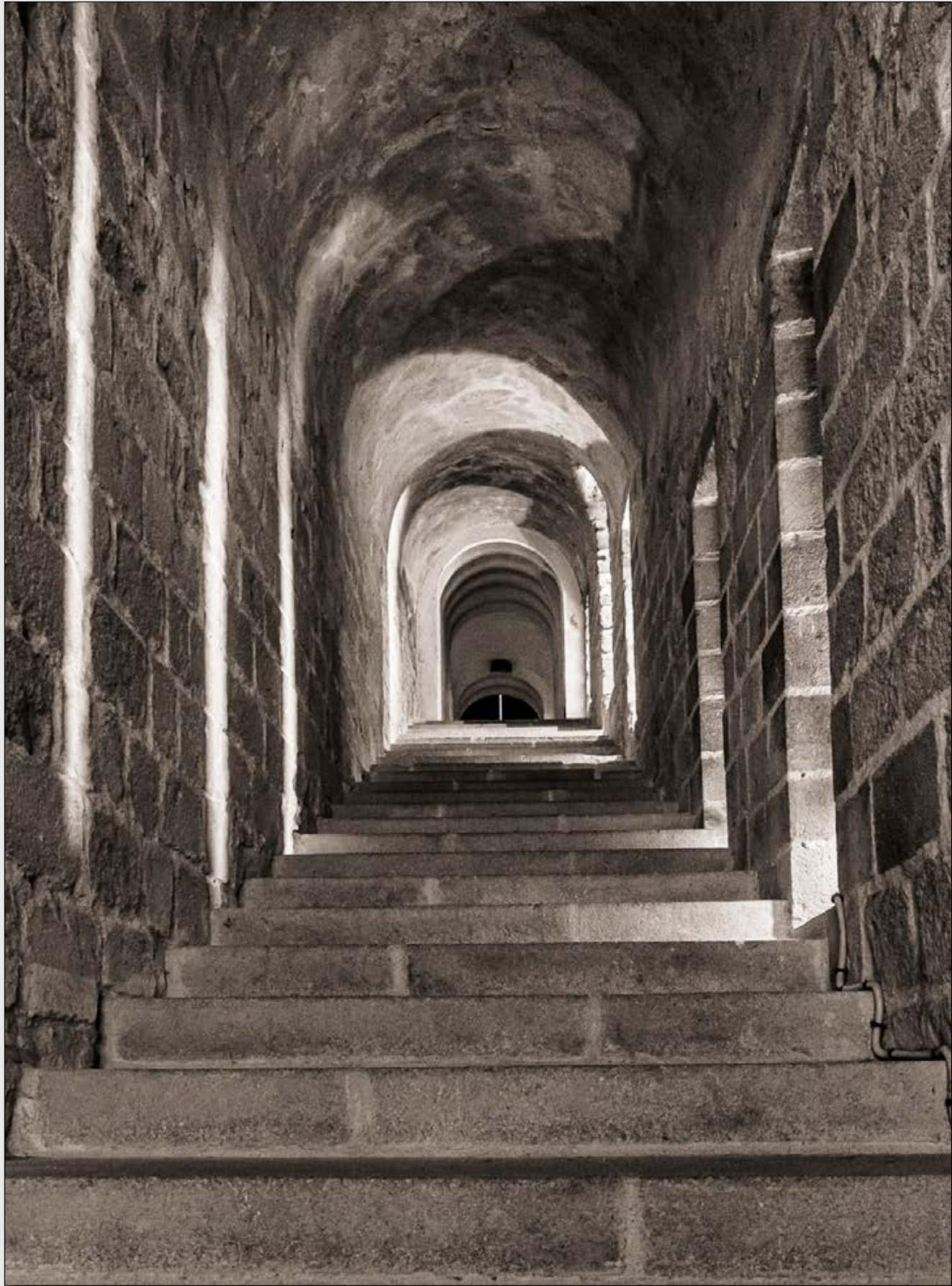














Please Stay on Path



## Please Stay on Path

Once we've gone down stream and up the stairs, we can continue our journey. We can follow the sign and stay on the path in front of us. In following the paths of those who have gone before us we trade adventure for certainty. There are times for exploring and there are times to stay within the boundaries of the path before us.

