



MISTY MORNING CYPRESS TREES



*Susan Dragoo*

## Susan Dragoo: Artist

As a young girl exploring the woods of northeastern Oklahoma, Susan Dragoo developed a love for the natural beauty of her home state. Photography has given her a way to express it. Both writer and photographer since high school, the Okmulgee native has combined those creative tools with her enjoyment of the outdoors to create a body of work centered on scenic photography and travel writing. "I love finding the beauty in a scene or an object that might otherwise seem ordinary," says Susan. "I have seen the majesty of the Himalaya and the power of the oceans and these are marvelous. But the diversity of Oklahoma's scenery is something marvelous in itself. We have the wooded hills and clear streams of the state's eastern edges, the unique ecosystem of the Cross Timbers running north to south through the center of the state, and the prairies, mesas and ancient mountains of the west. The beauty of our state might be overlooked from a distance, and that's why I like to get close to it through hiking, using photography to share what I discover."

Susan's photography in Sequoyah State Park is a prime example. "The park's location on a peninsula jutting out into Lake Fort Gibson provides beautiful shoreline and spectacular sunrises and sunsets. Sequoyah State Park also has a surprising number of cypress trees, giving it an unusual appearance

for this part of the country. One of my favorite spots to photograph is the Fossils trail along the eastern edge of the park. It's a rocky walk through canopied forest and along craggy shoreline with some spectacular fossils, as the name suggests."

"I hope my photography inspires others to get outdoors and explore the park – hike and ride its trails and explore its nooks and crannies. Oklahoma is a great place to get outdoors virtually any time of year and each season has its own beauty. There is much to see beyond the paved roads at Sequoyah State Park and I hope others will go outside and discover it for themselves."

Susan lives in Norman with her husband, Bill Dragoo. When not exploring Oklahoma or some other beautiful part of the world, the couple enjoys spending time with their five sons and growing number of grandchildren. Susan's work has been featured in numerous publications, including *Oklahoma Today*, *Arkansas Living*, *TrailGroove*, and *OutdoorX4*. Her background also includes newspaper journalism, public relations, and healthcare quality. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Telecommunications from the University of Tulsa, a Master of Science Degree in Management from Southern Nazarene University and a Master of Science Degree in Biostatistics from the University of Oklahoma.

