

THE LIPKA JOURNAL

A PHOTO EZINE WITH

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

NO. 060 DECEMBER 2025



WELCOME TO THE LIPKA JOURNAL DECEMBER 2025



This month is concerned with extremes of distance. Very close or very far away. We start off close seeing individual autumn leaves as individual grace notes in a colorful symphony of autumn. Photographs of the Grand Landscape are made at a distance for sure. We travel long distances to see those remote locations and then we stand far away from the subject to fit it all in one frame. At the opposite end of that spectrum we return home to sit quietly on the edge of a pond in a local park and wait for abstract water patterns to appear for us.



Little Autumn

Little Autumn

Walls of autumn leaves fill mountainsides with breathtaking beauty. It is a symphony of color, a blend of many leaves of many colors that can overpower us with their beauty. We marvel at the number of leaves, but we rarely look at the individual leaves and the singular beauty they possess. We see the forest for the trees, but don't look at the individual leaves, grace notes in a visual symphony of color, each leaf a Little Autumn of its own.





















A Mostly True Story

Ken and Gerty moved to town after the ranch became too much for them to handle. Their kids had no interest in ranching and moved to the big city. Last summer their daughter came to visit with their toddler grandchild. Ken decided it would be fun to have their grandchild play on the swing set in the schoolyard. Ken replaced the wooden seat with a special red plastic swing for his grandchild. No one objected because the school had been locked up, unused for decades.

Everyone debated whether Ken's smile or his granddaughter's smile was bigger.



Footsteps



Footsteps

When I started photography in the 1970's I fell in love with the American West based on Ansel Adams' photographs of the Sierra Nevada and John Denver's songs of the Rocky Mountains. We all wanted to go west and be "the next Ansel Adams" blithely unaware that the photographs that inspired us were not reality. They existed because of Adams' vision and darkroom skills.

We continued our pursuit of the ideal and along the way we stumbled into images that we thought we could make our own. It was a dream realized even though we knew we would not even begin to approach Ansel's critical success and fame.

But we did know that we could use those footsteps as a guide to making our own photographs of the land.























Fred told stories from his rocker.

Prologue: A photo and six words.



