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Near Wyalusing, May 5/6

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Near Wyalusing, May 5/6

Dear Ones—rain, all the night of the Super Moon,
looming closest to Earth this year, somewhere
above the gray cloud cover; rain, a soft percussive
beat on the tent fly, dripping in the new leaves,
weighting the long prairie grass; we wake to puddles
and the orioles, newly arrived, singing their loud
complicated arias from the white pine tops—all day
they sing, and long past twilight, past the crows
harrying home the hooting owl, deep into night
under the brilliant light of that moon past full;
and the woodcocks, whose courting ground
we've pitched our tent in the middle of, fly
the whole night long, their buzzy pe-ent sounds
like car horns in our ears—and then, each time,
the plunging, whistling flight. Spring's urgencies
along the riverway, chorus frogs in the background
talk, trilliums spilling light rays in the woods—
brief lives with no time to waste. All day we walk
the remnant prairies, ravines, and woods,
in haste to see and bloom and spend ourselves.

Robin Chapman

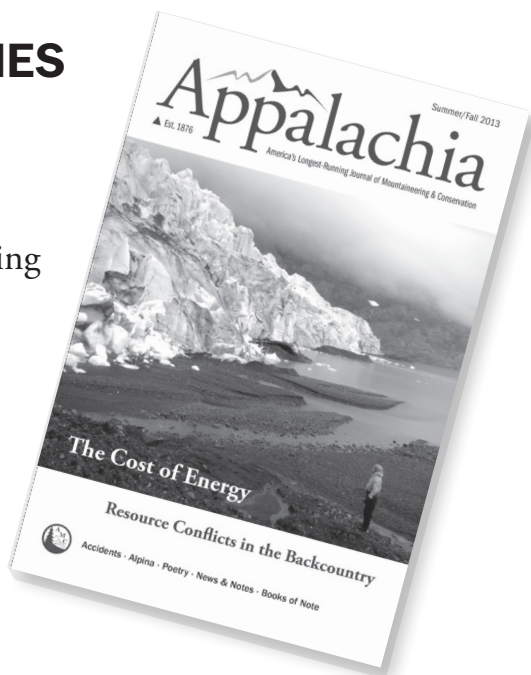
ROBIN CHAPMAN is the author of seven poetry books, most recently *The Eelgrass Meadow* (Tebot Bach, 2011). She is the recipient of *Appalachia's* 2010 Poetry Prize. Her poems have appeared recently in *Atlanta Review*, *Dalhousie Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *Southern Poetry Review* among other journals.

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