

Jeff Hardin

Naysayers

Naysayers and I  
have a long history,  
though I doubt they pay me  
much mind.

I lean toward affirmation—  
out of principle, mostly—  
finding the excess  
instead of the absence,  
for too many nays  
lead to nonsense and shrugs.

I propose stopping daily—  
near a ditch line of clover  
will do—to say *yes*,  
even if whispered.

I know  
we're long past words  
like fulfillment, revelation,  
goodness, humility,  
but we could always revisit them  
to see what we overlooked.

I, for one,  
enjoy the thought  
of subliminal messages  
sent by the grass and the weeds,  
by the leaves on the creek,  
by the face of a stranger  
breathing a breath  
I so easily might have  
mistaken as mine.