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A Peak Ahead: Living with the Consequences

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Living with the Consequences

THE NEXT *APPALACHIA* BRINGS YOU THREE STORIES ABOUT EPISODES people might wish they could undo. The first concerns the whooping, champagne-soaked celebrations some hikers indulge in when they reach the end of the Appalachian Trail, on Katahdin in Maine. Rangers in Maine's wild, beautiful Baxter State Park take very seriously their mission to keep it that way, and last summer's summit celebration with AT thru-hike record breaker Scott Jurek caused an uproar. There was talk of moving the AT off Katahdin. Could such a thing happen? Lucille Stott, an accomplished journalist and a former editor of *Appalachia*, reports.

Laura Waterman tells a true-crime story of men stranded in the Arctic with the A.W. Greely expedition (1881–1884). The men were starving and nearly out of their minds. Civility and routine took on new meanings.

Crawford Coates goes back to a terrible accident that three teenagers witnessed in the Sierras in 1952. He shows how the tragedy never left their thoughts, and how it changed them. Reading it, you might find yourself hoping that, despite all the evidence, maybe we got it wrong, and maybe their scoutmaster did not fall.

In a sequel to the story that led this issue, our Accidents editor, Sandy Stott, visits with the two main groups of volunteer rescuers who searched for Kate Matrosova. What is it like to find a climber in marginal circumstances? How do they push through sorrow, stay strong, and prevent an accident of their own?

We're also working on stories about naturalists and essayists John Burroughs and Henry David Thoreau; scientist Tad Pfeffer's glacier inventory; an Africa climbing journal; the Old Bridle Trail on Mount Lafayette; fishing with girls; Elissa Ely's latest take on humanity in the wild; Christopher Johnson's and Lisa Densmore Ballard's articles on changing conditions in Glacier National Park—and more.

Writing workshops in the mountains

We at *Appalachia* are working hard to establish a mountain writing workshop for writers of all levels. Last fall we scheduled a weekend session at Cardigan Mountain Lodge but were not able to get enough people signed up in time, so we elected to postpone. Plans are in the works for something in 2016. Please watch for information and send us your ideas. Where should we hold such a workshop? Any Appalachian Mountain Club facility in the backcountry of the Northeast could work. What time of year would you like? Contact me by mail (see the AMC's address on page 2) or e-mail (see address below).

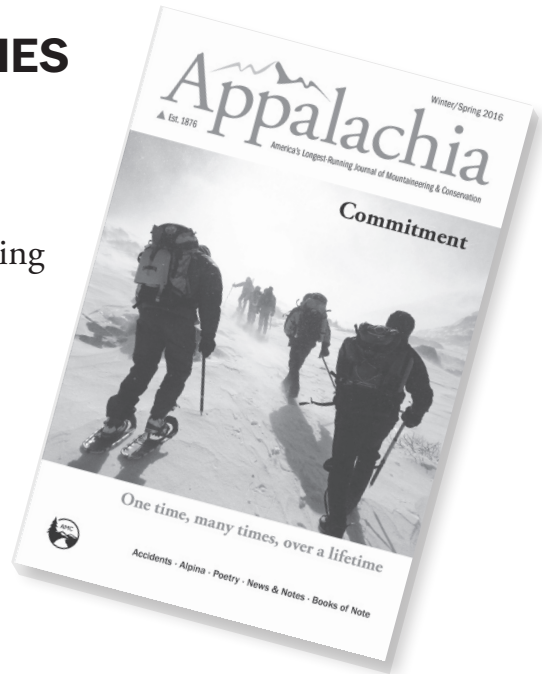
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"I started reading Appalachia for the accident reports, but I kept reading for the great features."—Mohamed Ellozy, subscriber

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