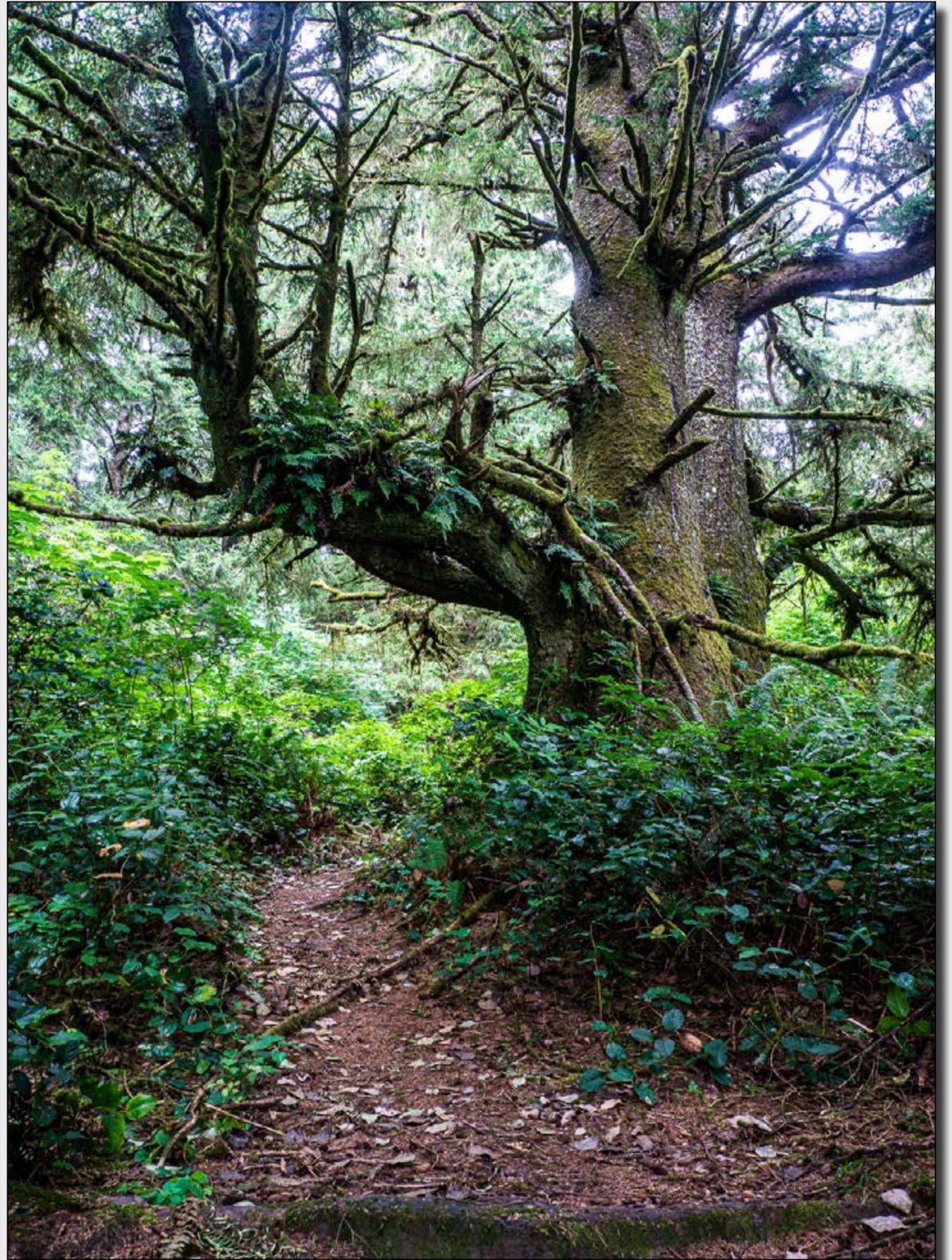
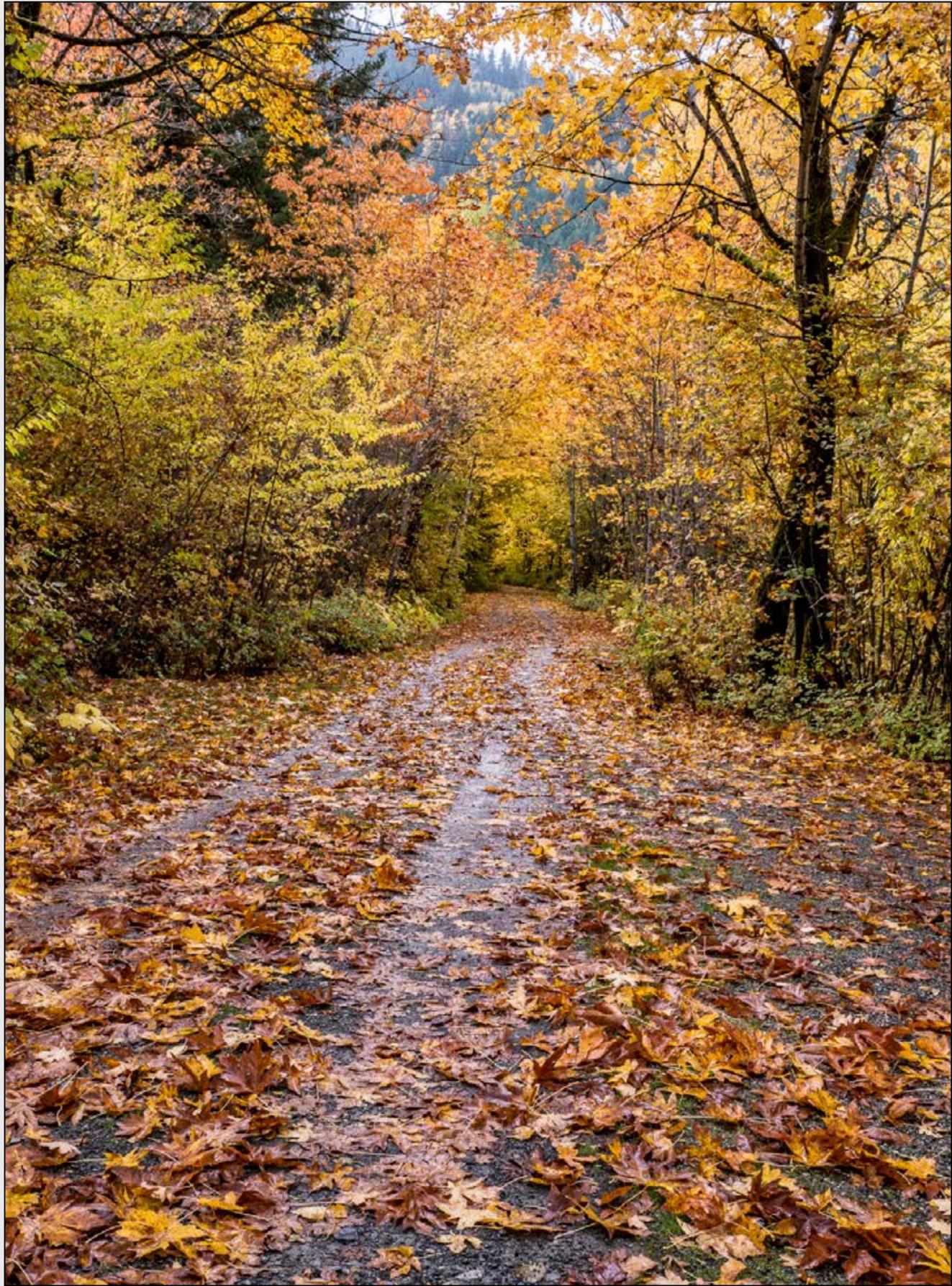
This time, we take the path in front of us and postpone our adventure for another day.



