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A Peak Ahead: Risks, Decisions, and Adventure

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Risks, decisions, and adventure

STORIES IN THE SUMMER/FALL 2023 ISSUE OF *APPALACHIA* EXPLORE HOW dealing with risk molds backcountry trips.

Jeannie Oliver talked with a hiker on New Hampshire's Mount Moosilauke who was on his way up the Glenclyff Trail as she was on her way down to avoid the dangerous conditions. Two days later, rescuers found his body. Oliver will write about that encounter and her feelings about what happened.

Anna Hager Loome, a teacher in Millinocket, Maine, will write about risk on backcountry rivers. She will examine how young people can experience the joy of adventure without putting themselves into grave danger, using her own Swiftwater Rescue training as a framework.

Shilletha Curtis—trail name Dragonsky—discovered long-distance hiking a few years ago as a mental and physical healing exercise. Curtis aspires to be the first Black lesbian to achieve the “triple crown”—completing the Appalachian Trail, Continental Divide Trail, and Pacific Crest Trail. Partway through that challenge, she writes about her journeys and her life. The New Jersey native has become an inspiration on her own and also by joining up occasionally with the group Black People Who Hike.

Connecticut teacher and adventurer Tom Fagin will again inspire us with a unique low-carbon journey from his back door. This one covered 700 miles by bicycle and paddling from Mystic, Connecticut, into Maine, New Hampshire, waterways of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, the Connecticut River, Long Island Sound, and back home.

Literary and science writer Katy Dycus will take us on a hike through Glencoe, Scotland, “an area where there is constant mist and chill, forest and mountainous peaks, a truly mythical place.” She will take readers through this sublime landscape by examining the literary connections it brings up.

These and more essays will appear in June.

Until next time, explore, create, and stay in touch.

—Christine Woodside
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