

# Border Crossings

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WALKING THE HAIKU PATH ON THE  
INTERNATIONAL APPALACHIAN TRAIL



IAN MARSHALL

“Ian Marshall carries on the traditions of Basho, Thoreau, and even Kerouac in *Border Crossings* as he travels along the International Appalachian Trail. This demanding but lesser-known über-trail stretches north some 500 miles from its highest point at Mt. Katahdin in Maine all the way down to sea level on Québec’s Gaspé Peninsula. This book serves as a tripartite introduction not only to the IAT and to the author’s day-to-day hiking challenges and rewards, but above all to haiku and its ecocentric attractions—all three paths more rich and varied than many readers might realize. This book’s exploration of place is both inner and outer, and an in-depth investigation of haiku aesthetics. The narrative unfolds using the haibun form—prose interspersed with haiku—and carries readers along in its curious and joyful melding of contemplation and revelation. These travels, mostly on foot, are ultimately a quest for beginner’s mind, a quest not just to hike this scenic and challenging trail, but to learn, as the author says, ‘to write a decent haiku.’ And learn he does, not just from his extensive reading in nature writing and haiku scholarship, which he refers to liberally, but from nature herself—always haiku’s finest teacher.”

—Michael Dylan Welch, Vice President of the Haiku Society of America

IAN MARSHALL is a professor of English and Environmental Studies at Penn State Altoona and a former president of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment. He is the author of *Story Line: Exploring the Literature of the Appalachian Trail*, *Peak Experiences: Walking Meditations on Literature, Nature, and Need*, *Walden by Haiku*, and *Border Crossings: Walking the Haiku Path on the International Appalachian Trail*.

## BOOK INFORMATION

ISBN: 978-0983585251 | Price: \$17.95 USD

Publisher-direct discount: 40% • Ingram discount 20%

Return: US orders through Ingram for 6 months

Free shipping on orders over 15 copies • Length/size: Approx. 326 pgs, 5.5 x 8.5

Publisher: Hiraeth Press, Postal Box 1442, Pawcatuck CT 06379-1442 USA

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