

Wild Wednesday 19 August 2020

The summer drought had lasted so long that even dry humor was no longer acceptable. Paper was so dry that it knew what parch meant. I no longer remembered what it felt like to be a humid being.

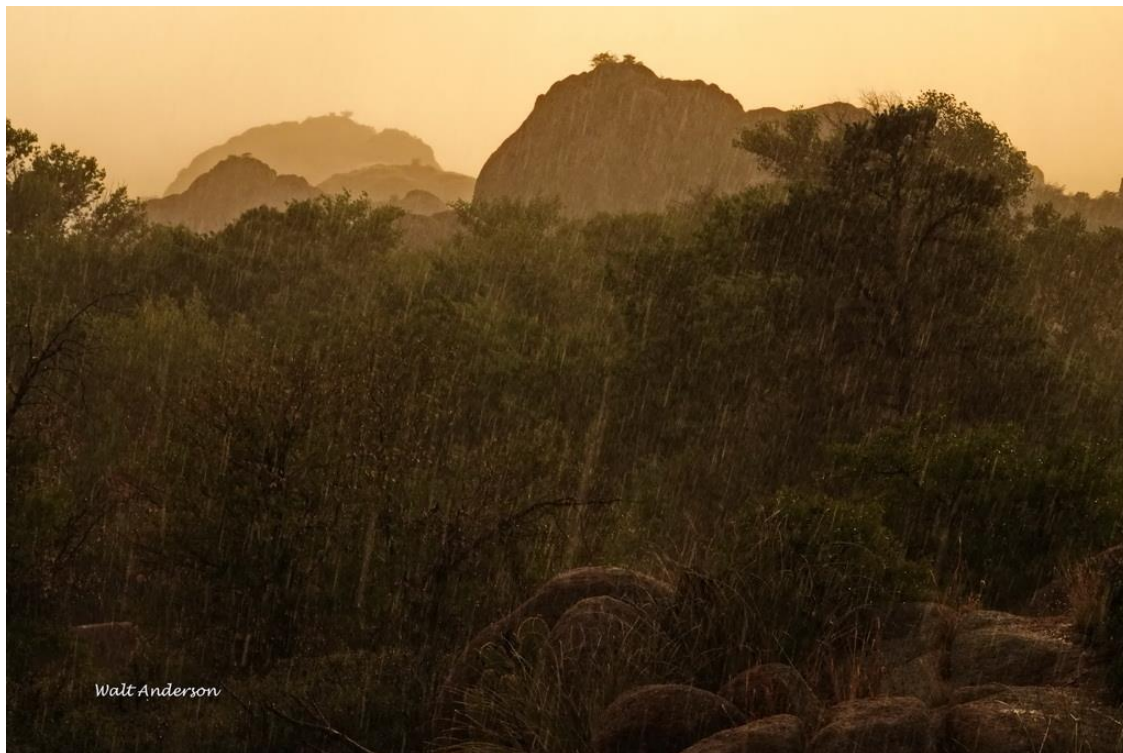
Then out of the blue (literally), dark clouds grew in the east and slowly advanced on Granite Dells. First one drop, then another, and then a cascade of rain and hail burst from the sky, even as the sun continued to shine. Water beat on the granite, and steam rose from the hot rocks. The air temperature dropped 30 degrees in a minute or two.

The rain lasted but 20 minutes, but the scene kept changing as the storm rumbled along to the west. The sun eventually grazed the side of High Rappel Dells and disappeared, but the sunset light with veils of rain to the west continued to impress.

How lucky we are that we can capture the changes in nature with our cameras to relive those special moments! And how lucky we are to have special landscapes like the Granite Dells to enjoy now and in the future—if we care enough to protect as much as possible on this incredible place. Please join our efforts and let our municipal decision makers know how much this landscape means to you.



Driving rain and hail as the sun continues to shine.



