



Top of the Bald

Winter
2024

Brought to you by the WLPOA
Board of Directors and the WLPOA staff.



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- ◇ [**Mike Whitt Maintenance**](#)
- ◇ [**Jay Dawes Construction**](#)

Listing does not imply recommendation

Wolf Laurel Property Owners Association (WLPOA)

Board of Directors:

Bob Hicks - President

Carl Larrabee - Vice President

Theodore Meyer - Secretary

Robert Lahr - Treasurer

Natalie Morris

Rick Zinter

Doug Orman

Steve Wilcox

Lynn Cagney

Scott McCaleb

Cary Monroe

John Bracket - Immediate Past President



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."

WLPOA & Village Club Staff

WLPOA Director: Liz Benson -
liz@wolflaurelpoa.com, 828-689-9229

Seasonal Village Club Manager: George
 Selman george@wolflaurelpoa.com,
 828-689-4089



Other VC Staff:

Carol Jones

Caitlin Bush

Donna Dickey

Dan Kaufman

Theo Meyer

WLPOA:

91 Village Lane
 Mars Hill, NC 28754
 828-689-9229

Editorial Committee

**TOB Editor/Publisher
 and Webmaster:**
 Larry Veatch,
larryv8@gmail.com

Betsy Browne
 Ron Metcalf
 Lynn Cagney

Rich Ashley
 Bob Hicks
 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 <https://www.mygreencondo.net/wlrms/index>**

President's Message

Dear neighbors and friends -

Welcome to 2024, and this season's first issue of Top of The Bald! As I write this, I am looking out at unseasonably green evergreen trees and green fairways, with a temperature of 50 degrees, and it's IN Wolf Laurel, in mid-February! After some serious snow (almost all melted now), and with it some 'marooned' full-timers, who could have ever guessed?? Probably a 'false' early spring, but it's pretty nice (except if you ski).

Our POA staff is already hard-at-work planning for the upcoming season, and they have been adding some wintertime 'bonus' social events before the season officially kicks off! We hope we are keeping you fully informed about upcoming activities, so you can join in.....please join in! And a big 'thank you' to the 168[!!] of you who participated in our recent POA survey. We are compiling the results now, and will report soon. And, don't forget to stop by the Barn next time it is convenient, to pick up your survey prizes - drink coozis and pins.

Some updates to report: the Pavilion has new roof shingles, enhancing its look and extending the life of the building. A new playground has been approved, equipment has been ordered, and site work will begin soon. The package cabin will soon get new cameras, new doors, and some curb barriers. Other possible changes to (and uses for) the other parts of the package cabin are still under consideration - all ideas are welcome!

An interesting idea was recently raised after the severe snowstorm that arrived a few weeks ago. If you weren't 'on the mountain' experiencing the snow and ice first-hand, or didn't see any of the various social media or community posts, you might not have realized how isolated people were. So, someone wondered whether there was a roster/ list of year-rounders, as an aid to neighbors insuring that their neighbors were safe. We've decided to do some further work on this, and if you are a full-timer, your input would be appreciated!

Regards to all,
Bob Hicks

bobhicks@cheerful.com



Editor's Notes

Cover photo - looking westward from Lucas Lane

Digital versions of the TOB are available at [https://
www.wolflaurelpoa.com](https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com).

Printed copies of the Top of the Bald are available
on Amazon.

Advertising featured in the TOB does not imply
endorsement.

For advertising in TOB email larryv8@gmail.com

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

WLPOA Website comments / suggestions /
questions - larryv8@gmail.com





WLPOA - Article IX By-Law Committees

Executive:

Chair: Bob Hicks, *President*
 Carl Larrabee, *Vice President*
 Theodore Meyer, *Secretary*
 Bob Lahr, *Treasurer*
 Ex Officio: John Brackett

Finance:

Chair: Bob Lahr (Treasurer)
 Fred Tygart
 Earlene Shofi
 David Smith
 Rick Zinter

Audit (Compilation):

Chair: Bob Lahr (Treasurer)

Village Club (Amenities):

Chair: Mary Lovley
 Co-Chair: Earlene Shofi
 Programs & Events Coordinator:
 Caitlin Bush
 Village Club Dir: Carol Jones
 Lori Wyman-Macaulay
 George & Becky Shennan
 Nancy & David Schmidt
 Jeri Magg
 Joanne Wit
 Marnie Sullivan
 Natalie Morris
 Leigh Ann Roseberry
 Greg Smith
 Rick Zinter
 Kevin Flanagan
 Steve Wilcox
 George Selman
 Sandy Skypek

Membership:

Chair: Liz Benson (WLPOA Director)
 Lynn Cagney
 Rick Zitner

Facilities:

Chair: Carl Larrabee (Vice President)
 Fred Tygart
 Bill Aimone
 Gregg Smith
 Becky Shennan (Pickle Ball)

Facilities Subcommittee - Village

Beautification:

Chair: *Vacant*
 Laura & Tom Conard
 Steve Wilcox
 Earlene Shofi
 Theo Myer
 Doug Orman
 Scott Weaver

By-Laws and Legal:

Chair: Bob Hicks (President)
 Theo Meyer
 Fred Tygart

Long Range Planning:

Chair: Doug Orman
 Liz Benson (Membership)
 Bob Lahr (Treasurer)
 Steve Wilcox
 Carol Jones (VC Director)
 Carl Larrabee (Facilities)
 Bob Hicks (By-Laws & Legal)

Election: (Verify ballots)

Chair: Liz Benson (WLPOA Director)
 Earlene Shofi



AD HOC COMMITTEES

Human Resources:

