



BRAIDED RIVER

CHANGING PERSPECTIVES

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Salmon in the Trees: About the photographer

Amy Gulick grew up outside Chicago in St. Charles, Ill., a town on the border between urban and country. She spent much of her childhood outdoors exploring rolling fields, ponds and forests. Family vacations were spent skiing in Colorado's Rocky Mountains, where she grew to love the beauty of the West's wilder natural environment.

As a child, Gulick was fascinated with telling stories, visually or verbally. An Instamatic camera gave her the incentive to start snapping pictures of just about anything — from school mates to family pets. "I saw the camera as a tool to tell my stories," Gulick says. "It was a way to grasp the very essence of a tale."

Uncertain about making a living through photography, Gulick went on to earn an MBA from Purdue University. She began working in the financial industry but spent much of her free time on photography.

In the early 1990s, she started working in film production and began publishing articles and nature photographs focused on recreation and adventure travel. Her first trip to Alaska in 1992 opened her eyes to conservation issues. "It was the wildest place I had ever been and I was hooked," she recalls. "Since then, I have tried to go to Alaska at least once a year."

In 2001, she spent three weeks in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. At a time before Facebook, Twitter and other social media, she wanted others to see what she was seeing in real time. Despite the lack of electrical outlets and spotty phone connectivity, she took a laptop, satellite phone and camera into the Arctic preserve. The result was the Internet story, "Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Wilderness or Wasteland?," which won a Lowell Thomas Travel Journalism Award from the Society of American Travel Writers Foundation. (www.oneearthadventures.com)

Since then, her work in Alaska has received other honors including the Daniel Housberg Wilderness Image Award from the Alaska Conservation Foundation and a Philip Hyde grant from the North American Nature Photography Association Foundation.

Her images and stories have been featured in *Audubon*, *National Wildlife*, *Nature's Best Photography*, *Sierra* and other publications. Her book *Salmon in the Trees: Life in Alaska's Tongass Rain Forest*, will be published in April 2010 by Braided River.

Gulick is a resident of North Bend, Wash., a town in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. She travels to Alaska and around western North America each year, waiting and watching for the perfect photograph. For more information on photographer Amy Gulick, go to www.amygulick.com.

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