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A Peak Ahead

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The Ubiquitous Cell Phone

OUR SUMMER/FALL 2022 ISSUE WILL ASK WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE WITH nearly ubiquitous cell phone service in wilderness areas. It's hard to disengage from technology, even in wild areas. Perhaps explorers can never experience true wildness in areas of cell service. Those who don't take technology along might fall into the category of antagonist. Yet—as our Accidents reports of the past decade or so have shown—a cell phone call can sometimes save a life. Phones also can leave adventurers with a dangerous sense of security. They might think that rescuers could reach them fast if they can call them quickly.

Stephen Kurczy will write about why he does not use a cell phone, even on his hiking trips, and how he handles the reactions to that decision. Other writers will consider the time when long wilderness trips lacked any kind of connectivity, whether cell phones truly are a safety tool, and other ethical questions about technology and wild places.

Also next time, Walt McLaughlin will take us with him onto the Cohos Trail in northern New Hampshire, when he pushed through a difficult hike just after his mother's death. William Geller will return with a history essay about mysterious place names in the Pemigewasset Wilderness of New Hampshire's White Mountains.

Kevin Berend will detail research into southern plants that could move northward as the climate warms. Our newest department, Valley and Skyline Sketches, returns with tales of a father-son hike, trail workers in Alaska, and dining outdoors.

Our runner-up in last year's Waterman Fund contest, Claire Dumont, will reflect on what a thru-hike of the Long Trail revealed about wilderness during the COVID-19 pandemic. Enter our next Waterman Fund Essay Contest. Are you an emerging writer who explores and thinks about wild places? Visit watermanfund.org for the latest details of how to enter the next contest.

Our back issues now are available at digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/appalachia/, thanks to a partnership with Dartmouth College. Visit us on our Twitter account @AppalachiaJourn.

We look forward to seeing you here next time.

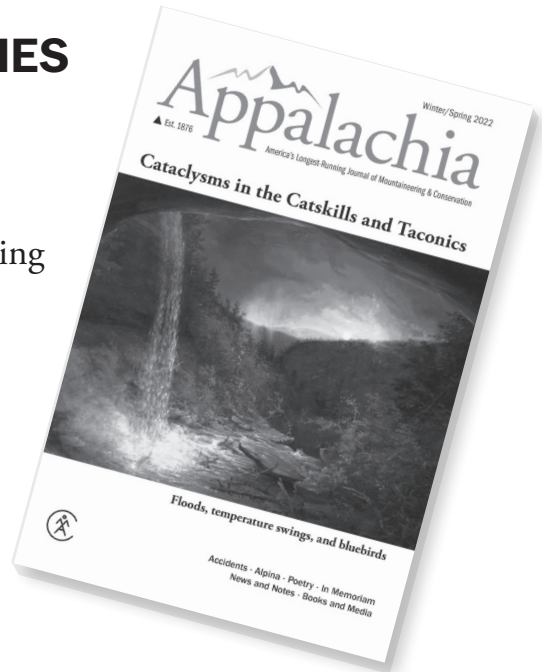
—Christine Woodside
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