

Still There

They have not removed you
the way they have removed
the mountaintops
to get at the coal which lies beneath.

They have not killed you
the way they have killed the coral reefs,
so many species of plant and animal
we cannot count them all.

They have not poisoned you
the way they have poisoned our air
our land, our water, our food.

They have just hidden you away
with tall buildings and so much light
that yours cannot shine the way it once did
when I was a child and remembered
(on those occasions when I remembered)
to look up at the nighttime sky.

And so, today, when I arrive
at Stephen Foster State Park in Georgia,
on the west side of the Okefenokee National
Wildlife Refuge, and am handed
a page with maps and other information
I note the paragraph which explains
that this has been designated
a “dark sky park.”

It had not been my plan
to remain until dark.
But when I read these words
I change my plans and,
as soon as darkness overcomes the sky
there you are,

right where you used to be
when I was a child and remembered
(on those occasions when I remembered)
to look up at the nighttime sky.

They have not removed you.
They have not killed you.
They have not poisoned you—though

they might, still, one day
if anyone figures out a way
to make a buck by doing so.

Perhaps, I think to myself, this
is how I can describe
just how revolutionary
our revolution is going to be.
Imagine! We will turn off
enough lights that children
when they look up again
might be able to see
a nighttime sky full of stars.

Steve Bloom
February 2018