

Appalachia

Volume 64
Number 2 *Summer/Fall 2013: The Cost of
Energy*

Article 26

2013

Black-eyed Susan

Wally Swist

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



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Swist, Wally (2013) "Black-eyed Susan," *Appalachia*: Vol. 64: No. 2, Article 26.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/appalachia/vol64/iss2/26>

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.

Black-eyed Susan

for Susan Gage Tyler

Butter-yellow inflorescence, ballerina's skirt
ruffled in the wind, common sweetheart

of wildflowers, who eschews the solitary
for a throng of other Susans; the brown,

dark-purplish center one of summer's
most obvious, most subtle of baubles.

Double Gold, Indian Summer, Marmalade,
your various shades parade your inimitable

humor. Leaning wildly windward,
rising in a stand, resting together in the sun,

the summer's lushness no longer lush without
your strong-stemmed, unconstrained bounty—

solstice celebrant, resplendent
Susan among so many Susans.

Wally Swist

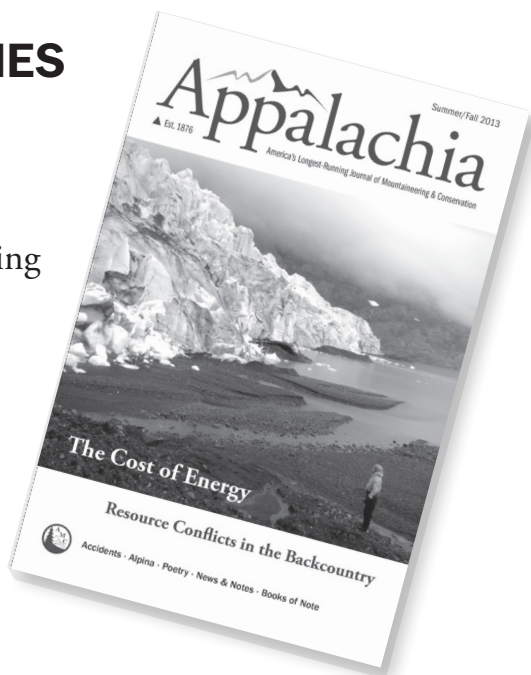
WALLY SWIST's most recent book, *Huang Po and the Dimensions of Love*, was selected by Yusef Komunyakaa as a co-winner in the 2011 Crab Orchard Series Open Poetry Competition and was published by Southern Illinois University Press in August 2012. His new book, *Velocity*, will be published by Virtual Artists Collective of Chicago in 2013.

"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.