

Appalachia

Volume 62
Number 1 *Winter/Spring 2011: Up from
Devastation*

Article 21

2011

Polar Wind

James Doyle

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Recommended Citation

Doyle, James (2011) "Polar Wind," *Appalachia*: Vol. 62: No. 1, Article 21.

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Polar Wind

Antarctica senses the primary colors
off the tip of South America, leans
north all the way from the pole,

patches together a wind to bring back
news of a dove off-course, tree bark,
other seasons. The wind turns on itself,

unwinds in mid-air, scatters
the black and white of icebergs
with such fragile equations

to unravel the light spectrum
that glaciers shudder underfoot
and dawn arrives just in time,

clarion light with a cutting edge
that even the most jaded
scientists can measure up to prove.

Satisfied, the continent settles
into its own muscles. How
the icebergs flex their deep

tendons and the waves sail
farther north each day
can be counted by the crudest

instruments: astrolabe, ruler,
spinning top, crystals
in the arteries, the freezing water
up to our knees and rising.

James Doyle

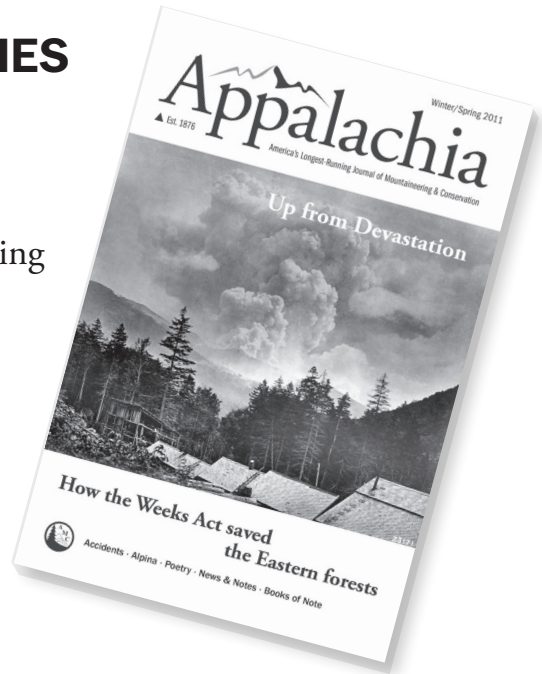
JAMES DOYLE's latest book is *Bending Under the Yellow Police Tapes*. He has published poems in many journals, including *Cold Mountain Review*, *The Iowa Review*, and *Poetry*. His piece "Severe Aunts" was read on NPR by Garrison Keillor in 2004.

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