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Making Rounds

Aubrey Streit Krug

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Scattered Clouds Sketch
Lisa Grossman

MAKING ROUNDS

I used to like to walk, long walks,
my son's senior pen pal writes.
That year I bask under pointed
cottonwood buds and decide
I cannot wait to return, making
rounds until green leaves brighten
the gray sky and toss yellow then
brown. I know my soul when
I walk into wind that shoulders
me, from the south all summer,
up with the morning heat then
churned into clouds by twilight.
Upon each homecoming I greet
the praying mantis and take a bite
of bee balm to jolt the muscle
of my tongue. The whole world is
waiting, so walk, we tell our son
in the tallgrass downpour when
he's too strong to shield anymore.

Aubrey Streit Krug is a writer, teacher and agricultural researcher who studies relationships between humans and plants. She grew up in a small town in Kansas and loves rocky prairie hillsides. She works as director of Ecosphere Studies at The Land Institute in Salina.