

# THE frost place

A permanent home and museum  
for poets and poetry



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- **"Love Elegy in the Chinese Garden, with Koi" by Nathan McClain**
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## **Meet the Poetry Seminar Fellow Nathan McClain**

**Nathan McClain** is the author of *Scale* (forthcoming from Four Way Books in 2017). His poems have recently appeared in *Southern Humanities Review*, *Connotation*



*Press, Southern Indiana Review, Union Station Magazine and Inch.* A recipient of scholarships from The Frost Place and the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Nathan is a graduate from the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson and a Cave Canem fellow.

## **Love Elegy in the Chinese Garden, with Koi**

**by Nathan McClain**

Near the entrance, a patch of tall grass.  
Near the tall grass, long-stemmed plants;

each bending an ear-shaped cone  
to the pond's surface. If you looked closely,

You could make out silvery Koi  
swishing toward the clouded pond's edge

where a boy tugs at his mother's shirt for a quarter.  
To buy fish feed. And watching that boy,

as he knelt down to let the Koi kiss his palms,  
I missed what it was to be so dumb

as those Koi. I like to think they're pure,  
that that's why even after the boy's palms were empty,

after he had nothing else to give, they still kissed  
his hands. Because who hasn't done that—

loved so intently even after everything  
has gone? Loved something that has washed

its hands of you? I like to think I'm different now,  
that I'm enlightened somehow,

but who am I kidding? I know I'm like those Koi,  
still, with their popping mouths, that would kiss

those hands again if given the chance. So dumb.

—first appeared in *The Collagist* (August 2013)

**Inspired Writing: Mountains and Lupines  
at The Frost Place  
Sponsored by Hobblebush Books**

**Saturday, June 13th, 3:00 PM**

Eric Pinder, author of *Life at the Top*, and Henry Walters, author of *Field Guide A Tempo*, read from their books. A special reading during the annual local Lupine Celebration. Free and open to the public.

Sponsored by Hobblebush Books, a NH publisher.



**Eric Pinder** first learned to love weather and mountains in his hometown of Cobleskill in upstate New York, where as a child he watched the stars and lunar eclipses with a toy telescope. In the spring of 1995, he started work at the Mount Washington Observatory. Pinder left the Observatory in 2002 to pursue his writing more fully. His first children's book *Cat in*

*the Clouds*, based on the adventures of the Observatory's cat Nin, was published in 2009 from History Press. Pinder continues to live in Berlin, New Hampshire and teaches Nature Writing and Writing for Children at Chester College of New England. His previous books are *Life at the Top* (Down East Books, 1997), *Tying Down the Wind: Adventures in the Worst Weather on Earth* (Tarcher/Putnam, 2000), *North to Katahdin* (Milkwood Editions, 2005), and *Among the Clouds: Work, Wit and Weather at the Mount Washington Observatory* (Alpine Books, 2008).

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**Henry Walters** was born in Chicago in 1984 and grew up in Indiana and southern Michigan. He studied Latin and Greek at Harvard College, beekeeping in Sicily, and falconry in Ireland. He has worked as a teacher, a naturalist, a practicing falconer, and a steward of a wildlife sanctuary. His poems, translations, and essays have appeared in a range of publications, from *The Old Farmer's Almanac* to *The American Guide to Hawk Migration Studies*, and he is the recipient of *Better Magazine's* 2013 prize for poetry. He currently lives in the beech and hemlock woods of Dublin, New Hampshire, where he coordinates the New Hampshire Young Birders Club and acts as Secretary for Experimental Living at Dublin School.

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## **The Frost Place Poetry Programs Apply Now**

Conference on Poetry and Teaching - June 21 - 25, 2015

Conference on Poetry - July 12 - 18, 2015

Poetry Seminar - August 2 - 8, 2015

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