



# ***Top Of*** ***The Bald***

Fall 2022 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) **Click on Listing to Navigate to page**

<a href="#"><u>WL Property Owners Association (WLPOA) Board .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>5</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>WLPOA / Village Club Staff .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>6</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>President's Notes .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>7</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Editor's Notes.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>8</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>WLPOA Annex Package Depot .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>9-10</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>WLPOA Staff Appreciation .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>10</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Round-Robin Parker Charity Event .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>11</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>WLPOA Library Report.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>12-13</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Wolfminster .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>14</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>WLRMS - Tabitha Orlando.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>15</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>WLRMS - Staff .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>16</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>WLRMS - WL Forest .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>17</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>WLRMS - Wildfire .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>18-20</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Safe Fires .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>21</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>WLRMS - Bears .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>22-23</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>WLRMS - Deer .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>24</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Deer (Donna Cottingham) .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>25</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Dark Sky .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>26</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>WL Country Club.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>27-29</u></a>



# *Top of the Bald - Table of Contents*

(Page 2 of 3) **Click on Listing to Navigate to page**

<a href="#"><u>Blast from the Past .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>30</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>WL Historical Society .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>31-36</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Wildlife Conservation Society - Oaks .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>37</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>STPAL.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>38-39</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Wolfpack Hiking .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>40-42</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Sunset .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>43</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Nextdoor Wildlife / Goldenrod .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>44-45</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Mountain Valley Resource Conservation - Leaves .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>46</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Madison County Arts Council.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>47-49</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>WL Village Club Facebook Page .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>50</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>WLPOA/Village Club Websites .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>51</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>WLRMS WL Map .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>52</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Where Was I?.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>53-54</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>List of Advertisers .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>55</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Advertisements .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>56-72</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>TOB Advertising Information.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>73</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Parker Charity Pickleball Round Robin Pix .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>74-75</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Village Club Fall Pix.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>76</u></a>



# *Top of the Bald - Table of Contents*

(page 3 of 3) **Click on Listing to Navigate to Ad**

## **Advertisers**

<a href="#"><u>Asheville Home Repair .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>55</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Precision Restoration Services .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>56</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Deb d'Aquin, Real Estate Advisor .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>57</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Affordable Tree Care .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>58</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Mike Whitt Maintenance .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>59</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>English Auto Repair .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>59</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Blue Ridge Shine .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>60</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Akut-Abuv, Professional Painting Service .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>61</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Glorious Mayhem Handyman .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>62</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Boundless Body &amp; Massage .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>63</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Hicks Real Estate Group .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>64</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Black Bear Realty, Inc. ....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>65</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Wolf Mountain Realty .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>66</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Mountain Laurel Realty .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>67</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>The Lodge Pizzeria &amp; Grill .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>68</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Elevate Paint &amp; Repair .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>69</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Elevation Pest and Home Solutions, LLC .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>70</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Osborne Construction Company .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>71</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Wolf's Corner Plaza, LLC .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>72</u></a>

**TOB Advertising Information...73**

***Thank You! to the TOB Advertisers***

## **Wolf Laurel Property Owners Association (WLPOA)**

### **Board of Directors:**

John Brackett (2021) President

Carl Larrabee (2020) Vice President

Theodore Meyer (2021) Secretary

Jamie Conrad (2021) Treasurer

Bob Hicks (2020)

Doug Orman (2021)

Steve Wilcox (2021)

Lynn Cagney (2022)

Scott McCaleb (2022)

Cary Monroe (2022)

Robert Lahr (2022)

Earlene Shofi Immediate Past President & Personnel



Website: [www.wolflaurelpoa.com](http://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

**WLPOA Director:** Liz Benson - [liz@wolflaurelpoa.com](mailto:liz@wolflaurelpoa.com),  
828-689-9229

**Village Club Manager:** Carol Jones -  
[carol@wolflaurelpoa.com](mailto:carol@wolflaurelpoa.com), 828-689-4089



### Other VC Staff:

Donna Dickey  
Angie Gamble  
Robin Alleman  
Brian Alleman  
Dan Kaufman  
Theodore Meyer  
Dziyana "Diana" Braginiec  
Ali Macaulay  
Paul Dickey

### WLPOA:

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

**Village Club Hours for  
November - T-Th 10-3**

TOB Editor/Publisher, Webmaster

Larry Veatch

[larryv8@gmail.com](mailto:larryv8@gmail.com)

### 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  
[wlrms@wolflaurelrms.com](mailto:wlrms@wolflaurelrms.com), or [wsecurity@wolflaurelrms.com](mailto:wsecurity@wolflaurelrms.com).

