

A photograph of a rugged, layered rock wall. The rock is dark grey and brown, with visible horizontal and vertical cracks. Sparse vegetation, including dry grass and small shrubs, grows in the crevices. The text "A Hard Land" is overlaid in white serif font, and "Joe Lipka" is overlaid in a smaller, italicized white serif font below it.

A Hard Land

Joe Lipka

A Hard Land

Parables tell us of seeds that are dropped on hard ground. Mostly, they wither and die. But not all seeds die when they come to rest on hard land. Their arrival in these niches, crevices and little hand holds was happenstance; the result of winds, birds and rain. Almost miraculously, some plants and trees survive on the slim ledges of basaltic rock in a desert canyon.

The annual cycle of life continues. It is autumn, the leaves are changing color, sunlight becoming thinner and cooler. The winds begin to whistle down the canyon, harbingers of a harsh winter to come. Will this be the last year for those plants clinging to the cliffs in a hard land? We do not know what the winter will bring, we do not know if the plants will survive.

There are no guarantees in a Hard Land.







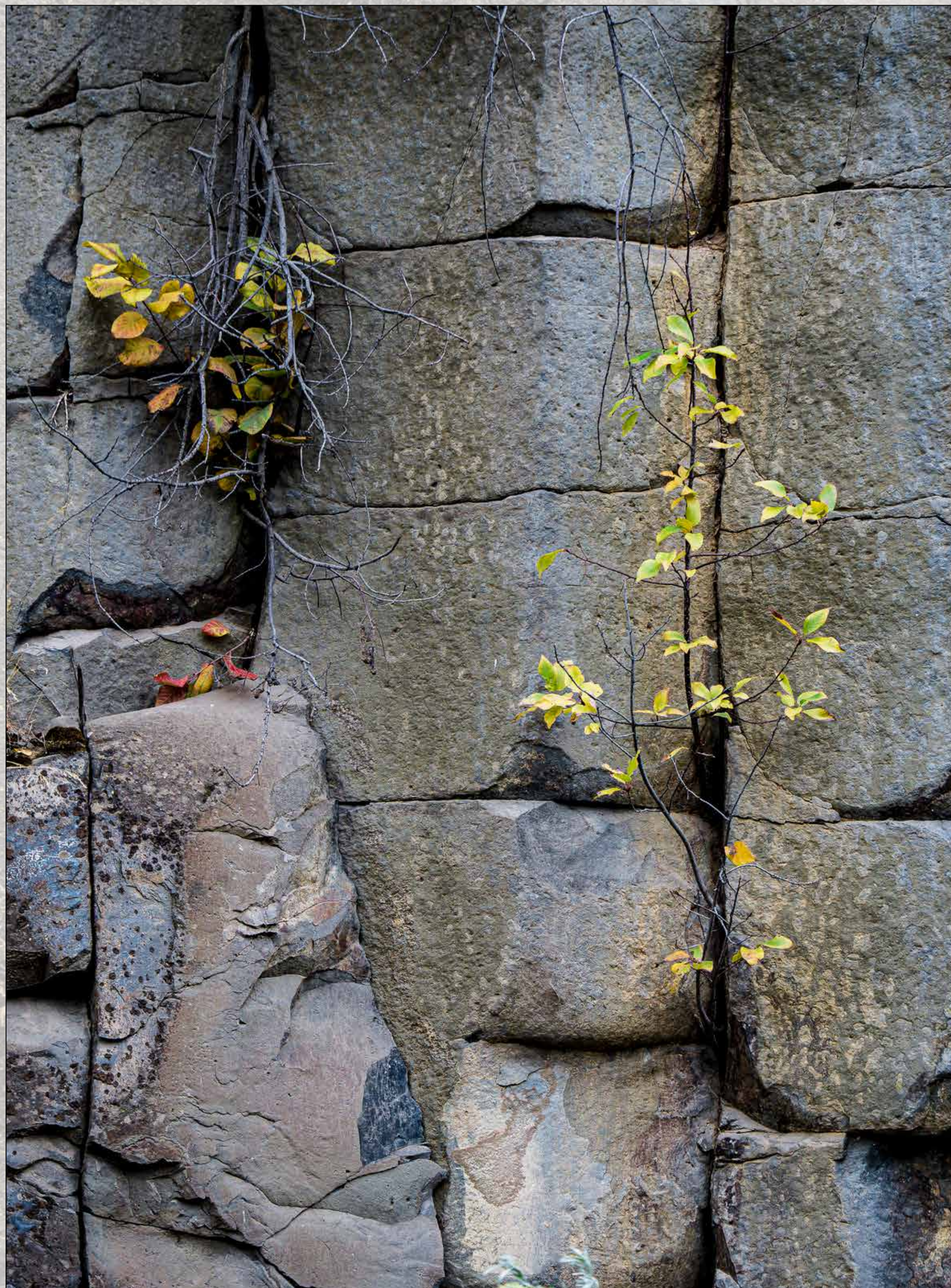










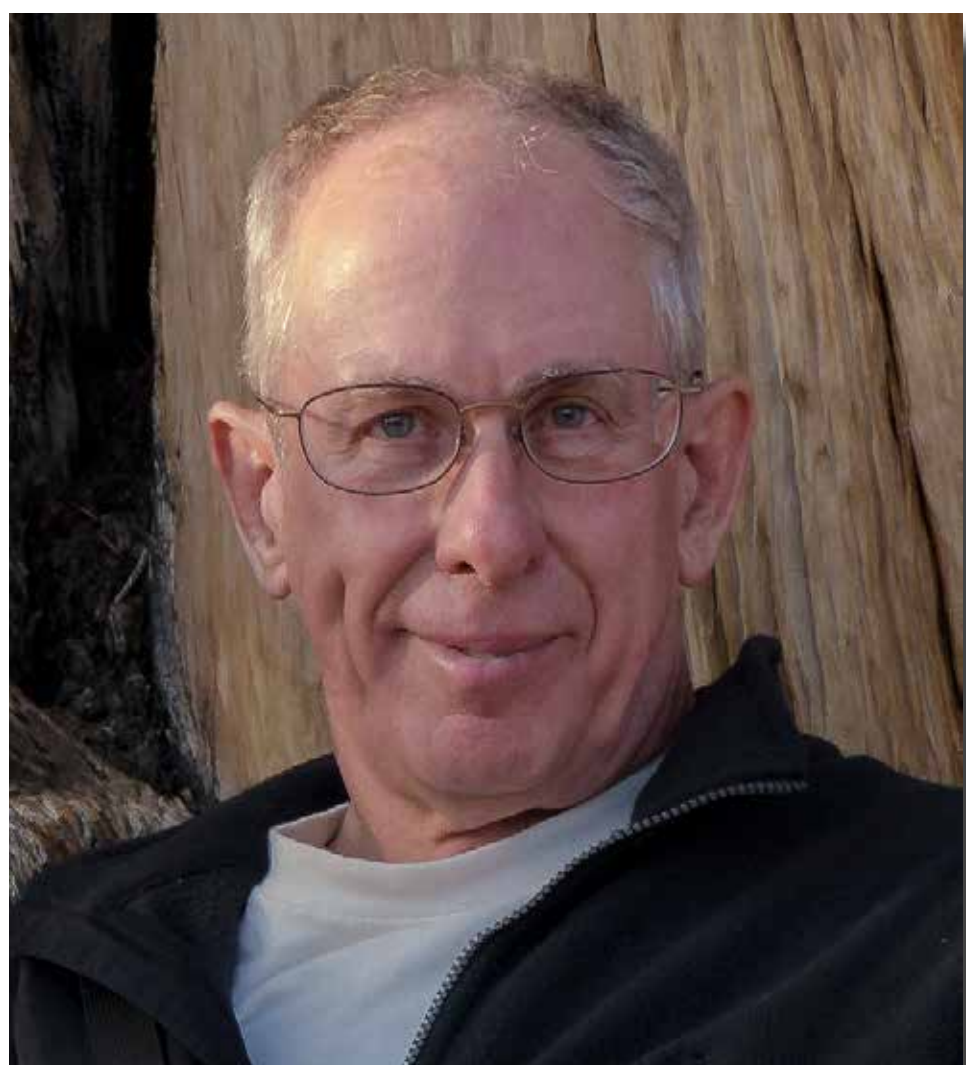












Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

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 both *LensWork* and *Black & White Photography* (UK) Magazines.

His website 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

A Hard Land

Joe Lipka

*These images were made in the
Deschutes River Canyon October, 2019.*

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Web site: www.joelipkaphoto.com

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

Blog: https://joelipkaphoto.typepad.com/the_daily_photograph/

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