
Resilience: Recovery after disturbance



**September 17th - 20th, 2026
YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly
Black Mountain, North Carolina**

SEPARC is committed to providing a safe, productive and welcoming environment for all meeting participants. All participants including, but not limited to, attendees, speakers, volunteers, exhibitors, PARC staff, service providers and others are expected to abide by this SEPARC Meetings Code of Conduct. In generating this document to guide personal responsibility at our meetings we have relied heavily on the code of conduct used by the Ecological Society of America, based on Favaro et al. 2016.

Expected Behavior

- Treat all participants with respect and consideration, valuing a diversity of views and opinions.
- Be considerate, respectful, and collaborative.
- Communicate openly with respect for others, critiquing ideas rather than individuals.
- Avoid personal attacks directed toward others.
- Be mindful of your surroundings and of your fellow participants.
- Respect the rules, policies, and property of the meeting venue.
- Adhere to State and Federal laws, including wildlife regulations.
- Use of decontaminated equipment for any outings and use of proper decontamination protocols thereafter are strongly encouraged.

Unacceptable Behavior

- Harassment, intimidation or discrimination in any form will not be tolerated.
- Physical or verbal abuse.
- Disruption of talks at oral or poster sessions.
- Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to, verbal comments related to gender, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, religion, national origin, inappropriate use of nudity and/or sexual images in public spaces or in presentations, threatening or stalking.

Consequences

- Anyone requested to stop unacceptable behavior is expected to comply immediately.
- SEPARC Co-chairs or security may take any action deemed necessary and appropriate, including immediate removal from the meeting without warning or refund.
- SEPARC reserves the right to prohibit attendance at any future SEPARC meeting.

Reporting Unacceptable Behavior

- If you are the subject of unacceptable behavior or have witnessed any such behavior, please immediately notify a SEPARC Co-chair or SEPARC Steering Committee Member.
- Notification should be done by contacting a SEPARC Co-chair or SEPARC Steering Committee Member in person or you may email your concern to separc@separc.org
- Anyone experiencing or witnessing behavior that constitutes an immediate or serious threat to public safety is advised to contact venue security and/or local police.

Favaro et al. 2016. Your science conference should have a code of conduct. Frontiers in Marine Science 3:103.

A BIG THANK YOU to the following organizations for their sponsorship of SEPARC 2026:

Eastern Hellbender (Level 1) | \$4000



TURTLE SURVIVAL

ALLIANCE

Formed in 2001 and gaining nonprofit status in 2004, Turtle Survival Alliance is a global conservation organization with a mission to protect and restore wild populations of tortoises and freshwater turtles through science-based conservation, global leadership, and local stewardship. Our science-based initiatives are directed by local leaders, inspiring sustainable, community-based stewardship to prevent extinctions. Where populations cannot yet thrive in the wild, our conservation breeding programs preserve opportunities for their future survival. Turtle Survival Alliance operates or supports projects in over 30 countries around the world, protecting critical habitats and providing on-the-ground resources to safeguard the most imperiled turtle and tortoise species. Through these efforts, we make a positive impact on well over 100 species of turtles and tortoises.

Alligator Snapping Turtle (Level 3) | \$1000 (Cash or Donated Goods for Silent Auction)



**TENNESSEE
AQUARIUM**

EDUCATION • CONSERVATION • RESEARCH

Green Anole (Level 4) | \$500 (Cash or Donated Goods for Silent Auction)



**ZOO
knoxville**



A **BIG** THANK YOU to the following organizations for vending at SEPARC 2026:



We are excited to announce Gabrielle Graeter as our Keynote Speaker!



Biography:

Gabrielle Graeter is a Conservation Biologist with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, dedicated to conserving wildlife and their habitat. With a strong background in ecology (M.S. in Ecology, UGA), her work focuses on reptile conservation, land protection, habitat and population management, and ecological restoration. An experienced leader and collaborator, Gabrielle is known for her ability to build strong partnerships, organize complex projects, and translate science into meaningful conservation action.

Abstract:

The art of bouncing back: Humans, habitats, and the power of persistence.

This keynote examines resilience in the face of ecological disturbance through the lens of Hurricane Helene's impacts on western North Carolina. Using two focal species — the bog turtle and the hellbender — I explore how ecosystems respond to extreme events and what enables recovery in changing environmental conditions. Drawing on both scientific research and firsthand experience as a conservation biologist who lived through the storm, the talk emphasizes the importance of building resilience within ecosystems and among conservation professionals to sustain effective responses to future challenges.

ABSTRACT BOOKLET



SEPARC MERCHANDISE STORE



2026 Meeting Logo Art Contest: **The 2026 SEPARC Annual Meeting logo contest winner is Peyton Godwin.** Peyton is a recent graduate from North Carolina State University and earned her bachelor's degree in zoology. She hopes to continue her education in the fall and pursue her interest in salamander research. When she isn't in the field with her friends, she can be found drawing herps or hanging out with her cat.

