

Appalachia

Volume 72
Number 2 *Appalachia Summer/Fall 2021*

Article 24

2021

From Letters to Thoreau

Ben Corvo

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



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Corvo, Ben (2021) "From Letters to Thoreau," *Appalachia*: Vol. 72: No. 2, Article 24.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/appalachia/vol72/iss2/24>

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.

From *Letters to Thoreau*

May 29, 2020

Jerusalem

Others will have names for the places-within-places,
A cove, a stand of silver birches among the pines,
Even spots that the eye misses but the naked

Skin feels, a swimmer's, evening, as he winds
Out into deep water and back again, the sky
Holding summer's last light, huge tilt of Orion,

Once only the late commuter train, yellow lights,
The windows, flashing and playing across the surface,
The swimmer's wake flashing back gold, it is night,

Pitch black, dead quiet, when he makes his way back to shore,
There is his towel hanging from a branch, his dry things,
He peels off his trunks, stands naked in the cool air,

He has a name for this place too, this evening
He will come back to, someday, he doesn't know when.

Ben Corvo

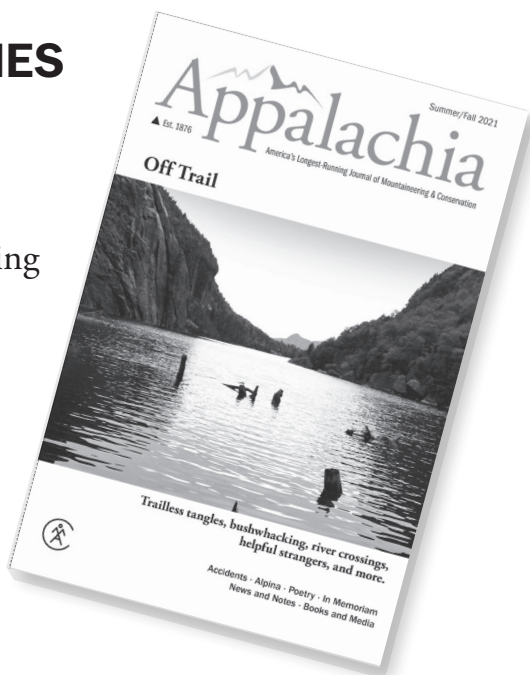
BEN CORVO lives, studies, and writes in Jerusalem but has been making pilgrimages to Walden Pond for 35 years. His work has appeared in *Rockvale Review*, *Magma*, and *Salmagundi*. His "Letter to Thoreau" is part of an ongoing series of epistolary poems written during the coronavirus pandemic.

"I started reading Appalachia for the accident reports, but I kept reading for the great features."—Mohamed Ellozy, subscriber

SUPPORT THE STORIES YOU LOVE!

Start or renew your *Appalachia* subscription today, and keep reading America's longest-running journal of mountaineering and conservation.

Visit **outdoors.org/appalachia** for a special offer: 36% off the journal's cover price. That's three years of *Appalachia* (6 issues) for only \$42. Or choose a one-year subscription (2 issues) for \$18—18% off the cover price.



Inside every issue, you'll find:

- inspired writing on mountain exploration, adventurers, ecology, and conservation
- up-to-date news and notes on international expeditions
- analysis of recent Northeastern mountaineering accidents
- book reviews, poetry, and much more

Subscribe today at **outdoors.org/appalachia** or call 800-372-1758.



Subscription prices valid as of September 2021. Prices and offers subject to change without notice. For the most up-to-date info, visit outdoors.org.