

“I had no idea that there were other writers *in North Carolina*. I thought there might be *two or three*.”



PHOTOGRAPH BY BRENT CLARK

## *In the Company of Other Writers:* *An Interview with Marjorie Hudson*

by Anne Anthony

Notes contributed by the NCLR staff

Marjorie Hudson was born in a small town in Illinois, raised in Washington, DC, and now lives in rural North Carolina. A North Carolina Arts Council Fellowship recipient, Hudson has published stories, essays, and poems in five anthologies and many magazines and journals, including the first edition of the *North Carolina Literary Review*. She is the author of *Searching for Virginia Dare*, a North Carolina Arts Council Notable Book, and *Accidental Birds of the Carolinas*, a short story collection that received many honors, including a PEN/Hemingway Honorable Mention for Distinguished First Fiction. Both books explore the theme of newcomers encountering the South.<sup>1</sup>

Hudson leads workshops at Meredith College and Doe Branch Ink, and her private Kitchen Table Workshops have run continuously since 2009. A popular speaker for the North Carolina Humanities Council Road Scholars program, Hudson lectures on the life and work of slave poet George Moses Horton, the history and myth surrounding America's first English colony, and the mysteries of “mosaic writing.” She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, North Carolina. For more information see her website at [www.marjoriehudson.com](http://www.marjoriehudson.com).

The thirty-minute drive south to Fearington Village to meet with Marjorie Hudson felt familiar. Every Tuesday morning this past spring I headed down this same road but travelled beyond the village to attend her Kitchen Table Writers' workshop at Rosemary House, a charming Bed and Breakfast in Pittsboro. On such mornings, I took a seat at the table in a place where I wished to be: in the company of other writers. Those hours stirred a fountainhead of ideas and gave me a chance to learn and think about the craft of writing. On my drive home, I'd mull over advice given, excited by the prospect

**ANNE ANTHONY** graduated with a Master's in Professional Writing from Carnegie Mellon University, where she served as the Associate Director for Distance Education in the School of Computer Science. Her professional background includes the fields of social work, technical writing, legal education, financial services, and software project management. She is a member of the North Carolina Writers' Network and currently serves as the representative for Orange County. Her flash fiction has been published in *Crack the Spine*, *Brilliant Flash Fiction*, *A Story in 100 Words* and her story “The Chase” won A3 Review's themed competition. She is full-time writer living in Chapel Hill and recently completed her first novel.

<sup>1</sup> *Accidental Birds of the Carolinas* (Winston-Salem, NC: Press 53, 2011; reviewed in *NCLR Online* 2012); *Searching for Virginia Dare: A Fool's Errand* (Wilmington: Coastal Carolina Press, 2003; reviewed in *NCLR* 2003; rpt. Winston-Salem: Press 53, 2007).