THURSDAY, September 17, 2026

- 1:00PM Meeting registration begins
Registration will continue throughout the evening until 7PM. *Uploading Talks, Poster Setup, Silent Auction Items Sign-In, Photo Contest Setup (BRC - Tracey's Room), Judging Packet Pickup*
- 4:00PM Early Career Workshop
- 6:00PM Welcome & SEPARC updates, Grandview Ballroom, *Matt Atkinson and Houston Chandler, SEPARC Co-chairs*
- 6:15PM National & State Chapter Updates
- PARC-Becca Cozad, *Senior Co-chair, PARC Joint National Steering Committee*
 - ARC- *Emily Nolan, Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy*
 - ALAPARC- *Seamus O'Brien, (Jacksonville State University) and Francesca Erickson, Auburn University*
 - FLPARC- *Jordan Donini (Florida Southwestern State College) and Matt Atkinson (University of Central Florida)*
 - NCPARC- *Jeff Hall, NCPARC Coordinator, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission*
 - SCPARC- *TBD*
- 7:00PM Ethical Herping, *Amanda Duffus, Gordon State College and Jeff Hall, NCPARC Coordinator, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission*
- 7:30PM-10:00PM Social
- 8:00PM Reptile Trivia! Led by Jordan Donini in the WBC - Auditorium
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FRIDAY, September 18, 2026

- 8:00AM-8:45AM BREAKFAST
- 8:15AM-9:00AM Registration continues - *Uploading Talks, Poster & Photo Contest Setup (BRC - Tracey's Room), Silent Auction Sign-In, Judge Packet Pickup*
- 9:00AM Announcements and Keynote Introduction, *Matt Atkinson and Houston Chandler, SEPARC Co-chairs*
- 9:05AM-10:05AM Keynote Address: The art of bouncing back: Humans, habitats, and the power of persistence. - *Gabrielle Graeter*

SESSION 1 – moderated by Jeff Hall

- 10:10AM Of hurricanes and hellbenders: Quantifying substrate changes from Hurricane Helene at an Eastern Hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*) habitat restoration project. *Walter Smith, The University of Virginia's College at Wise*
- 10:20AM Effects of logging and wildfire on the Red-legged Salamander (*Plethodon shermani*), associated invertebrate communities, and microhabitat in Nantahala National Forest, North Carolina, U.S. *Nicholas DelPaoli, Lees-McRae College*
- 10:30AM Abundance after the burn: Squamate response following prescribed fire. *Samuel Robinson, Tennessee State University*
- 10:40AM Species recovery means getting out there and doing it. *Kurt Buhlmann, Savannah River Ecology Laboratory*
- 10:50AM The importance of ecological connectivity for preserving amphibian genetic diversity in the face of habitat loss. *Bryce Wade, University of Tennessee*
- 10:55AM- 11:05AM Questions for presenters.
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SESSION 2 - moderated by Robert Hill

- 11:05AM Lost no more: Current and future efforts to conserve the Flattened Musk Turtle, *Sternotherus depressus*. *Seamus O'Brien, Auburn University*
- 11:15AM Risk runs downstream: Non-target salamander responses to forest pest management. *Hadley Copeland, University of Georgia*
- 11:25AM Occupancy of salamanders in headwater streams post Hurricane Helene. *Jacob Twersky, Appalachian State University*
- 11:35AM Occupancy of herpetofaunal communities in managed wetlands of the Arkansas River Valley, Arkansas, USA. *Elizabeth Hays, University of Arkansas*
- 11:45AM Investigating the effects of solar array siting, design, and management on herpetofaunal communities in the south-central US. *Ben Stratton, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville*
- 11:55AM Morphological adaptations of invasive tree frog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*) in response to Hurricane Milton. *Jacob LaFond, University of South Carolina*

12:05PM Environmental drivers of Southern Toad (*Anaxyrus terrestris*) and Carpenter Frog (*Lithobates virgatipes*) calling activity and distribution in a loblolly pine plantation. *Joel Mota, North Carolina State University*

12:15AM-12:25PM Questions for presenters.

12:30PM-1:15PM LUNCH (State/Federal Reps Lunch Tables)

1:30PM-3:00PM **Task Team Breakout #1**

Task Teams Meeting

- Education Task Team (BRC - Y Alumni Room): Brainstorming and discussion of future directions for this team
 - Gopher Frog / Crawfish Frog Task Team (WBC - Auditorium): State updates on current conservation, research, and restoration efforts
 - Hellbender Task Team (BRC - Robertson Room #1): Updates and discussion of hellbender projects and conservation issues in the region
 - Population Manipulation Task Team (BRC - Lab): Brainstorming and discussion of future directions for this team
-

3:00PM-3:30PM BREAK

- *Silent Auction Round 1 Closes (3:15 PM)*
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SESSION 3 – moderated by Keri Lejeune

3:30PM Scale, drivers, and importance of turtle diversity in the southeastern United States. *Michael Skibsted, University of Georgia*

3:40PM Understanding landowner decisions regarding access to private land for conservation research. *Ashley Dayer, Virginia Tech*

3:50PM Prioritizing spatial planning when restoring habitat for Reticulated Flatwoods Salamander (*Ambystoma bishopi*) metapopulations. *Houston Chandler, The Orianne Society*

4:00PM Intensive daily roadkill monitoring along US 64 in eastern NC reveals high mortality for reptiles and amphibians. *Nathan Tabor, Wildlands Network*

4:10PM Shifts in occupancy of an at-risk turtle in response to a potential competitor. *Emma Wilson, North Carolina State University*

4:20PM Assessing grazing-driven variation in Bog Turtle diets using stable isotope analysis. *Haven Guinn, Western Carolina University*

4:25PM-4:40PM	Questions for presenters
4:40PM-5:15PM	State of the States Panel
5:15PM-5:30PM	Group Photo
5:30PM-6:00PM	General Business Meeting, <i>Matt Atkinson, Houston Chandler, Cyndi Carter, Co-chairs</i>

6:00PM-6:45PM	DINNER
7:00PM-8:30PM	Poster Session 1, See list of posters at bottom of the agenda
8:30PM-10:00PM	Social; acoustic music is encouraged (please bring your own instruments!)
8:30PM	Alternative Social Activity