Chair: Earlene Shofi
 Bill Aimone
 Bob Hicks
 John Brackett

Library:

Director: Yvonne Carignan
 Bob Hicks

Nominating:

Chair: Leigh Ann Roseberry
 Natalie Morris
 Lori Wyman Macaulay
 Larry Carlson

Playground Planning and Funding:

Chair: Earlene Shofi
 Lynn Cagney
 Janis Larrabee
 Doug Orman
 Theo Meyer

Rental:

Chair: Doug Orman
 Theo Meyer
 Lynn Cagney
 Scott McCaleb
 Elliott Caldwell
 Carol Jones

Top of the Bald:

Editor: Larry Veatch
 Editorial Board:
 Rich Ashley
 Betsy Browne
 Lynn Cagney
 Ron Metcalf
 Rick Zinter
 Bob Hicks

Webmaster/IT:

Chair: Larry Veatch

WLPOA Package Annex:

Chair: Steve Wilcox
 Carl Larrabee
 Theo Meyer
 Earlene Shofi
 George Selman
 Fred Tygart
 Jim Howes
 Walt Leibert

Wolf Laurel Country Club Collaboration:

Chair: John Brackett
 Steve Wilcox
 Theodore Meyer
 Bob Hicks
 Bob Lahr

Village Club Events

We had seven fantastic chili's entered in last night's cook-off, but it was **Joe Capers** that was voted with the overall best chili of the evening. Congratulations Joe!



A very fun White Elephant gift exchange at the Village Club's holiday party!



Stephan Craig Wilcox was the lucky finder of the baby in the King Cake and crowned King of Fat Tuesday! Congratulations Steve!

Lunch followed by the viewing of the national gingerbread house competition.



Valentine's Day Drop-In

Hey Neighbors, let us show you how much we love and appreciate you! The Village Club is hosting a Valentine's Day Drop-In **TODAY (February 14th) until 3:00 PM**. Come by the Community Center and help yourself to some complimentary ... See more

Dining Out with Friends - Thai style!



Village Club Notes

Watch for announcements about the winter events and activities

Wolf Laurel Village Club
Community Center & office hours beginning
November 1st
Tuesday through Thursday
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Follow us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/342942392454360>

Spring & Summer Seasonal Weekly Activities and Programs

Group Fitness
Tai Chi
Zoom Yoga
Pickleball
Women's Tennis
Men's Tennis
Craft and Gab
Samba
Monday Night Potluck
Friday Night Appetizers
Yappy Hour

Disclaimer: Please note all activities, programs, and events are at your own risk.



Wolf Laurel POA Library Report - Fall 2023

Time for Library Cleanup and Donations

March 2024 Wolf Laurel POA Library Report

Yvonne Carignan

Special Request: Please DO NOT reshelve your returned books, puzzles, DVDs, or games. I know you mean to help, but please put them instead either in the return bin in the outer lobby (whether the building is open or not) or the return bin inside the library. The librarian counts them to establish library usage statistics; no counts, no statistics. Those statistics justify keeping the library and help in managing the collection. **Thank you so much for returning all those borrowed items to the bins instead of putting them on the shelves!**

Winter Cleanup: With the winter bookstacks cleanup well underway, we now have room for critically needed new book donations. The Wolf Laurel Library is unique in my long experience as a librarian because I have only worked in libraries that had book budgets and acquisition plans for building library collections. With no book budget for the Wolf Laurel Library, we depend on your ongoing generous donations.

An entirely donated library collection has pluses and minuses. On the positive side, our books are selected entirely by our own community. That does not always mean that each book is recommended by anyone. I often see book marks or covers turned over only a few pages into the book, suggesting that the reader abandoned the book quickly. However, these community sourced books are likely to please other neighbors. In fact, I observe that some of the most popular books are those read by our two book clubs, or books with fame spread by word of mouth. For example, a couple of summers ago, Kippy Capers joined the librarian in appreciation of a murder mystery series by local author Mark de Castrique. Kippy shared the news about these books, and the library ended up with a complete set of the series as well as a visit from the author and an even wider readership of his books throughout the community.

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Wolf Laurel POA Library Report - Fall 2023

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Other popular books naturally are award winners and those on the *New York Times* and similar bestseller lists for fiction and non-fiction. Best sellers are a basic component of public library collections; those books are what people most often want to read. The contributions of these currently popular books will please our readers and keep our library viable.

The negative side of a purely donated book collection is the impossibility of filling requests for books we don't have; of purchasing popular new books that are not donated; and of replacing in-demand books that people borrow and forget to return. Keep your book donations coming; they are so much appreciated, and we thank you!

In Case You Missed It

The library's popular fiction collection (in contrast to Fiction Classics) consists mostly of books published within the last twenty years. However, there are exceptions, such as for lastingly popular authors and their series. A favorite set of authors for my reading consists of the very best English murder mystery writers from the early to mid-twentieth century. The Wolf Laurel Library happens to offer a very nice collection of these, far beyond the typical public library. Classic mysteries by Dorothy Sayers, Josephine Tey, Ngaio Marsh, Marjory Allingham, and Agatha Christie, among others, range from the World War I era to the 1970s. All these authors develop characters and plots marvelously, create colorful sleuths, and take us to foreign lands (especially England) in a time before cell phones. These authors are no longer found on most public library shelves, but the Wolf Laurel Library has books by each of them. Look in fiction by the author's last name.

