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## Teal Pond, May 4

Robin Chapman

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## Teal Pond

May 4

**Dear Ones**—We're walking the wood trail  
toward a cacophony of chorused trills  
and all around us the duff stirs and jumps  
with mottled brown bodies moving toward  
the sound of the males calling from the pond,  
leaping across our path toward the water—  
following we come upon the heaving revels  
of American toads, the day of the full moon  
mating in promiscuous piles in the cold  
brown water—males clasped around females  
mating and singing their blue balloon throats  
out and leaping in the fertile water on a day  
when the pull of warmth and sun and moon  
have told them to go forth and find each other  
and multiply, that toads not be lost to this world.

*Robin Chapman*

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ROBIN CHAPMAN is the author of seven poetry books, most recently *The Eelgrass Meadow* (Tebot Bach, 2011). She is the recipient of *Appalachia's* 2010 Poetry Prize. Her poems have appeared recently in *Atlanta Review*, *Dalhousie Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *Southern Poetry Review* among other journals. For another of her poems, see page 51.

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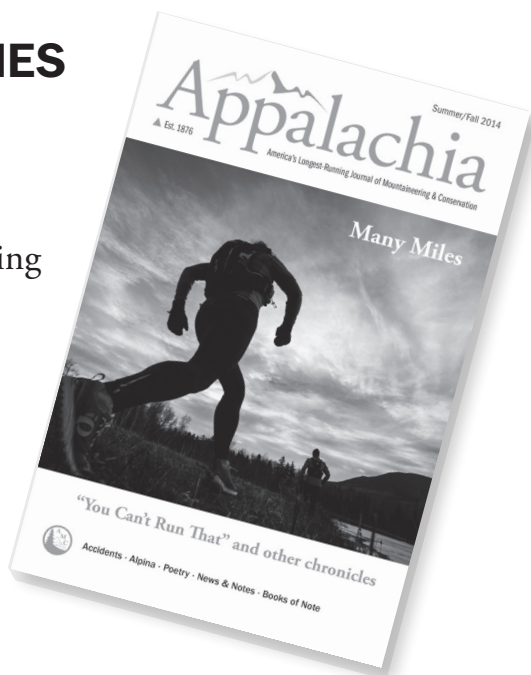
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