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Eastern Timber Wolf—Ely, Minnesota

Gina Marie Bernard

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Eastern Timber Wolf—Ely, Minnesota

Place is best expressed
in the semantics of season,
as when storms mound forest—

concealing amber eyes,
immense paws
so like snowshoes,

blanket forest—translate
agate evergreen to
sudden silent white;

shadowing troubled deer
whose sapling limbs punch
through yawning snow.

months where even the
certain thrum of boundary
waters lies hushed.

Hunger, clenched
by complaining ribs,
conducts her hunt

Here the wolf wagers
her punishing, breathless life
against deep drifts,

as sure as canny ravens
charting certain death
from far above.

the crystal void
surrounding her,
guiding her pack in pursuit,

Gina Marie Bernard

lifting hoarfrost muzzle
to *Aurora borealis*,
shrouded breath

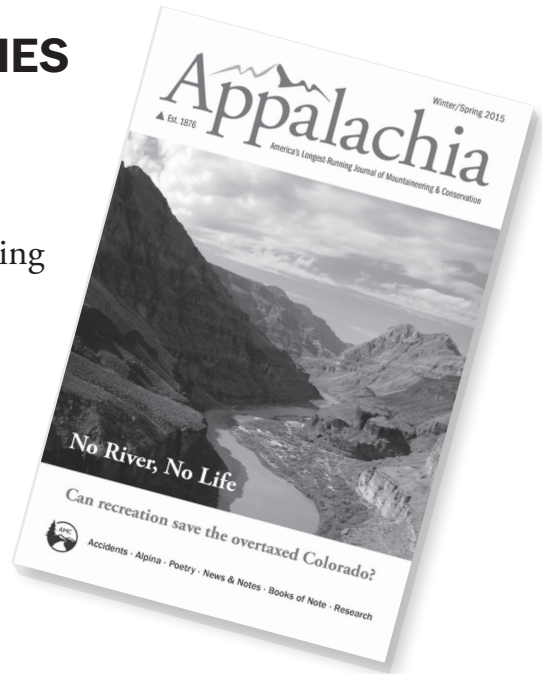
GINA MARIE BERNARD writes and teaches high school English in Bemidji, Minnesota. Her work has appeared in *Gray's Sporting Journal*, *Minnesota Monthly*, *Wisconsin Review*, and numerous other journals. She is the author of two young adult novels, *Vent* (Vulpes Press, 2013) and *Alpha Summer* (Loonfeather Press, 2005), which she wrote under the pen name of Greg Richard Bernard.

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