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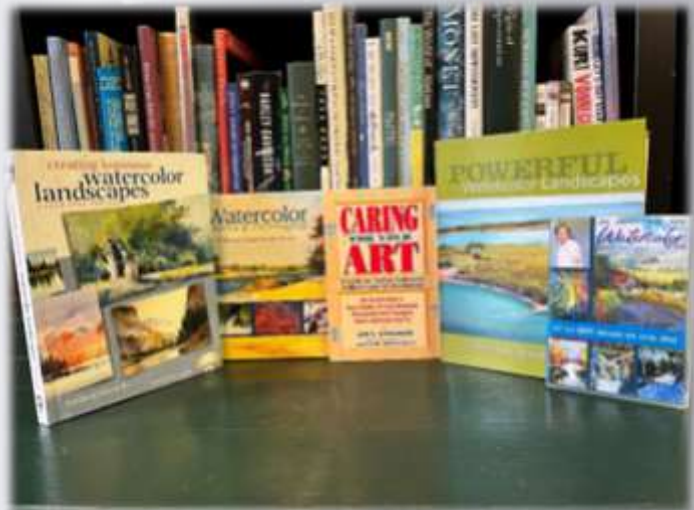


Wolf Laurel POA Library Report - Fall 2023

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Art Books:

Our collection of books about art and artists has outgrown its space. This winter I will move books around in the lower level of the Community Center (The Barn) to accommodate this growing collection. Some examples from our art collection are books and DVDs for watercolor painters, a book on caring for art, and books on famous artists, including Norman Rockwell and the French Impressionists. We have a lot of artists in Wolf Laurel. We welcome more donations of books on art!



Games and Puzzles:

Donations – for both adults and children – have enriched our offerings this winter. Come check out items new to our kids' collections.



Donations Needed


The winter cleanup brings space for much needed new books. Keep your neighbors reading and clear your clutter by bringing in the books you have recently enjoyed. We all will thank you!

Yvonne Carignan

Wolf Laurel POA Village Club's Book Club

Summer Book Club - Reading List

Selected by Village Club members, join us this summer as we discuss each book from the this summer's reading list (below). Meetings will be held at the Village Club Pavilion (unless otherwise noted). For more information, contact Karen Gerry at kgerry48@aol.com.


 Wolf Laurel
Village Club's

BOOK CLUB

JOIN US AT THE PAVILION
2:30 PM

06/20 - "MAIDEN VOYAGE"
BY TANIA AEBI (LED BY JOHN FORD)

07/11 - "PERSONAL LIBRARIAN"
BY MARIE BENEDICT (LED BY MICHELE HUNT)

08/01 - "REMARKABLY BRIGHT CREATURES"
BY SHELLEY VAN PELT (LED BY STEPHANIE MACWILLIAMS)

08/22 - "LADY CLEMENTINE"
BY HEATHER TERRELL (BY FRENCHIE RICHARDS)

09/12 - "THE SECRET LIFE OF SUNFLOWERS"
BY MARTA MOLNAR (BY SUSAN SHEPHERD)

10/03 - END OF SUMMER PARTY

CONTACT KGERRY48@AOL.COM

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Wolf Laurel Historical Society

Celebrate the Diamond Jubilee: Wolf Laurel at Sixty

In the fall of 1963, 84 year old Granny Buck finally agreed with her family that it was time to sell Bald Mountain Boundary, over 4800 acres of timbered mountain highland including the stately home in which she and her late husband Dave had raised a large family and welcomed them back for wonderful reunions since 1904. It was not an easy decision for Pearl, the widow of nearly a quarter century and still well shy of the hundredth birthday she would celebrate shortly before her death sixteen years later. But the family thought it was time for Granny to accept the hospitality of her daughter and enjoy the proceeds from the family's large estate and that grand house along burbling Bald Mountain Creek.



On the other side of Low Gap that divided Yancey County and the Buck property from Madison County and Wolf Laurel Branch, Roth Wilson was beginning to contemplate retiring from his over 700 acre mountainside farm with its long sheep meadow extending up Haw Ridge above the magnificent barn and old log farm house built in the 1880s. Roth and Ina had taken over the operation when his father died in 1938. But Roth had run the small mill on the property – fed by the clear waters of Willis Branch – for four decades, since he was a teenager working for his father. The Wilsons leased the farm, owned since the early 1940s by Raleigh and Edna English. Edna had stepped aside just four years earlier from teaching the first three grades of neighborhood children at Bright Hope School a few feet up Puncheon Fork Road from the Wolf Laurel Road corner. Now she was contemplating retirement from teaching and coaching her celebrated Cloggers from Mars Hill High School. The Englishes decided that this might be an opportune time to sell the farm they rented to the Wilsons to enjoy the proceeds from the sale in their later years.



In nearby Kingsport, Tennessee, C. P. Edwards III – Bud to his family and friends – was completing the sell out of an Edwards family project: the Mount Harrison development in nearby Gatlinburg. The success of this venture was at least partly due to its proximity to the three decade old Smoky Mountain National Park, already the National Park System's most visited park. The Park had been urged into existence by a commission on which Granny Buck's husband Dave played a key role.

