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Annotating Darwin

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Annotating Darwin

The more we learn about living things
how the crimson on a sumac
begins near the ground, rising
night by chill October night;

the clearer it becomes that life's processes
the springing forth, the gathering
of light and storing of sap,
the letting go in a shower of gold

are based on the same
chemical and physical laws
claiming each leaf and every
life back to the song

we see at work in a stone or a glass of water
—poured with a bow to the cloud,
pond, North Atlantic—bow
not much different from a prayer

Polly Brown

POLLY BROWN'S new book, *Pebble Leaf Feather Knife*, from Cherry Grove Collections (2019), includes a number of poems first published by *Appalachia*. She's written about war and peace at the University of Massachusetts Boston's Joiner Institute and helped organized plein air poetry events on a Massachusetts hillside. She and her husband have been doing more of their hiking on the trails managed by the Seven Lakes Alliance in Maine.