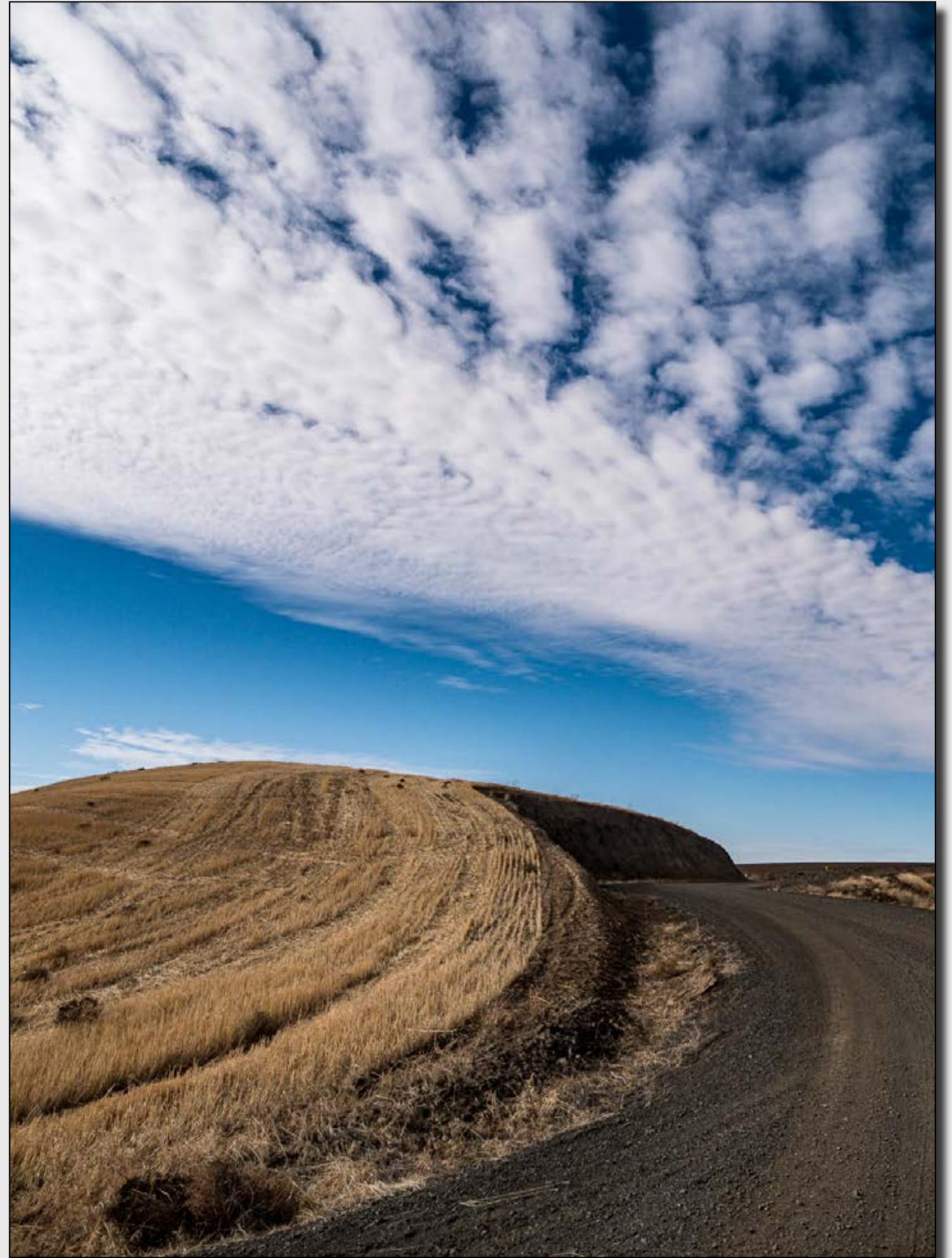




















## Six Word Project

Been there before I was born.

# Postcards from the Creative Journey

March 29, 2015

## Every Picture Has a Story

I don't make many portraits so portraits are special. We spent an afternoon photographing Melvin's machine shop while Melvin (center), Kenny and the sheep shearer (with sheep dog) took care of shearing Melvin's sheep. When we accomplished our photographic mission for the day, it came time to take our leave of Melvin's farm. Just before we left, the shearing was completed. The three men stood by the shed and were resting from a day's work. Melvin said that without the dog, it would have taken three more men to herd the sheep to the shearer. It was at that point I asked the men if I could make their photograph. Fatigue played a role in their not wanting to move and being able to sit still for a long exposure.