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Wolf Laurel Historical Society

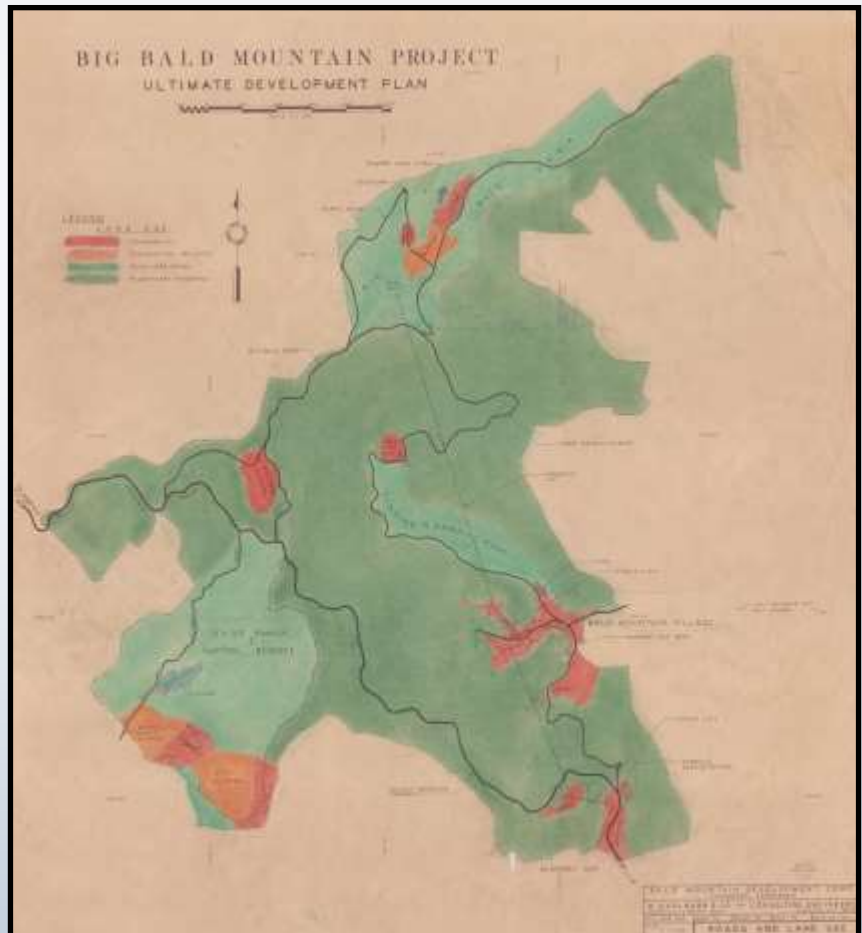
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Young Bud was known as an avid sportsman. He loved fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, roughing it in the outdoors. He had hunted game in Alaska and Africa, and had fished waters all over the world. But around him were many good friends who enjoyed the outdoors weekend after weekend closer to home. Bud was yearning to find a wilderness area where he and his friends could enjoy outdoor recreation together, preferably near his family homeland along the North Carolina-Tennessee border. His father had been born in nearby Flag Pond, and his physician grandfather had been the company doctor for the Buck Lumber Company when it had harvested the timber on the Bald Mountain Boundary at the turn of the twentieth century.

On the North Carolina side of the Balds, discussions between Phil Elam, a feed store owner and community economic booster from Marshall, and Wren Hennessee, an Asheville realtor wired into Yancey County property sales, led to a discovery: this coincidence of interest in selling contiguous properties where Madison and Yancey Counties met Unicoi County, Tennessee, near the magnificent Big Bald Mountain was just what Elam's friend Bud Edwards was seeking.

By the next spring, these coincidences came together to birth what would become a celebrated mountain community. On November 28, 1963, Ridgefield Inc., the Edwards family development corporation, purchased an option on the Buck property. On the 10th of February 1964, Edwards Enterprises incorporated the Bald Mountain Development Corporation to finance Bud's dream. Two days later the corporation completed purchase of 959 acres from Raleigh and Edna English. On the 3rd of April, BMDC purchased from the McDaris family the remaining wedge of Madison County timberland that extended from the Wilson farm to Big Bald Mountain and the Yancey County line. And on the 1st of June purchase was completed for the nearly 5000 acres of Bald Mountain Boundary, the extensive Buck property. What Bud Edwards was to first call "Wolf Laurel Boundary" had been assembled: nearly 6000 acres of beautiful mountain peaks, running streams, and timbered slopes. A mountain wilderness was his.

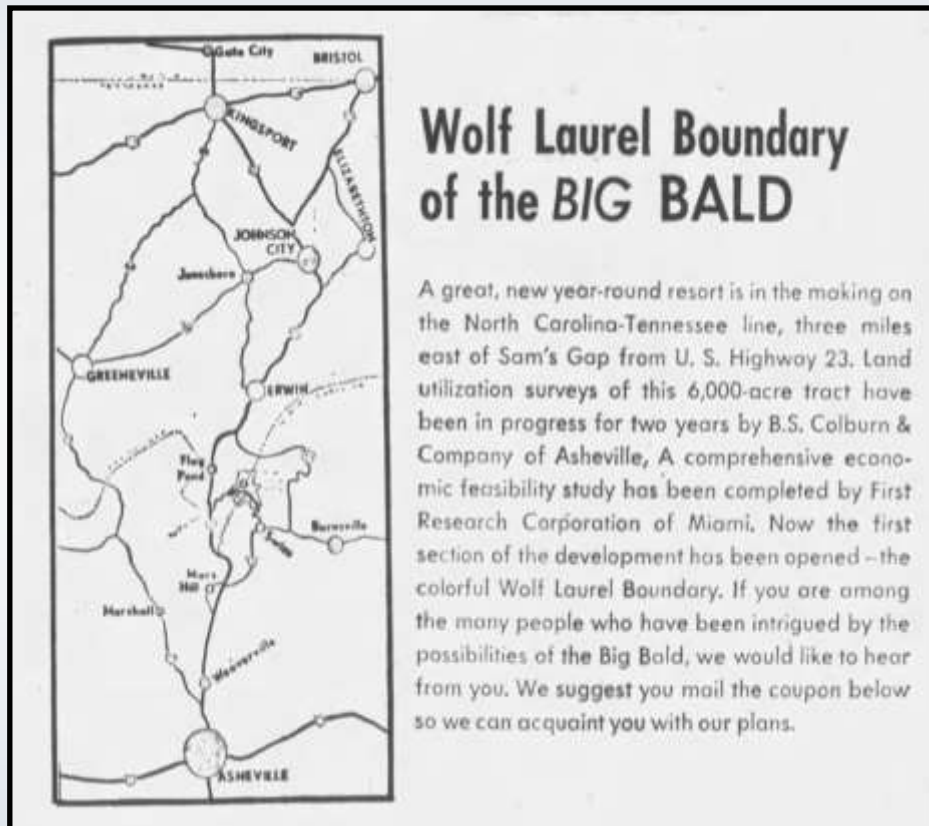
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Wolf Laurel Historical Society

