Welcome to the Western North Carolina Mountains!
Thursday, May 5 to Sunday, May 8
By Kitti Reynolds

The Carolina Bird Club is so happy to sponsor another meeting in the beautiful mountains around Asheville, North Carolina. Join us as we welcome the return of colorful warblers and other beautiful migrants up and down our slopes. There are a number of trips along the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway, as well as the Blue Ridge escarpment and several local parks. The birds will be everywhere!

We have a block of 50 rooms with 2 queen beds for May 5, 6, and 7 at the Crowne Plaza Resort in Asheville, NC. The rate is $169.00 per night, plus tax. In order to book at this rate, you must reserve the rooms before April 5 at midnight. Call the toll-free number 1-844-330-0296 and mention Carolina Bird Club or call the local number 828-285-2603 during business hours and again mention Carolina Bird Club. Check in time is 3 PM and check out time is 11 AM. A la carte/to go breakfasts and bag lunches will be available by 6 AM or possibly 5:30 if you pre-order using the form in the April newsletter. Note: The rooms have mini-refrigerators and coffee/tea makers but no microwaves. No free breakfasts. The full-service restaurant, The Overlook, is open from 6:30 am to 2 pm, and 5pm to 10 pm. The bar, AVL 828, is open from 2 pm to 12 am, and serves appetizers.

For on-line reservations use www.ashevillecp.com. Under check availability enter dates of stay and enter group code CBC. Any questions, please contact Kelly Curtis, 828-285-2620.

CBC registration will begin at 4 PM Thursday. Please check in to pick up your registration packet and badge. IMPORTANT: Field trip lists will be available for you to initial and confirm that you are registered and will attend the trips you signed up for. Trip directions will also be included in the meeting information packet. For those of you signing up for all-day trips, please remember that you must bring your own lunch. Although Covid restrictions have eased at the date of this writing, please be prepared to wear a mask if you carpool on the birding trips. Most trips will leave from the Crowne Plaza parking lot.
Due to concern over Covid-19, this will be a hybrid meeting. Our Friday and Saturday speakers will be presenting over Zoom, and no banquet is planned. Bring a laptop or tablet if possible, so that you can enjoy the speakers. On Friday night we are proud to present Asheville’s own Simon Thompson, owner of Ventures Birding Tours. Simon will speak on “Birding in the Time of Covid”. Saturday night we are pleased to present John Carpenter, Project Director for the North Carolina Breeding Bird Atlas Project. John will explain the project and bring us up to speed on the latest findings.

Online registration will begin at 2 PM on April 2 and end at midnight on April 24. However walk-in registrations are accepted at the meeting. See you there!

**Spring Meeting Notes**

**All field trips have a limit of 15 participants.**

- Plan to bring water, snacks and lunch for the all-day trips since there may not be food available along the route unless otherwise noted in the field trip description. Bag lunches may be ordered the night before at the Crown Plaza, from their banquet menu. Take out breakfasts are also available, if ordered the night before also.

- Water and snacks are also a good idea for the half-day field trips.

- All trips will leave from the hotel at the times indicated on the schedule. Look for the placard with your trip number, unless your trip is to meet the leader at a designated location. There will be a sheet with all directions for your trips e-mailed to you in advance. Please bring it on each trip as caravans sometimes break down and, if so, you'll still be able to get to the trip site. Get the leader's cell number before you leave, just in case.

- If you prefer to meet the group at the site, be sure to inform the leader by making a notation on the field trip attendee list so the leader will not be looking for you at the hotel.

- Unless otherwise noted, the times listed on the sign-in sheets are when cars are lined up in the Crowne Plaza parking lot and leaving. Please be there at least 10 minutes early and identify yourself to the leader. If you decide not to go on a trip, scratch through your name beforehand on the supplied lists on the registration tables. Please consider doing this in advance so others may use the open spot if desired.

