



## **Steve Wheeler**

### **Steve Wheeler Photography**

Steve Wheeler, proprietor of Steve Wheeler Photography, is the son of Richard Wheeler and Fedna Fowler. Steve was born in San Antonio and raised in Dallas, Texas. His initial career included civil engineering and telecommunications.

Steve's interest in the gem and mineral hobby was spurred at the age of 11 when he responded to an advertisement for trilobites in the back of a magazine. His interest grew in the late 1980s when he went camping and hunting in Broken Bow, Oklahoma. It was in Broken Bow where Steve met the late Cephis Hall who led him on several day trips to dig quartz in southeast Oklahoma. The agate bug bit Steve when he discovered Brad Cross' book, *The Agates of Northern Mexico*.

While fascinated by the mineral photography of the classic photographers Harold and Erica Van Pelt, Jeff Scovill, and others, Steve recognized that a gap existed by the exclusion of fine agates and jaspers. He took advantage of the opportunity by building on a previous talent. Steve had taken photography classes at Brookhaven Junior College and acquired his first 35 mm camera in the late 1970s. With a growing agate collection, coupled with an eye for photography, Steve purchased his first SLR camera in 2007 to document his agate collection. As camera technology improved, Steve upgraded his camera suite, producing images today that are among the best in the industry.

When Steve first started collecting banded agates he fantasized of crawling around inside them and exploring their every detail. Macrophotography allowed him to help partially fulfill that fantasy and share with the world details which would normally never be seen. Steve's goal in his 'agate art' is to create aesthetically pleasing pieces that would be appreciated by *anyone*, not just connoisseurs of gems and minerals. His 'agate art' demonstrates that it's not always the technique that makes a good photograph, but one's personal connection to the subject that truly makes an image resonate.

Steve's master-quality work has been showcased on several covers of *Rock and Gem* magazine as well as a science school textbook. In addition to his skills of gem and mineral photography, Steve has also mastered wildlife and architectural images. His multi-faceted photography skills have been featured in *Modern Luxury* magazine and his photographs of internationally recognized musicians have been featured on several CD covers.