SATURDAY, September 19, 2026

8:00AM-8:45AM	BREAKFAST
8:15AM-9:00AM	Registration, Silent Auction Sign-In, Photo Contest Setup (BRC - Tracey's Room), Poster Setup
9:00AM	Greetings and Announcements, <i>Matt Atkinson and Houston Chandler, Co-chairs</i>

SESSION 4 - moderated by Chuck Battaglia

9:10AM	Using life history to predict outcomes of conservation translocations of herpetofauna. <i>Mickey Parker, University of South Carolina</i>
9:20AM	Near-infrared spectroscopy as a method for sex discrimination in the imperiled Eastern Hellbender (<i>Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis</i>). <i>Samuel Mathes, Mississippi State University</i>
9:30AM	Body composition of free-ranging wild and head-started juvenile Alligator Snapping Turtles (<i>Macrochelys temminckii</i>). <i>Derek Bateman, Missouri State University</i>

- 9:40AM Successful translocation of an imperiled amphibian following targeted habitat restoration efforts. *Amanda Martin, Virginia Tech*
- 9:50AM CARAT: Building collaboration to address the global reptile and amphibian trade. *Keri Lejeune, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries*
- 10:00-10:10AM Question for presenters
- 10:10AM Be ready & remain diligent: A case study in the early detection and rapid response of invasive tegu lizards. *Lance McBrayer, Georgia Southern University*
- 10:20AM Snake Fungal Disease reduces survival in wild snake communities. *Jake Hutton, University of Kentucky*
- 10:30AM United States amphibian imports pose a disease risk to salamanders despite Lacey Act regulations. *Evan Eskew, EcoHealth Alliance*
- 10:40AM Agama drama: Using citizen science observations to determine the influence of habitat type and seasonality on the abundance of Peter's Rock Agama (*Agama picticauda*) observed in central Florida over 10 years. *Ethan Holladay, University of Central Florida*
- 10:45AM-10:55AM Questions for presenters
- 11:00AM-12:20PM **Task Team Breakout #2**

Task Teams Meeting

- Disease Task Team (BRC - Y Alumni Room): Discussion of in-progress fact sheets, updating outdated fact sheets, progress on field biosecurity cards, progress on SFD map, and nominations for new co-chairs
- Gopher Frog / Crawfish Frog Task Team (WBC - Auditorium): Open discussion of topics (e.g., impacts of genetics data, evaluating headstarting success, best practices)
- Hellbender Task Team (BRC - Robertson Room #1): **Invite Only Session** - Symposium Planning
- Invasive Species Task Team (BRC - Lab): Discussion of the future of this team

12:30PM-1:15PM LUNCH (Project Specific Lunch Tables)

SESSION 5 – moderated by TBD

- 1:20PM Shed happens: Exploring how host habitat occupancy impacts presence and severity of Snake Fungal Disease in Central Florida. *Will Fausnaugh, University of Central Florida*

- 1:25PM Lurking in the shadows: Highlighting the current understanding and knowledge gaps on Amphibian Perkinsea infection dynamics in the Southeast United States. *Juliette Rodrigue & Matt Atkinson, University of Central Florida*
- 1:30PM Advancing conservation and management of the Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys guttata*) in the southeastern United States. *Quinn Bozek, Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute*
- 1:35PM Innovative pathways to private lands conservation for imperiled herpetofauna: How wetland mitigation banking aids in Frosted Flatwoods Salamander recovery. *Nicole Dahrouge, Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy*
- 1:40PM Diet of co-occurring *Plethodon yonahlossee*, *Plethodon montanus*, and *Plethodon cylindraceus* in the North Carolina mountains. *Maxwell Ramey, Appalachian State University*
- 1:45PM-2:00PM Questions for presenters

SESSION 6 - moderated by Becca Cozad

- 2:00PM Range-wide phylogeography of Chamberlain's dwarf salamander (*Eurycea chamberlaini*). *Todd Pierson, Kennesaw State University*
- 2:05PM Phenotypic differentiation without restricted gene flow in a rock crevice population of *Desmognathus imitator* (Caudata: Plethodontidae). *Laura Dixon, University of Tennessee*
- 2:10PM Sexual variation in ecologically-relevant thermal plasticity of a Plethodontid salamander. *Dylan Bryant, Virginia Tech*
- 2:15PM Geographic distributions and reproductive isolation in Black-bellied and Shovel-nosed salamanders and associations with native and invasive trout communities. *Aidan Shaw, University of Tennessee*
- 2:25PM Local environmental drivers of Red Hills Salamander (*Phaeognathus hubrichti*) burrow placement. *Kevin Hutcheson, Clemson University*
- 2:35PM-2:50PM Questions for presenters

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- 2:50PM-3:30PM BREAK,
- Photo Contest Voting Closes at 3:30PM
 - Scavenger Hunt Closes at 3:30PM (completed forms will not be accepted after 3:30PM)
 - Silent Auction Round 2 Closes (3:15 PM)
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SESSION 7 - moderated by Todd Peirson

