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A Peak Ahead: Hidden Surprises

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Hidden Surprises

STORIES IN THE NEXT *APPALACHIA* WILL EXPLORE HIDDEN MYSTERIES AND surprise encounters with wild animals in wild lands.

Gathering these stories, I've been struck by how rare it is for explorers to come in close contact with wild creatures, big and small. We are in their territories. The animals hide. We see their tracks and scat. We smell them. When we see them, it's usually just a glimpse.

Stories next issue will explore the difference between the trailside zoo bear and wild bears on the Appalachian Trail in New York, the heartbreak of two dead wood thrushes in town, bison galloping past tents, and meetings with eland antelopes.

Bill Geller explored off trail over more than 40 years in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Read his story next time of these trips. He and his brother took full packs when the leaves were off the trees, clearing visibility. They had no place to be so could locate remote landmarks they'd always wondered about, places below the Bonds, Mount Carrigain, in Lincoln Woods, and in other areas.

Rick Spedden will tell the gripping history of the Appalachian Mountain Club's whitewater canoeing pioneers in the early twentieth century. They include his parents, Rush and Betty Spedden, and a former *Appalachia* editor, Marjorie Hurd, who saved herself heroically when her boat capsized in a fast river.

James Mason, a member of New Hampshire's Upper Valley Wilderness Response Team, will write of a harrowing rescue in 2009 on the Franconia Ridge in the White Mountains.

Alaskan writer David Stevenson will consider appearances of "the white death" (avalanches) in literature.

Also next time, we will publish the winning essay of the Waterman Fund Essay Contest, generously sponsored by the Waterman Fund. This contest introduces writing about wilderness by emerging writers.

Join us next winter for these and other stories. Follow us on Twitter @AppalachiaJourn or email me to stay in touch.

I am delighted to announce that two mountain people and writers, Derick Lugo and Laura Waterman, have joined the Appalachia Committee.

—Christine Woodside

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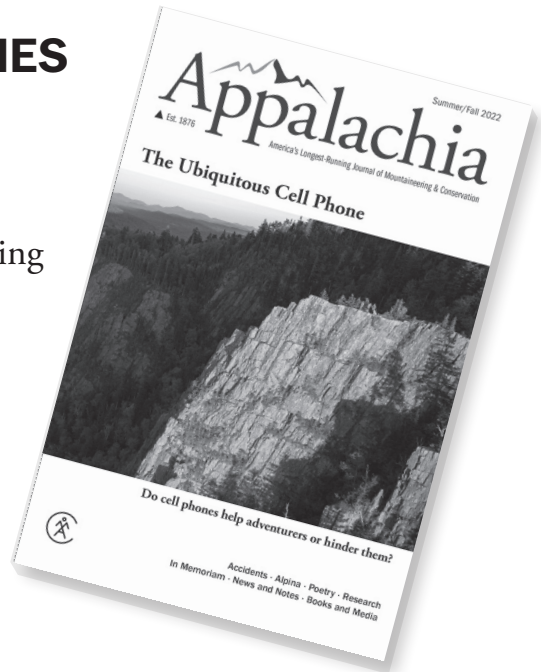
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