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Watching

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Watching

Huddled in the still open water,
small dark populations
have migrated from the purging ice.
The wind has remapped the pond
to clear glass and snow fields.
Gulls strafe the newest generation
of ice fishers in tan suits like
station attendants at their
ice works of wooden crosses
and sunken lines that rouse
the hungry trout to snap
at any moving bling.

Above in an empty maple
a red shouldered hawk
hunkers its young darkness,
a target himself
at the branch's end,
following sparrows in the brush
even the diving ducks.
Cold rubs his back
to its white roots.
A stranger, motionless,
trained, dutiful.

Francis Blessington

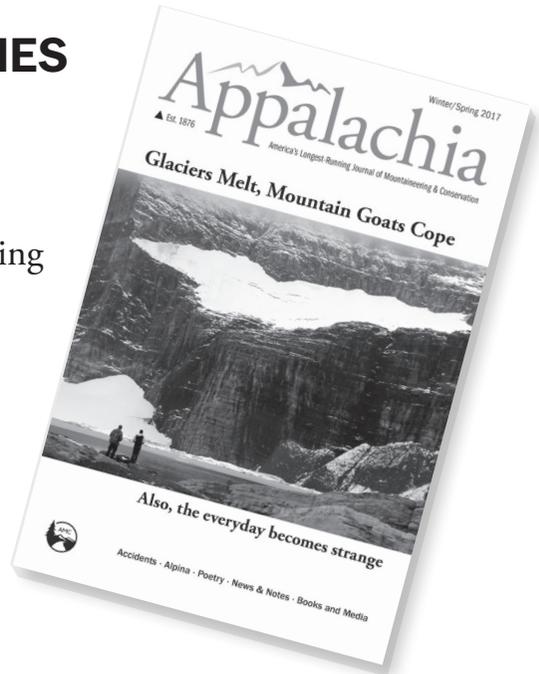
FRANCIS BLESSINGTON'S essays, stories, and poems have appeared in *Arion*, *The Dalhousie Review*, *Literary Imagination*, *The Sewanee Review*, *The Southern Review*, and in many other publications. His latest book is his translation of Euripides, *Trojan Women, Helen, Hecuba: Three Plays about Women and the Trojan War* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2015).

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