

Consider Now

by [Paul Willis](#) in the [June 2023](#) issue

*(Quercus agrifolia)*

Old live oak,  
your hands catch sun  
and make it green.

But your lowest branches  
have already done their job,  
retired into leaflessness.

And one branch,  
where it used to be,  
is a black bowl of emptiness.

Still, you reach and reach,  
bracing sky,  
practicing your live oak yoga.