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Government Peak, Trail Crew, August

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Government Peak, Trail Crew, August

Close, humid, starless, utterly still—
too warm to sleep well—

But to crawl out of your small tent
and be gobsmacked by an eye-bright
sky, a breeze shucked and free, the small
fire's ashes silver and cool, two fawns
at meadow's edge, and a kingbird's
happy sputter in the whitest birch—

The wind's voice in the top of the tallest
pine will stay in your ear for the rest
of the day, stirring memories, tossing
all the tiny stones. And tonight,
though you're weary from another day
of rock and root, though the stars
gleam kindly, and a small bird warbles
in the dark, sleep again
will be restless, just as unsure.

Russ Capaldi

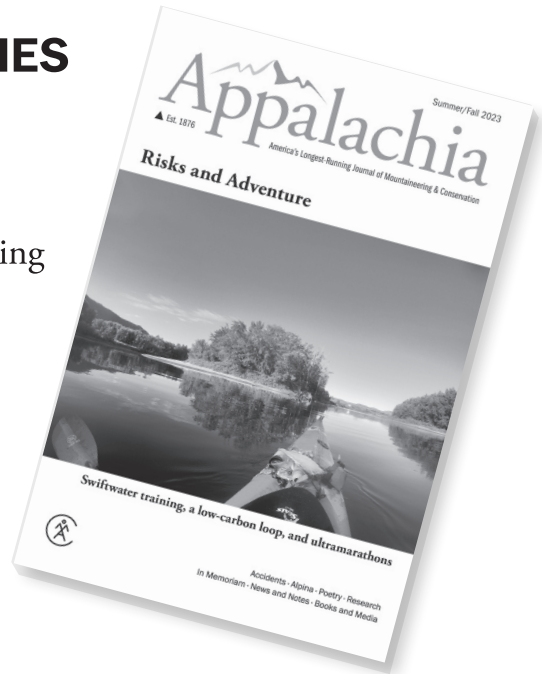
RUSS CAPALDI's poems have appeared in *Dunes Review*, *Appalachia*, and *North Dakota Quarterly*. He lives with his wife, Susan, in northern Michigan, where they enjoy the outdoors throughout the year.

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