

A winter landscape with snow-covered trees and a blue sky. The trees are heavily laden with snow, and the sky is a clear, bright blue. The overall scene is peaceful and serene.

Tap Of The Bald

Winter 2023 Edition

**Brought to you by the WLPOA BOARD OF
DIRECTORS and the WLPOA STAFF**



Top of the Bald - Table of Contents

(Page 1 of 3)

<u>WL Property Owners Association (WLPOA) Board.....</u>	5
<u>WLPOA / Village Club Staff.....</u>	6
<u>President's Notes</u>	7
<u>Editor's Notes.....</u>	8
<u>Village Club Events</u>	9-10
<u>Dark Sky</u>	11
<u>Village Club Events</u>	12
<u>WLRMS – A Chat With Nathan Woody</u>	13-14
<u>WLRMS - President's Message.....</u>	15
<u>Coyote Season</u>	16-18
<u>Activity & Events from the Wolf Laurel Country Club</u>	19
<u>Blast from the Past.....</u>	20
<u>WLPOA Library Report.....</u>	21-22
<u>WL Historical Society.....</u>	23-25

(continued)



Top of the Bald - Table of Contents

(Page 2 of 3)

(continued)

<u>Slimy Salamander Research with Keith Ray</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>Southeastern Trust for Parks and Land.....</u>	<u>27-28</u>
<u>Hiking With Your Dog Off-Leash</u>	<u>29-31</u>
<u>Wolfpack Hiking.....</u>	<u>32</u>
<u>NC Wildlife Resources Commission</u>	<u>33</u>
<u>Nextdoor Deer.....</u>	<u>34</u>
<u>Madison County Arts Council</u>	<u>34</u>
<u>WLPOA/Village Club Websites</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>WLRMS WL Map</u>	<u>36</u>
<u>List of Advertisers</u>	<u>37</u>
<u>Advertisements</u>	<u>38-45</u>
<u>TOB Advertising Information.....</u>	<u>46</u>



Top of the Bald - Table of Contents

(page 3 of 3)

Advertisers

<u>Affordable Tree Care</u>	<u>38</u>
<u>Wolf's Corner Plaza, LLC</u>	<u>39</u>
<u>Precision Restoration Services</u>	<u>40</u>
<u>Hicks Real Estate Group</u>	<u>41</u>
<u>Elevation Pest and Home Solutions, LLC</u>	<u>42</u>
<u>Osborne Construction Company</u>	<u>43</u>
<u>Wolf Mountain Realty</u>	<u>44</u>
<u>Mike Whitt Maintenance</u>	<u>45</u>
<u>English Auto Repair</u>	<u>45</u>

TOB Advertising Information...46

Thank You! to the TOB Advertisers

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Board of Directors:

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Earlene Shofi Immediate Past President & Personnel

Website: www.wolflaurelpoa.com

BY-LAWS OF THE WOLF LAUREL
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC

Article II. # 4. "To promote and/or arrange social, recreational,
and educational activities of members."

POA / Village Club Staff

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828-689-9229

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**Village Club Winter Hours -
Tuesday -Thursday 10-3**

Editorial Committee

Betsy Browne	Rich Ashley
Ron Metcalf	Bob Hicks
Lynn Cagney	Rick Zinter

Have a great Season!

**The WLPOA office frequently receives questions about WLRMS;
Any WLRMS questions should be addressed to WLRMS at 828-680-9162, or
wroads@wolflaurelrms.com, or wsecurity@wolflaurelrms.com.**

President's Notes



I hope everyone is enjoying the winter season. Those remaining on the mountain have experienced some very cold days and a few days of snow. The mountain is always beautiful with each snow! The POA and Village Club staff are already working on activities for the upcoming season, and it will not be long until we see the arrival of Spring. If you are interested in volunteering with the planning of community events or if you have additional ideas on how to make the annual programs better, please let us know.

I also want to provide a quick update on the new package facility. The new door lock has been installed and if you have not been provided with your personalized code for the door, please contact the POA office. We continue to work with RMS to finalize the exchange of the “old” and “new” package facilities. Although there have been delays in finalizing this transaction, we remain hopeful that an agreement that will be beneficial to all community residents will soon be reached. We will continue to update you on our progress.

The goal of the POA and Village Club is to serve each member and enhance the time you spend in the community. This commitment to serve you will remain as our first priority. We look forward to this year and a successful summer season ahead!

John Brackett



Editor's Notes

We are moving. Patricia and I decided some time in late October to turn the page to start a new chapter in our book of life. We have enjoyed our experience in Wolf Laurel but felt we needed to do some traveling while we still could. We also wanted to be closer to family.

In November we put our home on Lucas Lane up for sale.

In early December we traded my pickup for an SUV - one that is equipped to haul a travel trailer.

In late December we moved to Florida, renting a house until early March.

In February we drove to Michigan to visit family and to pick up our new home - a travel trailer.

We expect that the sale of our home on Lucas Lane will be complete by March 2nd.

We have rented an RV slot for a couple of months near Gainesville, where we have family.

We plan to travel around Florida until it gets too hot, then start to travel north and around the US until it gets cold or we want to be back in Florida. We plan to stay in Florida for several months a year.

We will be nomadic while that lifestyle suits us. We hope to visit Wolf Laurel from time to time.

Arrangements have been made with WLPOA for me to keep managing the POA website and to edit the TOB - We will see how that works out for the POA and for me.

Thanks to all the Wolf Laurel community members who helped to make WL a special time and place for us.

We wish everyone health and happiness!

Larry and Patricia Veatch

Village Club Events

Chili Cookoff - February 9th was the 1st annual Chili cookoff. Tom & Debbie Jones took 1st prize.



Christmas Event

The Christmas ugly sweater & white elephant gift exchange had a great turn out.



