

2015

A Peak Ahead: Commitment

Christine Woodside

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Commitment

Even when going out makes no rational sense, some force pulls explorers to their goals. The next issue of *Appalachia* looks at commitment—one time, many times, over a lifetime.

Sandy Stott, our Accidents editor, will examine the tragedy of 32-year-old Kate Matrosova's death, by freezing, between Mounts Madison and Adams in mid-February 2015. Stott sympathizes with Matrosova's drive but was horrified at the danger she walked into that day.

Sally Manikian will describe the day she reconnected with “a sense of suspended time, and the sense of longer time,” during a hike she took alone through slot canyons and rock formations in New Mexico.

Sara Day will introduce Harriet E. Freeman (1847–1930), a botanist, geologist, and conservationist from Boston who quietly worked for land conservation and trail building. Freeman remained practically unknown for years, probably because of her illicit affair with the Unitarian minister the Reverend Edward Everett Hale, after whom Mount Hale is named. Day wrote the book about Hale and Freeman, *Coded Letters, Concealed Love* (New Academia Press, 2014).

Also next time: Jan Conn, the noted mountaineer and caver, explores her two passions in “Up Versus Down.” We print the winning essay (about gender) of the Waterman Fund contest. Appalachian Mountain Club staff scientist David Publicover evaluates the AMC's Maine Woods Initiative. A man carts his old equipment to the dump. A reporter fights illness on Aconcagua. Elissa Ely encounters Appalachian Trail thru-hikers. Christopher Johnson discovers a 250-year-old tree. Adventure writer Lisa Densmore Ballard and botanist Richard LeBlond consider bears. Speaking of commitment, 2016 marks a decade I have edited *Appalachia*. Celebrate with me.

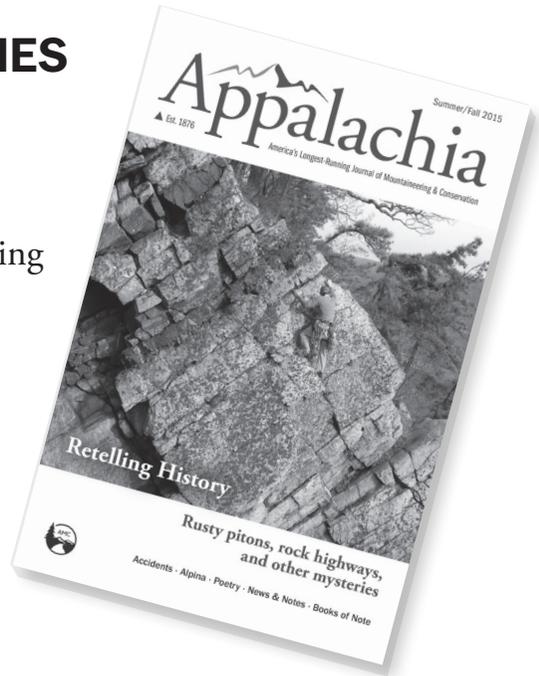
—Christine Woodside
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