- We try to take as few vehicles as possible on field trips to save gas, make caravanning easier, and to make better use of the limited parking that exists at some stops. Please plan on carpooling if you are comfortable and willing to wear a mask. If you would like to drive and have room for new or old friends, please let your trip leader know.

- Noon on Sunday, April 17, is the last date to cancel and receive a refund of your registration fee. You can cancel through the website. To cancel after this date, send an email to the headquarters secretary so that your field trips will be available for others.
2022 Spring Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Distances given are from Crowne Plaza to meeting place if not at the Crown Plaza
All-Day trips participants should bring their own lunch

All-Day Trips

Trip #1 (Friday only) Sandy Mush Game Lands
Tour these state-managed game lands with N.C. wildlife biologist Joe Tomcho. General birding in varied habitat, plus checking kestrel nest boxes Joe has set up. Possibly banding kestrel chicks. We can expect to see or hear a variety of birds including bobwhite quail, field sparrow, orchard oriole, brown headed nuthatch, prairie warbler plus other migrating warblers and various hawk species such as red tailed, red shouldered and possibly Cooper’s hawk and sharp shinned hawk if we’re lucky. Stay as long as you want. There is a bird checklist for the area on the wildlife commission webpage at NC wildlife.org
Restrooms: “utilizing nature” or driving back to a local gas station.
Meet along Martin Candler Rd at 35°43’09.3”N 82°40’16.4”W (35.719253, -82.671216)
Distance: about 13 miles Walking – easy

Trip #2 and 17: Blue Ridge Parkway North
This is a great trip for a wide variety of low and high elevation breeding woodland species of the Southern Appalachians. The trip begins at the Folk Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway north of Asheville and continues north to Mount Mitchell. Along the way a wide variety of warblers occur, including Black-and-white, Hooded, Cerulean, Worm-eating, Ovenbird, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian and Chestnut-sided, as well as Scarlet Tanager; Rose-breasted Grosbeak; Veery; Red-eyed, Blue-headed, and Yellow-throated Vireo; and Eastern Wood-Pewee. In the Mount Mitchell area look for Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, and possibly Pine Siskin and Red Crossbill. Time permitting the trip will continue down Curtis Creek Rd for Louisiana Waterthrush, Swainson’s Warbler, and Acadian Flycatcher.
Restrooms: at Craggy Gardens and at Mount Mitchell Walking: mainly along overlooks
Meet Friday at Crowne Plaza parking lot
Meet Saturday at Folk Arts Center, on Blue Ridge Parkway - Distance: 8 miles

Trip #3 and 18: Curtis Creek Road/Mount Mitchell/BRP
This is basically the reverse of the Blue Ridge Parkway North trip and the same species should be seen. Swainson’s Warblers are common along Curtis Creek Road as well as Black-throated Green and Hooded Warbler and Northern Parula at the lower end of the road as well as Worm-eating, Black-and-white, and Black-throated Blue Warbler farther up the road. It will start at the lower end of Curtis Creek Rd and continue up to the parkway to Mount Mitchell, then south on the BRP to the Asheville exit. Along the parkway Blackburnian Warblers are common at several locations as well as the usual higher elevation species such as Red-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-headed Vireo, some Brown Creeper, and possibly Pine Siskin and Red Crossbill.
Restrooms: At Curtis Creek Campground and at Mount Mitchell Walking: easy to moderate
Meet Friday at Curtis Creek Campground - Distance: 33 miles
Meet Saturday at the Crowne Plaza Parking lot

Trip #4 and 19: Blue Ridge Parkway South
The trip will begin at French Broad River Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway and head south to Mount Pisgah, Black Balsam Road, and Devil’s Courthouse, thus covering both high and low elevation habitats and species. Some of the many expected species include Canada, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Chestnut-sided Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Veery, Least Flycatcher, and possibly Red Crossbill, Peregrine Falcon and Ruffed Grouse, as well as other migrants just passing through.
Restrooms: At Pisgah campground and at Graveyard Fields Walking: easy to moderate
Meet your guide at the French Broad River Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway – Distance 9 miles