Village Club Events



**December 1st was
Game Night**



Gathering at the Observatory

**On January 20th
a group went to
Bare Dark Sky
Observatory in
Burnsville - a
photo taken
beforehand at
the Homeplace
restaurant in
Burnsville.**



Wolf Laurel Road Maintenance and Security

The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA)

Please help us protect one of the natural resources of Wolf Laurel, the rare experience of a dark sky. While street lights, spotlights, and other outdoor lights are permitted in Wolf Laurel, all outdoor lights are required to be turned off after 11:00 P.M. The occasional use of outdoor lighting after hours is understandable. However, lights left on all night, every night, and automatic dusk-to-dawn street lights do not comply with our standards and regulations.

Please be considerate of neighbors and turn off your outdoor lights by 11:00 P.M. Install motion sensors or light timers if you need lighting to come and go between 11:00 P.M. and dawn. Any dusk-to-dawn security light can be modified to turn off automatically at 11:00 PM or to have a manual switch.

Finally, please inform your guests and renters about our community's lighting rules and encourage them to enjoy the natural beauty of Wolf Laurel's night sky.

Photo from the International Dark-Sky Association, for more information visit darksky.org/



[Editor's Note: Lighting (or other) violations can be reported on the WLRMS website at <https://mygreencondo.net/> via the **Violations** button.]

BILLING ANNOUNCEMENTS (Reminder)



All billing invoices were emailed to all residents the first week of February. If you did not receive your invoice, please check your spam/junk folder. If still no luck, please contact the POA office (828)689-9229 or send an email to: liz@wolflaurelpoa.com.

Please keep in mind we only accept cash, check or money order as forms of payment. Credit card/cash apps are not accepted at this time unfortunately. Make check payable to: WLPOA. You can mail your payment to: 91 Village Lane, Mars Hill, NC 28754. You can also drop off your payment at the Community Center during business hours or leave it in the payment drop box in the foyer.

*****Payment has to be received by April 1st to avoid a \$25 late fee.*****

WINTER HOURS for Community Center (Reminder): Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 10am-3pm. Closed on Mondays & Fridays.

DONATIONS (Reminder): We are still collecting canned foods and/or non-perishable items. All donated items will be helping the Ebbs Chapel Food Pantry. Please place it in our food drive box in the foyer of the Community Center.



FAT TUESDAY - Mardi Gras

Masquerade Party: was held

February 21st in the Community Center to celebrate Fat Tuesday, New Orleans-style! Fun masquerade masks were donned and Cajun-style dishes were shared; a locally-made King Cake was provided!

WINTER WALKS: Members and their pups joined in on the "Winter Walk" hike on February 21st, thanks to Yvonne Carignan (ycarigna@gmu.edu.)

WLRMS Snowy Days, A Chat with Nathan Woody

Outside there's a fresh blanket of fresh snow. The peace and quiet that comes with these beautiful days is never taken for granted by our residents here in Wolf Laurel. As you get your morning started, the sound of metal on the ground can be heard throughout the roads. You can bet the road crew Nathan, Rick, and Brent have been preparing for this moment for days and hours. The team is led by Nathan, in charge of dividing up the work it takes to get roughly 66 miles of snow plowed to keep the residents safe and mobile in our mountainous dream getaway where people come to escape the hustle and bustle of the outside world.

For us here on the mountain, it is important to keep the roads free and clear with a safe path to your destination to the best of our abilities. We sat down and spoke with Nathan about what his snowy days look like, how he prepares, and what advice he has for the residents and visitors here at Wolf Laurel. While the community and visitors embrace the mountain life, some may not know what this life entails and how we work to keep you safe.

Nathan and his crew work hard to navigate the weather and be best prepared as possible. To prepare for a snowy day, the crew loads the salt spreader, installs chains on the equipment's tires, and fuel up. Fuel for the equipment, hot coffee and Little Debbie's oatmeal pies & fudge rounds for the crew, once everyone is ready for the day it's time to start on the roads. Except when they can't. There are many times things don't work out like fairytales for the road crew. Conundrums happen at the worst times it seems. An example of such times can be found when the spreader is loaded with literally a ton of salt & they come to a halt when the equipment won't function properly and are left to shovel out the entire ton of salt in order to get the CAT back in the shop for repairs. As the snow stacks up, the crew works tirelessly on getting back to being road ready. Once everything is operational, it's time to get the crew in place. Everything that the road crew does is calculated, which means there is a special system they use to conquer the tasks. Main roads are a priority, making sure that asphalt roads are cleared for emergency vehicles. The gravel roads are also important, however, to maintain the integrity of the roads, we must be careful not to scrape up the gravel which can create uneven ruts and holes also making for unpleasant terrain. With this in mind, the plow will hit the ground once the gravel roads reach a minimum of 4" inches of snow.

The sun falls over the mountains, and the moon comes up with the snow still glistening down from the sky. What does the road crew do when the snow just won't stop? Well, Nathan has a cot in his workshop that he sleeps on up to 15 days of the year to insure he can be ready and of assistance when the time arises. The road crew staff take around an hour to travel to work, so having the ability to sleep on site is helpful for our residents so that they can meet the needs. Nathan jokes that it gets rather cold in there and even with 2 heaters going, the thermometer still reads merely 36 degrees at times. Crew members quit plowing between 11:00- 11:30 pm to allow for some rest. The crew have been known to sleep in vehicles and equipment so that they can be scraping roads as early as 4:30 A.M. "It's not an easy job, but the kind residents here make it worth the cold late nights, and the hard work knowing how much they appreciate it" stated Nathan when asked about what motivates him to be as dedicated as he and his crew are. Nathan and his crew really appreciate the small acts of kindness and gifts residents go out of the way to give them.

