



# THE LIPKA JOURNAL

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

MARCH 2024



# WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL MARCH 2024



Little Moments



Artfully Arranged



Mountain Tales

Our lives are made up of little moments. Events happen instantaneously. It's just a question of how long an instant is for each event. For sunlight in the woods, the time between little moments is very, very quick. Throwing a pot takes a short period of time, and then there is the time between throwing and firing a pot. How does a pot spend that time between throwing and firing? They wait patiently, artfully arranged on a shelf, waiting for their turn in the kiln. Time in geology is quite different. An earthquake or volcanic eruption is a sudden event with thousands of years of preparation. The little moments occur at intervals that span from minutes to eons.



# Little Moments





## Little Moments

Life is made up of little moments. Each of these little moments added together make up an hour, a day, a year and eventually, a lifetime. After ignoring enough of these little moments, we wonder, "Where did the day go," or some other lamentation about our lack of awareness. Sometimes, we notice these little moments and the awareness of our surroundings brings much more joy to us than we thought.

Sun, clouds, branches, and leaves create little moments of light and shadow in the forest.





































## A Mostly True Story

In cleaning out the homestead shack we came upon one of Great Aunt Stella's craft projects. Underneath the crocheted dog was a bottle of liquor. As a God-Fearing Christian woman, it would have been unseemly to have a bottle of brown liquor out in the open. A small uncovered bottle of cooking sherry in the pantry would have been respectable, but this bottle of strong drink out in the open would have been scandalous.

The crocheted dog cover avoided a scandal.







Artfully Arranged





## Artfully Arranged

As artists and creators we surround ourselves with the tools we need to create our art. Be it a computer desktop, writing area or a pottery studio, the work we have and the tools we use to create are kept within hands reach. Subconsciously, we arrange our work in a creative way, employing the tools we have repurposed from other lives and storing our partially completed artwork in an aesthetically pleasing fashion.

Here, it is the world of potters. The same behaviors are also practiced by wood workers, gunsmiths, wheelwrights, and weavers. It is the way of the creative person.



































## Six Word Story

There was nothing we could do.





# Mountain Tales





## Mountain Tales

He said, “I gaze into the beauty of those hills and wonder what stories they hold.”

I am incapable of comprehending the age of these rocks. Mountains witnessed the history of our planet. They know stories older than time itself. I cannot fathom what has played out in front of them. I am incapable of knowing all of what has transpired in front of these mountains.

My existence at the foot of these peaks is another story to be held by the mountains.













































# Postcards from the Creative Journey

October 10, 2021

## The Experience Was Better Than the Photograph

We make photographs as part of our life experience. We go to a scenic place, we have a family event, we want to commemorate a special occasion. We have our camera (or more likely our smartphone) and make images.

Therein lies the conflict. We want to participate and remember the experience and we try to simultaneously record the moments for our audience, be it family, friends or those other wonderful people that stop by our blog or website. Handling the conflict between the photographic self and the “civilian” self is a conflict to be resolved on the spot.

Sometimes we forget to be photographers and we enjoy the experience for what it is. That is a good thing because, while maybe not accurate, sometimes memories are better than photographs.





# A FEW CLOSING WORDS



## Little Moments

My Dad had a sign that said, “Good Judgement comes from experience. Experience comes from bad judgement.” Driving down a dirt road on Desert Island in Maine an outcropping of rocks, trees, fall leaves and moss appeared on our left. The sun and quickly moving clouds were on our right. Experience told me to call for a photo stop. We had but a few moments to photograph before we “lost” the sun behind some clouds. Opportunity and experience led to a quick project that could only be completed in a Little Moment.



