

CONFRONTING TENACIOUS FORESTS  
ON STEEP SLOPES, WHILE CONSIDERING  
THE MEDICINAL YEW

HJ Andrews Experimental Forest

4-Oct-2013, 3 am

Attempting to speak  
accurately  
of forests

I bump up  
– again and again --  
against the close  
and closed edges

of my mind -- this cage  
of attitudes that limits  
the forest, by turns,

to young and awkward,  
or elegant with age.

Two friends meet cancer  
nightly in the cradle of their hips.

These forests – beneficent.  
Their tumors – malignant.  
Each with no such intent

but relentless, yes,  
in their endless  
bifurcation and cellular

splitting – by daylight,  
by starlight,  
and in the shade of bellies.