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## April in the Arboretum

Robin Chapman

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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*

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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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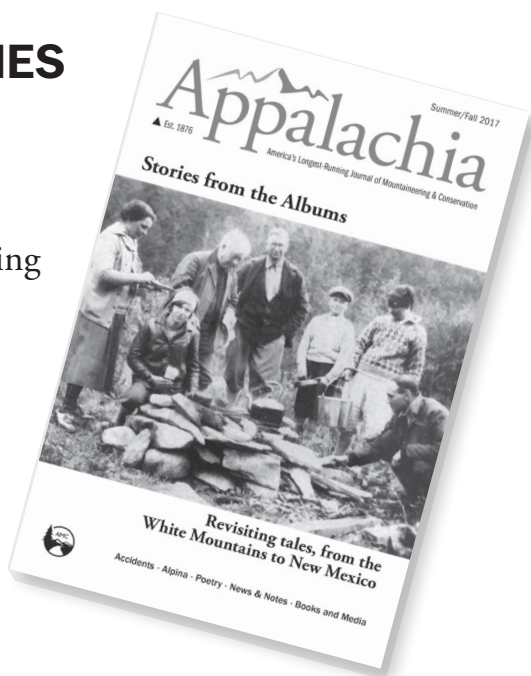
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