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Thus, this year we celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Wolf Laurel, the community that we now call home. Those who knew him swore that in the beginning Edwards' dream was simply a wilderness playground where he and his friends could enjoy hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, and the other things that the sixties "Back to the Wilderness" movement treasured. When the two and a half hour drive along two-lane mountain roads from Kingsport left them too little time to enjoy the wilderness on weekends, Bud began buying up old log cabins being taken down throughout Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina and reconstructing them in what became known as Settlers Village, around the mill ponds between the barn and the sheep meadow on the old Wilson farm. Soon, Bud and his friends were bringing their young families to enjoy the retreat together.



They loved their wilderness haven so much the friends urged Bud to begin thinking about the value of this wonderful land as a development opportunity: Wouldn't others caught up in the yearning for retreat into the wilderness flock to such a property, eager for the same mountain recreation that they were enjoying? Within a year, plans were percolating to develop a mountain resort: Wolf Laurel Boundary. In June 1965, "The Ultimate Plan," the map of a vision for a resort containing ski slopes, a dude ranch, a camping area, fishing streams, shopping areas, and a resort hotel high above the Buck home on Elk Wallow Knob was printed and ready for promotion. Later a spectacular mountain golf course and second homes were added to the vision. Wolf Laurel was on its way.

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Wolf Laurel Historical Society

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for profit and pleasure
invest in a
MOUNTAIN HOMESITE
In The Great Smoky Mountains
the planned resort community



WOLF-LAUREL BOUNDARY ESTATES



Colorful A-frame and Bavarian chalets nestle in the rugged mountains adjacent to the famed Cherokee National Forest. This new recreational development consists of 6,000 acres of soul freeing mountain.

The 18-hole golf course promises to be the mountain show course of our Eastern United States. Also the skiing conditions promise to be the best. You can inspect the models and dude ranch cabins already built.

Here is your opportunity to have your own vacation home to enjoy today or to hold as an investment in America's greatest growth industry, RECREATION.

*Follow US #23 to the North Carolina Line and look for signs.

You must visit the Wolf-Laurel Boundary to really appreciate the appeal of this spectacular leisure home development.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Call or visit Big Bald Mountain Sales Office: 704/689-6111 or write or telephone Big Bald Mountain Development Corporation, P.O. Box 9, Kingsport, Tennessee 37662 — Telephone 615/246-8161.

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Wolf Laurel Historical Society

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This year, the Wolf Laurel Historical Society invites you to join us in celebrating Wolf Laurel's Diamond Jubilee. We will have programs this summer recalling those early days of young people enjoying the beauty of the mountains that motivated Bud Edwards and his friends and sent the land under Big Bald on its way to being the community that we enjoy today. Those who have enjoyed Wolf Laurel for the last two, three, or four decades can remember what that early wilderness was like and how far we have come in those sixty years. Those who have just arrived can sate their curiosity for how all this came to be by appreciating the vision of Bud Edwards and how it led to what they enjoy today.

If you would like to get started with the Jubilee, the Wolf Laurel Historical Society has materials to help. Facsimiles of that 1965 "Ultimate Plan" that encapsulated Bud Edwards' initial vision are for sale from the historical society to grace the walls of your piece of Wolf Laurel. And *A Treasure in the Appalachian Sky: A History of Wolf Laurel in Madison and Yancey Counties, North Carolina* by James F. Klumpp and Warren H. Johnson is for sale from the Society or at the Wolf Laurel Community Center in that original barn that Roth Wilson left for Bud Edwards. A magnificent color print of an imagining of that barn in 1890, originally painted in oil by noted artist Gayle Tate, is also available at the Community Center. Frame it for your walls. Or if you want to know more about the land before Wolf Laurel, pick up your copy of *Delia Tipton Brittan's Upper Laurel and Her People* at the Community Center. All proceeds go to support the programming and projects of the Wolf Laurel Historical Society. For more information see our website at WLHistory.org/pubs.

So, the Society hopes you will join us for our free programs this summer. Membership to support the Society's work is \$20 for individual and \$35 for families. Information is on our website: WLHistory.org. We look forward to celebrating this Diamond Jubilee with you.

For more on our programs, on the history of Wolf Laurel, or our publications please visit the Society's website at

WLHistory.org.





SE Trust 2023 Conservation Highlights!



- Planted 200,000 longleaf pine seedlings with assistance from the Longleaf Alliance, USDA, Georgia Forestry Commission, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, and other partners.
- Staff made over 200 visits to SE Trust sites for maintenance, monitoring, and improvement.
- Managed over 500 acres of beneficial, prescribed fires with assistance from the Georgia Forestry Commission and other partners.
- Keith participated with Georgia DNR on hellbender surveys and was featured on a national NPR video of the project.
- Acquired 150-acre Snapfinger Woods Nature Preserve in DeKalb County, Ga and 40-acre Big Creek Nature Preserve in Forsyth County, Ga.
- Completed multiyear Golden Winged Warbler Habitat Project at 750-acre Bald Mountain Creek Nature Preserve in Yancey County, NC in partnership with Eco-Foresters, USDA, NC Forest Service, and SE Trust Board Member Aimee Tomcho.