Trip #5 and 20: Max Patch Road
If Golden-winged Warbler is your target species this trip is your best opportunity, but it is also great for many other warblers and other songbirds such as Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager, Veery, Least Flycatcher and many more. Time permitting on the return journey there will be a stop at Lake Junaluska to check for lingering waterfowl and shorebirds.
Restrooms: None Walking: easy to moderate
Meet your guide at the Crowne Plaza Parking lot

Trip #6 and 21: Green River Cove Road/Lake Adger headwaters
This is a great area for species commonly found along the Blue Ridge Escarpment including Louisiana Waterthrush, Swainson’s, Kentucky, Worm-eating, Yellow-throated, and Prairie Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Yellow-throated Vireo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and White-eyed Vireo. At Lake Adger in recent years Prothonotary Warblers have been regularly found, Cliff Swallows nest under some of the bridges and Osprey and Bald Eagle can often be seen circling around overhead. This trip will require doubling up in vehicles as some stops have very limited parking.
Restrooms: Porta-potty at Fishtop Access, one of the first stops, and at Lake Adger Walking: easy to moderate
Meet Friday (one guide) and Saturday (both guides) in the Crowne Plaza Parking lot -on Friday drive to Marathon Gas Station in Saluda to meet your other guide

Half-Day Trips

Trip #7 and 22: Chimney Rock State Park/Lake Lure
The stunning views alone make this trip a winner, but the park is also home to many wonderful birds and wildflowers. Breeding species include Worm-eating, Swainson’s (one of the best locations in the area to see and hear this species), Black-throated Green, Black-and-white, and Hooded Warbler, Blue-headed and Red-eyed Vireo, Acadian Flycatcher, Peregrine Falcon and Broad-winged Hawk and you may also find a variety of migrants heading farther north. At Lake Lure you will likely add Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Orchard Oriole, swallows, sparrows, and possibly lingering waterfowl. An amazing 130 species have been found at Morse Park at Lake Lure in the last 3 years. The entrance fee to the state park is $17/person, which is not included in the CBC meeting registration, so please have the exact amount ready.
Restrooms: Both at the park and at Lake Lure Walking: easy to moderate
Meet Friday at 7 AM at the Morse Park parking lot in the town of Lake Lure at 35.4349, -82.2297 - Distance 28 miles
Meet Saturday in the Crowne Plaza Parking lot

Trip #8, 13, 23 and 28: Charles D. Owen Park/Swannanoa River
This county park is a popular spot for local birders. Both Orchard and Baltimore Oriole as well as Warbling and Yellow-throated Vireo nest along the river and/or the tree-lined lake. Continuing the walk from the park to the farm fields at neighboring Warren Wilson College, birders frequently encounter shrub-edge and open-field birds such as Yellow-breasted Chat, Northern Bobwhite, and a variety of sparrows including Grasshopper, Field, Song, and possibly some late-departing Swamp, Savannah, White-crowned, and White-throated.
Restrooms: at Owen Park Walking: easy
Meet Friday morning in the Crowne Plaza parking lot
Meet Friday afternoon at Owen Park near ponds
Meet Saturday morning at the Crowne Plaza parking lot
Meet Saturday afternoon at Owen Park near ponds

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Trip #9 and 24: Beaver Lake Bird Sanctuary
This 10-acre tract in Asheville is managed by the Blue Ridge Audubon Society. It consists of mixed hardwood and pine, along with early successional habitat, and includes a wetland that abuts Beaver Lake. It is often an excellent spot for migrating songbirds such as Blue-winged Warbler and Northern Waterthrush, but is also home to many breeding species such as Northern Rough-winged, Tree, and Barn Swallows; Green Herons; Yellow Warblers; American Redstarts; and Orchard and Baltimore Orioles. Also, look for lingering waterfowl on Beaver Lake.

