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The Lake at the Pass (Arapahoe Pass, CO)

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**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

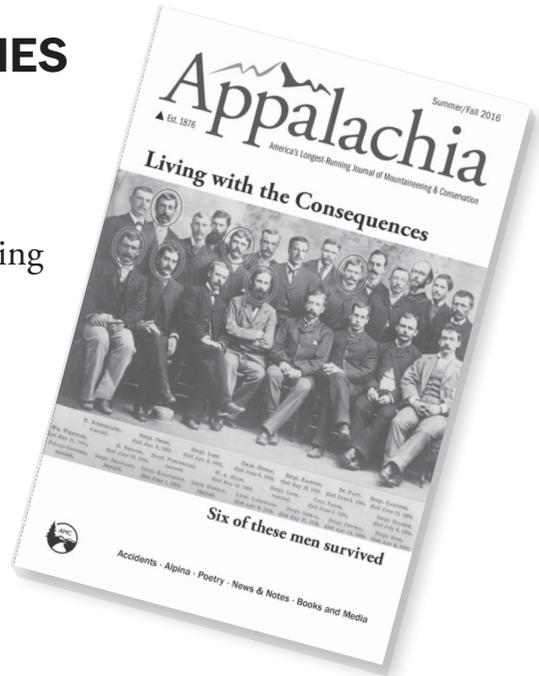
CHRIS HOFFMAN is the author of two books of poetry, *Realization Point* (Poetic Matrix Press, 2011) and *Cairns* (iUniverse, 2013), as well as a book on ecopsychology and spirituality: *The Hoop and the Tree* (Council Oak Books, 2000). Hoffman lives with his wife and son along the eastern foothills of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

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