## President's Notes



The leaves have changed, and the mountain is giving us a spectacular show of fall colors. Unfortunately, the season is wrapped up but that doesn't mean the fun stops for those that will be here this winter. The Village Club has some winter events planned and we encourage you to participate if you are on the mountain. Please continue to watch your email to learn of these events or feel free to call the office for more details. This summer we have remained busy and have also accomplished many of the objectives the POA Board set out to accomplish. The POA Board would like to thank our dedicated staff for your excellent work this year and our many volunteers that give hours supporting the many events throughout the summer and beyond. We now turn our attention to planning for next year and we look forward to your input. If you have ideas for next year or you want to get involved in helping to plan for future events, please contact the POA office.

Please remember that our POA and Village Club staff will transition to a reduced schedule for winter, but we will continue to operate and be available to serve your needs. In addition to the Village Club's winter activities that I mentioned above, we will continue to maintain a reduced schedule for the library for those cold winter days ahead. Anamika Mishra said, "Winter is not a season, it's a celebration." Until next spring, I hope everyone enjoys the celebration of Winter.

**John Brackett**



## **Things change; they evolve – Everywhere, including Wolf Laurel.**

Cultures, nations, empires, states, communities evolve. Wolf Laurel began with the indigenous peoples, then came settlers, then vacationers, residents, and investors. This area has been utilized for hunting, farming, timber, then for vacationing, a resort location, second home dwellings, rental property and for some permanent residences.

A reading of "A Treasure in the Appalachian Sky: A History of Wolf Laurel in Madison and Yancey Counties, North Carolina" and "Upper Laurel and Her People," have provided many of us clear indications of the evolution of Wolf Laurel over multiple generations. The Wolf Laurel Historical Society continues to provide a method to preserve the knowledge of its past, and to share that knowledge with others.

There has been an inn, a restaurant, a hotel, a motel, a swimming pool, and a country club, all of which have come, some of which are gone, and a few of which were revived. The people and the environment (natural, cultural, financial, etc.) have and continue to massage and mold the Wolf Laurel community. Things have and will continue to evolve in Wolf Laurel.

Some ideas and changes work their way toward becoming an enduring part of the community; others have emerged and withered. One idea that has been explored within the past couple of decades has been to re-merge the POA and the HOA. One more recent success has been the repurposing of the old "Wolf Cave Inn" motel to be a package depot facility, and perhaps in the future to house other POA functions and activities. Most recently, suggestions have included a dog park at the Village Club, and to merge the Wolf Laurel Country Club with the Village Club.

Each person who lives in Wolf Laurel can become a small or considerable force in the movement of its evolution. Those who are attentive and are interested in its changes, have the opportunity to impact on the changes to come. Those who get to know their neighbors, share ideas, attend meetings, will continue to have an impact on Wolf Laurel's evolution.

This publication, the WLPOA website, the Village Club Facebook page, social and recreational activities, and WLRMS, WLPOA, , WLHS and the WLCC meetings provide opportunities to be informed and to influence the evolution of Wolf Laurel.

Please be a "small part or a considerable force" in this process.

Larry Veatch, TOB Editor / Webmaster



# WLPOA Annex Package Depot

9

## Donna Dickey

Donna and Paul Dickey have owned property in WL for 20 years, and they have lived here full time for six years. Donna is the primary Village Club staff member responsible for the functioning of the Annex package depot. She sorts packages three days a week, other days are handled by Paul, and by Theo Meyers and Dan Kaufman.

