



*Gray Morning*  
Balsam, North Carolina  
Photo by Dan Hardison

## Rhythm of the Rain

*Dan Hardison*

The sound of rain falling outside our window greeted me when I woke this morning. It was just a light shower, but discouraging nonetheless. We had come to the mountains to enjoy the fall colors and cool days of October. To take in the views, do a little hiking, to get away . . .

Our stay was at an inn that dates to 1906 and still relishing in its turn-of-the-century charm. There is no television, no phones, and no air conditioning. The wooden floors creak, the pipes rattle, and the silence at night takes getting used to.

So what now? Our plans for the day were all wet. Not much to do except grab a jacket, a cup of hot tea, a good book, settle into a rocker on the porch, and listen to the rhythm of the rain. Actually, not such a bad morning after all.

day-long rain  
stretching into night –  
restless dog