3:30PM	Comparative evaluation of funnel, box, and camera traps for reptile and amphibian inventory. <i>Tyler DeVos, Florida Natural Areas Inventory</i>
3:40PM	Investigating developmental abnormalities in the imperiled Gopher Frog (<i>Rana [Lithobates] capito</i>) using transcriptomics. <i>Anna Bushong, University of Georgia</i>
3:50PM	Simulating the influence of habitat conditions on a Gopher Frog (<i>Rana capito</i>) metapopulation using an Individual-Based Model. <i>Eva Kerr, University of Georgia</i>
4:00PM	Development and optimization of a captive-rearing program for Gopher Frogs (<i>Lithobates capito</i>) in Georgia. <i>Vanessa Terrell, University of Georgia</i>
4:10PM	Influence of habitat characteristics on wetland occupancy by Western Chicken Turtles (<i>Deirochelys reticularia miaria</i>) in southeastern Oklahoma. <i>Ethan Hollender, University of Arkansas</i>
4:20PM	Macroinvertebrate communities across an urbanization gradient in Middle Tennessee. <i>Jacob Powers, Tennessee State University</i>
4:30PM	Using long-term mark-recapture data to estimate survival and abundance in Georgia Spotted Turtle populations. <i>Andrea Colton, The Orianne Society</i>
4:35PM	Development of a genotyping-in-thousands by sequencing (GT-seq) panel for the endangered Reticulated Flatwoods Salamander (<i>Ambystoma bishopi</i>). <i>Nicholas Sybertz, Virginia Tech</i>
4:40PM	Multiscale landscape factors influence snake fungal disease. <i>Matthew Grisnik, Coastal Carolina University</i>
4:45PM-4:55PM	Questions for presenters
5:00PM-5:40PM	Awards and Closing, <i>Matt Atkinson and Houston Chandler, Co-chairs.</i>
6:00PM-6:45PM	DINNER
7:00PM-8:00PM	SEPARC Steering Committee & Officers Meeting, Board Room - <i>Invitation only</i>
7:00PM-8:30PM	Poster Session 2, See list of posters at bottom of the agenda
8:30PM-10:00PM	Social
8:30PM	Alternative Social Activity

9:00PM Amphibian Trivia! Led by Kevin Hutcheson in the WBC - Auditorium

SUNDAY, September 20, 2026

8:00AM-8:45AM BREAKFAST

9:00 AM WORKSHOPS

Preserving herpetofauna for museum and research collections (WBC - Auditorium)

Using genetic tools to understand family structure in natural populations (BRC - Y Alumni Room)

12:00 PM Adjourn

Workshop Descriptions:

Early Career Workshop (On Thursday): Preparing for a Career in Natural Resource Conservation:

Led by Robert Hill of Zoo Atlanta, Joseph Mendolson of Georgia Tech and Brad "Bones" Glorioso of U.S. Geological Survey

This workshop is geared toward early-career attendees. Professionals of various backgrounds will offer advice on how to develop a competitive skillset and market yourself for your application to stand out to agencies, non-governmental agencies (NGOs), and academic advisors. We will discuss where to search for available jobs and graduate school positions, the effective use of a cover letter and curriculum vitae (CV) and tips for performing well in interviews and networking. We anticipate the atmosphere to be rather informal with lots of discussion of our shared experiences between the workshop leaders and attendees.

Preserving herpetofauna for museum and research collections

Led by David Laurencio Auburn Museum of Natural History and M. Worth Pugh University of Alabama.

This workshop will cover best practices for the collection of herpetofauna for natural history collections. We will discuss the importance of routine scientific collection to conservation management and provide information regarding appropriate preparation of herpetofauna including euthanasia methods, tissue sampling, preservation techniques and data that should accompany specimens. We will also review ethical and legal considerations associated with scientific collection. There will be a demonstration for preparing an amphibian and a reptile (all deceased prior to meeting) conducted by the leaders. We hope participants leave the workshop with the knowledge to prepare amphibian and reptile specimens and with a greater appreciation of the contributions of natural history collections to conservation biology and why voucher specimens are so important.

Using genetic tools to understand family structure in natural populations

Led by Todd Pierson, Kennesaw State University and Becca Hale, University of North Carolina Asheville

Gaining a better understanding of family structures in natural populations can expand our understanding of the link between an animal's behavior and its conservation. For example, high levels polygamy and reproductive skew may explain how a population, despite being large, could have low genetic diversity or considerable year to year variation in allele frequencies. Similarly, a species' mating system may compound the effect of small population size, slowing recovery efforts. In addition, a better understanding of mating systems can inform the structure of captive breeding programs and how potential mates are introduced. In this workshop, we

will use a case study approach to illustrate how we have applied RADcap to genotype individuals and reconstruct sibling relationships. We will discuss how one might use RADcap-based parentage analysis to address a range of questions about species with diverse family structures.