SE Trust 2023 Community Highlights!

- Keith Ray addressed over 400 K-12 students in Cherokee and Pickens Counties, Ga. He also presented to other environmental groups including Upper Etowah River Alliance and Georgia ForestWatch.
- Hosted the 2nd annual 24-hour Bio-Blitz at Staraland Nature Preserve in Cherokee County, Ga in partnership with Reinhardt University.
- Provided support and site access for professors and students from Reinhardt University, Piedmont University, Kennesaw State University, Dalton State College, and Clemson University. Through which over 75 students participated in small scale research projects on SE Trust properties.
- Bill Jones addressed the Tennessee Environmental Network Conference on the topic of Community Engagement in Land Conservation.
- Supported and funded 4 nature photography clinics and 6 other nature-based community events at SE Trust sites.

**SOUTHEASTERN TRUST FOR PARKS
AND LAND INC**

122 N Avondale Rd Ste 230
Avondale Estates, GA 30002

<https://stpal.org/>





SE Trust 2023 Recreation Highlights!

SE Trust Celebrates Partners: Carolina Climbers Coalition and Georgia Cycling Association

- Built and activated 45-acre Aerotropolis Nature Park in Fulton County, Ga with over 80% of project funding from external sources. Site has Georgia's first mountain bike skills development area which has since been copied at non-SE Trust parks.



- Created bouldering projects at Bald Mountain Creek Nature Preserve and Campbellton Creek Nature Park in Fulton County, Ga in partnership with Carolina Climbing Coalition and Southeastern Climbing Coalition.

- Awarded 2023 Partner of the Year by Georgia Cycling Association.
- Hosted two mountain bike and one trail running race events at Talking Rock Nature Park in Pickens County, Ga.
- Acquired Preservation Oaks Nature Preserve in Fulton County, Ga as part of our pocket park project.
- Added 4 stretching stations at 4 SE Trust sites. Added bike fix-it stands at 2 SE Trust sites.

Blast from the Past - 1998

TOP OF THE BALD

Volume 11 Number 1

April/May 1998

President's Report... Bob Burns

To those who spent the winter elsewhere, welcome back to Wolf Laurel. We hope you had a safe and pleasant winter even though *El Niño* Played havoc around the country. Wolf Laurel certainly felt the brunt with exceptional amounts of snowfall. Approximately 165 inches of snow fell this winter, with the largest fall being four feet, and the latest fall occurring on March 23. We had strong winds, as well, gusting above 70 miles per hour on several occasions.

The golf course should be in excellent condition, considering the amount of rain and snow we've had since late October. Opening day is May 1, with limited play being available between April 15 and May 1, depending on weather conditions. The Club will open and begin serving meals on May 1, with Joe McFee serving as manager. Jody Ramsey attended seminars in California this winter for additional training in his role as course maintenance supervisor, and Brian Church, who will continue as golf pro, has recently attended a golf show to find the latest and best items for stocking the pro shop. Skip Root will serve as social director this year, and Bill Ames will return to round out the staff as chef.

The WLPOA Board of Directors met throughout the winter months. Several items of importance are forthcoming:

- (a) A new directory should be completed by early May. (See Page 2 for additional information on the directory.)
- (b) A new information and activity sign concept awaits final approval by our Board and Taylor Bush. These approvals should be granted in early spring.
- (c) We purchased a new Compac computer and HP printer in January for the WLPOA office.

I would like to thank our road maintenance folks for the tremendous job they did throughout the winter. Our roads were kept open through the worst conditions only because of the dedication and hard work of Marvin, Harvey, Stacy, and John. Thanks fellows for a great job.

Our security folks (Fred, Larry, Shag, Joe, Richie and Sam) likewise did an excellent job. No confirmed break-in's or vandalism have been reported. Thanks to each of you for a fine job.

The new 911 address system has been completed and is now being used by the post office. The information has also been made available to the telephone company. Your new address plaque should have been sent to you in the mail. If your home is less than 100 feet from the road, you must display your new number at or near your front door. If your home is not visible from the street, or is more than 100 feet from the road, you must display your new number at the road next to your

(Continued on page 2)



Take note!
Wolf Laurel residents have new addresses and a new area code.

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TOP OF THE BALD

President's Report (Continued from page 1)

driveway. If you didn't receive your plaque, call the administrative office (689-9212) or the WLPOA office (689-9229). Some plaques were sent there.

Another change, as of March 22, is the area code for our telephones. The new area code for Madison and Yancey Counties is **828**. For the next seven months callers will receive a recorded message informing them of the new area code. After October, there will be no such message. Be sure to notify everyone how to call. Out with 704; in with **828**. ♦

Volunteers Honored at Ebbs Chapel Community Center

By Barbara Merrill, Secretary, Ebbs Chapel Community Center Board of Directors

Ebbs Chapel Volunteer Firemen and EMTs were honored Dec 11, 2023, at an appreciation dinner organized and hosted by the Ebbs Chapel Community Center. The event expressed the appreciation of the community for volunteers who work every day to make families in the Upper Laurel Community safe and protected. The Community Center credits the community for their financial help to make this event a success.

