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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*

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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.