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Wild Falling

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Wild Falling

Eyes frozen in headlights for
only a moment, the herd

of deer traverses the road
in this first winter blizzard

with such prudence they quiet
the wild falling. One after

another, they spring to clear
the ice-sheathed barbed wire hurdle,

that quivers from time to time
when one of their hooves grazes

against it. They bound into
the meadow, filling with white

fire, an icy afterglow
burnishing their tracks, that cross

and re-cross themselves, while wisps
of cloud wash over the moon.

Wally Swist

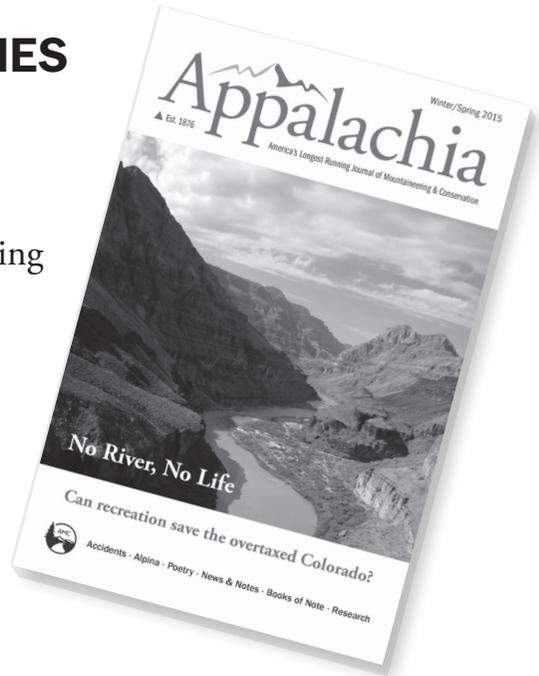
WALLY SWIST'S books include *Huang Po and the Dimensions of Love* (Southern Illinois University Press, 2012) and *The Daodejing of Laozi*, with David Breeden and Steven Schroeder (Lamar University Press, 2014). His new poems appear in *Commonweal* and *North American Review*.

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