

# Appalachia

---

Volume 65  
Number 1 *Winter/Spring 2014: At Large*

---

Article 19

2014

## Perfect Day: Pleasant Valley, CA

Marcyn Del Clements

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/appalachia>



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Del Clements, Marcyn (2014) "Perfect Day: Pleasant Valley, CA," *Appalachia*: Vol. 65: No. 1, Article 19.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/appalachia/vol65/iss1/19>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by Dartmouth Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Appalachia by an authorized editor of Dartmouth Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [dartmouthdigitalcommons@groups.dartmouth.edu](mailto:dartmouthdigitalcommons@groups.dartmouth.edu).

---

---

**Perfect Day: Pleasant Valley, CA**

Incandescent light on the willow, its branches  
sweeping the river of broken cane stalks; the song

sparrow flying straight across the water, quiet  
today, protecting her nest in the reeds;

the ten-inch brown trout that rises, shakes off  
the hook, dives back to his cold eddy;

snow that etches the ridges in bas  
relief in the ravines of the Panamints.

Ahead, nervous frogs yelp and dive  
into tule rushes as we leave the river;

transparent fry puddle the water  
of Billy Lake; last winter's cowpies

dry in the path; above, clouds strafe  
the Sierras in seamless balance with the sky.

*Marcyn Del Clements*

---

---

MARCYN DEL CLEMENTS lives in Claremont, California. She is a frequent contributor to *Appalachia*.

---

*"I started reading Appalachia for the accident reports, but I kept reading for the great features."*—Mohamed Ellozy, subscriber

---

## SUPPORT THE STORIES YOU LOVE!

Start or renew your *Appalachia* subscription today, and keep reading America's longest-running journal of mountaineering and conservation.

Visit **outdoors.org/appalachia** for a special offer: 36% off the journal's cover price. That's three years of *Appalachia* (6 issues) for only \$42. Or choose a one-year subscription (2 issues) for \$18—18% off the cover price.



Inside every issue, you'll find:

- inspired writing on mountain exploration, adventurers, ecology, and conservation
- up-to-date news and notes on international expeditions
- analysis of recent Northeastern mountaineering accidents
- book reviews, poetry, and much more

Subscribe today at **outdoors.org/appalachia** or call 800-372-1758.



Subscription prices valid as of September 2021. Prices and offers subject to change without notice. For the most up-to-date info, visit [outdoors.org](https://outdoors.org).