

For more information, contact:
North Carolina Literary Review
nclruser@ecu.edu; 252-328-1537

***NORTH CAROLINA LITERARY REVIEW* EXPLORES NORTH CAROLINA
“ON THE MAP AND IN THE NEWS”**

Greenville, NC, 1 May 2018

The 2018 issue of the award-winning *North Carolina Literary Review* opens with an essay by the acclaimed author of the 20-book Judge Deborah Knott mystery series. In “From Manteo to Murphy: A Writer’s Personal Journey,” Margaret Maron describes traveling to many of the places that put North Carolina “on the map” as she researched the settings of the next court case she would send her character to adjudicate. The collage on the issue’s cover, designed by Art Director Dana Ezzell Lovelace, also captures the issue’s focus on what draws people to our state, including beach and mountain vacation spots. This issue’s readers will meet Vivian Howard, the chef, television personality, and writer who is putting tiny Deep Run, North Carolina on the map with her PBS television show, *A Chef’s Life*; restaurants, including Chef & the Farmer in Kinston; and now memoir, *Deep Run Roots*.

But North Carolina does sometimes draw attention for less savory reasons, and, as *NCLR* editor Margaret Bauer notes in her introduction to the special feature section of the issue, “North Carolina writers do not shy away from difficult subjects.” One example Bauer gives is Priscilla Melchior’s poem inspired by a Ku Klux Klan parade, which received 2nd place in the 2017 James Applewhite Poetry Prize competition. In an interview conducted by Appalachian State University English Professor Zackary Vernon, Allan Gurganus, a writer whose books put Rocky Mount, NC, on the map, advocates writers directing their talents toward political activism: “We can communicate our alarm and our concern.” Bland Simpson does just that in his essay focusing on his concern about one of North Carolina’s most vital resources—water: keeping it safe to drink and worrying about it eroding our shores, especially as our population continues to rise.

The other sections of the 2018 issue include former North Carolina Poet Laureate Fred Chappell’s analysis of Angela Davis-Gardner’s novels, Robert Wallace’s 2017 Doris Betts Fiction Prize story, and John Thomas York’s Alex Albright Creative Nonfiction Prize-winning essay (selected by *Our State* editor Elizabeth Hudson), as well as a finalist in the Albright

For more information, contact:
North Carolina Literary Review
nclruser@ecu.edu; 252-328-1537

competition by Susan O'Dell Underwood. Throughout the issue are finalists from the 2017 James Applewhite Poetry Prize competition, including the winning poem and an honorable mention poem, both by Christina Clark. Bauer reports, "It was another successful year of creative submissions."

NCLR is sold in independent bookstores across the state, or go to the *NCLR* website for information about subscribing: www.nclr.ecu.edu/subscriptions. A two-year subscription will include the 2019 issue, which will feature African American literature of North Carolina. ###