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## Early Spring at the Pond

Ann Taylor

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### Early Spring at the Pond

The sodden log rocks, lazes  
on wavelets, worries duckweed,  
with six turtles, painted in a row,  
raised high, lolling warm and dry.

Then the one log-rolling coot,  
unbalances, disturbs the peace,  
tips them into clawscrambling  
their hold above the muddy murk.

Un-iced, sun sprung, a warbler trill,  
a louder cardinal call, log-and-turtle rest,  
coot dance, my long pause on the trail—  
season's wakenings.

*Ann Taylor*

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ANN TAYLOR, of Woburn, Massachusetts, is a retired professor of English at Salem State University. She has published six books of poetry, the most recent, *Looking After: Poems*, with Dos Madres Press (2024). She is working on a collection, *Horn Pond: The Way I See It*, about the pond near where she grew up and where she currently lives.

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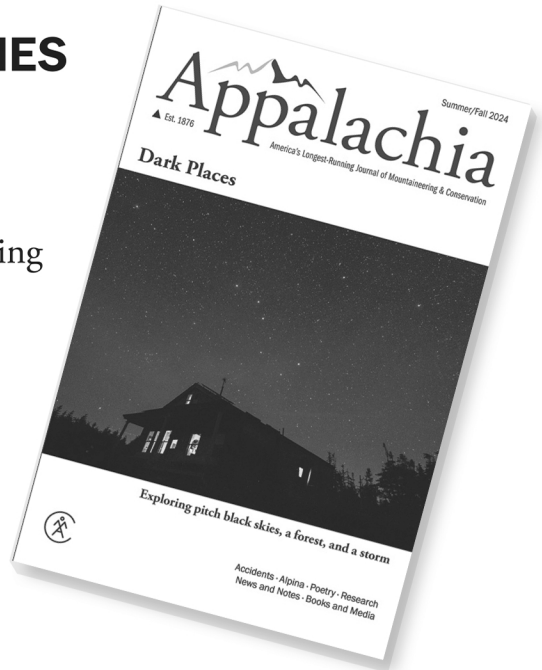
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