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A Peak Ahead: Looking for Thoreau

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Looking for Thoreau

HENRY DAVID THOREAU DIED IN 1862, BUT HE STILL PUSHES PEOPLE deeper into nature. What is it about Thoreau's reach into our century that inspires? The next issue of *Appalachia* will explore this. He lived most of his life in Concord, Massachusetts, where today his beloved Walden Pond is a state park. Lucille Stott, a former *Appalachia* editor who lives there, will write about what motivates thousands of tourists (and residents) who seek the real Thoreau in Concord.

Thoreau paid close attention to plants, animals, insects, moss, and even rocks. He could set up a roadside camp at sunset and still find time to jot down how the dying light looked and which trees and plants he saw. Kristen Laine will write about a spring full of rambling, Thoreau-style. Can modern New Hampshire residents achieve Thoreau's intense focus, sitting, watching, rising early?

Adirondack writer Tony Goodwin will share new information he found last year on why the earliest known climber of Mount Washington, Darby Field, was there at all. It may surprise you.

We will publish the winning entry in the essay contest sponsored by the Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund. This is its fifth year.

With these stories, and others, will appear our usual departments: the Accidents and Alpina reports, news in and near the mountains and rivers, research, and reviews of notable books. Until December, then!

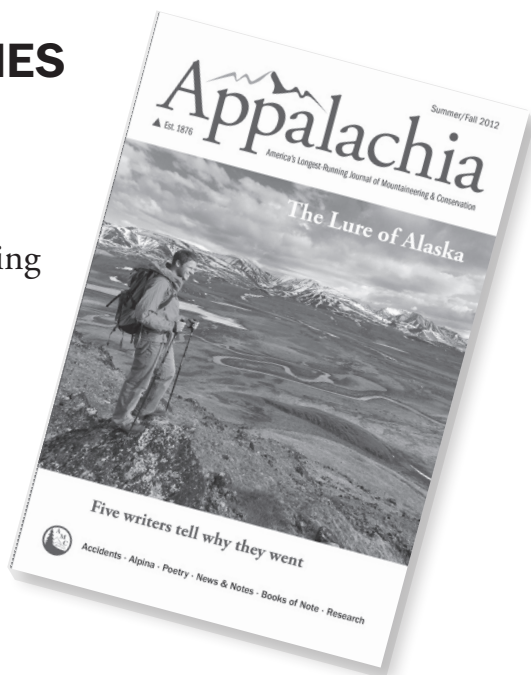
—Christine Woodside
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