

# Appalachia

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Thoreau*

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## Letters

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# Letters

## The Long Way Home

Wow, my [Summer/Fall 2012] issue (LXIII no. 2) just came. Your editorial, “Memory Fails, Loss Magnifies,” just knocked my socks off. Thank you.

—*Jean Dolon, Signal Mountain, Tennessee*

## Over the Hill Hikers

I was disappointed in a number of errors in the review of *Over the Hill Hikers* (LXIII no. 2). It is not a group of women hikers. Men are abundant but have never dominated. They have been happy to follow the vigorous footsteps of the group’s female founders.

The author, Shirley Lyons, was not Lib’s [Elizabeth MacGregor Bates’s] sidekick. Shirley didn’t hike. Her husband, Washington, D.C., political reporter Dick Lyons, was the hiker. Shirley was an official “party person” (the designation for a spouse who attends Over the Hill Hikers’ social gatherings but who doesn’t climb.)

It is inaccurate to say that the group had climbed the 48 4,000-footers and the 52 with a view. Individual members log their own climbs, with many members reaching these goals, some multiple times.

The book is not “short on detail.” The author is a veteran journalist and writes in the fact-intensive style of a newspaper reporter.

The review fails to mention the book’s emphasis on effective community organizing, the resiliency and longevity of a dynamic group with unelected leadership, delegation of responsibility to members, and no “mission creep.” Hiking with friends remains its sole purpose.

—*Constance Emerson Crooker, Portland, Oregon*

*The writer is the daughter of the late Elizabeth MacGregor Bates.*

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

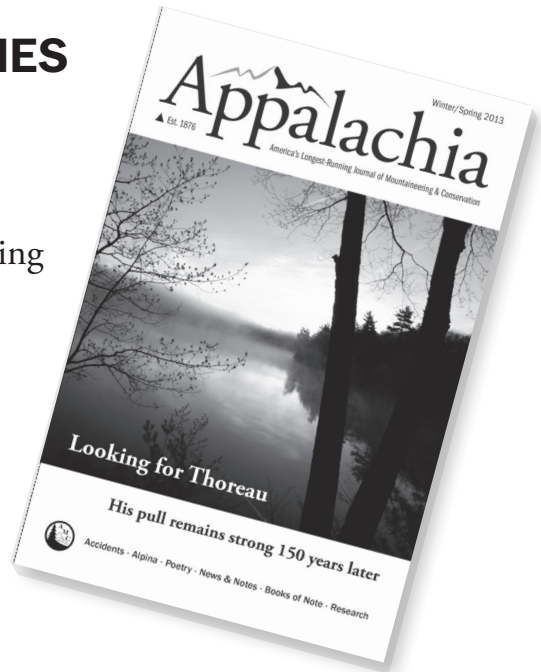
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