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## Tock

Sydney Lea

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## Tock

If your head feels naked the world too quiet  
Without some something pulsing through earbuds  
Or if for you the sweetest odors all  
Suggest the term *gourmet* no matter how  
Obliquely or a mile is felt not in  
Gluteus maximus quadriceps calf

But shows on your Smartphone or GPS  
Or if it does register in the limbs  
It also tweaks the little dial aglow  
On your treadmill's quantifying device—  
If all of this applies I do not judge  
But rather simply do not address you

As you would likely not have heard the lone  
*Tock* of a pileated woodpecker  
That signals dawn or even if you have  
You gave no thought to how it stirs up thought  
Of summer though the mist still rises from  
Old ice and there are no gray frogs to laugh

Nor peepers yet to peep nor lyrical  
Brooks in spate though that will come it always  
Comes even if for now old snow shows still  
In shade among the aromatic spills  
From pines and I catch its own humid rich  
Bouquet which blends with countless other smells

Ineffable in their variety  
And yet somehow specific being ones  
I've scented all these years so long so long  
That they recall the many moments of  
This life that held some sorrow or dismay  
But prompt my gladness too at what's reborn

With every single same old brand new day.

*Sydney Lea*

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SYDNEY LEA, the poet laureate of Vermont, has published eleven collections. He lives in Newbury, Vermont.

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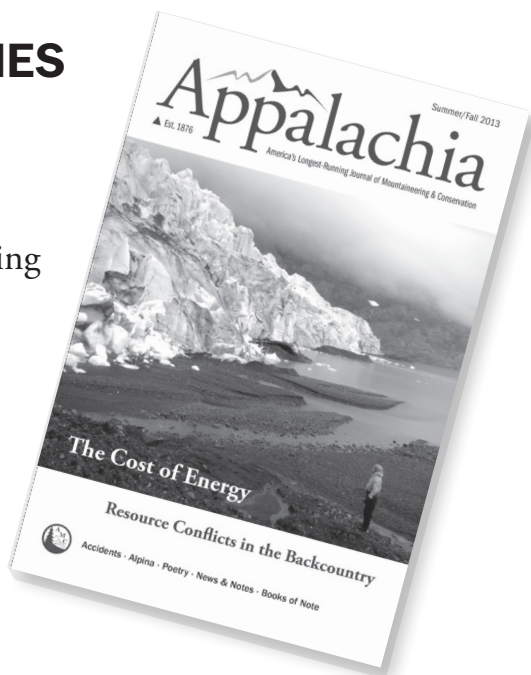
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