Restrooms: nearby, but not at the sanctuary  Walking: easy
Meet in the Crowne Plaza Parking lot

Trip #10, 15, 25 and 30: Blue Ridge Parkway North
This trip is similar to the all-day trip on the Parkway north and will also start at the Folk Art Center, but will end in the Craggy Gardens area. Many of the same species can be found as with the all-day trip such as Black-and-white, Hooded, Cerulean, Worm-eating, Ovenbird, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian and Chestnut-sided Warblers. We could also find Scarlet Tanager; Rose-breasted Grosbeak; Veery; Red-eyed, Blue-headed, and Yellow-throated Vireo; and Eastern Wood Pewee.

Restrooms: At Craggy Gardens if trip goes that far  Walking: easy to moderate
Meet Friday morning: Meet your guide at the Folk Arts Center on Blue Ridge Parkway - Distance 8 miles
Meet Friday afternoon at the Crowne Plaza parking lot
Meet Saturday morning at the Crowne Plaza parking lot
Meet Saturday afternoon at the Crowne Plaza parking lot

Trip #11, 16, 26 and 31: Blue Ridge Parkway South
The trip will begin at the French Broad River overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway and head south to Mount Pisgah Campground. Some of the many expected species include Canada, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Chestnut-sided Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Veery, Least Flycatcher, and possibly Red Crossbill, Peregrine Falcon and Ruffed Grouse as well as some passage migrants.

Restrooms: At Pisgah Inn  Walking: easy to moderate
Meet Friday morning: meet your guide at the French Broad River Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway – Distance 9 miles
Meet Friday afternoon at the Crowne Plaza parking lot
Meet Saturday morning at the French Broad River Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway - Distance 9 miles
Meet Saturday afternoon at the Crowne Plaza Parking lot

Trip #12 and 27: Point Lookout Trail
This paved, forested trail, once US 70, but now closed to traffic, parallels US 40 going down the edge of the escarpment and is a fine location for mid to lower elevation forest species common to the escarpment. This includes Ovenbird, Black-throated Green, Hooded, Worm-eating, and Black-and-white Warblers, as well as, at times, Kentucky, Swainson's, and Cerulean Warblers. Also expect Scarlet Tanager, various Vireo species, Gnatcatchers, and other spring breeding species as well as possibly some forest migrants heading farther north.

Restrooms: Not on location, but there will be a gas station nearby at the start and end of the walk.
Walking: Largely downhill going out, and uphill coming back.
Restrooms: none after Ingles Grocery
Meet Friday at the Ingles Grocery in Black Mountain
Meet Saturday in the Crowne Plaza parking lot

Trip #14 and 29: Birding Techniques for Beginners
This trip will dedicate a large amount of time to teaching various birding techniques including: locating birds, basic vocal and visual identification tips, group birder etiquette, and other useful birding tips. The trip is designed for any beginning to intermediate birder looking to enhance their birding skills. The trip leader will select the location. Beyond the development of these basic birding techniques and skills, participants will also be able to hone these skills while in the field looking at live birds. This trip will take a slower approach with
time spent focusing on techniques and field marks rather than a complete species inventory of everything on
the walk.

Restrooms: in library above Beaver lake

Walking: easy

Meet Friday afternoon at Beaver Lake Bird Sanctuary - Distance 5.5 miles

Meet Saturday afternoon in Crowne Plaza parking lot

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<tr>
<th>CBC 2022 Spring Meeting Field Trip Schedule</th>
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<td><strong>Friday, May 6, 2022</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Friday half day - morning</strong></td>
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<td>Trip #7: Chimney Rock Park/Lake Lure - 6:15 am</td>
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<td>Trip #8: Charles D. Owen Park  - 7:15am</td>
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<td>Trip #13: Charles D. Owen Park  - 1:30pm</td>
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<td>Trip #16: Blue Ridge Parkway South - 1:00pm</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, May 7, 2022</strong></td>
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<td>Trip #31: Blue Ridge Parkway South - 1:00pm</td>
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**Sunday, May 8**

