

# Appalachia

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## Top of the Ridge

Wally Swist

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## Top of the Ridge

Climbing through spring snow in Granville  
State Forest, we listen for bird song.

In the wands of a sapling cherry at the top  
of the ridge a warbler's empty nest.

We stop on the talused trail—fresh snow  
covers our tracks from two weeks ago.

At cliff's edge, crystals of wind-scattered  
rime blown through clusters of browned

sweet fern, patches of pinweed,  
the pale rose of matchstick moss.

*Wally Swist*

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WALLY SWIST has published seventeen books and chapbooks of poetry, including *Luminous Dream* (FutureCycle Press, 2010), the finalist for the 2010 FutureCycle Poetry Book Award. A short biographical documentary film regarding his work, *In Praise of the Earth*, was released by filmmaker Elizabeth Wilda (WildArts, 2008). He has also published a scholarly monograph, *The Friendship of Two New England Poets, Robert Frost and Robert Francis* (The Edwin Mellen Press, 2009).

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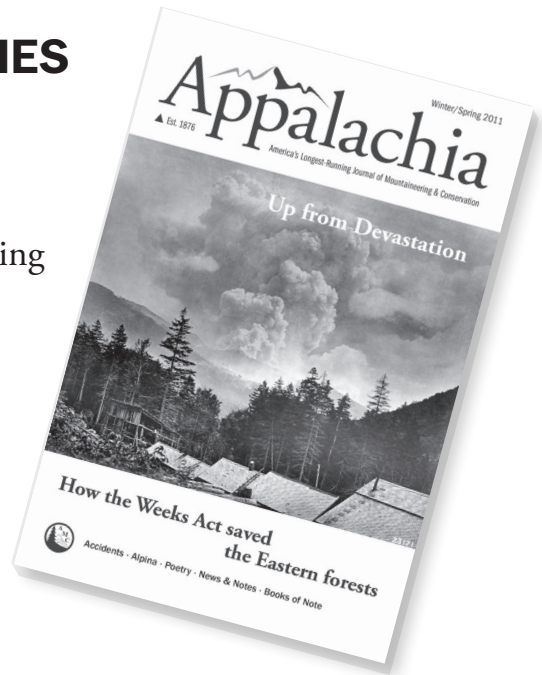
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