The celebration was held in the newly opened Event Room at the center. The evening began with a full course catered dinner for more than 60 firemen, EMTs and their families. Presents were under the Christmas tree for all the children and gift cards were given to the firemen and EMTs. Door prizes completed the evening for men, women, boys and girls.

Remarks by Ebbs Chapel Fire Chief, Josh Jenkins, and Board Chair, Anthony Willis, praised the volunteers for their unselfish dedication to the extensive training and hard work that they put in responding to emergencies night and day. Both men thanked and expressed their appreciation to the Ebbs Chapel Community Center and its supporters for all the effort and work to make the evening possible.

The Ebbs Chapel Community Center thanks all those in Wolf Laurel who supported this effort to honor the Ebbs Chapel Fire Brigade and EMTs and their families at the holidays. Thank you.



<https://ebbschapelcommunitycenter.org/>; (828) 777-4454 (Marsha)

Hello WNC friends!

I am writing to you today to share with you about an upcoming effort to bring an awesome concert series to the Ebbs Chapel Community Center's Performing Arts Center at the far western peala of Madison County. This is an amazing 250 seat facility and we are so excited to both help the Ebbs Chapel Community Center and to bring wonderful traditional bluegrass music to Ebbs Chapel, as well as bring in bluegrass music lovers from both the Asheville and the Tri-Cities regions. If you would be so kind as to share the below links through your network, we would greatly appreciate it! My name is Leslie Smith and I used to work as the Lunsford Festival Director at Mars Hill College about 14 years ago and know my family has a band with myself and my kids, we are the Roan Street Ramblers and we love traveling around playing music at all these wonderful Fiddlers Conventions, Festivals and Venues in our mountain region.

The concert is March 23rd, 2024 and will feature one of the hottest bands on the circuit... the Tennessee Bluegrass Band! Here are the links to share. Thank you in advance for any help you can provide with marketing this event and please feel free to reach out with any questions!

Thanks so much,

Leslie Smith bluegrassinthelaurel@gmail.com

Leslieburrell@gmail.com (personal email)

Roanstreeramblers@gmail.com (band email)

Poster with QR: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DsQiWNFfU8QhJfAvgTWrhu4UsQmBI7c_/view?usp=sharing

Event & ticket sales:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-tennessee-bluegrass-band-with-the-roan-street-ramblers-opening-tickets-834843357957?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>

Gayle Barr, Wolf Laurel Nextdoor

This is why Madison County is so special. IF you wondered about the Ebbs Chapel Community Center's Turkey shoot for the wood for the elderly, this video tells all. It started off with a few volunteers and now has over a hundred that come from all over to help now. Thank you to all those volunteers. This is what a neighborly community is. Copy and paste the link.

https://youtu.be/9Wzy0aR_d1M?si=iupo8kuNb_hvo3Dn

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FOR
AN EVENING OF MUSIC

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\$25 AT THE DOOR

*Bluegrass in the Laurel
Concerts at Ebbs Chapel*
facebook.com/bluegrassinthelaurel

Opening Band: Roan Street Ramblers
Ebbs Chapel Community Center, 281 Laurel Valley Rd, Mars Hill, NC 28754

Hiking and Walking in the Wolf Laurel Area

Previous Hikes (just to spur your thinking)

Name	Distance	Difficulty
Dupont Falls	3	Easy
Beauty Spot	5	Moderate
Carver Gap to Grassy Ridge	5.5	Moderate
Pump Gap Loop	5.1	Moderate
Rocky Fork	4	Moderate
Double Springs/6th Symphony	4.25	Moderate
Bailey Mountain Summit	4.3	Moderate
Little Bald	4	Moderate
Walker Creek Trail	5	Moderate
Crabtree Falls	8	Moderate
Baily Mountain Summit	5	Moderate
Beauty Spot	5	Moderate
Weaver Knob Loop	2.5	Moderate
Sam's Knob	3	Moderate
Walker Creek	5	Moderate
Hogback Ridge	5	Moderate
Camp Creek	5	Moderate
Rocky Fork	6	Easy
Devils Fork to Flint Mnt	5.5	Moderate
Tanyard Gap to Rich Mnt Fire Tower	6	Moderate
6th Symphony	3.25	Moderate
Laurel Creek	7	Easy
Douglas Falls	5.3	Moderate
Sam's Knob	3	Moderate

Wolf Laurel Hiking Your private gateway to the Appalachian Trail

To the left and at the link below is a list of hikes on a variety 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>

<http://www.wolflaurelcountryclub.com/hiking.php>

Hiking and Walking in the Wolf Laurel Area

I would like to personally thank Tim Carrigan for the work he has done to coordinate the Wolf Pack hikes. When Tim asked if I would be willing to take over the coordination for this coming season and beyond, I said yes. The hiking group welcomed me into the community as they have many others, and this is my way to pay it forward. I will do my best to coordinate the Wolf Pack hikes.

As you know, Spring is coming, and I am sure everyone is as excited to get back to our summer hikes. This means it is time to begin planning for our upcoming season of hikes. **We need volunteers to serve as hike leaders.** If any of you are interested in planning and leading one or more hikes, please let me know at your earliest convenience. I will set up a schedule, based on the information I receive. If I don't receive volunteers, I may reach out to people individually to seek assistance. On the previous page is a list of some of the hikes we have done over the last couple of years to help spur your thinking about potential hikes you may want to lead during the summer 2024 season. We are not limited to these hikes, but I thought it might help to review previous hikes we have done.

