

Wilderness House Literary Review 10/4

Pam Rosenblatt

Photographer Bill Vaudrain and his love for the outdoors with *Wilderness House Literary Review*:

In life opportunities are relished because they mean our dreams may come true. Yet it takes a dreamer to make worthwhile opportunities become realities. Photographer William "Bill" Vaudrain is such a dreamer. He has such a passion for Nature that when the occasions arose to travel to New Hampshire and climb the White Mountains even in the winter, he did simply that. When the opportunity developed for him to drive to Alaska to fish and catch salmon in waters of the Kenai Peninsula and even pan for gold in Alaska's creeks, he simply did that. He has even witnessed the Northern Lights in the cold sky of wintertime.

Through photography, Vaudrain shows how he grabs hold of chance to make dreams reality. He captures Nature's spectaculars on film or memory cards to reveal to people how fulfilling Nature is.

In the next few pages, *Wilderness House Literary Review* is glad to present "Bill Vaudrain and his nothing fancy, ever-changing 'outdoor' photography", an arts interview with *Wilderness House Literary Review's* arts editor Pam Rosenblatt, to show how important it is to dream – and to pursue those dreams when realistic opportunities present themselves!

How would you like your name to be printed in the *Wilderness House Literary Review* arts article? What is your primary occupation? And what is your educational background?

I prefer Bill Vaudrain

I teach English at the Ocean Tides School in Narragansett, RI, a small school for adjudicated adolescent boys

I have a BA in English, a minor in American History and my teaching degree, all from the University of Rhode Island

I noticed that your essay "Pushing it" was recently published by *Wilderness House Literary Review*. How did you learn of *Wilderness House Literary Review*? And why submit to this publication?



After searching the internet looking for sites that publish

work by novice writers, I was initially drawn to WHLR by its name. My short story writing is generally about my experiences in the wide world of Nature and,

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much like a mosquito to a bare patch of skin, I went and checked it out. I soon realized that it was much more than just a medium for "outdoor" writing.

Besides having a wonderful knack for writing, you are a photographer, too. How did your interest in photography begin? And do you create other types of art?

My photography started in high school when I started backpacking and camping in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. The scenery was breathtaking and I wanted to capture those moments on film. As I traveled to other places (46 of the 50 states) a camera was a very nice item to have on the trip. I also have done some pencil sketching.

Do you take only nature photographs? If yes, why? And if no, what other kinds of pictures do you snap with your camera?

For the most part I am a nature photographer. Sunsets, forests in autumn, mountains, lakes... There are never two quite the same so there's no chance of getting



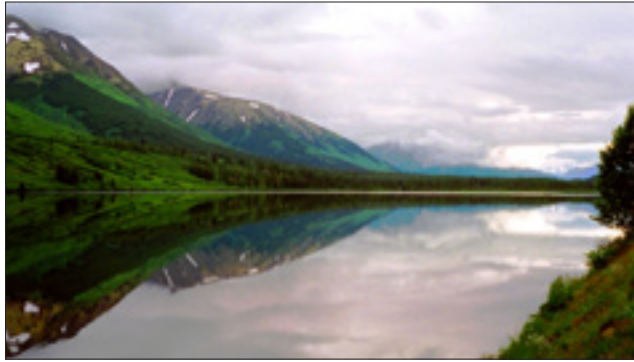
bored with ever-changing subject matter. No to say that I don't take pictures at family gatherings and things like that, but I'm looking for different things when taking those kind of pictures.

What type of photography equipment do you use? Do you shoot pictures in only in black and white or do you take color photos as well? And do you photo shop any of your images?

Initially, I had a Kodak Pocket Instamatic. I learned how to shoot panoramic pictures with that. What couldn't fit in the viewfinder with one picture could be captured in a series of several. I graduated to a Pentax K-1000 when I went 35 millimeter. Nothing fancy but it let me discover film speeds, aperture settings, and the use of different lenses... expanded my horizons so to speak. For the past several years I've used an inexpensive digital camera I bought used on-line or the camera in my I-phone. Whether



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I take color or black and white will depend on what I'm looking at through the viewfinder. If the color doesn't really make a difference, then I'll go B&W. I'll look at it both ways and make a determination. I use a basic photo shop program to correct mistakes (contrast mostly or to make a B&W) and it's changed photography for me. Even a "bad" picture can usually be salvaged. But I

don't use technology to make something that doesn't really exist.

You have written about your love of nature and it's sublime. Where did this interest

in nature develop and why reflect it in photographs? Where have you traveled to climb these mountains and to take these photographs?

Well, don't laugh, but I first developed a love for the outdoors in Boy Scouts. Camping, hiking, fishing, they all appealed to me and as I got older I was able to have bigger adventures. The mountains of New Hampshire, the Bighorns and Grand Tetons in Wyoming, and eventually the Chugach Mtns and Kenai Peninsula in Alaska. I was impressed by Nature and just wanted to share some of the things I had seen. The written word works well, but as Rod Stewart sang, "Every picture tells a story don't it?"

Why hike mountains in such places as New Hampshire or Alaska during the wintertime?

Why not make the trek in the springtime or the summertime? What is the thrill of it to you?

The answer and I always that question winter there are or tourists. I've of fair-weather though. Half of to Alaska were and they were the winter is an world. Noth-the same when "Great White London so succinctly described it.



that my friends gave when asked was that in the no bugs, mud, had my share adventures my eighteen trips in the summer spectacular. But entirely different ing looks or feels you're out in the Silence" as Jack

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Are there any photographers or artists who have influenced the development of your photography?

Ansel Adams for film and Edward Hopper for paint.

In what direction would you like your photography to head in the near future?

I'd like to keep using my camera to capture the moments that catch my eye so that even if someone doesn't know where the picture was taken they can still say that it's a nice picture.