

Teaching photographers to see creatively

by Andrew Moore, for *The Bulletin*

Just in time for fall colors and foggy riverbeds, snowy peaks and sublime sunsets, is the annual Photography in the Aspens workshop to be held Friday through Sunday, Oct. 14-16 at Black Butte Ranch.

The event — for intermediate to advanced digital photographers — is hosted again this year by Portland-based photographer Rick Schafer.

It includes morning, afternoon and evening field excursions, as well as classroom instruction on composition and digital editing. Meals are also included.

Schafer, a professional stock and landscape photographer, hopes the workshop will offer a chance for fellow photographers to swap stories and share tricks, but also concentrate on what makes a good photograph.

"The goal is for photographers to go from using their cameras to document a scene to creatively interpreting the scene in front of them," Schafer said.

The workshop can range in size each year between 20 to 40 people, but Schafer said he makes it a point to spend time alone with each student.

"Black Butte Ranch is not only a personal favorite location of mine, but it's a photographer's paradise," said Schafer. "There are all these opportunities, from the Metolius (River) to the (Santiam) Pass to Smith Rocks, so it's easy to find something to shoot."

Schafer is also the stepson of Ray Atkeson, former Photographer Laureate of the State of Oregon, and manages the Ray Atkeson Image Archive, currently housed at the Knight Library at the University of Oregon in Eugene.

Tuition has yet to be determined but

is likely to be a few dollars more than the \$275 that was charged last year, according to Charles Kingsbaker, director of sales and marketing at Black Butte Ranch.

Students who stay at Black Butte Ranch for the workshop are also eligible for a 25 percent discount on lodging, though students are not required to stay at the facility.

Photographers interested in attending must use a digital camera, and be familiar with the camera's manual settings. They are also required to bring a tripod. In addition, a laptop is required, and students need to know how to use photo editing software.

Photographers should also be prepared for wintry conditions, as Schafer plans to get outside as much as possible, he said.

For more information, call Black Butte Ranch at 541-595-6211 or visit www.rickschafer.com.

