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April in the Arboretum

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April in the Arboretum

A prairie night, full moon
shadowing the field,
where turkeys suddenly
flap, rise, lurch, fall
into perches in the nearby oak.
Two great horned owls
settle silently in distant trees,
and we still stand, shivering
in fleece and wool caps,
still listening for the nasal
neep neep of woodcocks
courting—then the male's
rising flight and fall,
his twittering wings
arcing the night—Orion
rising, and four of us
below, holding binoculars
up to the sky.

Robin Chapman

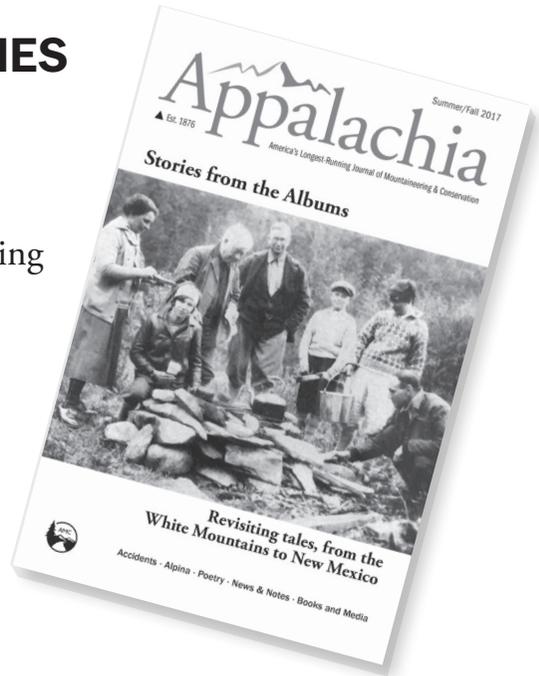
ROBIN CHAPMAN is the author of nine poetry books, most recently *Six True Things* (Tebot Bach, 2016). She is the recipient of *Appalachia's* 2010 Poetry Prize. Her poems have appeared recently in *Flyway*, *Poetry East*, and *Terrain*, among other journals.

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