

# Appalachia

---

Volume 62  
Number 2 *Summer/Fall 2011: Off the Turnpike*

Article 21

---

2011

## Watching

Francis Blessington

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/appalachia>



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Blessington, Francis (2011) "Watching," *Appalachia*: Vol. 62: No. 2, Article 21.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/appalachia/vol62/iss2/21>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by Dartmouth Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Appalachia* by an authorized editor of Dartmouth Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [dartmouthdigitalcommons@groups.dartmouth.edu](mailto:dartmouthdigitalcommons@groups.dartmouth.edu).

---

---

## Watching

“And perhaps, after all, there is *no* secret” to the universe.

—*Melville to Hawthorne*

Perhaps they are doing something else in addition  
to slamming the one-ton pectoral on the dazzle  
to de-lice or text a friend through the conducive water.  
A million calories, tons of blubber, the celebrated fasting  
and birthing in the warm Caribe—and one, a girl, watches us?  
The kids run the deck now. We over-stayed.  
It’s just belly-flopping and us drawn large in discomfort and obesity.  
The flukes crash as they lave for the millionth time.  
Even size and mystery and beauty can’t last all afternoon  
and we head off in diesel fumes, while a green fin breaches like bait.

*Francis Blessington*

---

---

FRANCIS BLESSINGTON has published two books of poems, *Wolf Howl* (BkMk Press, University of Missouri–KC, 2000) and *Lantskip* (William Bauhan, 1987). He has published books of criticism and many essays, together with short stories and poems. His latest novel, *The Last Witch of Dogtown*, was published by Curious Traveller Press in 2001. He lives in Woburn, Massachusetts, with his wife, Ann Taylor.

---

---

*"I started reading Appalachia for the accident reports, but I kept reading for the great features."*—Mohamed Ellozy, subscriber

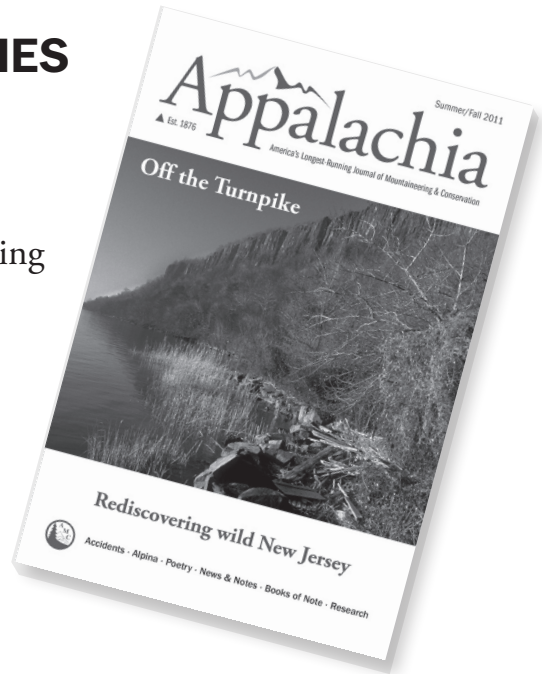
---

---

## SUPPORT THE STORIES YOU LOVE!

Start or renew your *Appalachia* subscription today, and keep reading America's longest-running journal of mountaineering and conservation.

Visit [outdoors.org/appalachia](https://www.outdoors.org/appalachia) for a special offer: 36% off the journal's cover price. That's three years of *Appalachia* (6 issues) for only \$42. Or choose a one-year subscription (2 issues) for \$18—18% off the cover price.



Inside every issue, you'll find:

- inspired writing on mountain exploration, adventurers, ecology, and conservation
- up-to-date news and notes on international expeditions
- analysis of recent Northeastern mountaineering accidents
- book reviews, poetry, and much more

Subscribe today at [outdoors.org/appalachia](https://www.outdoors.org/appalachia) or call 800-372-1758.



Subscription prices valid as of June 2022. Prices and offers subject to change without notice. For the most up-to-date information, visit [outdoors.org](https://www.outdoors.org).