

Appalachia

Volume 73
Number 1 *Winter/Spring 2022: Cataclysms in
the Catskills and Taconics*

Article 22

2022

Bog Parable

Todd Davis

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Recommended Citation

Davis, Todd (2022) "Bog Parable," *Appalachia*: Vol. 73: No. 1, Article 22.

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Bog Parable

Entering these deep woods, late sunlight
flares on green moss again, and rises.

—Wang Wei

Ursus steps onto moss: buoyancy of time
recorded in layers of sphagnum, trapped water
and larch light, the early October red of cranberry.
He's heard the baying of dogs who hunt him—
(bear are born understanding the eternal)—
yet the floating world remains below. Distant,
in the forest a gunshot and the gutting of an animal
who joins eternity. Today, after many days
without a single dragonfly, a blue-eyed darter
bobs the air, whirls around Ursus's head,
and with wings of wax, flies toward the sun.

Todd Davis

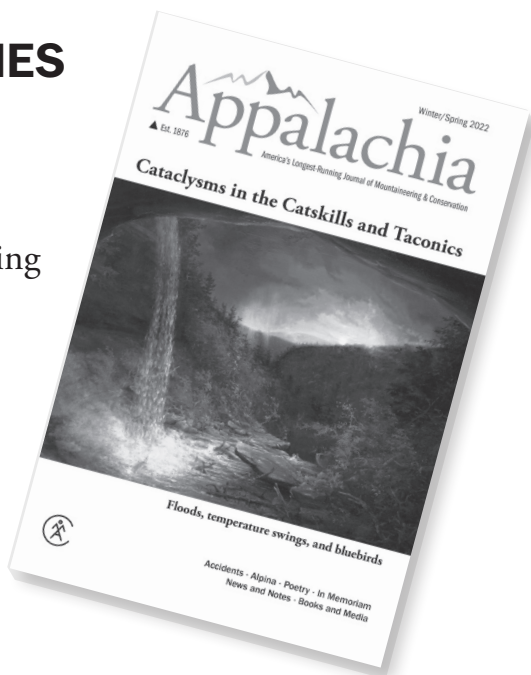
TODD DAVIS is the author of six collections of poetry, most recently *Native Species* (2019) and *Winterkill* (2016), both published by Michigan State University Press. He has won the Foreword INDIES Book of the Year Bronze and Silver Awards, the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Prize, and the Chautauqua Editors Prize. He teaches environmental studies at Pennsylvania State University's Altoona College.

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