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## The Lagoon

Ann Taylor

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## The Lagoon

A palette of rust—giltless goldenrod,  
    sticky burrs, fallen acorns broken,  
cat-o'-nine-tails, ragged like bucks' antlers  
    shedding velvet. Cracked milkweed pods  
clinging like wounded birds, a few feathery filaments  
    waiting to break loose. Abandoned nests  
exposed on bare limbs, remaining leaves countable,  
    the rest hustling down cracked pavement,  
or waved to water's edge, soon to be frozen under.

But still, tight white birch catkins, like raindrops  
    suspended, seeded. Wispy young pines rooted  
in the esker. Chickadees' persistent comment  
    in the cold air, coots bobbing, mallards still paired,  
swan parents circling with offspring ready for flight,  
    a noisy flurry of Canada Geese, chaotic, agreeing  
only on south. The warm sun's slight heat.

Today's harvesting chipmunk, like me,  
anticipating, faithful to the mostly unseen.

*Ann Taylor*

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ANN TAYLOR of Woburn, Massachusetts, teaches poetry at Salem State University. Her poems have appeared or will appear in *Arion*, *The Aureorean*, *Ellipsis*, *The Dalhousie Review*, and others. Ravenna Press awarded her its first Cathlamet Prize for Poetry and published her collection, *The River Within*, in 2011.

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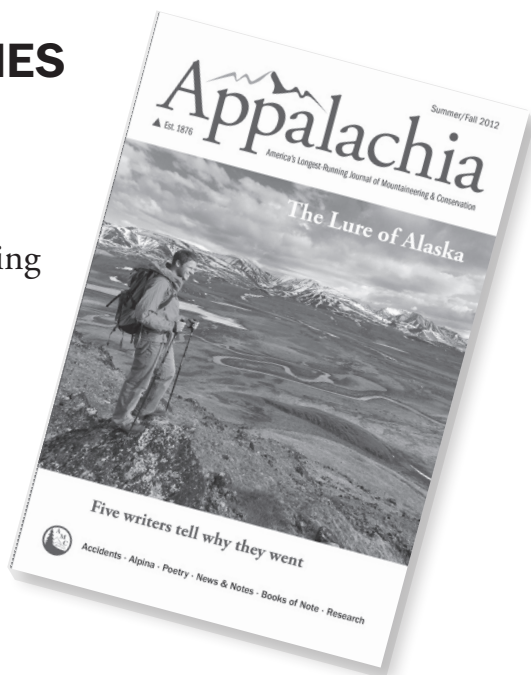
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