

## **Kerry Loughman**

### **Flood Damage Control**

Muddy River lives up to its name:  
banked beds anointed with oil,  
                  alluvial pleats in the tarp skirt  
                  of a horse chestnut. Spent cattails  
weave themselves into a basket  
                  for the steel crane curled,  
                  all hedged by wood and wire.  
I'm alone in the rain  
                  with renegade geese,  
                  neighbors nobody wants  
because they leave  
                  crap all over the yard  
                  and let their offspring  
teeter delinquent.  
                  I envy their downy insolence  
                  but mime the great blue heron,  
who postures in,  
                  then out,  
                  still fishing.

**Kerry Loughman** lives and works in Brookline, Massachusetts. Born in Jamaica Plain, MA, she feels fortunate to have lived most of her life near Olmstead's Emerald Necklace. She is a member of the Poemworks Workshop run by Barbara Helfgott-Hyett.