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## For Now

Ann Taylor

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**For now,**

they merge with waves, hundreds  
of Canada Geese lifting, disappearing with gusts  
that streak a blue sky black, test the old oak's  
foothold at the pond's edge,  
whirr through firs in the dry air.

New ice allows no carp to leap,  
no painted turtle to sun along the fallen trunk,  
no snake to test the trail.

All color gone, leaves spiral back  
upwards, chickadees call across great distances.

A single cormorant claims the cove  
where summer swans once nested in down,  
left deep imprints in tall grass,  
now all leveled in frozen flatness.

Harp-strings of ice laced straight  
over the dam surprise me, as does my effort  
to listen for their soft tones, and to hear them.

*Ann Taylor*

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ANN TAYLOR teaches poetry at Salem State University in Salem, Massachusetts. She has poems published or forthcoming in the journals *Arion*, *The Aurorean*, *Ellipsis*, *The Dalhousie Review*, *Snowy Egret*, and *Classical and Modern Literature*. *The River Within*, winner of the first Cathlamet Prize for Poetry, was published in 2011 by Ravenna Press. Taylor lives in Woburn, Massachusetts, with her husband, Francis Blessington.

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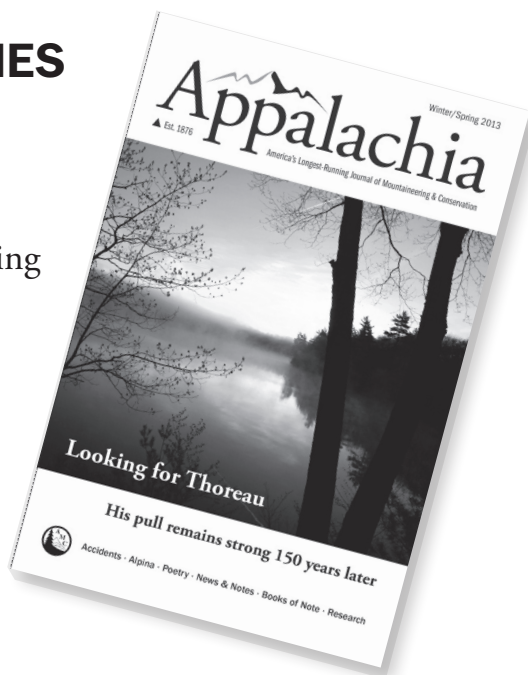
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