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Daylilies

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Daylilies

When I left this morning,
 under a deep cerulean sky,
 the orange daylilies were thronging
the mailbox beside
 the road, petals still
 closed, beaded with droplets of dew;
so much green in the grass, in the trees,
 the sunlight streaking everything,
 making all sparkle, infusing every color
with shades of gold and yellow.
 When I returned just before noon,
 the daylilies had opened their supple
orange mouths,
 tasting the air, savoring the breeze
 with tongues of anther and pistil;
the chiffon of their
 throats offered the coolness
 of song and practical shade and nectar
for a pollinating bee.
 They hold as much
 gladness as we can imagine, filling us
with orange rapture,
 the orange of daylilies,
 rising on stems by the roadside farm;
the lithe cups of their mouths,
 spilling over with urgency,
 with exultation, unfolded and full,
blooming with heedless
 abandon, with pleasures
 so tantalizing they invite us to look,
to breathe the diligence
 of their color, to be as bedazzled
 as they at the pinnacle of their lives.

Wally Swist

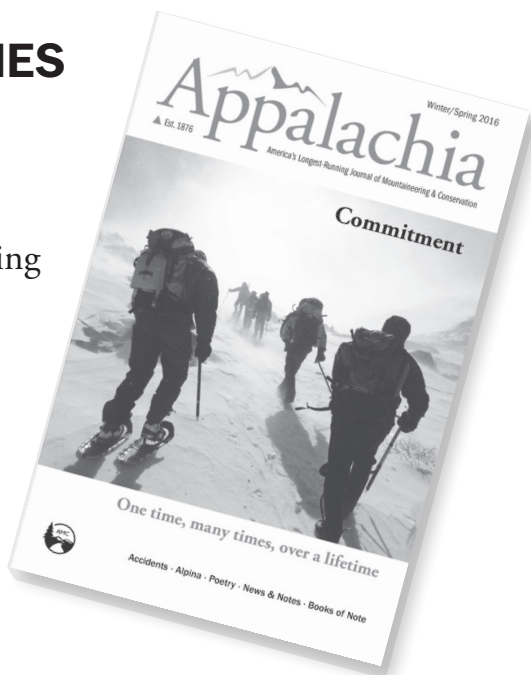
WALLY SWIST's books include *Huang Po and the Dimensions of Love* (Southern Illinois University Press, 2012) and *The Daodejing: An Interpretation*, with David Breeden and Steven Schroeder (Lamar University Press, 2014).

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