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Going to Walden

Mary Oliver

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Going to Walden

It isn't very far as highways lie.
I might be back by nightfall, having seen
The rough pines, and the stones, and the clear water.
Friends argue that I might be wiser for it.
They do not hear that far-off Yankee whisper:
How dull we grow from hurrying here and there!

Many have gone, and think me half a fool
To miss a day away in the cool country.
Maybe. But in a book I read and cherish,
Going to Walden is not so easy a thing
As a green visit. It is the slow and difficult
Trick of living, and finding it where you are.

Mary Oliver

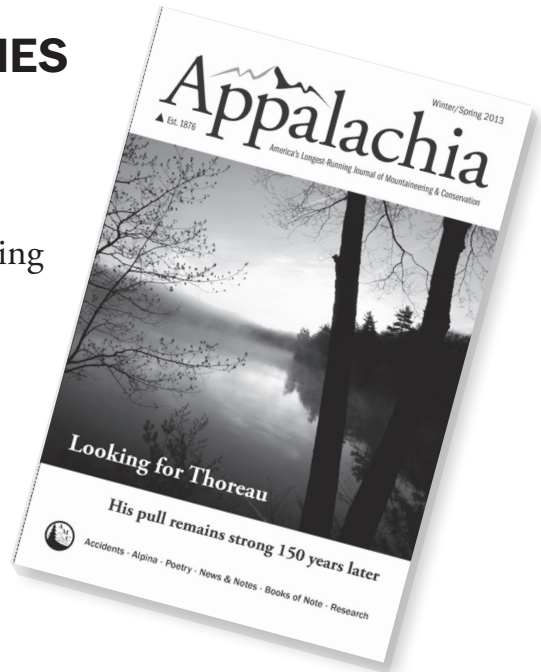
MARY OLIVER has published more than a dozen volumes of poetry, as well as works of imaginative prose and poetry instruction. *Evidence* (Beacon) was published in April 2009. *Swan: Poems and Prose Poems* appeared in September 2010 (Beacon). Her most recent collection, *A Thousand Mornings* (Penguin Press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

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