Six days a week Donna and her helpers sort our packages. The smaller ones are placed on the shelves in alphabetical order and large packages are aligned along the wall also in alphabetical order. The sorting takes about two hours per day and then there's the additional time spent sending emails and making phone calls. Donna estimates she makes about six to 10 phone calls per day, and sends about 10 emails and text messages each day, letting people know about package arrivals. She maintains a list of POA residents which is at this time about 750 long. Donna also calls to let some people know that USPS deliveries have been made on special kinds of items – e.g., perishable foods and flowers.

The Annex receives deliveries from UPS, FedEx Express and FedEx Ground as well as via USPS; DHL delivers about one time per month. (There is also a package depot “shelter” at the Preserve gate, although it is small and receives only a few packages for residents via UPS out of Burnsville, for some folks in the Preserve subdivision.)

At the POA Annex facility the heaviest days for deliveries are in May and June when folks are returning to the mountain and then during the winter holiday season in November and December. The number of packages ranges from between 50 and 250 per day, with an average of about 100 per day. Thousands of packages delivered per month and the loss of a package has been rare!

One of the challenging issues which comes up is heavy packages. UPS and FedEx are not supposed to deliver any packages over 140 pounds but sometimes they do. Large packages are challenging for the staff to move and sort. Donna asks that if you are planning to have large packages or items delivered, you also make arrangements to pick them up at the time of delivery. There are independent delivery services and furniture and appliance stores that will deliver such items, but arrangements need to be made by members to meet the delivery truck at the Annex for reception of the item(s). Contractors working on a home can pick up items for members. There are also folks on the mountain who provide their assistance to residence expecting large deliveries, e.g., Mike Whitt ([drumminmike@yahoo.com](mailto:drumminmike@yahoo.com)) and Dan Morris ([danieltmorris123@gmail.com](mailto:danieltmorris123@gmail.com)). Also, members are asked not to order packages if they are not going to be here to pick them up within a couple of days; packages not picked up can get misplaced.

(continued)



# WLPOA Annex Package Depot

10

**Donna Dickey** (continued)

The renovation of the Annex has gone well, and the package depot is a substantial improvement over the old “Willis Cabin,” e.g., an air conditioner has been installed, and a dehumidifier also assists in making things comfortable for staff. Some of the things that need to be done at the Annex include a more robust heating system which will replace the small space heater that now suffices. A more robust heating unit is scheduled to be installed, as well as a new lock system. Prior to the new lock system being implemented in the next few weeks, each POA member will receive their own personal 4-digit code for entry into the package depot. They will receive an email from the POA regarding this process prior to its implementation. Another need to be addressed is more gravel in the parking area – Please wipe your feet well when it’s wet there.

Should you want to make contact about package deliveries and pickup, email Donna at [donna@wolflaurelpoa.com](mailto:donna@wolflaurelpoa.com). She is very helpful in making things run smoothly at the Package Depot, which I have heard over and over from others. She expressed appreciation for the support of the Board and the rest of the Village Club staff.

**Thanks to Donna and the rest of the crew who handle all those packages for us!**

Interview by L. Veatch

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## WLPOA/VC Staff Appreciation Luncheon



Thanks for all the work you have done this year!



# **The First Annual Lloyd "Coach" Parker Memorial Pancreatic Cancer Research Foundation Wolf Laurel Pickleball Round Robin**

11

Our Round Robin event was a success! A worthy cause and a fun time! Thanks to all who participated in the event and those who made donations.

**The funds raised totaled \$2600! (contributed to the Lustgarten Foundation for pancreatic cancer research - <https://lustgarten.org/>)**

## **Pickleball Participants:**

Cathy Boyle  
Jeff Kaiser  
Carl and Janis Larrabee  
Julio Romero Jr  
Susan and Brian Parker  
Fred Tygart  
Deborah Meyer  
Robin Bradbury  
Greg and Sherry Gregory  
George Rauh  
Michael & Melanie Savidge  
and Larry Veatch

Guests and spectators included several family members and friends such as Sam and Debbie Stebbins. Mike Skypek, Gary and JoAnn Witt, Mary Lou and Russ Woodiwiss, and Cary and Cammie Monroe were also supporters.

Thanks again to Cindy Kaiser, Susan Parker, Tracy Aimone, and Becky Shennan for getting it organized, and to the participants and guests.

