

## Bear Binge

Every fall outside  
Auburn, near

the confluence of  
White, Green & Stuck

rivers, dozens of drunk  
bears cavort where

a west-bound train  
derailed, leaving

400 tons of high  
grade corn fermenting

beside the tracks.  
Bears sniffed out

the 80 proof—  
a fragrant pool —

got roaring drunk  
& sat around all night

with their paws  
on each other's

shoulders, singing  
camp songs,

telling dirty jokes  
& swapping lies.

The railroad put up  
a fence, dumped dirt

on the mash, but didn't  
dig deep enough,

so every year since,  
the bears dig up

the steaming brew,  
& go at it again

like rival salesmen  
or politicians

at a convention.  
Come next spring

they'll be back,  
sink their muzzles

deep, dance, waddle  
& sway—high-fiving

black bears & sentimental  
grizzlies, forgetting

their territories &  
getting along just fine.