Hotspots - TBD
Asheville, NC Registration Form
Registration Begins April 2, 2022 @ 2pm. Register online for Best Availability of Field Trips at
www.carolinabirdclub.org

Name ______________________________________________________________
Address ______________________________________________________________
City __________________________ State _____________ Zip ____________

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<tr>
<th>Trip Signup</th>
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Meeting Registration (Each Member) $30.00
Meeting Registration (Each Non-Member) $35.00
Young Birder (must be Young Birders Club member and age 8-19) $15.00
Child age 7 or younger Free
Total Enclosed = $___________________________________

Meeting Registration at the door costs $40.00

Club policy requires all field trip participants to comply with the field trip leader’s assessment and requests concerning the physical ability of each participant to make or complete the trip.

I will release and discharge (and will not make a claim against) the Carolina Bird Club for injury, death, or property damage arising from my participation at this meeting and/or Club field trips. This release of liability is entered into on behalf of all members of my family, including all minors accompanying me. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of any such minors and that I am over 18 years of age. Each registrant under 18 must submit a consent form.

Signature ___________________________________________ Date _____________
Signature ___________________________________________ Date _____________

Processing of mail-in registrations will not begin until online registration opens.

Pre-Registration ends at midnight April 24, 2022
Cancellations will be refunded if received by 12 noon on April 17, 2022
Cancel by contacting the Headquarters Secretary at hq@carolinabirdclub.org.
Crowne Plaza Resort Asheville
Carolina Bird Club: Breakfast & Lunch Orders

NAME: ____________________________

PHONE NUMBER: ____________________

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS (if applicable): _________________________________________

** All meal pickups will be at Lobby Bar. Bring form of payment at time of pickup. **

**Friday, May 6th**

*Choose 1 Option Per Person*

**BREAKFAST MENU: $9**
Bacon, Egg, & Cheese on English Muffin
Sausage, Egg, & Cheese on Biscuit
Spinach, Egg, & Cheese Wrap
**Comes with choice of Coffee or Juice**

**LUNCH MENU: $12**
Turkey Breast, Swiss Cheese, Tomato, Lettuce on Wheat Bread
Chicken Salad, Greens, Tomato on Croissant
Cucumber, Lettuce, Tomato, Avocado on Wheat Bread
**Comes with chips and choice of soda or water**

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<th>Breakfast Sandwich/Drink Choice</th>
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**Saturday, May 7th**

*Choose 1 Option Per Person*

**BREAKFAST MENU: $9**
Chicken Biscuit
Bacon & Egg on English Muffin
Egg & Cheese Biscuit
**Comes with choice of Coffee or Juice**

**LUNCH MENU: $12**
Turkey Breast, Swiss Cheese, Lettuce on Wheat Bread
Ham, Cheddar Cheese, Lettuce on Brioche
Broccoli & Kohlrabi Slaw, Feta, Hummus on Wheat Wrap
**Comes with chips and choice of soda or water**

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Sunday, May 8th

*Choose 1 Option Per Person*

**BREAKFAST MENU: $9**
- Sausage Biscuit
- Bacon, Egg & Cheese on Croissant
- Egg & Cheese Croissant
**Comes with choice of coffee or juice**

**LUNCH MENU: $12**
- Chicken Salad, Greens, Tomato with Wheat Wrap
- Roast Beef, Onion, Lettuce on French Roll
- Cucumber, Lettuce, Tomato, Avocado on Wheat Bread
**Comes with chips and choice of soda or water**

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****ALL ORDERS MUST BE RETURNED BEFORE Monday, May 2nd****

Please return all forms to:
Ashlyn Shaffer
ashaffer@ashevillecp.com
828-285-2665
In Celebration of Blackbirds
By Steve Dowlan

