The Light After Equinox

by Gary Hardaway

Soon enough, October's ragged
lawn will hide its deficiencies

under withered leaves of oak,
pecan, and elm. A first freeze is

still a month away here and
any surprise of snow another

one or two past leaf fall.
Moderating winds push

away the summer's heat and
desiccation. The sun's light is

softer hued now. A faint russet
modulates the stark, hot

white to something kinder to the
wrinkled gray of head and hands.

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