



DAN MONTGOMERY/Special to the Chronicle

Dr. Dan Montgomery shot this photo of this thunderstorm in 2004 off of Fort Island Trail in Crystal River near the shrimp docks. To see a selection of Montgomery's photos from his book "Cove of the Withlacoochee," see page 6C.

Longtime Citrus County doctor returns to first love of photography

KHUONG PHAN
kphan@chronicleonline.com
Chronicle

For ophthalmologist Dan Montgomery, it's always been about vision.

Growing up in Tarpon Springs, Montgomery found himself fascinated by the science of seeing and took a real interest in lenses, optics, microscopes and telescopes.

In high school, he fell into a lifelong love affair with cameras, a hobby he thought he was going to pursue professionally.

"I was headed for a career in photography," Montgomery said. "I had an application already filled out for the Rochester Institute of Technology, which was the big photo school back then. I also had



BRIAN LaPETER/Chronicle

Ophthalmologist Dan Montgomery's passion has always been photography. He recently published a book of his black and white landscape photographs, all taken in Citrus County.

a related interest in medicine and I applied to medical school along the way. Well, I got into medical school. I was excited

because I figured the odds of getting into medical school are against you. I kind of rationalized. I figured I could shoot pictures and still

be a doctor."

With a burgeoning practice and family to contend with, this father of three quickly found out that life has other plans. Montgomery still took pictures whenever the opportunity arose—and even built his own darkroom—but he could never really devote himself to it as he planned.

About six years ago, as things finally settled down, Montgomery was really able to get back to his passion and art once again, the fruits of which can be seen in his book, "Cove of the Withlacoochee."

Montgomery said he has always wanted to publish a book, because it offered a very intimate and more permanent medium in which to share his art, as opposed to a venue like a gallery. When it

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