## **It was fun!**

We plan to have another Round Robin next year.

Thanks to the WLPOA and the Village Club for making pickleball an option in Wolf Laurel.

([Click to see event pix on page 74-75.](#))

← Lloyd  
July '22



# Fall POA Library Report, 2022

Wolf Laurel Reads!  
Yvonne Carignan

12

## Wolf Laurel Reads!

November: the time for end of season library statistics. This year's tally for books borrowed and returned was a nice surprise. With 846 books, puzzles, DVDs, games, and audio books used out of our library this year, we had a 27% increase in use of the library collection this year over last year.

I have recorded library statistics since 2018. The lowest use statistics we have had during those five years was in 2019 at 628 items borrowed, low perhaps due to covid? Donations this year totaled 1334, which is average for the generous donations we receive from the community. As usual, gifts were mostly books, but also included the other types of items people enjoy borrowing.

It was particularly gratifying to see children's books get used more often this year, perhaps because donations have improved that collection so much. With the theme of Native Peoples for the Kids Camp this summer, the teachers selected some wonderful new Indian children's books for camp activities, and then donated the books to the library. In addition, a newly donated bookcase (thank you, Kippy!) in the children's room allows for better display of oversize books, and Liz and the staff have been busy organizing a great new space for finding puzzles, lounging, and watching TV.

Come take a look!

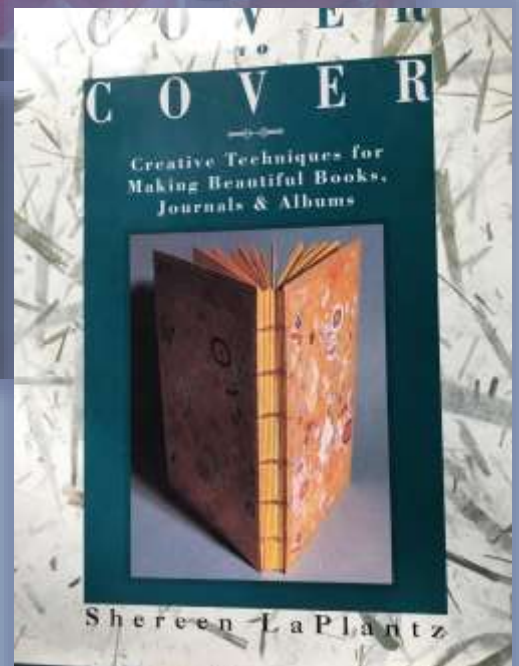
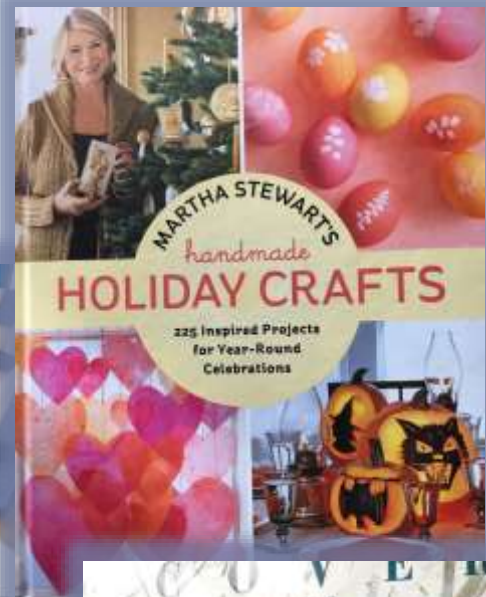




## Wolf Laurel Reads! (continued)

As usual, adult fiction received the heaviest use -- suspense, romance, mysteries, historical novels, book club choices, all providing recreational reading. Recently published novels filled the “New Arrival” shelves all summer, and readers selected books from those shelves often. But non-fiction was not neglected. Numerous books from history sections – American, military, and world history were borrowed. Self-help, cooking, travel, as well as other topics, were also popular. This year our arts and crafts bookshelf was filled out with donations of books on paper crafting, bookmaking, holiday crafts, paint recipes, and more. Biography is another set of books that are used often, and I noticed that we have popular culture well covered. Fans of rock, country, folk and other music of past decades might enjoy biographies in our collection on Paul McCartney, Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Elton John, Eric Clapton, David Crosby, the Eagles, Neil Young, and Johnny Cash. But biography/autobiographies/memoirs include the famous and not so famous from all eras and walks of life. Come see who you might enjoy reading about.

