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It could happen to him at any time: hiking through the woods, kayaking along the river or even cutting down some weeds in the backyard. Suddenly, something jumps out at Joseph R. Wild, a Buffalo Chapter CPA with a thriving interest in nature photography, and he grabs his camera to capture the moment.

Wild, a sole practitioner who does tax, compilation review services for individuals and small businesses in Amherst, shoots mainly landscapes and nature scenes. He draws much of his inspiration from the wilderness of the Adirondacks, where he has a rustic cabin in a secluded part of the woods.

"Probably because that's where I prefer to spend my time," he said. "When I'm not in my office, I'd rather be at my camp in the Adirondacks, exploring, hiking or kayaking." His love of the outdoors and his love of photography feed off each other – "each one gives me a reason to do the other," he added.

A CPA since 1978, Wild enjoys the contrast between his first professional career and his photography interests. "It's completely unlike what I do in the office. It gives me a chance to meet different kinds of people and do something completely different than sit at a desk all day," he said. "I'm outdoors and active, so it's nice."

Wild describes his photography as 'intimate' with fewer sweeping panoramas (though his portfolio does include more than a few of those) and more shots that give attention to smaller moments - a leaf floating in a pond or a serious-looking waterfowl amid the lily pads. A good subject for a photo is "something many people might not even notice when they walk by and never give it a second thought," Wild said. "I give them a chance to stop and take a closer look."

Most of his photographs come from spontaneous inspiration throughout the day. One of his most popular and best-selling works, *Winter Berries*, is a shot of vines full of bright red berries contrasted against the white snow that lightly sits on top of them. The piece was the result of some yard work he'd been putting off and a poor showing from the Buffalo Bills.

"Just some vines and bushes that my wife had been asking me to rip down for years," Wild explained. "One day during halftime of another losing Bills game, I'd had enough. I grabbed my camera, went outside in my own backyard and shot the picture.... Now that picture of those weeds my wife wanted torn down is hanging in our living room."

While he'd always been interested in photography as a hobby, Wild only began devoting serious time to it after one of his annual trips to Cape Cod with his wife about a decade ago. He'd taken many photographs there, their quality improving over time, and as he started to hang some in his home, people began noticing his talent.

"Friends, neighbors, relatives would say, 'This stuff is pretty good, you should sell it. I would buy it.'" And surprisingly, some of them actually did," he said. As Wild continued to refine his craft, it was noticed in other places as well. Wild's work has been displayed at the Adirondack Lake Center for the Arts in Blue Mountain Lake for the past several years, as well as View arts center in Old Forge. His work is sold online and at local art shows around New York State.