(continued)

WLRMS Snowy Days, A Chat with Nathan Woody

(continued)

I asked Nathan if he had any words of advice for residents who may want to avoid a bad snow day. Nathan stated, “Residents and visitors need to know when to stay home and how to be prepared if they want or need to go out”, “When someone wants to safely travel the roads here in Wolf Laurel, they really need the right equipment such as snow tires, tire chains, and a 4 wheel drive to be driven in 4 high, not 4 low”. And his last piece of advice is “Do not hit the brakes when your car is sliding on ice”. Also remember, in mountainous areas it is always best practice for the driver coming downhill to give the right of way (by slowing down but not try to come to a complete stop) to the driver coming up hill.



Thank you Nathan, Rick and Brent for all you do for our roads and the endless time and dedication you have given to better the lives of our residents and visitors.

Tabatha Orlando
Executive Operations Manger
Wolf Laurel RMS HOA

Find information on the WLRMS at:
<https://www.mygreencondo.net/wlrms/index>

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L What's on your mind, neighbor?

Charlie Snook · Wolf Laurel 1/16/23

Just wanted to give a grateful shoutout to Nathan Woody and his entire team at WLRMS! They are always so nice and helpful, oftentimes working all night long to ensure the rest of us can either get to or get out of our neighborhoods. They miss lots of precious time with their families to ensure we are all safe on the roads in WL. From this nervous native Floridian driving on the steep and snowy roads...THANK YOU, NATHAN!!!!

20 Like 5 Comments Share

See 4 previous comments

C **Carol Krueger** · Wolf Laurel

I too am grateful to Nathan Woody and his team. They are out as soon as is possible to make our roads safe. They work long hours and in often miserable . Thank you!

8 hr ago Like Reply Share 2

WLRMS President's Message

Dear Wolf Laurel Property Owner,

As your newly elected President, I have enjoyed living in this beautiful one-of-a-kind community full time for over 26 years. It is my honor to present to you our full year budget for 2023. I am optimistic that we will continue to be able to add to our reserves at the close of 2022 for critical future capital expenditures.

For 2023, our budget shows a 5% increase in annual assessments in order to maintain our ordinary operations despite this inflationary environment and the difficulties in hiring staff and accomplish our plans for the coming year. We also need to continue to build our Capital Reserves to fund our future road enhancements, including the repaving of Big Bald Road in 2023 as well as other infrastructure needs in the coming years with goals of avoiding any Special Assessments as well as not incurring any debt.

Also, part of our goals is continued improvements in our services through technology as well as employee training. Part of improving our use of technology is dependent on your use of our existing technologies, in particular our My Green Condo portal with your notifications to our front gate of friends, family, service providers (non-construction) expected through the front gate as well as violations. This helps the efficiency of our Security and ARB Staff. If you are having difficulties in accessing and using the My Green Condo portal, please don't hesitate to reach out to our staff for assistance.

Regarding employee training, please bear with us while we continue to work to fill the two Rover vacancies which has been of particular difficulty due to the very tight labor market. Also, we are planning on expanding the services asked of these two positions to not only handle their roving security services and filling in at the front gate but to perform more services for property owners, the ARB as well as for visitors.

As a 100% community-owned development, all of the assessment revenue is reinvested in our community. The community depends upon assessment revenue from our property owners to fund our operations for the full year. If you are or have been having difficulties paying your assessments, please contact our office staff for assistance. Let's work together to make the coming year our best year since we became a community owned development. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Ron Stone, President



Coyote Breeding Season in North Carolina has Begun

Keep Your Pets Safe

Tracy Stengel

https://img.particlenews.com/image.php?url=1E22sX_0kSH4eQ300

Photo by Patricio ASC/Unsplash

Coyote sightings may become more frequent the next few weeks as their breeding season hits its peak. In North Carolina, coyote breeding season runs from late January through March. If you haven't seen any coyotes, that doesn't mean they aren't nearby. Coyotes have established residency in all 100 counties of North Carolina.



Traditionally, coyotes roamed rural fields and forests, but as houses, buildings, and roads began to encroach their natural habitat, they have become common in suburban and urban areas. These highly adaptable animals have learned to survive in almost any habitat.

During breeding season, coyotes become emboldened and may be more aggressive and territorial. Right now, not only are coyotes constantly on the prowl for another meal, many are also looking for a mate.

Coyotes have been known to mate with unspayed or unneutered dogs. But all pets can be a risk during a coyote encounter. Small pets like cats and little dogs may be seen as a tasty meal and larger dogs may be viewed as a threat.

Humans need to be wary of coyotes as well. While unprovoked coyote attacks on people are rare, people can get hurt trying to get their pet away from a coyote. Coyotes are wild animals and can be unpredictable. If you see one, give it some space and avoid getting closer.

In March of 2021, one county in North Carolina reported six coyote attacks on humans in two days. Four people were bitten.

Derik Broach was riding his mountain bike on a trail when a coyote charged him. Broach told WCNC, "He started running towards me and that was terrifying." He added, "He had very strong teeth and jaws because he just popped my tire like nothing."

Broach was able to fend off the coyote by using his bicycle as a barrier between them.

To avoid contact with coyotes, make your property or dwelling space undesirable to coyotes — and never give them a free meal. Take down bird feeders. Use garbage cans with a secure lid or keep trash cans indoors until day of pick-up. Don't leave pet food outdoors. Keep pets on a short leash.

Coyotes are shy, but curious. It's important for them (and us) to be instinctually wary of humans. That's why it is vital people never try to feed, pet, or tame them. If a coyote gets too close, don't run. It may trigger its chase instinct. Instead, make eye contact, yell, and wave your arms.

(continued)

Coyote Breeding Season in North Carolina has Begun

Keep Your Pets Safe

(continued)

If you have fruit trees on your property, pick up the fallen fruit. An array of pears and apples on the ground is like a welcome mat for coyotes.

