

Appalachia

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

Article 22

2021

Hutchins Island

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Recommended Citation

Mattern, Grace (2021) "Hutchins Island," *Appalachia*: Vol. 67 : No. 2 , Article 22.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/appalachia/vol67/iss2/22>

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Hutchins Island

A buck steps from the pined island,
stops at the edge of tide
receding from a bridge
of rock and sand that will split
the cove in two. He hesitates,
wades chest deep, launches
into his stroke, hooves cycling,
rack pointing for the far shore,
his back an ocean-
parting ridge. Ripples break
against his breast, flow
to his flanks, fan out across the water,
lap pebbled stones and dry threads
of dark seaweed at our feet.

Grace Mattern

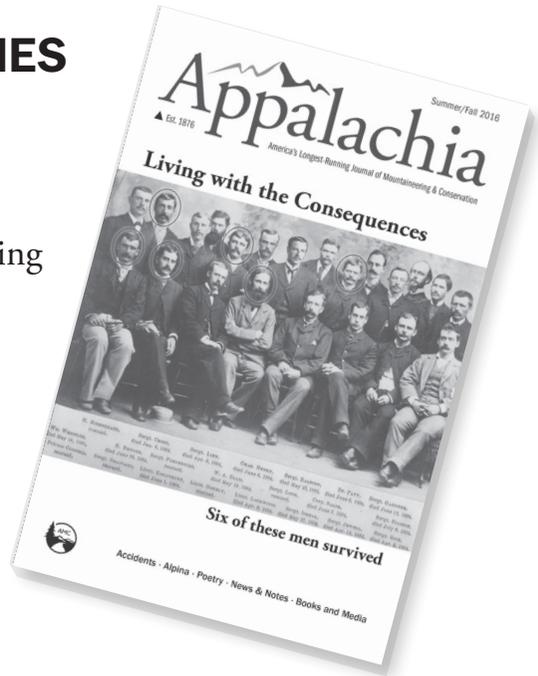
GRACE MATTERN's poetry and prose have been published widely, including in *The Sun*, *Calyx*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *Yankee*. She has received fellowships from the New Hampshire State Arts Council and Vermont Studio Center. Her book *The Truth About Death* (Turning Point Books, 2012) won the New Hampshire Literary Awards' Readers' Choice Award for Outstanding Book of Poetry. She blogs at www.gracemattern.com.

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