Poster Session 1 - Friday 7:00PM-8:30PM

- 1) Quantifying water gain and loss to understand field measures of hydration status in lizards. *Euan Andrew, Georgia Southern University*
- 2) The role of hybridization in shaping morphological responses to climate in *Plethodon*. *Maddisyn Braun, University of Georgia*
- 3) What's the mander? Examining amphibian disease dynamics of the Coastal Dwarf Salamander (*Eurycea quadridigitata*) in Central Florida. *Jack Budd, University of Central Florida*
- 4) The diet of Two-Toed Amphiuma (*Amphiuma means*) in southwestern Florida. *Nikko Bustamante, Florida SouthWestern State College*
- 5) How does the aquatic to terrestrial distribution of Santeetlah Dusky salamanders compare to that of other stream salamanders? *Jessica Casteel, Western Carolina University*
- 6) Do substrate types and transitions affect locomotor performance and escape behaviors? *Elissa Colombo, Georgia Southern University*
- 7) Annual trends in the frequency of alternative reproductive tactics in *Eurycea*. *Alyssa Dance, Kennesaw State University*
- 8) Establishment of a snake mark-recapture study in the Alabama Piedmont to assess forest management. *Shelby Davis, Auburn University*
- 9) Disturbances to diseases: Determining presence and prevalence of Mycoplasma Infections in the Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) populations present across a gradient of anthropogenic alteration on the University of Central Florida's Campus. *Hannah DeGraw, University of Central Florida*
- 10) Investigating environmental effects upon alternative reproductive tactic frequencies in an urban salamander. *Cassie Ellenberger, Kennesaw State University*
- 11) Drivers of occupancy and abundance patterns of stream salamanders (Plethodontidae) in the Bluegrass Region of Kentucky (USA). *Emily Farmer, University of Kentucky*
- 12) Comparing the physiological and behavioral responses of coastal and mainland Two-toed Amphiuma (*Amphiuma means*) to acute salinity stress. *Henna Gavem, Georgia Southern University*
- 13) Occupancy and detection of Queensnakes (*Regina septemvittata*) in the Mulberry River, Arkansas. *Timothy Goodhart, University of Arkansas*
- 14) Continuous monitoring of Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) burrows in fire-structured landscapes. *Kristyn Gorton, University of Central Florida*
- 15) Multi-method herpetofaunal surveys reveal habitat associations across contrasting Alabama forest sites. *Todd Griffith, Auburn University*
- 16) Assessing the cranial anatomy of *Lampropeltis extenuata* with a reexamination of the "Stilosoma" fossil record and a novel classification scheme for head-first burrowing strategies within Serpentes. *Madden Haag, Florida Museum of Natural History*
- 17) The impact of fire and logging on the abundance, behavior, and microhabitat use of the terrestrial salamander *Plethodon shermani* in the Nantahala National Forest of North Carolina. *Nick DelPaoli, Lees-McRae College*
- 18) Home range estimates and movement patterns of Eastern Box Turtles (*Terrapene carolina carolina*) in an urban forest. *Fenton McKown, North Carolina State University*
- 19) Using a geocological perspective to refine the distribution of the Yellow-Spotted Woodland Salamander (*Plethodon pauleyi*). *Walker Meade, The University of Virginia's College at Wise*
- 20) Evaluating the effect of tail length on lizard clay model attack rate. *Gabriel Ortiz, Georgia Southern University*
- 21) Determining the effects of habitat variation on parasitic infection prevalence and intensity in invasive lizard and anuran hosts across Florida. *Emma Palmer, University of Central Florida*
- 22) The effects of artificial structures and natural barriers on salamander distribution and abundance. *Christa Paulus, Southern Wesleyan University*
- 23) Assessing herpetofaunal diversity in an urban habitat fragment in Columbia, South Carolina, U.S. *Lukacs Pinter & Amelia Predmore, University of South Carolina*
- 24) Demographics of Eastern Chicken Turtles (*Deirochelys reticularia reticularia*) in Mississippi, U.S., and current progress with game camera monitoring. *David Pounders, University of Southern Mississippi*

- 25) Influence of wetland hydroperiod on mercury bioaccumulation among watersnakes and their amphibian prey. *Jackson Prosser, Savannah River Ecology Laboratory*
- 26) Preserving the past to protect the future: Ongoing modernization and curation efforts of the University of Central Florida's herpetology teaching collection. *Chloe Ream, University of Central Florida*
- 27) Integrated bayesian models to estimate amphibian response to wetland conditions. *Jade Samples, University of Georgia*
- 28) Phylogeographic species delimitation in the Slimy Salamander (*Plethodon glutinosus*) complex. *Max Seldes, George Washington University*
- 29) Sexing a monomorphic amphibian across breeding seasons: What testosterone and estradiol reveal in the Eastern Hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*). *Samantha Shablin, Mississippi State University*
- 30) A comparative analysis of stress and immunomodulation in native and non-native Cane Toads (*Rhinella horribilis*). *Emma Ulseth, Florida SouthWestern State College*
- 31) The changing face of *Plethodon* in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park: A preliminary analysis. *Zachary Vegso, University of Tennessee*
- 32) A comparison of herpetofaunal communities before and after solar array construction in Northwest Arkansas. *Ashley Waters, University of Arkansas*
- 33) Come Hellbenders or high water: Effects of extreme flooding on Hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*) presence and habitat shifts in the New, Nolichucky, and Watauga River Watersheds. *Hutch Whitman, Appalachian State University*
- 34) Evaluating character displacement of reproductive phenotypes in syntopic populations of Two-Lined Salamanders. *Hailey Wunder, Kennesaw State University*
- 35) Home range size and seasonal movement of giant salamanders, *Amphiuma means* and *Siren lacertina*, in seasonally inundated isolated wetlands. *Madeline Zickgraf, University of Alabama*
- 36) Assessing impacts of climate and land use stressors on Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys guttata*) reproduction and implications for habitat management. *Benjamin Stegenga, The Orianne Society*
- 37) Reproductive ecology of an introduced urban population of Cuban Treefrogs (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*) in New Orleans, Louisiana. *Etienne Falquet, United States Geological Survey*
- 38) Scuting around: Determining the impact of stormwater retention wetlands on Ranavirus infection dynamics and community composition of freshwater turtles in Florida. *Giavanna Harrington, University of Central Florida*
- 39) Demographic patterns and population estimates of an island population of Striped Mud Turtles (*Kinosternon baurii*) in southwestern Florida. *Tara Vandergrift, Florida SouthWestern State College*

