

2022

## A Peak Ahead: The Engines of Adventure: What Compels People to Go

Christine Woodside

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### Recommended Citation

Woodside, Christine (2022) "A Peak Ahead: The Engines of Adventure: What Compels People to Go," *Appalachia*: Vol. 74: No. 2, Article 20.

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# The engines of adventure: what compels people to go

OUR NEXT ISSUE TAKES A DEEPER LOOK AT MOTIVATIONS. WHY DO adventurers push forward on what might seem unusual quests? Everyone out there, whether on a mountain trail, a tangled backcountry route, a river or lake, or a valley journey, has a reason.

Among our essays on motivations will be one by Philip Carcia, who completed all of the trails in the Appalachian Mountain Club's *White Mountain Guide* in a single year. He will explore why he felt compelled to try this quest and what he went through to complete it.

Shilletha Curtis—trail name Dragonsky—will write about her adventures on long trails in America. Curtis, who hikes for mental and physical healing, 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 tells us what she's gained so far.

Our popular *Accidents* section will again examine motivations and decisions in the capable hands of Sandy Stott and Scott Berkley.

Also next issue, Alicia Colson shares a lyrical science essay on the importance of the Boreal Forest, which many scientists have sometimes called “the boring forest”—“that inconvenient lump of land” in North America stretching coast to coast, largely in Canada and also dipping down into Minnesota. This forest is crucial to the health of the planet.

Other stories will share indigenous peoples' respect for Katahdin in Maine, an Oregon adventure, a trip to Yellowstone National Park, and the effects of trail use on wildlife.

We will publish the winner of the annual Waterman Contest for emerging writers. The fund provides generous prize money and works with us to nurture the work of the winners, runners up, and other entrants in our mission to encourage new talent.

Stay in touch, and best to you in reading and writing.

*Christine Woodside*  
*chris@chriswoodside.com*

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

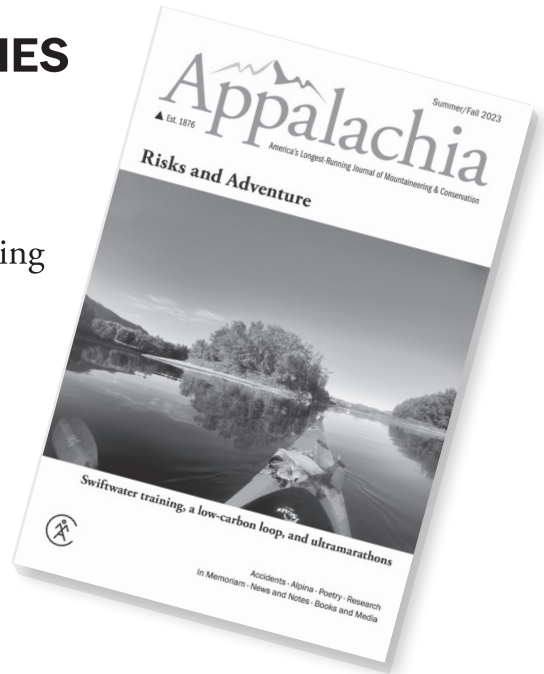
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