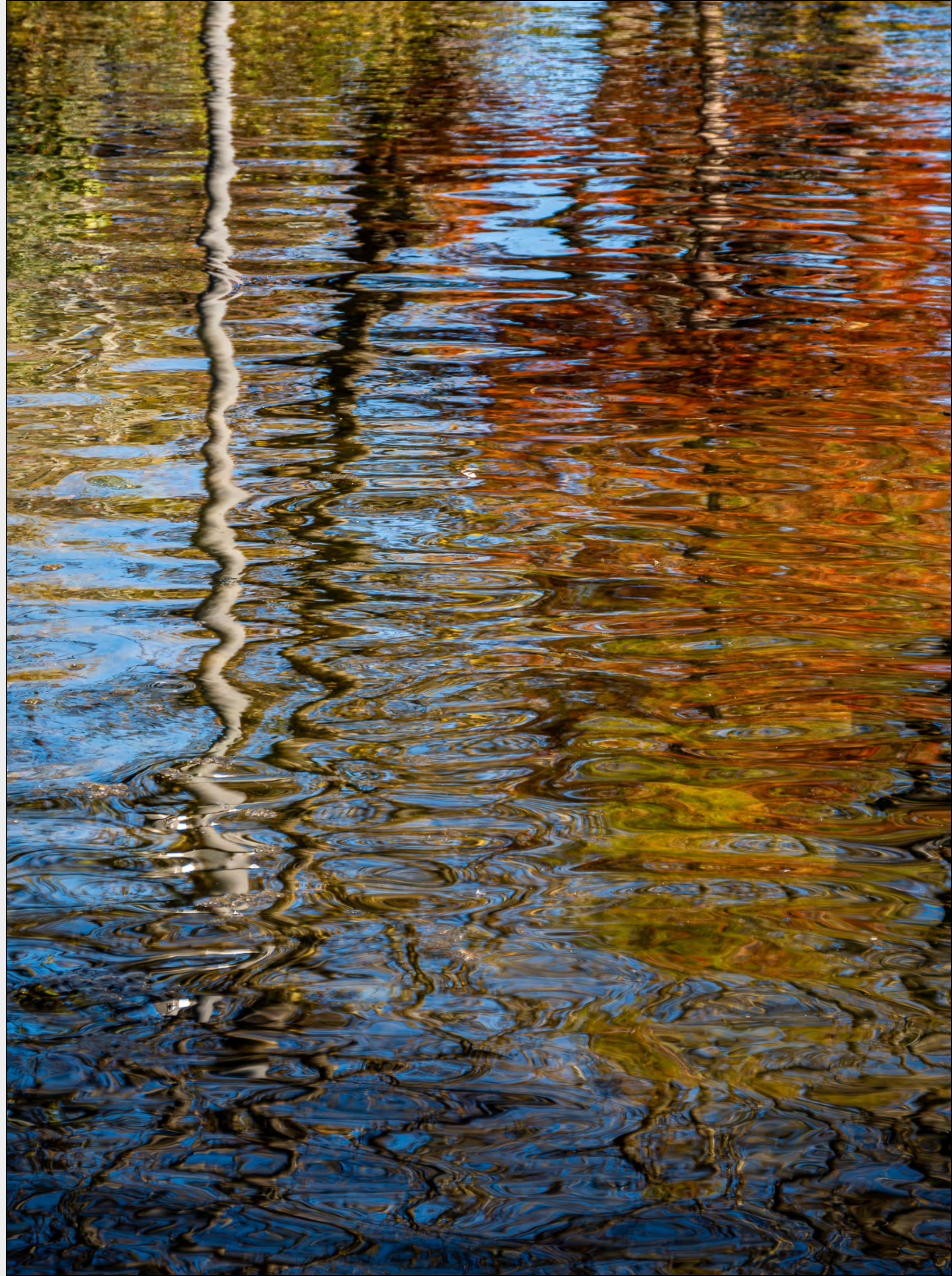


A Magical Appearance

A Magical Appearance

Photographs magically appear in the most unlikely places and times. I was learning how to use my new camera by photographing a local park. I decided to take a rest for a few moments at the edge of a large lilly pond.

Sometimes you have to go out looking for photographs and sometimes the photographs will magically appear in front of you when you least expect it.