Don't underestimate the wily coyote. A fence around your property will not keep a coyote out. They are very good diggers, can climb a chain-link fence using their back feet, can scale walls, and have been seen jumping an 8-foot fence. These all-around athletes can run up to 43 mph and swim well for at least a half mile.

If your pet encounters a coyote, Angel Pet Hospital advises pet owners to distract the coyote from your pet without putting yourself in danger. Squirt it with a hose, bang a shovel or rake, or use pepper spray or bug spray.

Once your pet is safe, wrap your pet in a blanket and see a veterinarian immediately. It's often hard to see scratches, bites, and injuries under fur. Apply pressure to areas that are still bleeding.

If you have questions about coyotes in your area, call the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission at (919) 707-0050.

If you have tips to deter coyotes from getting too close to you or your pets, I'd love to read your advice in the comments!

This can pose problems, since stressed-out animals may have trouble finding food or breeding and raising young. That's especially concerning if the population of that species is already struggling.

"A lot of species are severely limited by the amount of habitat that they have available to them. So if we're taking out chunks of it and making it less suitable, that can be a big deal for a population," says Courtney Larson, a U.S.-based conservation scientist at The Nature Conservancy who studies how recreation and conservation can sometimes conflict.

Weston, in Australia, has also seen how recreation can carve up a habitat.

Some Australian beaches are home to the nesting grounds of a dainty little shorebird known as the hooded plover. Authorities would like to protect the plovers, but it's often put them at loggerheads with local dog-walkers.

Dogs can scare and even kill the birds. In 2019, Weston and his colleagues did a study that included using GPS trackers to see how much of a beach a dog would range about on.

"The amount of beach left for animals that wasn't near a dog was very, very small," says Weston.

Of course, the specific impacts may differ quite a bit from place to place, since not all animals may react the same way. A deer, a coyote and a bird may all respond differently to nearby dogs, says Larson.

That said, there may be good reasons why conservation authorities try to limit the presence and impact of dogs in a given area.

(continued)

Coyote Breeding Season in North Carolina has Begun

Keep Your Pets Safe

(continued)

Leashed vs. Unleashed Dog Impact

Still, questions linger about how much worse off-leash dogs are than leashed dogs in nature. That has been trickier to measure with hard science.

Few studies exist on the subject, and those that have been done present mixed conclusions. Some studies have suggested that unleashed dogs are especially impactful while others found that dogs tend to not stray that far from their humans when off-leash.

Funnily enough, part of the reason for this dearth of data may be due to people taking dogs off-leash in the first place. In many areas, a high number of people ignore leashing regulations, which can make it hard for researchers to find what you might call “clean” data sets to compare against each other.

Unfortunately for dog-walkers, this lack of compliance may end up coming back to bite them, warns Weston. That’s because the alternative to a “leash-only” regulation may be “no-dogs-at-all” regulation.

Weston points to one park in Australia where, after some 20 years of trying to reign-in off-leash dogs, the powers that be eventually banned dogs altogether. “I would regard that as a bad outcome for all parties, including dog walkers and particularly responsible dog owners who were actually leashing,” Weston says.

Other Reasons to Leash Your Dog

Dog owners may want to keep dogs on-leash for other reasons as well.

While many animals may see dogs as predators, there are some that might see them as prey. This can include black bears, mountain lions and coyotes — or even human hunters that mistake a pet dog for an animal they are pursuing.

Some public lands allow hunters to put down animal traps that might ensnare a dog. And dogs can potentially get injured or sick from things like running into cars or drinking polluted water.

Many parks may also want to keep dogs from certain areas due to construction, fragile plant life (even in deserts) or restoration projects. Some people on the trail may fear or be allergic to dogs as well.

Ultimately, experts recommended that folks looking to go out with their dogs look up and know the regulations ahead of time and follow them. Some places will happily allow dogs to roam free. Others may not.

“While there are many national parks for people and pups to explore, it is important for visitors to check that they can bring their dog with them on their adventure,” says Cynthia Hernandez, spokesperson for the U.S. National Parks Service, who also pointed to an online map of national parks that allow pets.

In the end, we need more data on the effects of letting a dog off-leash and there may be places where it’s okay. But there are also many good reasons to keep them by your side on a hike. “We should err on the side of caution,” says Larson.



Activity and Events from the Wolf Laurel Country Club

Inspired by the views: As we long to return to the mountain and to participate in the festivities with summer friends both at WLCC and on the mountain, we are inspired by the WLCC web-cam views. The sight of the mountain ridges, made even more beautiful by intermittent snowfall, is exceptional. Spring will be here before we know it and we will embrace a new magnificence. The white phacelia will be covering the mountainside signaling that much more splendor is on its way. The Wolf Laurel Country Club will be opening its doors on May 1st with many events to kick off the spring. The following events are open to all WL residents so come join us for:

“Walk in the Woods” hiking group, meets weekly: Anyone on the mountain may join and learn more about the natural splendor of our Wolf Laurel Community. These walks average 2 to 3 miles (moderate difficulty) and offer a great opportunity to meet and interact with other residents.

Food truck with Music and Cash Bar: every Monday: mid-May through Oct. with a variety of selected food. Enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow neighbors and a night of not having to cook.

Memorial Day Celebration: May 29, 2023 – Start off the 2023 summer season with inspirational speakers and musical tributes honoring and remembering those who have fought and died in our nation’s wars. This is a wonderful tribute and barbecue!

July 4th Celebration: July 1, 2023: Entertainment, Barbeque, games and of course the dog parade.

Lunch and Learn: Held on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. Watch for flyers as some are open for all WL residents.

We also offer many other great events at the clubhouse. Those interested in joining WLCC, can contact Paige Thomas 828-680-2601 paigewlcc@gmail.com or Cathy Johnson cathyjohnson@verizon.net. Admission fees are \$10K (social) and \$15K (golf).

