

PREFACE

by Larry & Donna Ulrich

As professional photographers, Larry and I can live anywhere; we chose to live in the Pacific Northwest. Though some may think that California doesn't fit into that regional category, we who live near the Oregon border identify with our neighbors to the north botanically, geographically and emotionally. While photographing a book on Oregon for Oxford University Press decades ago we became very familiar with the diverse grandeur of the state. Rarely a year goes by without a trip to or through Oregon: just about anywhere we go to photograph requires a drive through the Beaver State. That is fine by us - all roads slice through some of the most gorgeous scenery in the west, much of it untrammelled and crowd-free.

Professional photographers in the west are a pretty tight-knit group—sharing knowledge and ideas is central to our success. Before Larry had a clue about digital technology several of his photo pals, including Greg Vaughn, started introducing him to Photoshop. When visiting our home a few years ago, Greg pulled out his laptop and started to show Larry what Photoshop could do. It was all over Larry's head but he paid attention to the concepts and realized what a valuable tool it was, even for a large format film shooter. It took a couple of years to really commit to the technology but now, after many, many hours in front of a computer, our entire library of marketable images are scanned and we have reinvented our business as a digital stock photo agency.

Sometimes our forays into our northern neighbor's territory are inspired by a phone call from Greg Vaughn. "Hey, I hear the rhodies are good on the coast". Since we live equal distances away from some of the great photo ops in the state, we sometimes meet in the middle. We once spent two glorious days together on the South Umpqua River with peak fall color, perfect light and misty rain. We only saw Greg in the evening, after we were done shooting. We'd talk about the places we'd gone that day, the shots we'd taken. As a 4x5 shooter, Larry had nothing to show but undeveloped film and a smile on his face, but Greg was showing us his entire day on his computer with a smile on his face!

We first heard of Greg's photography when he lived in Hawaii. He moved with his family to Oregon in 1989 and instantly felt at home. It took a while for him to admit it, but now he likes living and shooting in Oregon even more than Hawaii. Greg says "I am still discovering new places in Oregon and there's nothing I like better than taking off with the truck loaded with camping and camera gear, heading for a road or trail I haven't been on before".



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Natural curiosity, well-honed writing skills and 'local knowledge' are the keys to his success. His love of Oregon shows in his fine photography and we are honored to be asked to write the Preface for this book.

If you are an amateur photographer and have never been to Oregon, you are missing out. If you are a professional and have yet to travel to there, you could be late for work. If you live in Oregon and have never been to some of these places to shoot, shame on you! Though many of the greatest spots to photograph are rapidly being inundated with too many people and parking lots, lucky are those of us who are willing to drag our cameras (and sometimes loved-ones) to distant places to get a good shot. This book will be an invaluable guide for all who are adventuresome with a camera, take it with you and explore. Perhaps you will discover some new places of your own.

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Finally, I can't express enough my appreciation for my wife, lover, partner and friend Penelope, who's put up with me for lo these many years, and whose unwavering support has made possible not just this book but my career as a photographer. This book is dedicated to you, sweetheart. ❀