After I put my camera gear away, I came back to shake hands with Melvin and wish him well. He stuck out a huge mitt of hand and I gave him my best firm grip, double pump, look 'em in the eye handshake. I have shaken hands many times, but this was the most memorable in my life. Melvin's hand was huge, strong, and covered with lanolin from a day's handling of wool. The combination of a muscular hand hard and strong from a life time of farm work made incredibly soft by the lanolin was a tactile experience that transcended an afternoon of photography.





Bottle on Steps

Vergers de Ducy, Normandy, France

## A Few Closing Words

### The Sound of Water

I am drawn to the water's edge. It is the place where two different physical states collide. It is the difference between the two states that creates tension, energy and above all, the sounds of water. I am more creative at the water's edge, more relaxed and observant. I'm not sure why, but if I find the water's edge, I will find something to see and be serenaded by the water while I capture the interplay of solid and liquid.

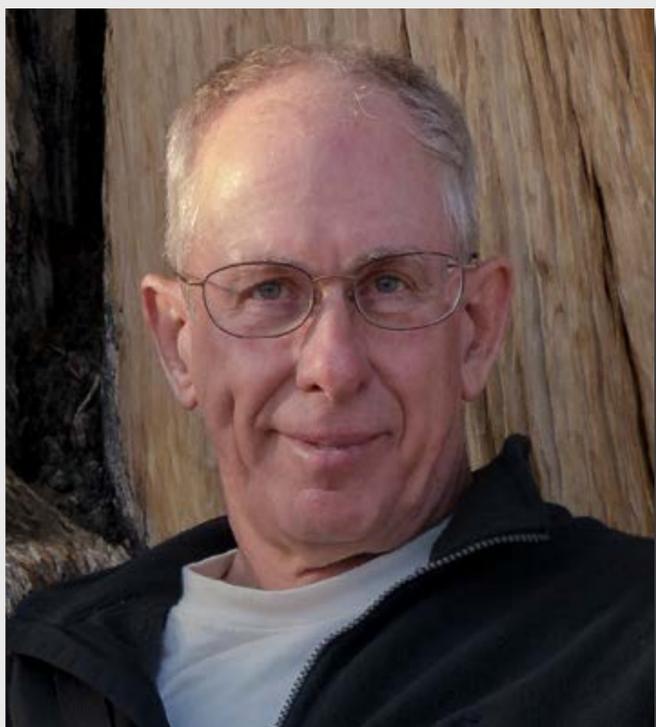
### Cascade of Stairs

When planning this month's Journal I was struck by the elevation change in water going downstream. Once at the bottom, the only way out must be going up. Stairs are the most convenient way to return to a higher elevation. I began looking for "stair photographs" that worked well with the previous suite of images. Imagine my surprise finding many more stair photographs than I could use in this image suite. I discovered a "Stealth Project," a group of photographs hiding in my Lightroom database.

### Please Stay on Path

What do you do once you have climbed the stairs? Some of the stair photographs also included an entrance to a path or road at the top of the stairs. Well, why not continue the journey by following a path? Many of my photographic journeys begin by following a path. Returning to the Lightroom database many images of paths magically appeared. I found yet another Stealth Project.

I found it both amusing and amazing this month's Journal assembled itself without much help from my conscious self. There are times when it pays to just let go and see where the photographs take you.



Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

In the last thirty years, his photographs have appeared in over one hundred juried exhibitions, more than twenty solo exhibitions and have been printed in *LensWork*, *Black & White Photography* (UK) and *F-Stop* Magazines.

His website [www.joelipkaphoto.com](http://www.joelipkaphoto.com) has continuously evolved since it was launched in 2004. His blog *Postcards from the Creative Journey*, published weekly since 2010, feature a photograph and a little bit of writing.

His newest blog, *The Daily Photograph*, is simply that. A new and interesting image posted every morning at 8:00 AM.

COLOPHON  
The Lipka Journal  
January, 2022

*Joe Lipka*

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Web site: [www.joelipkaphoto.com](http://www.joelipkaphoto.com)

Blog: <http://blog.joelipkaphoto.com/>

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