

Appalachia

Volume 67
Number 2 *Summer/Fall 2016: Living with the
Consequences*

Article 19

2016

The Lake at the Pass (Arapahoe Pass, CO)

Chris Hoffman

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/appalachia>



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Hoffman, Chris (2016) "The Lake at the Pass (Arapahoe Pass, CO)," *Appalachia*: Vol. 67: No. 2, Article 19.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/appalachia/vol67/iss2/19>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by Dartmouth Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Appalachia by an authorized editor of Dartmouth Digital Commons. For more information, please contact dartmouthdigitalcommons@groups.dartmouth.edu.

**The Lake at the Pass
(Arapahoe Pass, CO)**

A long sweeping curve of the trail above treeline,
the scree slope notched just wide enough for the path,
rivulets far below braid through green cushions of willow;
on either side, jagged peaks comb the soft clouds.

The hike to the pass cleans the lungs with fresh air.
The cold and clear lake delights the light with its ripples.
All the way down, the mystery deepens:
how every step of the path leads precisely to now.

Chris Hoffman

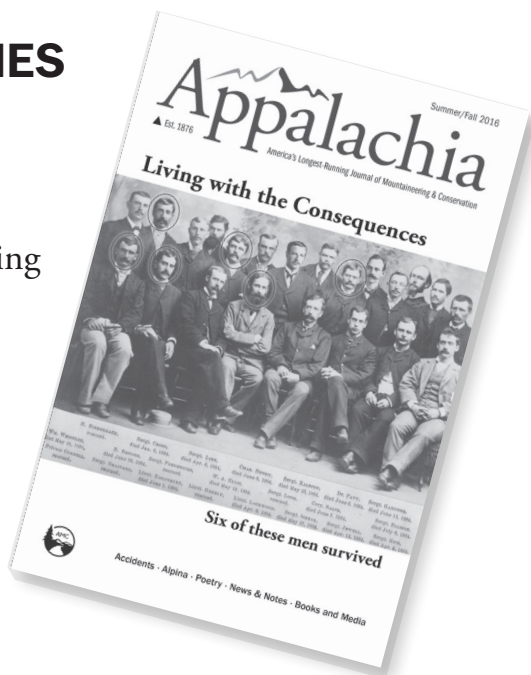
CHRIS HOFFMAN is the author of two books of poetry, *Realization Point* (Poetic Matrix Press, 2011) and *Cairns* (iUniverse, 2013), as well as a book on ecopsychology and spirituality: *The Hoop and the Tree* (Council Oak Books, 2000). Hoffman lives with his wife and son along the eastern foothills of the Rocky Mountains.

"I started reading Appalachia for the accident reports, but I kept reading for the great features."—Mohamed Ellozy, subscriber

SUPPORT THE STORIES YOU LOVE!

Start or renew your *Appalachia* subscription today, and keep reading America's longest-running journal of mountaineering and conservation.

Visit **outdoors.org/appalachia** for a special offer: 36% off the journal's cover price. That's three years of *Appalachia* (6 issues) for only \$42. Or choose a one-year subscription (2 issues) for \$18—18% off the cover price.



Inside every issue, you'll find:

- inspired writing on mountain exploration, adventurers, ecology, and conservation
- up-to-date news and notes on international expeditions
- analysis of recent Northeastern mountaineering accidents
- book reviews, poetry, and much more

Subscribe today at **outdoors.org/appalachia** or call 800-372-1758.



Subscription prices valid as of September 2021. Prices and offers subject to change without notice. For the most up-to-date info, visit outdoors.org.