Midlife with Thoreau by Diane P. Freedman

This is a book about writing as righting. At midlife Diane P. Freedman turns to the books of Thoreau, not to mention his landscapes. Practicing the nature cure and the narrative cure, she writes, in poems, essays, and journals, about family, feminism, and literary history, loss, divorce, dating, accidents, animals, waterways, local landscapes, and teaching environmental literature in suburban New Hampshire. She sojourns with books and domestic beasts, tramps brambles and trails, and basks in language, love, and lake-front sun. Thoreau loved a “broad margin” in his life and Whitman, another influence, “a certain free margin.” Out of these, Carl Bode maintained—and Freedman shows—poetry could grow. Taking direction also from new environmental writers such as Ian Marshall, John Elder, Janisse Ray, Sandra Steingraber, and Amy Seidl this is a book of intense observation, advocacy, lyricism, sweetness, and sadness.

Diane P. Freedman is Professor of English and Core Faculty Member in Women’s Studies at the University of New Hampshire. The author of An Alchemy of Genres: Cross-Genre Writing by American Feminist Poet-Critics; editor of Millay at 100: A Critical Reappraisal; and co-editor of The Teacher's Body: Embodiment, Authority, and Identity in the Academy, Autobiographical Writings across the Disciplines: A Reader, and The Intimate Critique: Autobiographical Literary Criticism. She teaches courses in poetry, memoir, nature writing, women’s literature, and the Holocaust.

Durham Public Library Hosts Author Talk

Diane Freedman, Author Talk & Book Signing

Wed. Jan. 27, 2016  7:00 pm

Held in the Oyster River Community Room, 2nd floor.

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