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The Snow Has No Voice

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The Snow Has No Voice

but I hear it on this speckled mountain
miles from my cabin door.
I hear its falling in a perturbation of light
and watch the bare incoming
storming up slopes of cloud-torn peaks
in a cargo of wind passing through pine boughs
like a prayer.

In an hour I will be home
but here a slant wind carries snow
like sparks struck from flint
high above a shadowy ridge
where stars measure the path of the moon
and a pure flesh of new snow
lies outstretched like bones below.

John Smelcer

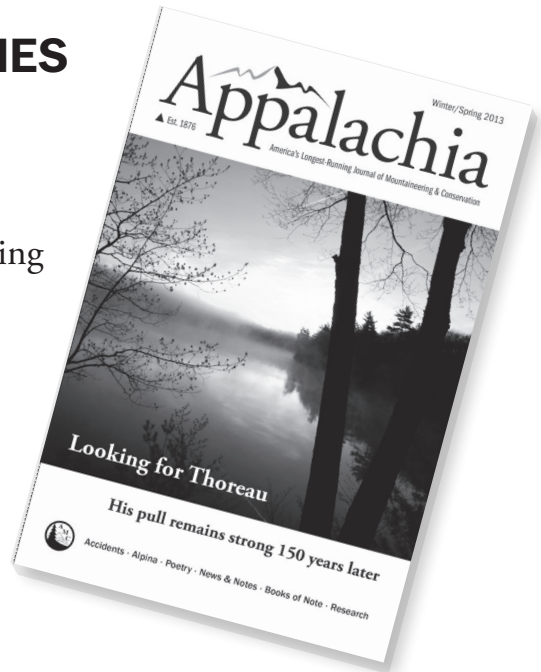
JOHN E. SMELCER, an Alaska Native American, is the author of 40 books, including *Songs from the Outcast* (American Indian Studies Center, UCLA, 2000) and *Without Reservation* (Truman State University Press, 2003), both nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in poetry. He teaches literature and creative writing at Binghamton University, State University of New York.

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