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Cormorants at Chambers Bay

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Cormorants at Chambers Bay

stand watch from an abandoned deck,
a broken-down cabin with its blurry window.
They perch at the end of the pier
 on battered posts
still as stones, rest from the long night,
abide. At twilight they stir,
composure turning to duty.

 No matter the moon,
feeding commences when darkness falls.
Their wings, swift as a full wind,
lift with grace, enter midnight fields
of abundance, plunder
 the sable depths.
They consume the night
tethered to elements of the sea,
a dark antiquity they know by heart.

A crimson curve rims the dawn
 when feeding ends.
The shimmering wings circle the pier,
descend to feed the young,
 disgorge the spoil of primal dark.

Kay Mullen

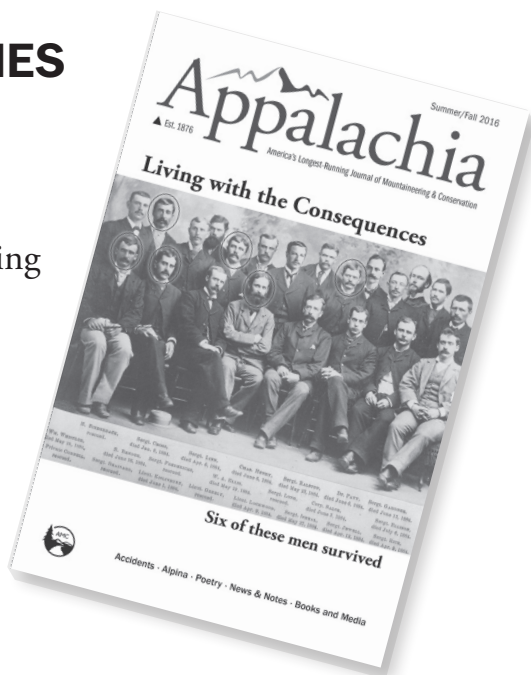
KAY MULLEN's work has appeared in a variety of poetry journals and anthologies. She received the William Stafford Award from Washington State Poets in 2002 and authored three full-length poetry collections: *Let Morning Begin* (Caritas Communications, 2001), *Return to Vietnam: A Long Remembering* (Foothills Publishing, 2006), and her latest, *Even the Stones* (Caritas Communications, 2012). She lives and teaches in Tacoma, Washington.

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