Poster Session 2 - Saturday 7:00PM-8:30PM

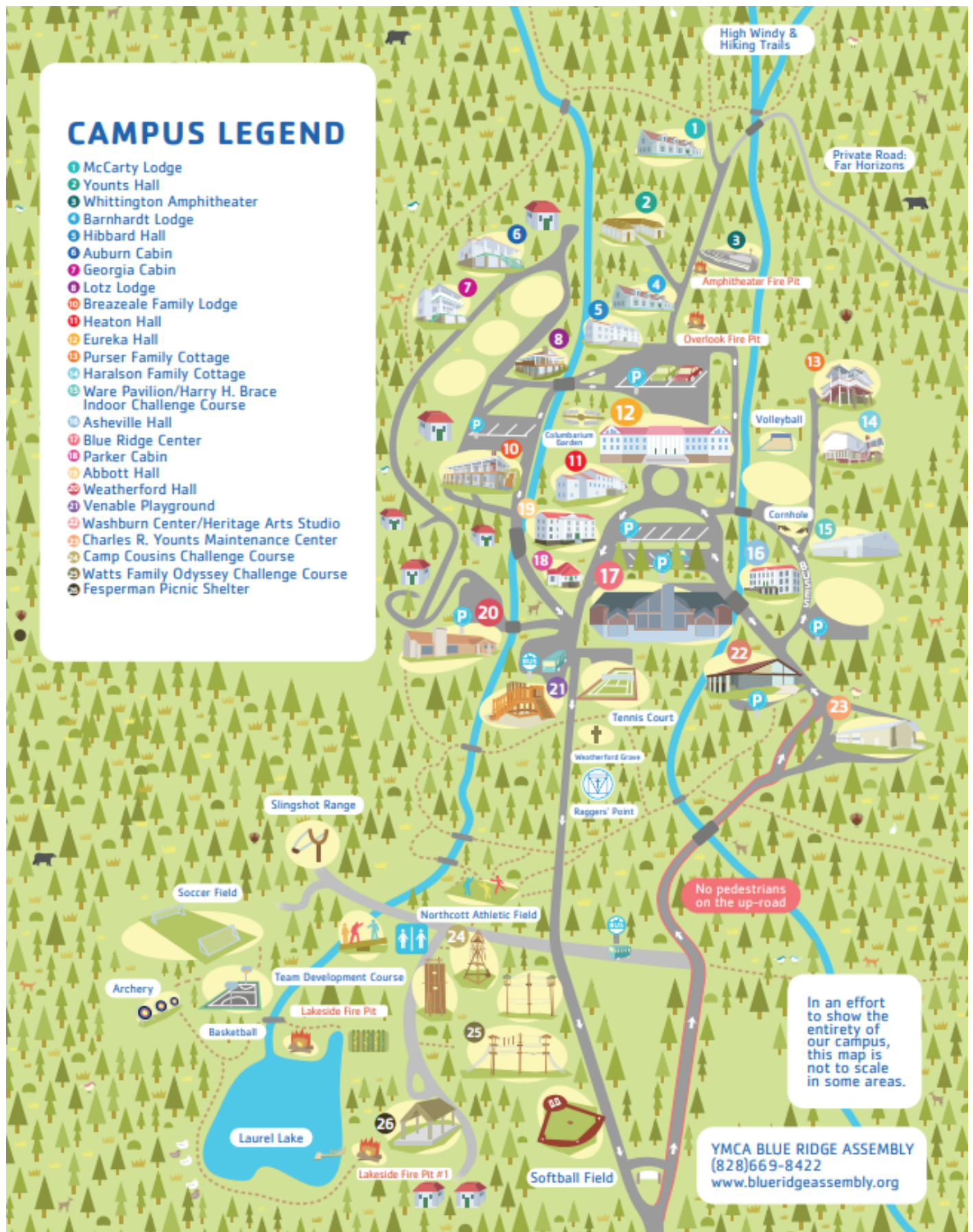
- 1) Scan the Turtle: Examining human behavior towards Eastern box turtles (*Terrapene carolina carolina*) and the usability of shell-affixed QR codes for community science in developed and forested habitats. *Ashley Adams, Georgia Boone, Hannah Friend, Hollis Holmes, & Olivia Johnson, Clemson University*
- 2) Temporal dynamics of Snake Fungal Disease: Evidence of recovery from *Ophidiomyces ophiodiicola*. *Anthony Alter, Coastal Carolina University*
- 3) Variation in population structure and body condition in Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys guttata*) populations in North Carolina. *Elizabeth Culp, North Carolina State University*
- 4) Revolution, reaction, and reform on herptile laws. *Linden Dayer-Meyers, Blacksburg New School*
- 5) Testing the efficacy of automated tag recorders to monitor Eastern Indigo Snakes (*Drymarchon couperi*). *Francesca Erickson, Alabama Natural Heritage Program, Auburn University*
- 6) Phylogeography of the southeastern crowned snakes (*Tantilla*). *Benjamin Genter, Florida Museum of Natural History*