I lived for a while in the “high desert” of eastern Oregon, a sometimes austere and grand landscape full of sweeping vistas and harsh weather. From 2006 to 2009 my home was in a town at the edge of a great complex of freshwater marshes and alkaline lakes near Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Each spring around late March, vast flocks of Snow, Ross’s and Greater White-fronted Geese mixed with thousands of Tundra Swans and Sandhill Cranes at the edge of town. They crowded the fairgrounds and filled the hayfields and pastures that would become flooded by snowmelt from the Silvies River. It is quite a spectacle to behold, and I will always remember that time with great fondness and awe.

As much as I enjoyed this show, another avian family caught my attention and changed the way I watch birds. It started when I noticed the dramatic displays and amazing sounds of male Red-winged and Yellow-headed Blackbirds on thousands of fence posts that lined roads along the flooded pastures. These guys really know how to entertain and persuade with their red epaulettes and bright yellow hoods! These displays encouraged me to pay attention to their less dramatically colored relative, the Brewer’s Blackbird.

Brewer’s Blackbirds are almost the “background noise” of bird communities around Oregon, as are other blackbird species in many Carolina communities. I had watched them scramble for picnic scraps that escape tourists along the rocky basalt coast. I observed them lurking among cars in Walmart parking lots, dodging pedestrians while chasing spilled popcorn pushed around by the wind. I saw them calmly graze among livestock and catch flies that hovered over manure piles. One day, while driving to the summit of Steens Mountain, I watched the same inconspicuous, mundane, pedestrian species foraging for prey near the top of this extremely wild and remote 9,000-foot massif.

This realization truly impressed me. Brewer’s Blackbirds don’t have any boldly contrasting colors, don’t have melodious or even interesting songs, and don’t have particularly interesting courtship displays. What they do have is tenacity... they can thrive in the harshest habitats from the coast to the high mountains, they can subsist on a huge variety of foods, and they can coexist with people. They disappear in plain sight because they are everywhere.

So, I began to pay extra attention to the many species of blackbirds. In North America, we refer to some of them as meadowlarks, grackles, cowbirds, bobolinks, and orioles, but they are all in the family Icteridae, and they all belong to the New World. North Carolina provides breeding habitat for just eight of the 97 species that mostly inhabit tropical and subtropical places. There, they go by such names as Cacique, Oropendula, Troupial, Baywing, and Marshbird. Beautiful names and beautiful sounds... they are a grand family and deserve our appreciation and respect.

So, I say, salute the Red-winged Blackbird when he shows off his beautiful epaulettes. Cock your ear to the Halloween-colored Baltimore Oriole. Bid safe travels to the Rusty Blackbird on its way to boreal forests. Give them respect and appreciate them as good neighbors. Celebrate the Blackbird!
Welcome New CBC Members!

New Life Members
Suzanne & Vance Knight, Atlantic Beach, NC        Barbara Reynolds, Asheville, NC

New Members

Amy Tegeler
Columbia, SC

Oren & Carrie Faber
Durham, NC

Sydney Hardison
Lillington, NC

Daphne & William White
Southern Pine, NC

Pat McKee
Asheville, NC

Donna Carollo
Glenwood, MD

Travis Marceron
Winston Salem, NC

Arleen and Lee Humphrey
Pinehurst, NC

Bronwyn Brown – Youth
Member, Lenoir, NC

Joanna McLucas
Simpsonville, SC

Elizabeth Lynn-Simpson
Holly Ridge, NC

Allan Carpenter
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Rutherfordton, NC

Katie Trivette
Troutman, NC

Terry Higgins
Southport, NC

Rebecca Harp
Albemarle, NC
Upcoming CBC Meetings

Spring 2022 - Black Mountain, NC - May 5 - 8, 2022
Fall 2022 – Litchfield, SC – September 29 -October 2, 2022

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