## Artfully Arranged

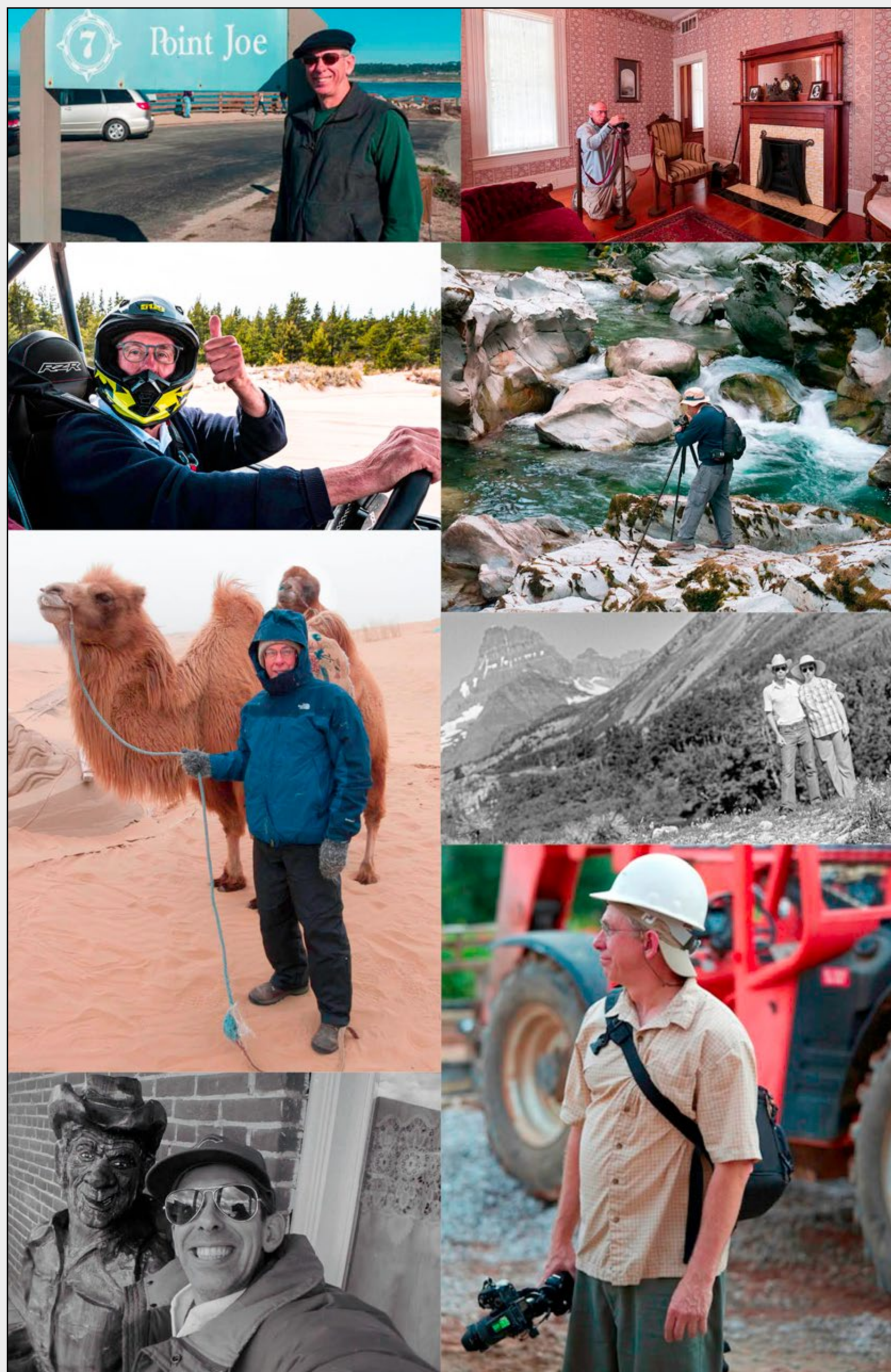
Brooks Jensen and I were honored to spend a few days in Asheboro, North Carolina photographing in pottery studios. One of the stages in the creation of pots is firing. Jugs and pots are fired in groups. While waiting for their turn in the kiln, they are stored as work in progress. Artists are always artists and even when their work is in progress, it is arranged in a beautiful pattern.



## Mountain Tales

He said, “I gaze into the beauty of those hills and wonder what stories they hold” was the text of one of my “Mostly True Stories.” What more needs to be said? I thought that would be a great introduction to some of my favorite mountain photographs.





Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

In the last forty years, his photographs have appeared in over one hundred twenty juried exhibitions, more than twenty-five solo exhibitions and his images have been published 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.

## The Lipka Journal, March, 2024

*Joe Lipka*

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

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

Blog: [https://joelipkaphoto.typepad.com/the\\_daily\\_photograph/](https://joelipkaphoto.typepad.com/the_daily_photograph/)

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