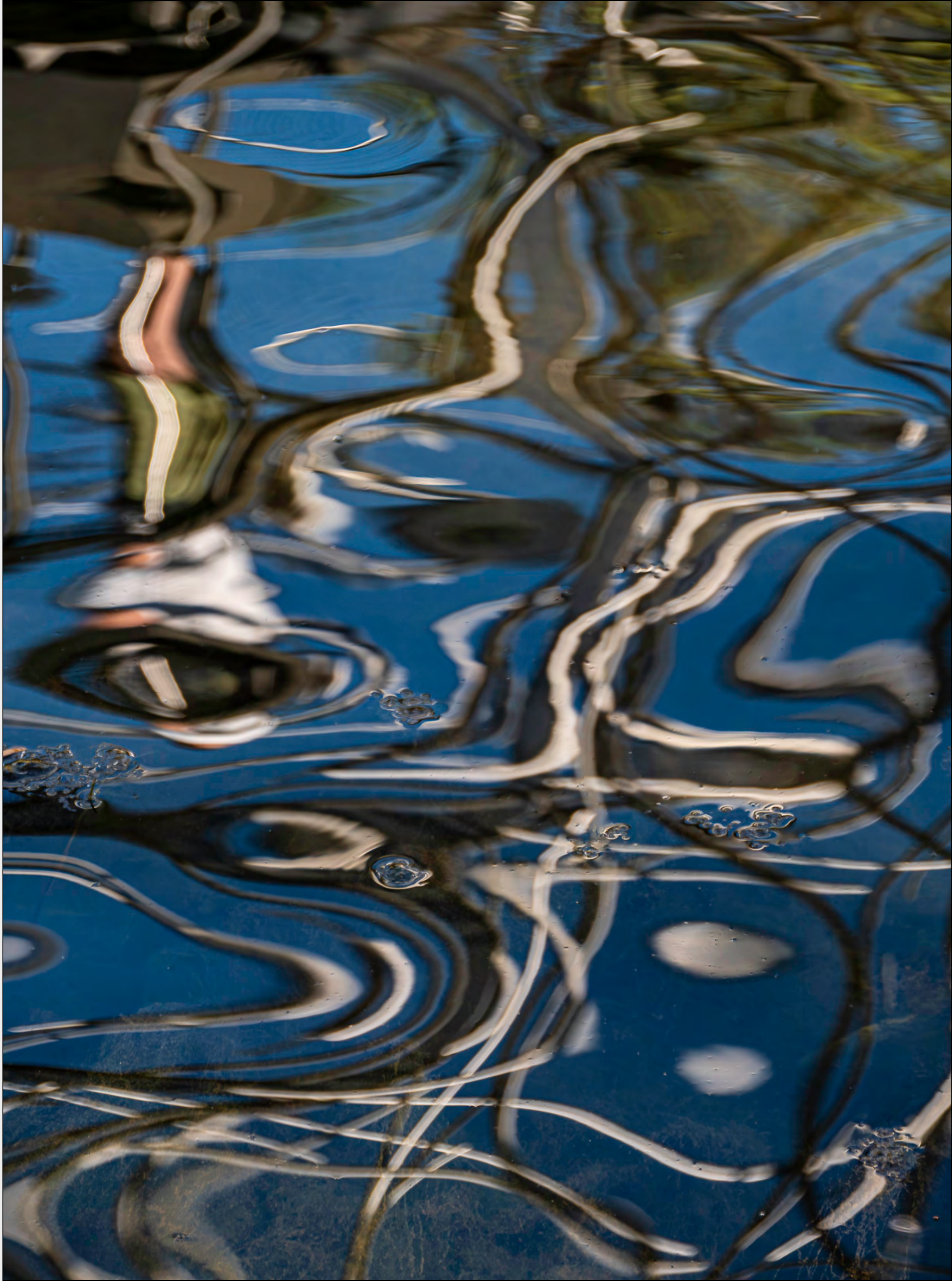














Postcards from the Creative Journey



Dear Ward,

I recently viewed two photographic exhibitions with decidedly different effects on the viewer. The first exhibit was chock full of images were obviously digitally edited to within an inch of their lives. The major discussion among the attendees was, "How did you use photoshop to get that affect?"

The second exhibit was different in that it was restricted to black and white imagery. The topic of discussion was the impact of the images and their meaning.

People are more interested in what's in the pictures, not how you made them.

JOE



Ward Cleaver

211 Pine St.

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Postcards from the Creative Journey

In January of 2010 I began a weekly photographic blog on the TypePad platform, under the name of Square Pegs. I wanted the blog to be a home for images that didn't make it into the projects on my website.

A few years later I rebranded the Blog to Postcards from the Creative Journey. After fifteen years I decided to end the Typepad blog on January 5, 2025. Later, in 2025 Typepad went out of business. All the content from all the bloggers was lost when Typepad shut down. My content was preserved, because I had copies of everything I had posted there.

What to do with over One Thousand (!) Postcards from the Creative Journey? I decided that I would take my one hundred best blog posts and self-publish a book. I set about that task and came to realize the book would be over two hundred pages. The resulting book would be unaffordable to publish and impossible to sell. An Ezine version of the book could be downloaded from my website as a free PDF Ezine. I plan on organizing the best blog entries into short Ezines sorted by topic.

In January 2026 I will begin to publish the One Hundred Thoughts on Creative Photography as Free Photographic Ezines on my website. If you're on my mailing list, I'll send out a notice when each Ezine is ready for you.

JOE

A FEW WORDS AT THE END OF THE JOURNAL



Little Autumn

Little Autumn

The last few autumn photo safaris have been undertaken during prime “leaf peeping” season. Not on purpose, mind you, but it just so happened that the timing was driven by other events that made travel at that time convenient. We’ve all been impressed by mountainsides of brilliant autumn leaves, but I thought that looking closely at individual leaves would be something quite different. It just seems like a photographic thing to do. So, a few leaf peeping photographs comprised of the grace notes from an autumn symphony of color.



Footsteps

Footsteps

A local gallery proposed a landscape show. I decided I had enough images to meet the five-image entry requirement. I found a lot more than five images. I picked out a bunch of images and then thought, why not put them all together in The Lipka Journal. So, here are some of the better landscape images I’ve created. And, for your edification and enjoyment, the images on Page 22, (Hell’s Half Acre), and the cover shot of Shiprock in Clouds became part of the exhibition.



A Magical Appearance

A Magical Appearance

I just purchased a “new to me” camera and needed to get familiar with it before this year’s Photo Safari. Looking for a quick and easy place to go to learn how to use the camera, I headed for a local park. After photographing intensely for about an hour I sat down at the edge of a pond to rest. These photographs magically appeared in front of me. Art is out there. Sometimes you just have to travel cross country to make art, and sometimes you sit down and art comes to you.

Shiprock in clouds was made in October, so I think I figured out how to use that new camera.



Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

In the last forty years, his photographs have appeared in over one hundred and twenty five juried exhibitions, and twenty five solo exhibitions. His images have been published in *LensWork*, *Black & White Photography* (UK) and *F-Stop Magazines*. His recent book project, *Mostly True Stories*, was featured as a LensWork Bonus Edition Publication in February 2024.

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, is now part of *The Lipka Journal*.

His newest blog, *The Daily Photograph*, has migrated to Instagram. Don't forget to follow him on this new platform.

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Joe Lipka

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Web site: www.joelipkaphoto.com

Instagram: www.instagram.com/dailyphoto7375

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