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For the Center Trail Brooks

Polly Brown

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For the Center Trail Brooks

Five years into my Massachusetts life
I learned to say *brook* instead of *creek*
for these channels full of rain and snowmelt
falling over themselves pell-mell, down
towards the Atlantic.
By now, when we cross
our big river, the Merrimack, I feel my spirit
settling the whole watershed,
taking its shape.
Fingers reach along hillsides; I trace
these sweet familiar brooks
threading through crumbled granite,
carrying the taste of birch and the carol
of thrushes, lifting
with each rain.

Polly Brown

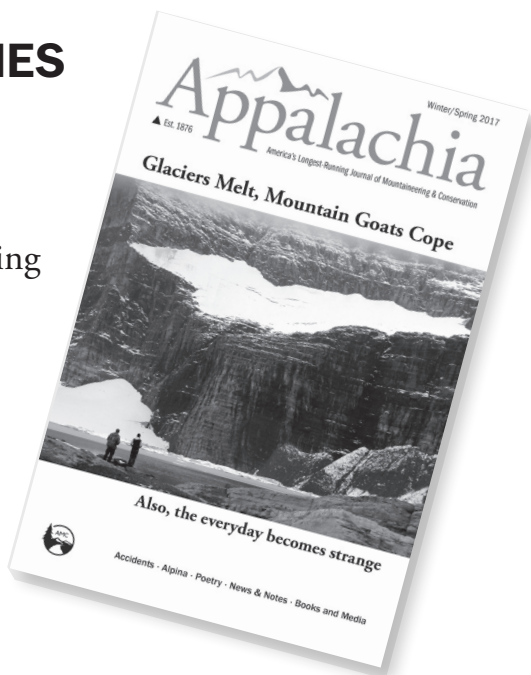
POLLY BROWN, of the Boston-area Every Other Thursday Poets, has two chapbooks, *Blue Heron Stone* (Every Other Thursday Press, 2000) and *Each Thing Torn From Any of Us* (Finishing Line Press, 2008). She has written about war and peace at the University of Massachusetts–Boston’s Joiner Institute and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

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