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Struck

Polly Brown

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Struck

A few years past twenty, each of us,
we think we are old hands at this.
Still we climb again, again, to watch
that electrocuted floating fall
after salamanders touch.

This three weeks' orgy every spring
is ecstasy enough to keep
their species staggering through the wet
gloom of the woods;
this, and sleep

in layers of dark moldering leaf:
all around them, death
transformed to earth.
After that sleep they wake to bliss:
kiss of the pond,

clammy kiss of
gray-green mud inhabited
each one to each. They grope
and drift; we peer from above,
rise cold and stiff,

at last clamber down
the cliff-side path to stand
struck silent on the beach.
Waves crash and hiss,
"This. This. This."

Polly Brown

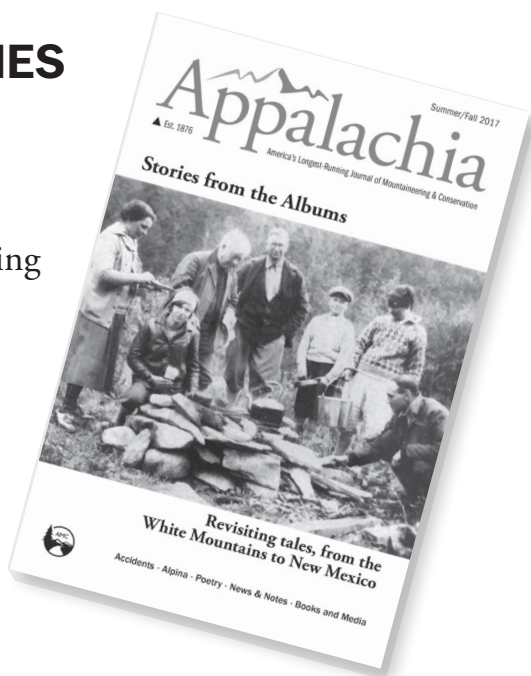
POLLY BROWN, of the Boston-area Every Other Thursday Poets, has two chapbooks, *Blue Heron Stone* (Every Other Thursday Press, 2000) and *Each Thing Torn From Any of Us* (Finishing Line Press, 2008). She has written about war and peace at the University of Massachusetts Boston's Joiner Institute and has organized plein air poetry events on her Massachusetts hillside.

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