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Roses

Mary Oliver

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Roses

Everyone now and again wonders about
those questions that have no ready
answers: first cause, God's existence,
what happens when the curtain goes
down and nothing stops it, not kissing,
not going to the Mall, not the Super
Bowl.

"Wild roses," I said to them one morning.
"Do you have the answers? And if you do,
would you tell me?"

But the roses simply laughed, shaking
their bright petals. "Forgive us," they
said in a rosy chorus. "But as you see
we are presently entirely busy being roses."

Mary Oliver

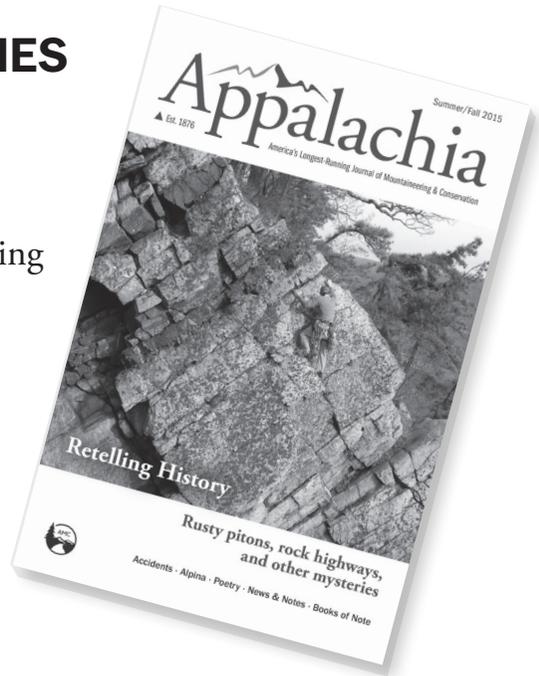
MARY OLIVER has published more than a dozen volumes of poetry, as well as works of imaginative prose and poetry instruction. *A Thousand Mornings* (Penguin) was published in October 2012. *Dog Songs* (Penguin Press HC) appeared in October 2013. Her most recent collection, *Blue Horses* (Penguin Press HC), was released in October 2014.

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