If you would like to lead a hike, please provide me with the following information, which will help me schedule it and help hikers to determine if the hike is right for them and/or to schedule their day based on how far away the hike is from the community:

- Your name, as hike leader
 - The date you are able to lead a hike (you may lead more than one!)
 - The name of the trail or hike
 - The meet up location (e.g., Community Center Parking Lot, Big, Bald Parking Lot, etc.)
 - How far away the trail head is from our front gate, if it is outside of Wolf Laurel
 - Directions to the trailhead, or a link to the directions
 - The distance of the hike in miles
 - The difficulty level of the hike (Easy, Moderate, Difficult, etc.)
- Any distinguishing geographical features that might be important to know (e.g., water crossing required, all uphill, all downhill, extremely rocky, open to sun, need for poles, etc.)

We will continue to hike on Tuesdays, with a Wolf Laurel departure time of 8:00 a.m., unless otherwise noted. For your information, the Tuesdays are:

June 4, 11, 18, 25

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

August 6, 13, 20, 27

September 3, 10, 17, 24

I ask that each hiker offer a few dollars to the volunteer drivers to cover their gas. I also ask that the hike leader know how many people start the hike, and ensure that all hikers are accounted for at the end of the hike to ensure that no hikers are accidentally left behind. Also be aware of the number of cars in the caravan, and make sure that nobody gets separated.

I look forward to a great hiking season!

Mary Lovley

crazy4bunnies@yahoo.com

Nextdoor posts



Eric Von Overlap winterscape

Rebecca Martin
sunrise



Timm Davis
"Alpenglow"

Nextdoor posts

Eric Von Overlap wolf winter



Jennifer Decker winter



Nextdoor posts

Diane Lynne Chanako



Monica Martin

Timm Davis sunrise



Common Violets Deserve a Closer Look

By Donna Cottingham

Small violets herald the arrival of spring throughout North Carolina. There are more than 70 species of the native purple, blue, yellow or white flowers in North America. But there is more to violets than meets the eye. A weed to some people and a sugary treat to others, violets are also an important food source to wildlife and deserve a closer look.

One interesting fact about violets is their means of seed dispersal. While many flowering plants rely on wind, water, birds and animals to move seeds from the plant of origin to a new environment, violets rely on assistance from some tiny helpers – ants. Myrmecochory, or ant farming, is a mutually beneficial relationship between violets and ants. Violet seeds have an attachment to the outer seed coat called an elaiosome, and it is rich in proteins and lipids. Ants gather the seeds and carry them home to their nests as a food source. Once the elaiosome is consumed by the ants and their larvae, the unharmed seed is then discarded, or “planted” in an enriched spot, underground and out of sight of predators. Both violets and ants benefit from this unique arrangement. Several other spring ephemerals rely on myrmecochory, including bloodroot, red and white trilliums, hepatica and trout lily.

Then, there is the importance of the plants to wildlife. Violets are the host plant for several butterflies, including the great spangled fritillary. Female fritillaries lay their eggs in late summer. Caterpillars hatch in the fall and sleep until spring, when they awaken and eat the leaves of violets. Valuable pollinators such as honey bees, bumble bees, mason bees and blue orchard bees consume the nectar of these early spring flowers. Birds such as quail, juncos, mourning doves and turkeys eat the seeds of violets, as do mice and other small animals.

Violet flowers are edible and are rich in Vitamin C. They can be crystallized, or sugared, and eaten as candy or used to garnish cakes and other desserts. Fresh violets can be used in salads, and to make jelly, syrup and vinegar. Unfortunately, if you Google native violets you will find numerous articles about eradicating them from your lawn. Based on the benefits of violets to birds, butterflies and bees, it is safer, easier and less costly to learn to live with, and appreciate the small spring flowers than to eliminate them.

Common blue violet, *Viola sororia*
Photo by Donna Cottingham
carolina_donna@yahoo.com



WLPOA and Village Club Links

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

It provides information including the following:

- ◆ WLPOA Committees - https://367ab657-4382-4e2d-ae61-4bb3593fob06.filesusr.com/ugd/1610a3_9562a2014de94219aa610e8302bbad8b.pdf

- ◆ WLPOA / Village Club Office Contact Information - https://367ab657-4382-4e2d-ae61-4bb3593fob06.filesusr.com/ugd/1610a3_b5d14eb01c2347cab1292c49052797ff.pdf

- ◆ WLPOA and Village Club Benefits - https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com/files/ugd/1610a3_2d9d49d267ca4558bf15844890c186ba.pdf

- ◆ Package Cabin Procedures - https://367ab657-4382-4e2d-ae61-4bb3593fob06.filesusr.com/ugd/1610a3_310b8001005d42599aebbd79dofc98c6.pdf

- ◆ Wolf Laurel on the Internet - https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com/files/ugd/1610a3_9b1b79531b5847d8833c88b069186e62.pdf



Wolf Laurel Road Maintenance and Security WL Map

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

https://www.wolf laurel poa.com/files/ugd/1610a3_395478a5b51847e0afdd7f285a94eb36.pdf

WOLF LAUREL COMMUNITY MAP
Scale: Approximately 1" = 1 mile
2012/2008

LEGEND
 — Main Road
 — Gravel Road
 - - - - - Trail
 P Parking
 S Stream

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Map Advertisements (Bottom Row):
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 - Mark Fox
 - ELEMENTS OF EARTH LANDSCAPING
 - Ride THE WOLF
 - MORSEAN
 - J.P. Shelton Electric
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Advertising Information For 2024 TOBs

- 1) Additional TOB editions are scheduled to be published on the first of 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: \$75 / edition

Full page: \$85 / edition

Ad designing starts at \$30

- 4) Remit to:

Larry Veatch

5753 Hwy 85 N, PMB #4427

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



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

Thank you for your service to the Wolf Laurel community.