

Appalachia

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

Article 24

2021

Moose Gives Birth

Max L. Stephan

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



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Stephan, Max L. (2021) "Moose Gives Birth," *Appalachia*: Vol. 67 : No. 2 , Article 24.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/appalachia/vol67/iss2/24>

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.

Moose Gives Birth

Back beside the jack pine, beneath
its boughs on cradled brush
she waits and waits, endures until
she feels the unfettered flow

freeing the masked, muddled shape:
steaming folds of wrinkled fur
tender to her nudge —
an innocent thrust

into the unfamiliar world.
Baggage removed, her burden
now fused into fresh, fragile flesh,
a few weighted blinks remind her

of life's decisive tasks just begun:
nurture and nourish, guard and guide,
forage, trek, scent—each breath
gauging devotion and danger.

Max L. Stephan

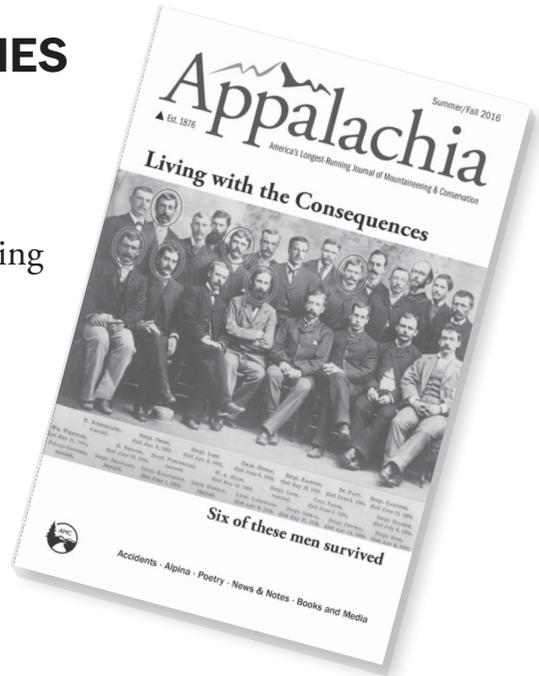
MAX STEPHAN'S work has appeared in the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Cimarron Review*, the *Louisiana Review*, *Potomac Review*, *Blueline*, and *Slipstream*. He is an assistant professor at Erie Community College in Buffalo, New York.

"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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.outdoors.org).