Blast from the Past - 1993

WOLF LAUREL ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

The Wolf Laurel Property Owners Entertainment committee announces the formation of the Wolf Laurel Preservation Society meeting at 6:00 p.m. Saturday nights in the Library. BYOB and sign up for an hors d'ouvers. This function was formerly the "Friday Nighters" and the "Down Unders". When you see all the Blue Mountain signs without a mention of Wolf Laurel, you must realize why the Wolf Laurel Preservation Society is needed.

The usual Monday night cookouts sponsored by Wolf Laurel Property Owners Entertainment Committee, at the Pavilion at 6:00 p.m. every Monday night, is open to all property owners and guests. Bring a dish and whatever you want to grill. Our Derby, Preakness and Belmont Horse Race parties were well attended at the Library with some happy winners and some sad losers.

Welcome back to Wolf Laurel. Great to see everyone. Pay attention to the Wolf Laurel bulletin board as you drive in, for posted activities. Any questions call Shelia Slater at 689-3601 or Gwen Lotterle at 689-9290. Let the good times roll!!

PUNCHEON FORK YACHT CLUB

1992 was a good year for PFYC. All of our activities were well attended. We had regattas, rubber ducky races, pancake breakfasts, cookouts, golf tournaments and a rendezvous in Kissimmee. With all this activity we were able to present Hospice of Madison County a check for \$5,000.00. Thanks goes to all our members of PFYC. Anyone that is not a member can join for \$20.00 which includes your first years dues.

So far in 1993 we have had a rendezvous in New Orleans and our Destin, Florida group had a golf tournament, cocktail party and hot dog cookout. We have regattas planned at the pond here in Wolf Laurel for June 19, July 31 and September 11. These will follow the same format starting at 11:00 a.m. followed by a hot dog cookout. We have acquired our new rubber ducks thanks to Kathy Mixon and will plan a couple of races. Watch the bulletin board.

Louis P. Slater, Commodore

Winter POA Library Report 2023

While our wanderers are away: Winter Library Improvements February 2023 Library Report

Yvonne Carignan

Request for Help

Recently I discovered kindhearted readers reshelving their library books. What might appear to be a favor to the librarian is instead a no-no. To collect statistics and preform maintenance at the shelves, the librarian records information as she reshelves the books. Without that opportunity, we will never know how many books are being used, and the librarian cannot monitor what is and is not being read. *Please do not shelve any books.* Instead, please put them in the return boxes at the entrance to the fiction room.

Thank you for your generous impulses, and for your donations of books, puzzles, and DVDs to the library. We appreciate your understanding and continuing use of the library!

Ongoing Work in Children's Room

Come see the recently revamped and expanded Children's Library. Staff cleaned out and decorated a cozy new room for reading and playing with puzzles and games. There are new shelves for the puzzles, and extra shelves for spreading out previously crowded picture books. The children's picture books, now arranged for easy kids' access, benefited from shelves donated by Kippy Capers.

Don't Forget the DVDs

Expanded collections of DVDs are also part of the Children's Room, with movies for adults as well as kids. Recently added DVDs expanded our exercise options, with yoga, workouts, and martial arts. Together with the fitness book collection in the basement, you can check them out to enhance your physical fitness program.

Additions to Science Fiction & Fantasy

Your Science Fiction & Fantasy Collection has just received books by Jenn Lyons, Sarah J. Maas, Steven Erikson, Ashley Causey, Cassandra Clare, and others. In addition, the collection includes classic sci-fi authors such as Heinlein, Asimov, Arthur C. Clarke. The Sci-Fi Collection is in the adult fiction room. There is also a Sci-Fi and Fantasy section for young people/teens in the Children's Room, but we could use more titles in both areas, if you would like to donate any Sci-fi books you have finished. (continued)



Winter Library Improvements

(continued)

Fiction Room

Be sure to look over other improvements in the Fiction Room. The general fiction collection is already shifted, and shelves cleaned for the upcoming “season.” You may also notice a dehumidifier and moisture absorber added to the room. Thank you, Carol Jones! Last summer’s high humidity caused several books to mold beyond saving. Mold spreads, so getting rid of moldy books helps prevent further outbreaks. Fortunately, we had duplicate copies and could replace most of them.



If you look down the first aisle of fiction, at the back wall you will see our small section of famous **poetry and plays**, including Shakespeare’s. A recent donation of books in these subjects inspired new signs and organization.

Non-fiction

In the non-fiction library in the basement, we have several new sections of books – on philosophy, math, and writing. There are not many titles yet, but what we have seem to be good, basic titles, which form a basis for growing these topics.

A Used Library is a Happy Library

Don’t forget the library is open for your reading pleasure the same hours as the Community Center, 10 – 3 Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, through the winter. Come check it out!

Wolf Laurel Historical Society

A Treasure in the Appalachian Sky Joins the Publications of the Wolf Laurel Historical Society

The Wolf Laurel Historical Society brings you the history of Wolf Laurel not only through our summer programming but extending into these winter months or those lazy summer days beyond our in-person events. The Society is the place to go anytime – and at special times – to learn more about the history of Wolf Laurel and its Southern Appalachian neighborhood, or to celebrate that history on the walls of a Wolf Laurel home.

