

# Appalachia

---

Volume 69  
Number 2 *Summer/Fall 2018: Role Reversal in  
the Mountains*

Article 22

---

2018

## Hiking the Florida Panhandle in March

Robin Chapman

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/appalachia>



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Chapman, Robin (2018) "Hiking the Florida Panhandle in March," *Appalachia*: Vol. 69 : No. 2 , Article 22.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/appalachia/vol69/iss2/22>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by Dartmouth Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Appalachia by an authorized editor of Dartmouth Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [dartmouthdigitalcommons@groups.dartmouth.edu](mailto:dartmouthdigitalcommons@groups.dartmouth.edu).

---

---

## Hiking the Florida Panhandle in March

a snapping turtle family below the bridge  
treads water, lifting heads to watch us watching back

a copperhead curled in sun on a mudflat  
blinks once as our shadows pass

we lift our glasses to that stroke of gold in the marsh —  
a stick becomes a bittern, motionless and fishing

two knobby green-gold streaks in the weedy water —  
alligator backbones, ending in eyes and snouts

in the pale blue sky, maples leaf out, their tongues  
of red flame flickering

*Robin Chapman*

---

---

ROBIN CHAPMAN is the author of nine poetry books, most recently *Six True Things* (Tebot Bach, 2016). She is recipient of *Appalachia's* 2010 Poetry Prize. Her poems have appeared recently in *Flyway*, *Poetry East*, and *Terrain*, among other journals.