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Resilience

Paul Weidknecht

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Resilience

Fish of origin, native to this stream,
vermiculation over deep green back,
red dots haloed in blue, tropical orange below,
sips the spring mayfly and summer ant.
Surviving April flood and August drought,
with scarred sides and torn tail, he leaves the
osprey hungry, the heron unfed.

To a sudden brawl with bland new rivals,
whose ragged fins mark them dumped from a
concrete world, boarding-house reaches perfected,
pouched bellies grown one pellet at a time.
All gathering in water cloudy from an
upstream dredge, the flow warm through a
hemlock forest which falls by an intruder
from another land.

Wild brook trout live here.

Paul Weidknecht

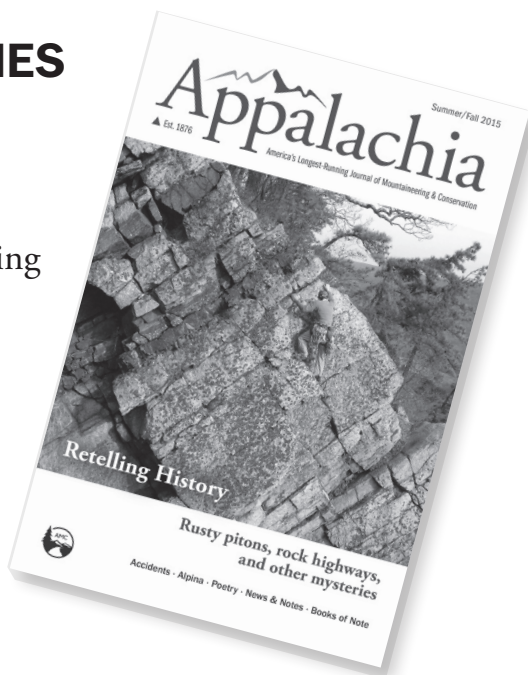
PAUL WEIDKNECHT's work has appeared most recently in *The Wayfarer: A Journal of Contemplative Literature*, *Pisgah Review*, *Clackamas Literary Review*, and *The Quotable*. Previous story publications include *Rosebud*, *Shenandoah*, and *The Los Angeles Review*, among others. He lives in Phillipsburg, New Jersey.

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