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Yellow-Yellow

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Yellow-Yellow

Bugs dug from bark aren't salty enough,
and the storm-toughened pith found beneath
is hardly sweet. The black bear called Yellow-Yellow
has learned to crave the refined treats backpackers haul.
Snickers bars hilariously sweet, and Ruffles chips
stiff with starch and salt, are secured in special
canisters labeled "bear proof" on store shelves.
In the field, bears hunch over these puzzles
like Neanderthal addicts trying to solve childproof vials.
They test the intricate locking systems—holding down tabs
with teeth while rotating cylinders with feet—trying to pry
away a prize—the treats inside a strong reward for fast learners.
Product development gurus use the Adirondacks
as their testing ground—Yellow-Yellow's habitat—
because of her knack at conquering every container,
and proving our nomenclature "bear-proof" in error.

Dave Seter

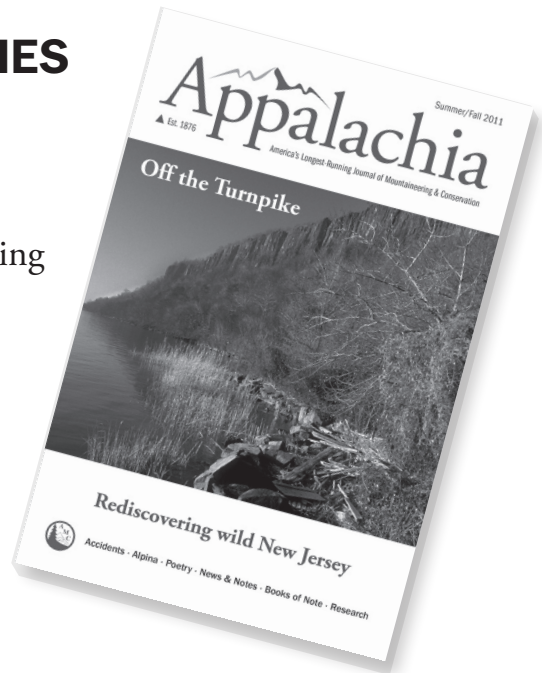
DAVE SETER's first collection of poems, the chapbook *Night Duty*, was published in 2010 by Main Street Rag Publishing Company. He has lived on both coasts of the United States; he currently resides in Sonoma County, California.

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