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## Tenting on Mount Morgan

Marcyn Del Clements

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## Tenting on Mount Morgan

(13,748 feet)

Tenting up here  
on Morgan's flanks.

Footsteps in star darkness,  
lightning beyond the hill.

Boot-clomps on dark rock,  
lightning frames the mountains.

Hearing a voice, two voices,  
but no words.

Boot-steps in moon darkness,  
heat lightning flashes the peaks.

Boot-scrunch on sand, on grit,  
lightning flares the crags.

New moon, feeble starlight,  
footsteps fade far downhill—

or did I drift off to sleep,  
night hikers still here?

Silence rims the mountains,  
the lake glimmers dimly.

No steps, no lightning, no moon—  
only stars walking toward morning.

6 August 1997

*Marcyn Del Clements*

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Marcyn Del Clements is a regular contributor to *Appalachia*. Her first book, *Shinrin-Yoku* (Parkman Press, 2021), features work published in *Appalachia* since 1994. She misses backpacking in the wilderness and wants to get back to it again.

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

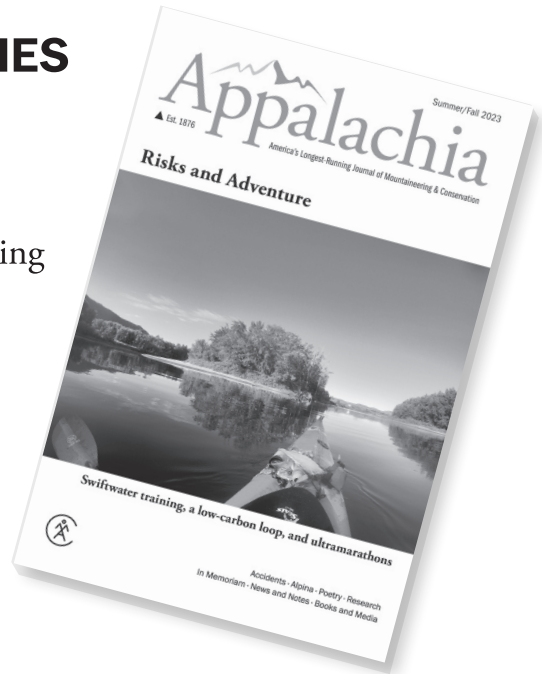
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