- 7) The Gopher Tortoise probability index: A mapping tool to improve Gopher Tortoise relocation outcomes. *Neal Halstead, Wildlands Conservation*
- 8) Evaluating health of Spotted Turtles (*Clemmys guttata*) in the wild: Preliminary hematology and plasma biochemistry values. *David Haskins, EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc.*
- 9) How are there fish here? Trait and landscape predictors of colonization of isolated bodies of water by fish: Implications for amphibian conservation. *Joshua Holbrook, Montreat College*
- 10) Movement ecology of Spotted Turtles (*Clemmys guttata*) in South Carolina and Virginia. *Aaron Johnson, Savannah River Ecology Laboratory*
- 11) Reticulated Flatwoods Salamander recovery in the Florida panhandle: Year 8 update. *Julianne Jones, The Longleaf Alliance*
- 12) Alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) space use in residential and non-residential landscapes of coastal South Carolina, U.S.A. *Anjelika Kidd-Weaver, Anderson University*
- 13) Monitoring the behavior of Gopher Tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*) in mesic flatwoods using tri-axial accelerometers. *Bianca Marcelletti, University of Georgia*
- 14) Behavioral differences of the Eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*) across a development gradient. *Hannah Meredith, Clemson University*
- 15) Movement behavior influences post-release outcomes for headstarted Gopher Frogs (*Rana capito*): Implications for alternative release methods. *Kiersten Nelson, University of Georgia*
- 16) Assessment of the imperiled Eastern Hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*) in the Swannanoa River watershed following Hurricane Helene. *Lydia Norman, Montreat College*
- 17) Population monitoring of the imperiled Eastern Indigo Snake (*Drymarchon couperi*) and snake pathogen surveillance at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Florida, U.S. *Victoria Regan, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*
- 18) Effects of invasive aquatic vegetation on the amphibians of a floodplain wetland in the Lake James Watershed, North Carolina. *Zoe Riggs, Montreat College*
- 19) Improving amphibian monitoring with machine learning: Automating call detection for the Carolina Gopher Frog. *Madeline Showers, Savannah River Ecology Laboratory*
- 20) A free and open-source workflow for building custom acoustic classifiers for anurans. *Jocelyn Stalker, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*
- 21) Come Hellbenders or high water: Effects of extreme flooding on Hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*) presence and habitat shifts in the New, Nolichucky, and Watauga River Watersheds. *Hutch Whitman, Appalachian State University*
- 22) Understanding the genetics of *Amphiuma means* between mainland and barrier island populations in Georgia. *Sylvia Hanson, Georgia Southern University*
- 23) Passive camera trapping for Bog Turtles: Time of year shapes detection rates and informs survey design. *Connor Hughes, Virginia Tech*
- 24) Seasonal changes in surface detection of the Blacksburg Salamander (*P. jacksoni*). *Charlie Holguin, Virginia Tech*
- 25) The sleeping lizard project: Plasticity in sleeping behavior in response to seasonal temperature fluctuations. *Taylor Cooper, Georgia Institute of Technology*
- 26) Tiny frogs big questions: Factors influencing distribution of the endangered Coquí Llanero (*Eleutherodactylus juanariveroi*) in a coastal freshwater wetland at Caño Tiburones, Arecibo, Puerto Rico. *Mary Diez, North Carolina State University*
- 27) External attachment of transmitters with adult rattlesnakes, a successful less invasive telemetry method. *John Sealy, North Carolina Timber Rattlesnake Conservation Alliance*

- 28) Upland snake communities as indicators of understory integrity in historic longleaf pine savannas. *Ryne Huggins, University of Georgia Savannah River Ecology Laboratory*
- 29) Eastern Newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*) breeding pond orientation accuracy with solar cues after displacement. *Kylie Alonso, University of North Carolina at Asheville*
- 30) Movements and habitat use by American Crocodiles in urbanized environments. *Vincent Deem, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*
- 31) The impacts of urbanization on woodland snake communities: A case study of Central Maryland. *Gemma Field, University of Maryland Baltimore County*
- 32) Behavior trials of headstarted Gopher Frogs (*Rana capito*): Refugia choice & boldness. *Gabriel Weikert, University of Georgia*
- 33) Prey availability for larval *Eurycea* in Hemlock Conservation Areas. *Cassandra Waldrop, University of Georgia*
- 34) Evaluating Eastern Hellbender recovery following Hurricane Helene in western North Carolina. *Faith Dunlap, Clemson University*
- 35) Yellow-spotted Woodland Salamander (*Plethodon pauleyi*) occupancy and detection in southeastern Kentucky. *William Taylor, Eastern Kentucky University*
- 36) Characterizing the local population ecology and genomic structure of the narrowly endemic Patch-nosed Salamander (*Ursperperes brucei*). *Matthew Hanbury, Clemson University*
- 37) Development of a long-term monitoring program for amphibians in Florida lakes. *Sara Bolds, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*
- 38) Determining robustness of both native and introduced (captive-bred) Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*) subpopulations from a mixed population in southwestern Tennessee. *Hana Leonard, Arkansas State University*
- 39) Going towards the light, or towards dinner? Measuring the effect of food presence on *Notophthalmus viridescens*' attraction to glow stick bait. *Leslie Day, Kennesaw State University*
- 40) Beyond spillover: Is *Raillietiella orientalis* restructuring native pentastome communities in Florida? *Matthew Dwyer, Society for Evolutionary Parasite Systematics*
- 41) Head-starting Diamondback Terrapins (*Malaclemys terrapin*): Raising a hatchling group from egg to release in a coastal Virginia rehabilitation program. *Linda Nichols, Southeastern Reptile Conservation*
- 42) Identifying demographic drivers of Prairie Kingsnake (*Lampropeltis calligaster*) population trends in Northwest Arkansas using an integrated population model. *Ethan Royal, University of Arkansas*