This reminder is occasioned by Jim Klumpp and Warren Johnson's gift to the Society of the copyright and remaining inventory of their book: *A Treasure in the Appalachian Sky: A History of Wolf Laurel in Madison and Yancey Counties, North Carolina*. Their gift extends the availability of the widely praised book with proceeds now supporting the work of the Society. The book joins *Upper Laurel and Her People: Madison County, North Carolina* among the Society's publications. For those new to the mountain or who have not seen the book, *A Treasure in the Appalachian Sky* is the definitive history of the first fifty-five years of Wolf Laurel. The book begins the story with the agricultural and industrial history of our Southern Appalachian neighborhood in the years before today's Wolf Laurel. Then, in 416 pages (including appendices, notes, and index), the authors tell of the struggles by a string of community developers, businessmen and financiers to bring Wolf Laurel to the high mountains. Although seemingly on the verge of collapse several times, Wolf Laurel survived through their ingenuity and shifting strategies. But the book also tells the story of the people who not only came to love the mountain's slopes and ridges, but more importantly shaped an energetic community with institutions that tied residents together in lives rich with activities, sports, and leisure. The interaction of residents and developers is the dance that created today's Wolf Laurel. Their story is now available through the Society in hardcover or paperback editions.

Upper Laurel and Her People is now in its third printing. Written by Delia Tipton Brittain who grew up along Puncheon Fork, the book tells the story of the families who came to Upper Laurel as early as the 1830s and shaped our corner of the rural Southern Appalachians. So many people who have shaped the infrastructure of Wolf Laurel and whom residents call upon today to service their properties and maintain their institutions are descendants of these early pioneers. Here are the stories of the families of those who staff the Wolf Laurel gate, who maintain the roads on which we drive, who serve us at the Wolf Laurel Country Club and the Wolf Ridge Ski Lodge, and who come to our homes as builders, electricians, plumbers, snow plow operators, and other trades. The stories of their families make fascinating reading and expose us to the changes that time – and even our presence – have brought to the valley at the foot of our mountain. Also available among the Society's publications are artifacts that capture the history of Wolf Laurel and can be displayed in your mountain home or consulted on those days when you and neighbors ponder how Wolf Laurel came to be as it is today. The most artistic treasure is "The Barn, c 1890," a limited, numbered print interpreting the barn built by Oscar Willis in 1888 that now houses the Wolf Laurel Community Center. Originally painted in oil on commission from the Society by noted artist Gayle B. Tate (<https://www.gbtate.com/GBTatebio.html>) during his years in Asheville, the original hangs today in the offices of the Wolf Laurel Country Club. The Society had limited, numbered prints created from the painting in the 1990s. A few of those remain. (continued)

Wolf Laurel Historical Society

(continued)

In addition, the Society offers reproductions of the original concept map, "The Ultimate Plan," designed in 1965 for the initial developer, Bud Edwards, as he promoted "Wolf Laurel Boundary," the development that today we know as Wolf Laurel. The reproductions are 30 by 30 inches in size and available in two finishes, a 46# poster suitable for framing or a laminated paper. The nearly 6000 original acres of Edwards' vision included a gondola ride lifting visitors from Bucktown village (an envisioned shopping area near today's Buck House) to skiing and hotel facilities at the peak of Big Bald. A winding Walnut Mountain Parkway would carry traffic from Sams Gap (bisected today by I-26 at the border of Tennessee and North Carolina) to the village of Swiss on US 19 toward Burnsville. A portion of that never-completed road is today's Nature Trail. And study the Dude Ranch, planned for the area that is today the Village at the Wolf Laurel Community Center. The map is a conversation piece and an opportunity to imagine the twists and turns from vision to reality that are a part of Wolf Laurel's story.

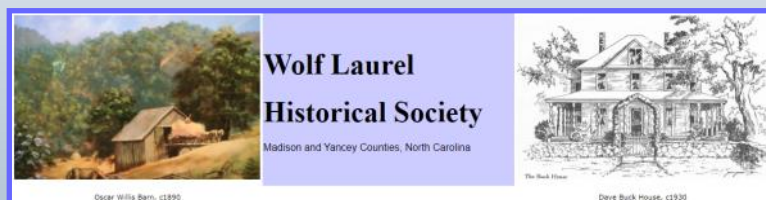
Many of these publications are sold at the Wolf Laurel Community Center through the gracious support of the staff and leaders of the Wolf Laurel Property Owners Association. You can also purchase them through the Society's website: WLHistory.org. Access more information and ordering materials through the PUBLICATIONS link on the menu to the left of the home page. An email to the Society officers also can arrange your purchase.

The Wolf Laurel Historical Society Board is busy planning our usual schedule of programs for the summer of 2023. August 5th is the 20th anniversary of the dedication ceremonies that opened Interstate 26 to the Tennessee line with its beautiful views of the mountains and its "Wolf Laurel" exit. We will recall this eventful day in our history with a program featuring author and photographer Rob Amberg. His book *The New Road* told the multilayered story of the building of the most dramatic highway project to that date in North Carolina, of those mountaineers who lost their homesteads and lifestyle to the highway, and of the impact the road had on our area. Our programs in the planning stage include Gene Woolf reporting on the Caney Valley Railway, the early 20th century railroad that connected the Buck House and its lumbering operation with the mainline Clinchfield Railroad at Hunt Dale, North Carolina; and Taylor Barnhill reporting on his survey of the Willis Barn, today's Wolf Laurel Community Center. Dates and places will be announced shortly for these summer programs telling the story of three different eras of Wolf Laurel's colorful history.

Please join us for our 2023 programs, and when your winter thoughts turn to your wonderful place in the mountains ponder our history with the publications that celebrate our wonderful community.

The Wolf Laurel Historical Society Board:

Warren Johnson
Steve Wilcox
Jim Klumpp
Taylor Barnhill
Brenda Whitt



The Wolf Laurel Historical Society at <https://wlhistory.org/>



Oscar Willis Barn, c1890

Wolf Laurel Historical Society

Madison and Yancey Counties, North Carolina



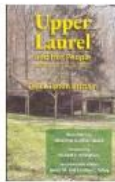
The Buck House

Dave Buck House, c1930

Society Publications

Books

for your Reading Pleasure



Delia Tipton Brittain, *Upper Laurel and Her People: Madison County, North Carolina*. \$20. Third printing of the Second Edition of this story of the Upper Laurel Community. Learn the history of the families who settled Puncheon Fork and Laurel Creek and support the Wolf Laurel Community today. Available at the Wolf Laurel Community Center, 91 Village Lane, or through the Society via email or mail order. Also available at a slightly higher price at the Mars Hill University Book Store in Mars Hill or Penland Department Store in Marshall, NC.



