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## WATERMAN FUND ESSAY WINNERS: Introduction

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# Waterman Fund Essay Winners

*Editor's note: Appalachia is proud to work with the Waterman Fund in sponsoring this essay contest for emerging writers. Laura Waterman of East Corinth, Vermont, and her late husband, Guy, spent their lives reflecting and writing about the Northeast's mountains and wilderness areas. They also explored and worked on restoring trampled routes on Franconia Ridge in New Hampshire's White Mountains. This year's call for submissions asked for humor writing. Could writers capture the absurdities of exploring wild places? Yes. The prize is shared by two writers, who, thanks to the fund's generosity, each received \$1,500. Essays by Alex Pickens and Jenny O'Connell made our review committee laugh out loud.*

*We dedicate this year's contest to Hannah Taylor, a trail runner, ski coach, and former Appalachian Mountain Club hut croo member who died in 2018. Hannah used humor to avoid taking herself too seriously, and her joy in mountain landscapes was infectious. She was the sister of Bethany Taylor, who previously won the contest and has coordinated its judging for the past few years.*

*For more essays, see our Winter/Spring 2019 issue and the anthology of the first decade's winners and notable entries, *New Wilderness Voices* (University Press of New England, 2017).*