CAMPUS LEGEND

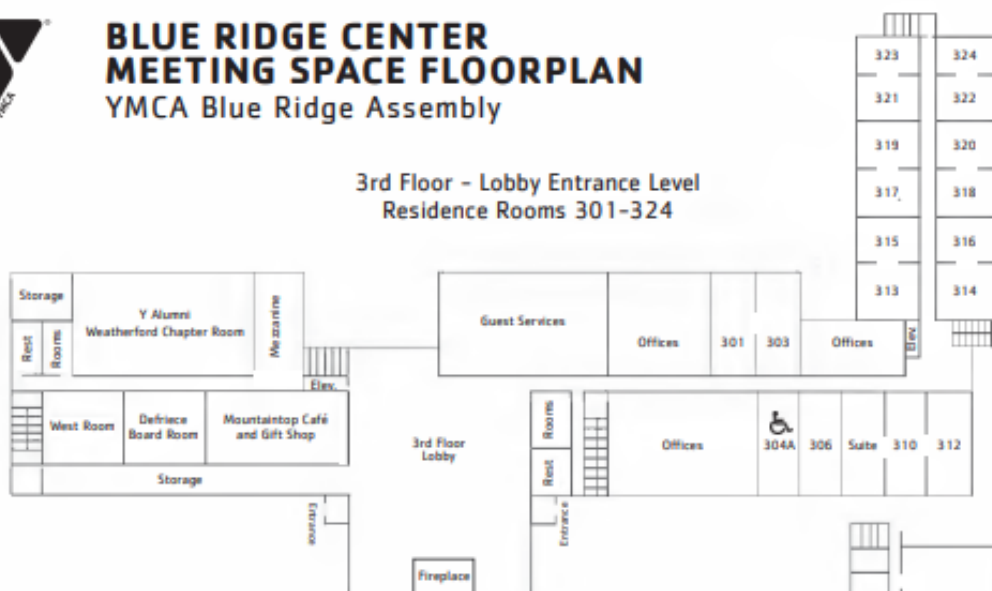
- 1 McCarty Lodge
- 2 Younts Hall
- 3 Whittington Amphitheater
- 4 Barnhardt Lodge
- 5 Hibbard Hall
- 6 Auburn Cabin
- 7 Georgia Cabin
- 8 Lotz Lodge
- 9 Breazeale Family Lodge
- 10 Heaton Hall
- 11 Eureka Hall
- 12 Purser Family Cottage
- 13 Haralson Family Cottage
- 14 Ware Pavilion/Harry H. Brace Indoor Challenge Course
- 15 Asheville Hall
- 16 Blue Ridge Center
- 17 Parker Cabin
- 18 Abbott Hall
- 19 Weatherford Hall
- 20 Venable Playground
- 21 Washburn Center/Heritage Arts Studio
- 22 Charles R. Younts Maintenance Center
- 23 Camp Cousins Challenge Course
- 24 Watts Family Odyssey Challenge Course
- 25 Fesperman Picnic Shelter



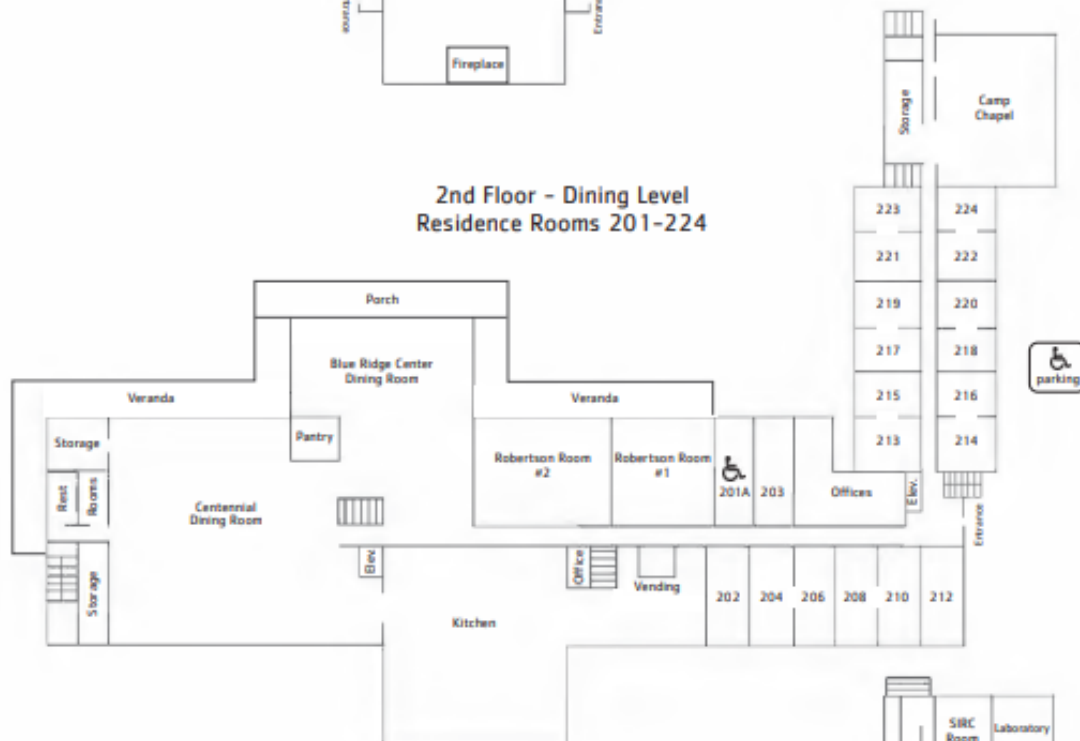


BLUE RIDGE CENTER MEETING SPACE FLOORPLAN YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly

3rd Floor - Lobby Entrance Level Residence Rooms 301-324

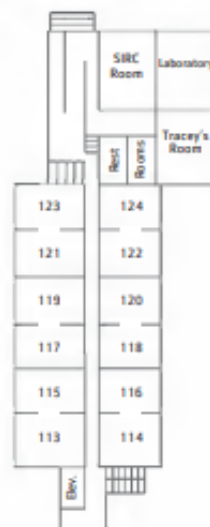


2nd Floor - Dining Level Residence Rooms 201-224



All 50 air-conditioned rooms have 2 queen beds with private bath, and include shampoo, lotion, body wash, handsoap, hairdryers, linens and towels.

1st Floor - Lower Level Residence Rooms 113-124



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@YMCABlueRidge blueridgeassembly.org

84 Blue Ridge Circle, Black Mountain, NC 28711