James F. Klumpp and Warren H. Johnson, *A Treasure in the Appalachian Sky: A History of Wolf Laurel in Madison and Yancey Counties, North Carolina*. Paperback \$30; Hardcover \$55. The 2021 comprehensive history of the community of Wolf Laurel, from those who settled the high country on the Tennessee/North Carolina border in the nineteenth century to those who make a home in today's mature forested mountain community. The story is told in over 400 pages with sixteen pages of photographs depicting colorful memories. Based in over sixty interviews with developers, financiers, residents, and long time mountain residents, as well as newspapers, archives, and courthouse records. Available in paperback or hardcover editions. Now in its second printing to great acclaim of readers. Available at the Wolf Laurel Community Center, 91 Village Lane, or through the Society via email or mail order. Paperback is also available at a slightly higher price at the Mars Hill University Book Store in Mars Hill or Penland Department Store in Marshall, NC.

Keepsakes

to enhance your delight in the history of Wolf Laurel or to decorate your Wolf Laurel home



Gayle B. Tate's "The Barn, c. 1890." \$30. Numbered color print of accomplished artist Gayle B. Tate's oil painting of Oscar Willis' vintage barn, now the Wolf Laurel Community Center. Available for purchase at the Wolf Laurel Community Center, 91 Village Lane or through mail order.



Bud Edwards' Vision Map of Wolf Laurel, 1965. \$20. A reproduction of the original vision of Wolf Laurel, designed by the first developer, Bud Edwards, to promote his vision to investors, purchasers, and governmental officials. Order by email or mail order. 30" x 30". Available in (a) sealed plastic encapsulation or (b) 46# paper suitable for framing.

Sharing Our Past to Enrich Our Present

Slimy Salamander Research with Keith Ray

When I first started volunteering with the Southeastern Trust several years ago, I was struck with how diverse their properties were. What I mean, from a biology perspective, is that the properties are spread across a wide range of ecoregions. I could see by just peaking at a map they held a vast resource of biodiversity that I had been welcomed to visit. And they were located in areas that got me excited as a professor and researcher.



Fast forward to late last year when I got a kind email from Dr. Daniel Gaillard from Dalton State College asking if he could visit our Fightingtown Creek Nature Park to look for some Slimy Salamanders. (Yes, that is the name of the salamanders, not just a description!) I was excited because his students were working on a project very similar to one I worked on years ago when I was an up-and-coming biologist. I emphatically said yes! But I also invited myself because who doesn't love flipping rocks and logs looking for salamanders?

Since that first visit, Dr. Gaillard has identified other Southeastern Trust properties that could be informative to their research project. And in mid-January I met him and several students from his classes and the Dalton State Ecology Society at Talking Rock Nature Park to start the search. After a slow start, we hit the jackpot and got to see some amazing salamanders which will be very useful in their research.



The Southeastern Trust is committed to continuing collaborations and partnerships that help students get experience using our parks and preserves. So, if you're out at the parks and see us crawling in the mud, our heads underwater, or flipping rocks and logs, stop and say hello and see what awesome discoveries our special places are revealing. If you're a researcher and think one of our properties would be useful to you, please reach out and say hello. See you on the trails!



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10 years | 2012 - 2022

From Bill Jones and Aimee Tomcho, *Senior Forestry Manager, Southern Region, [American Forest Foundation](#), [Family Forest Carbon Program](#).*

The Southeastern Trust for Parks and Land will have a special Earth Day event at Bald Mountain Preserve, April 22, 2023.



At 1pm, join community member Yvonne Carignan at Bald Mountain Preserve's McKinney Gap Boulder Trail for a wildflower walk to discover Appalachia's earliest spring blooms. This hike is a single-track loop following the contours of one of the Trust's most unique rock outcrop conservation areas. Hiking poles are encouraged.

Yvonne A. Carignan

ycarigna@gmu.edu

828-689-4456

409 Upper Haw Drive

Mars Hill, NC 28754



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Bill Jones, Executive Director

bill.jones@stpal.org

www.stpal.org

* <https://stpal.org/our-places/>

* <https://stpal.org/our-places/bald-mountain-creek-nature-preserve/>

* <https://carolinaclimbers.org/node/1228>

Hiking With Your Dog Off-Leash Could Create Problems for Nature

Conservationists say an off-leash pet dog can cause unexpected harm in natural spaces, including habitat disturbance and wildlife stress or attacks.

By [James Gaines](#) Jan 19, 2023 (Credit: Getty Images/Ivar Østby Simonsen)



One of the perennial gripes for some hikers is off-leash dogs on the trail. It's bad for wildlife, they say. Others say it's not a big deal.

So, what do we know about off-leash dogs and their effect on wildlife? It turns out it can be surprisingly difficult to pin down specifics, but experts tend to agree on some overall points.

Dogs Attacking Wildlife - In general, it does seem to be true that pet dogs can pose a threat to wild animals. For starters, such dogs have been linked to attacks on tortoises, bighorn sheep and seals resting or foraging on beaches. Even if they don't catch what they're chasing, they can amplify stress for wildlife.

"Some dog owners will characterize that as, 'oh they're just having a bit of fun,'" says Mike Weston, a conservation biologist at Deakin University in Australia. "But, if we can put ourselves in the wild animal's perspective [...] if it doesn't mount an effective escape, it's probably dead or injured, right?"

