

Appalachia

Volume 70
Number 1 *Winter/Spring 2019: Quests That
Wouldn't Let Go*

Article 18

2019

A Peak Ahead: "Reset" in Wild Lands, and the Crawford Path Turns 200

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Recommended Citation

Woodside, Christine (2019) "A Peak Ahead: "Reset" in Wild Lands, and the Crawford Path Turns 200," *Appalachia*: Vol. 70: No. 1, Article 18.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/appalachia/vol70/iss1/18>

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“Reset” in Wild Lands, and the Crawford Path Turns 200

BEN MONTGOMERY, THE BIOGRAPHER OF APPALACHIAN TRAIL SOLO hiker Grandma Gatewood, is working on a story for our next issue of how he reset his life in the spirit of Gatewood. I like this metaphor of a reset button for how mountain trails renew my soul, and so do several other writers in our next issue.

Last year, Montgomery reached a crossroads in his life, and so he hit reset by taking his three beloved children through the southern Appalachians for several weeks. Last summer, Massachusetts poet and author Daniel Hudon hit his own reset button at Medawisla Camp deep in the Maine Woods, where he immersed himself in birdcalls, rushing wind, lapping water, and his own thoughts. “When was I ever so lost?” he asks. “Or so ensconced in the present?” Bioethicist Sarah Ruth Bates found herself waiting on a 120-foot-high granite shelf in Acadia National Park; her essay tells what this perch showed her about patience.

The Crawford Path’s magnificent roughly eight-mile dirt-and-rock path from New Hampshire Route 302 to the summit of Mount Washington has carried foot traffic for 200 years. For many years it was a bridle path too. Stories by various writers and photographs by Joe Klementovich will mark this trail’s important role in countless pilgrimages and a recent trail renovation that repaired sections.

Lisa Ballard will explore Montana’s Old North Trail, a migratory route for people crossing the snow bridge from Siberia 25,000 years ago. And another piece by Sarah Ruth Bates asks American rock climber Alex Honnold, who free-soloed El Capitan, where the sport of climbing goes next. Dianne Fallon will take us up Mount Fuji. Historian Mills Kelly will profile the little-known “Class of 1951” Appalachian Trail thru-hikers. William Geller will tell more



Trail workers fixed sections of the iconic Crawford Trail in summer 2018.

JOE KLEMENTOVICH

stories of long-ago Maine sporting camps. And Doug Teschner will return with a touching essay about guiding a disabled man up a mountain.

Along with these articles will appear our regular Accidents column by Sandy Stott, who has been traveling around New England talking about the history of search and rescue as told in his new book *Critical Hours* (University Press of New England, 2018); the Alpina department with stories of high-altitude quests and feats; book and media reviews, and poetry. Join us when the Summer/Fall issue comes out in June.

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