

## Don Vachini Bio Sketch

An avid outdoorsman since early childhood, Petaluman Don Vachini has accumulated over a half-century of hiking and angling experience, a good share of it in California's rugged and majestic Sierra Nevada Mountains. Probably aided by his Swiss/Italian ancestry, he is always willing to hike as long as fishing is at the end of the trail.

Often descending deep canyons or ascending headwater basins in quest of trout that reside in these harder to reach destinations, Don has currently established over 50 line or tippet class world records for brook, bull, cutthroat, Dolly Varden, golden, grayling and rainbow species with both the International Game Fish Association and the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame. As proud father, he's watched his children, Angela, Chris, Jason and Matt, also achieve global standards among various species.

An outdoor writer/photographer and longtime member of the Outdoor Writers Association of California (OWAC) and the Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA), Don has not only explored the vast Sierra backcountry extensively but traveled to mountainous areas in other states in quest of their lofty prizes. Alaska's Brooks Range and Alaska Range, Wyoming's Wind River Range, the Rocky Mountains of Idaho and Montana, Oregon's Cascade Range and the Olympic Mountains of Washington are among the visited. Professionally, he has won several awards for his writing and photography, which often captures the scenic vistas and splendor of the crag-framed mountain escarpment.

As Father Time continues to encroach, Don still seeks mountainous venues but now involves grandchildren, Domenic, Sophia, Bianca, Dante, Cali and Emma as his backcountry photo subjects.