Experts also say it's common to hear about even well-trained dogs suddenly and unexpectedly taking off after an animal. Dog poop can also spread diseases or parasites. Even if a dog is not directly injuring or making wildlife sick, it turns out just their presence — the sound of barking, and their scent, for example — can affect wildlife.

Pet Dogs Elevating Wildlife Stress - In 2008 a group of researchers showed that mule deer, squirrels, rabbits and prairie dogs all stayed away from trails in areas where dogs were allowed. Other studies have found that the presence of dogs can raise stress levels in wild animals.



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

NC Wildlife Resources Commission biologists recently updated the statewide fox squirrel distribution map, which hadn't been updated since 2011. The new map shows the squirrel's range is growing.

If you see a fox squirrel, please note the GPS coordinates or address, take a photo and email the Human-Wildlife Interaction hotline at hwi@ncwildlife.org to report the observation.

Learn about fox squirrels at: bit.ly/3Y0Y37B



Charlie Snook on Nexdoor

Hi Neighbors. In case anyone else is interested, I called the folks at French Broad Electric on 2/20/23 to inquire about the availability of fiber optic for our home. I was happily informed that it will be ready in 4-6 weeks at our address in Wolf Laurel.

Carla Mitchell on Nextdoor



Hiking and Walking in the Wolf Laurel Area

Name	Miles
1. Walnut Mnt Nature Trl	1.10
2. Big Bald Loop	1.55
3. Bald Mnt Shelter	1.20
4. Spivey Gap	6.89
5. Little Bald Mnt	1.84
6. Big Bald & Back	0.62
7. Waterfall Loop	1.36
8. Panther Knob Loop	2.31
9. Double Springs	2.05
10. Nature Trl to AT	1.23
11. Nature Trl to Street Gap	2.95
12. Nature Trl via JC Loop	1.80
13. Sugar Fork	1.85
14. Double Symphony	4.22
15. 6th Symphony	3.25
16. Nature Trail to Big Bald	4.00
17. Weaver Knob Loop	2.50
18. Hog Greers Cave	1.10

Welcome to Wolf Laurel - your private gateway to the Appalachian Trail

Made available for you is a list of hikes and variation of trails and foot paths to accommodate everyone from the casual walker to the hiking enthusiast.

If you're a new resident or just visiting, each map has a " **Get Directions** " button which will use Google Maps to assist you to navigate to the various trailheads. Each map also will offer a GPX button which allows you to download the GPS file which is creating the map you are viewing.

<https://www.newprism.com/wolflaurelhikes>

Walk in the Woods

Walk in the Woods was developed and managed by Yvonne Carignan and Brenda Whitt. During 2023, each month beginning in May, there will be walks in the Wolf Laurel area and off of the mountain. These walks will average 2 to 3 miles (moderate difficulty) and offer a great opportunity to meet and interact with other residents.

Brenda - brenda543@aol.com

Yvonne - ycarigna@gmu.edu



The NC Wildlife Resources Commission works hard to provide access and opportunities for persons with disabilities to enjoy the state's wildlife resources and wildlife associated recreation. In keeping with the intent and spirit of the Americans with Disability Act, we will continue to make strides toward providing access and opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Learn more about our programs at:

bit.ly/3CWnCzm



From Nextdoor



Nextdoor Wolf Laurel

“Deer in the Snow” submitted
by Harold Schweik

Madison
County Arts
Council

Ebbs Chapel

Summer 2023

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WLPOA and Village Club Information

WLPOA Website

The WLPOA website has been redesigned - <https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com/>.

It provides information including the following:

- ◇ WLPOA Board of Directors and Committee Chairs - https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com/files/ugd/1610a3_120835d9b038484f9a75fc0c997c18c2.pdf
- ◇ WLPOA / Village Club Office Contact Information - https://367ab657-4382-4e2d-ae61-4bb3593f0b06.filesusr.com/ugd/1610a3_b5d14eb01c2347cab1292c49052797ff.pdf
- ◇ WLPOA Committees - https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com/files/ugd/1610a3_6e50b5791a9e4cd59bc6c19ffb4516e6.pdf
- ◇ WLPOA and Village Club Benefits - https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com/files/ugd/1610a3_2d9d49d267ca4558bf15844890c186ba.pdf
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- ◇ Wolf Laurel on the Internet - https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com/files/ugd/1610a3_9b1b79531b5847d8833c88b069186e62.pdf



Feedback, comments, and suggestions are welcome - larryv8@gmail.com

Wolf Laurel Road Maintenance and Security WL Map

Click on the map to see a digital version or find it at

https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com/files/ugd/1610a3_395478a5b51847e0afdd7f285a94eb36.pdf

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TOB Advertisers

Pages 38-45

Affordable Tree Care..... 38

Wolf’s Corner Plaza, LLC 39

Precision Restoration Services 40

Hicks Real Estate Group 41

Elevation Pest and Home Solutions, LLC 42

Osborne Construction Company..... 43

Wolf Mountain Realty 44

Mike Whitt Maintenance 45

English Auto Repair..... 45

TOB Advertising Information...46

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2023

- 1) The TOB editions are scheduled to be published on the 1st of March, May July, and November.
- 2) Payment for an Ad in the TOB results in the Ad also being posted on the WLPOA website.
- 3) Ad fees:

Half page: \$70 / edition

\$240 for Ads in all four editions

Full page: \$80 / edition

\$280 for Ads in all four editions

- 4) Remit to:

Larry Veatch

263 Lucas Ln

Mars Hill, NC 28754

or [PayPal.Me/larryv8](https://www.paypal.com/paytoemail/larryv8)



Thank You for your service to the
Wolf Laurel community.

For Ad space and information contact
Larry Veatch at larryv8@gmail.com
or 352-359-0071