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## Wood Path

Kay Mullen

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### Wood Path

A doe browses in a small clearing  
of yellow weeds and pampas grass.  
Soft rain dapples  
her tan coat. She leads two  
fawns no larger than spaniels,  
pauses, ears alert, then bends  
to the tansy leaves.

The fawns press at her side.  
One stares when it sees me,  
spots on the tawny  
coat like snow. They munch  
the mayweed, disappear

behind a hedge of nettles.  
Two bucks appear from a cluster  
of birch, follow the doe  
to low-hanging leaves of honey locust.  
They work their way along  
the salal shrubs,  
leave oleander and lamb's ear  
untouched.

The deer drift so close  
I can see light in the onyx dark  
of their deft eyes—mountain  
lakes and a crescent moon.

*Kay Mullen*

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KAY MULLEN'S work has appeared in *Crab Creek Review*, *American Life in Poetry*, *Valparaiso Poetry Review*, and others. Her third poetry collection is *Even the Stones* (Caritas Communications, 2012). Several of her poems have been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. She earned her MFA through the Rainier Writing Workshop at Pacific Lutheran University.

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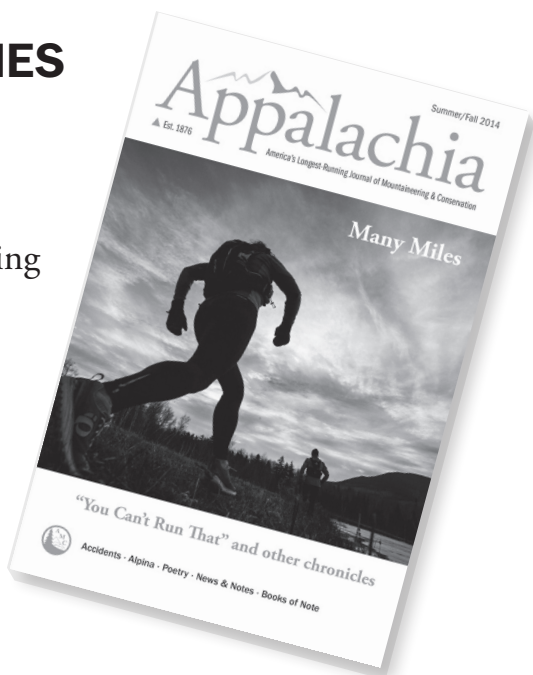
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