As always, thank you, donors, for making the collection fresh and enticing to readers, and those of you who stay during winter, don’t forget to take advantage of the community center’s open hours to come borrow some books!



# 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Woofminster Event

14

by Lori Wyman Macaulay

On Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, the Wolf Laurel Village Club celebrated their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Woofminster Event.

Woofminster is an annual event that celebrates the Canine members of our Wolf Laurel Families. We play games and have contests to raise money in order to donate to the Yancy County Humane Society. This year our event raised \$250.

The event is usually held on the basketball court, but this year it rained all day. Never fear, this year the event was held under the Pavilion in the Village Club. It turned out to be a great venue for Woofminster.

The event attracted big dogs, little dogs, shaggy ones, noisy ones, puppies, and teenagers. Not only did the dogs have to perform, but their owners got to be a part of the games as well.

One of the fan favorites is "Musical Chairs." This version of Musical Chairs starts with all of the dogs and their owners in a circle. The music starts to play. Each time the music stops, all of the dogs have to sit. The last one to sit is eliminated. This continues until there is only one dog left.

There are always lots of prizes to choose from for the winners of each category. In addition to the various games, we have prizes for biggest, smallest, best-behaved, most unique trick, and most vocal speaker. Not to mention the shaggiest and the cutest dogs.

Everyone had a really nice time and we were able to donate to a good cause. If you have a canine member of your family, please join us next summer for our sixth annual Woofminster Event.





Resident Owned Since 2012

From the WLRMS President's Desk

Welcome, Tabatha Orlando, Executive Operations Manager

On September 6th we welcomed Tabatha Orlando to serve Wolf Laurel Road Maintenance and Security Homeowners Association as its new Executive Operations Manager. Ms. Orlando brings broad experience in business operations management to enhance the WLRMS team, including skill sets in accounting, systems, human resources and risk management. Also, her “can do” attitude combined with her skills in the areas of evaluating and improving processes and systems will be a well needed addition to the organization’s effectiveness and efficiency. We have already seen the benefit of her attitude and skills in the very short time she has been on board.

The Executive Operations Manager position reports directly to the Board and is the most senior ranking staff position within WLRMS, responsible for providing continuity and oversight to the daily operations and future planning of the Association. We believe she will be a significant supporting asset for the Board to rely on in researching, presenting and following through on decisions made by the Board. She will also be gradually assuming and managing many tasks now performed by our very active volunteer Board members.

As more residents adopt Wolf Laurel as their full or part time residence, and as our infrastructure ages, the operations of WLRMS increase in scope, complexity, and magnitude. Gone are the days where owners thrived on “roughing it out” in Wolf Laurel, and expectations of our mountain community have changed. Before the change to a resident owned community, the President of the Board essentially served as the chief of operations. Within 4 years of becoming a resident owned community the WLRMS board identified that as the size and complexity of WLRMS operations grew, so did our need for professional management and the Board undertook a methodical search to retain a private community management company. Their research pointed out that Wolf Laurel did not fit the mold of any management company, and to engage such a company, the entire community would require an overhaul. Following this, the role of President and key officers grew to a more than full-time unpaid position, making finding Property Owners willing to serve on the Board much more challenging. Still, board members serve for a relatively short period of time. As the board membership rotates with potentially three (of 9) new members elected each year, fresh ideas and new skill sets are gained, but experience, background on long term issues and continuity can be lost.

We are addressing the challenge with a blend of technology and a policy of smart staffing to keep pace with evolving and growing community demands and complexities. The owner’s portal holds the promise of streamlining many internal operations of WLRMS, and allowing owners to perform many functions on-line instead of multiple visits to the WLRMS office during business hours. The roads, security, office and architectural divisions of WLRMS are led by staff highly skilled in their particular areas of expertise. Ms. Orlando’s position works with the Board, staff and each division’s leadership including identifying and filling any gaps between the divisions, reducing duplications, and making recommendations with a fresh perspective to carry us forward many years in the future.

