

# 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.

