



Lou Parrillo

My adopted Italian immigrant father and second generation German-American mother raised me in a small town in northern New Jersey. I had a choice between music and athletics and stayed on the track of athletics all through school.

I grew up with a keen interest in small business. I started my first at eleven, a neighborhood paper route. I worked at any job I could find through my teen years including butcher shop, driveway builder, supermarket, restaurant bus-boy, accountant for an entrepreneur, and a swimming pool installation company. While studying business at the University of Toledo I found my first real job with a manufacturer in the automotive parts industry and continued in that field for twenty five years. I was forty before I finally attained my goal of owning a real small business and had three different companies in automotive parts and home inspection.

My love of photography developed in my late twenties when I lived in Northern California. I discovered its abundant nature and wanted to capture its beauty to share with others. I had a Minolta SLR with a Rokkor lens and shot mountain and sea scenes. I produced large prints and framed them by hand with native wood. My enthusiasm during this time infected my son John. He became a free-lance photographer, lover of nature landscapes, and travel companion for his old man.

From who knows where, the love of the great outdoors and travel took over my life. I sold my last automotive business and lived for three years in Finland. I learned the language, studied in a university, and taught in three schools during my time there. I've visited 43 countries, many of them using a tent as my home. I learned to love hiking and backpacking when I lived in the Cascades. I've spent my twenty plus years in Florida camping in its excellent state parks and kayaking our beautiful spring-fed rivers while working my day job inspecting nearly 5,000 homes for local families. We have done seven home exchanges with European families and actively host visitors from South America, Canada and Europe in our New Port Richey guest cottage. I've visited five continents and have two more to see while I still can.

My appreciation for beauty, and encouragement from my son, have brought me back to photography after a nearly forty year hiatus. It has been my good fortune to study with and learn from the many masters in the Chasco Camera Club. I seek to depict and capture nature, architecture and people as they are. I've learned to love especially the production of fine prints and to share with others my appreciation of beauty. Now that I've retired I'm hoping to develop as a photographer while continuing to travel, enjoy foreign cultures, and nature.