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Splash

Mary Oliver

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Splash

It's morning at the creek-edge
and the question is:
shall I jump as usual and enjoy,
as I have hundreds of times,
the casual down-thrust of my legs
on the other side?

Certain facts are unavoidable, still
something in me
refuses to abdicate.

I don't spend much time on it,
I jump
and for the first time in my seventy-seven years
I fall in.

What a beautiful splash!

Mary Oliver

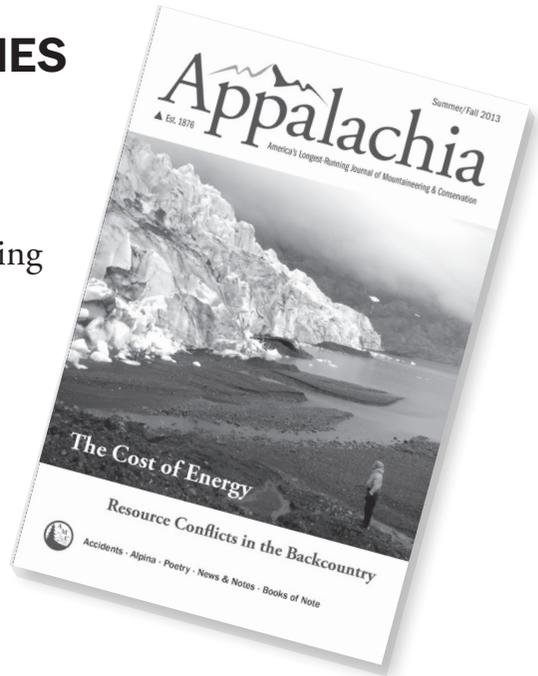
MARY OLIVER has published more than a dozen volumes of poetry, as well as works of imaginative prose and poetry instruction. *Evidence* (Beacon Press) was published in 2009. *Swan: Poems and Prose Poems* (Beacon) appeared in 2010. Her most recent collection, *A Thousand Mornings* (Penguin Press HC), was released in October, 2012.

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