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A Peak Ahead: Going Far Away to Find Something

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Going Far Away to Find Something

PACKING FOR A TRIP TO SOME LANDSCAPE CALLING OUT TO ME, I OFTEN think, “I wonder what will go wrong this time?” Does that mixture of realism and excitement ring familiar? Our writers next time go far away to places that beckon. They carry big expectations. What they meet out there, naturally, diverge from the dreams.

Elissa Ely knows that the tourists leaping out of the bus onto a trail at the Grand Canyon rim are overdoing it. Within an hour, walking downward past thunder, she compares her own expectations to those of a mule. Sally Manikian finds herself, after many years, wrestling with her desire for a wild place and her inborn yearning for the landscape of her childhood vacations: Florida, in winter. What’s going on with this? David K. Leff journeys to Labrador in pursuit of true wilderness; his idea of remoteness will transform. Climbers and rangers Todd and Donette Swain decide they should work a season in Antarctica. Historian Nick Reynolds has wanted to climb a Canadian glaciated peak for 30 years. Finally, he’s going to do it. Get ahold of our next issue, available in December, and find out what happens to Nick and all these pilgrims whose chosen landscapes remold and remove their expectations hour by hour. And we’ll publish the winning Waterman Fund contest essay.

Each issue always includes our Accidents report, where Sandy Stott analyzes misadventures, injuries, and rescues in the White Mountains of New Hampshire; Alpina with its armchair updates of big-peak exploration around the world; News and Notes of the Appalachian Mountain Club’s home base of the Northeast and its members’ adventures farther afield; and our reviews of books and media. Join us there and on our Twitter feed @AppalachiaJourn.

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