

# Meet the Merchant

## Randall J. Hodges Photography

Randall J. Hodges, owner

Images of the West Gallery, 224 N. Hemlock St. #1, Cannon Beach, 503-436-4113

Randall J. Hodges Photography Gallery, 317 Main St., Edmonds, Washington, 425-582-0803

Interview by Carolyn Hoard

### 1. Could you introduce yourself?

“My name is Randall J. Hodges. I own Randall J. Hodges Photography, which includes the Randall J. Hodges Photography Gallery in downtown Edmonds, Washington, and the Images of the West Gallery, by Randall J. Hodges in beautiful Cannon Beach, Oregon. My work has been published over 4,800 times worldwide. I teach photography lessons and adventures all around the west. I have a book out called Images of the West, and I do talks and webinars on my old-school all-in-camera style of shooting, and that is what I am known for. I do all the work in the camera with no Photoshop or post processing.”

### 2. How did you get started in photography?

“I wanted to get paid to hike!”

**3. Could you tell me about the gallery and how it got started?**

“I was a traveling artist doing 26 shows a year around the Northwest, but the dream was to open a gallery. Over seven years ago I opened the Randall J. Hodges Photography Gallery in Edmonds. Three years ago, I opened the Images of the West Gallery in Cannon Beach.”

### 4. Could you tell me about the photography classes you offer and some teaching highlights?

“I teach locally at Edmonds Beach in the summer, at Wallace Falls in the winter, and [Skagit Valley for] the Tulips in the spring. I also teach adventures at places like Grand Teton National Park, Death Valley National Park, Mount Rainier National Park, Olympic National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Palouse Hills and Palouse Falls, Mount Shuksan, fall color classes at Lake Wenatchee and Tumwater Canyon, and many other locations. Every year my lessons schedule changes a bit, but you can always get an updated list on my lessons tab on my website at [www.randalljhodges.com](http://www.randalljhodges.com). I help students set up and run their cameras, to shoot like a pro right in the camera without the need for post processing. My classes are very hands on, and 100% out in the field.”

### 5. How do you decide on the best location to teach students?

“From years of exploring, and deciding which is the right time of year to be in each location. Before I teach a class in a certain area, I would have visited it and explored that area at least five times.”

### 6. For a beginning photographer, which class would you recommend they take?

“Any of my classes, but lots of people start with Edmonds Beach or Wallace Falls.”

### 7. What do you love about landscape photography?

“Everything. I love the hiking, exploring and the



PHOTOS BY RANDALL J. HODGES

Randall J. Hodges is pictured in one of the landscapes where he teaches photography.



Sunrise at Haystack Rock in Cannon Beach by Randall J. Hodges.

light. I like being in nature, and trying to connect with Mother Earth.”

### 8. What's the inspiration behind your photos?

“I try to share my spiritual connection with nature through my images.”

### 9. What are your favorite places, times of day and types of weather to photograph?

“All. I like to be in certain areas at certain times of the year for the best results. In winter, my favorite [places] are beaches in the San Juan Islands and snowshoeing in the mountains. February it's Death Valley National Park. Spring its daffodils, then cherry blossoms, then tulips. May is time for the desert Southwest. Then right into shooting Northwest streams, waterfalls, rivers and forest trails until mid-June. In fall, I start up high in the mountains, chasing mountain wildflowers and lakes, then work my way down with the snowfall, until I finish in the Colum-

bia River Gorge.”

### 10. What are some challenges to entering into the photography business?

“Too much competition. Everyone who gets a camera and learns Photoshop wants to be a full-time photographer. Best advice is to find your own niche. Be different. Mine is doing it all-in-camera.”

### 11. Do you have a favorite photograph?

“No, I have hundreds or thousands of them.”

### 12. What advice would you give to an aspiring photographer?

“Take a lesson out in the field and master the technique for whatever it is you want to shoot. You must be technically sound. Then train your eye, and build a professional portfolio of images in your specialty.”

### 13. What kind of lenses do you use and for

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