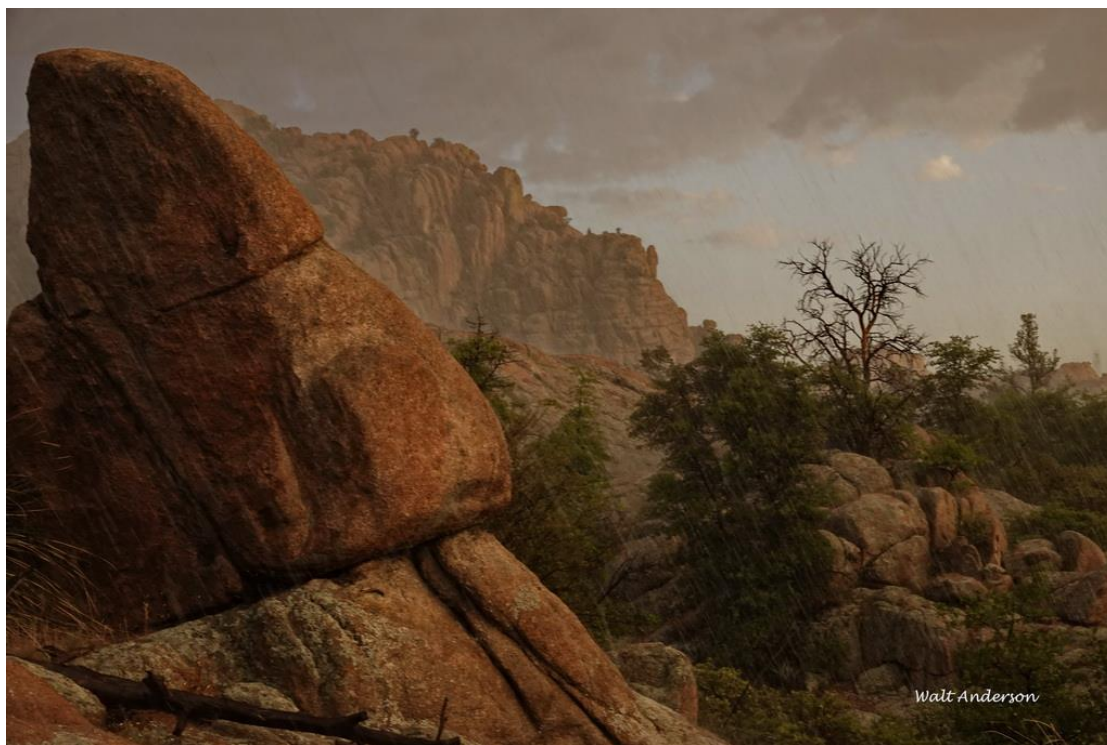
Same view, but shortly later as the foreground is now in shade. Looking west so that backlighting is prominent.



Looking east as hail pelts the boulders and pinyon.



A view toward the south. The combination of rain and sunshine gives this a moody, painterly feel.



Still raining, but a patch of blue provides a pastel contrast.



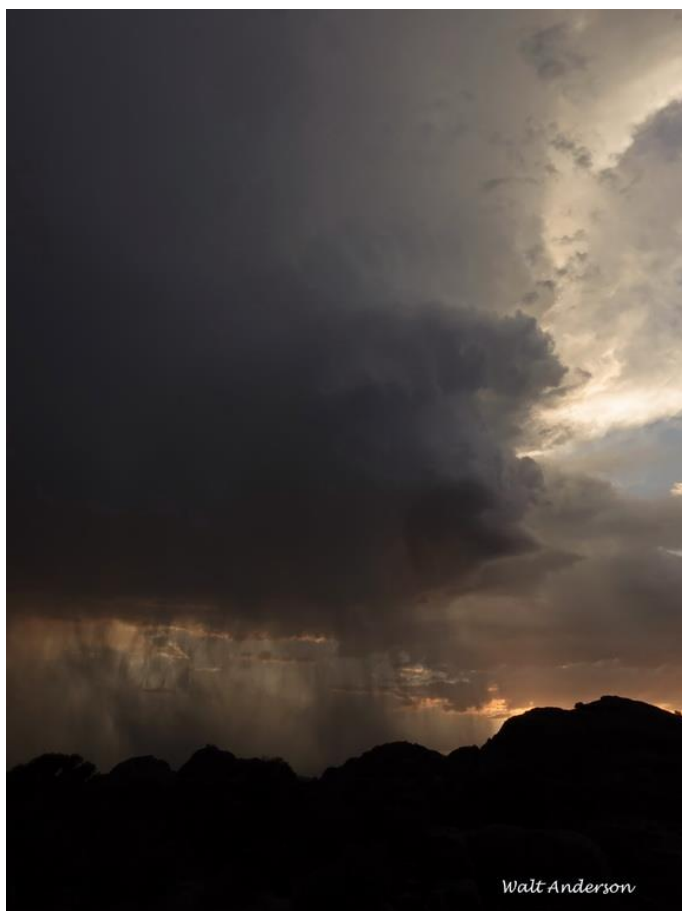
Now the rain picks up in intensity again as the sun grazes High Rappel Dells behind Granite Creek in the Granite Gardens area.



A broader view of the same scene.



Panoramic view of the massive thunderhead carrying its rain west from the Granite Dells.



Vertical shot to show the height of the cloud.



A stunning demonstration of how the rain doesn't fall in continuous flow but has occasional giant buckets of water that slam the ground with surprising force.