WLRMS President, Ron Stone



## **Wolf Laurel Road Maintenance & Security**

### Staff

Tabatha Orlando, Executive Operation Manager

e-mail: [tabatha@wolflaurelrms.com](mailto:tabatha@wolflaurelrms.com)

Louise Wyatt, Accountant/Office Manager

e-mail: [lwatt@wolflaurelrms.com](mailto:lwatt@wolflaurelrms.com)

Suehonor Connor, Office Assistant

e-mail: [suehonor@wolflaurelrms.com](mailto:suehonor@wolflaurelrms.com)

Nathan Woody, Supervisor of Roads

e-mail: [wlroads@wolflaurelrms.com](mailto:wlroads@wolflaurelrms.com)

Jered Silver, Architectural Review, Administrator

e-mail: [wl-arb@wolflaurelrms.com](mailto:wl-arb@wolflaurelrms.com)

Find information on the WLRMS at:

<https://www.mygreencondo.net/wlrms/index>





## Forest Landowners Workshop

The Forest Landowner Workshop in Marshall presented a wealth of information and resources on good stewardship of our forest. Presenters included faces well known to our community including USFS Ranger Jen Barnhart and MVRC&D Wildfire Preparedness Coordinator Jen Haas, as well as the Madison County Extension Office Director Elizabeth Ayers, and Krishun Karau and Andy Tait of EcoForesters. NCFS Ranger Bo Dossett was scheduled to present on the wildfire dangers of pampas grass... but was called away on an active wildfire as the program began. Some excerpts of interest:

Our forest is considered middle aged. Andy Tait spoke of the effects of The Big Cut between 1870 and 1930, during which time 85% of the Appalachians were clear cut. He described the characteristics of a second growth forest: a closed canopy, trees of approximately the same age, and close spacing of trees.

Our forest is having a mid-life crisis! Invasive species are a danger that needs to be actively managed by owners. It is no longer an option to do nothing and believe the forest will take care of itself. Some invaders, such as Asiatic Bittersweet can cause canopy collapse.

Historically cattle, goats and sheep permitted to graze in the forest by farmers kept invasive species in check. Krishun Karau lectured on current control methods, ongoing efforts in our area, and resources available to landowners.

Invasive species can actually change the hydrology of the soil, removing too much water and making surface conditions drier.

While there are many invasive species threatening the health of the forest the top 5 of highest concern are: Pampas Grass (*Miscanthus*), a highly flammable ornamental grass producing tall white fluffy seed heads in the fall now spotted in Wolf Laurel, as well as Asiatic Bittersweet, Multiflora Rose, Tree of Heaven, and Kudzu, none of which have yet reached Wolf Laurel. Japanese Stiltgrass (*Microstegium*), another harmful invasive now found in Wolf Laurel, was the topic of a recent lecture in our community.

A healthy forest has diversity of structure in addition to diversity of species. In an old growth forest, ice, wind, and fire drop 2% of mature trees, creating balance of openings in the canopy to allow the next generation of trees to mature. Unfortunately openings in the canopy for agriculture or residential development don't have the same effect, as these activities do not typically permit regrowth of essential species.

Species best adapted for "whatever may come" in our climate include oaks (in particular white, northern red, and chestnut oaks) and hickories. These trees do well at our elevation, can withstand hotter or colder temperatures, and are drought tolerant. Species less adapted to changing climate conditions include beech, birch, and maple.

When asked about Beech Bark Disease which has been killing beech trees in our community, Andy Tait said once the disease is present it is unlikely the area will be able to sustain mature beech trees again. Diversifying species is the best bet.

Also, the USFS can provide information on the Pisgah Restoration Project. The project's goals are to reduce the risk of high severity wildfires and to restore a healthy fire adapted ecosystem. For more info, contact [nicholas.larson2@usda.gov](mailto:nicholas.larson2@usda.gov).



## **Wildfire Season**

**With fall wildfire season underway in North Carolina, Forest Service agencies urging the public to use caution.**

RALEIGH, NC (October 10, 2022) – With the impending arrival of fall wildfire season, the USDA Forest Service and N.C. Forest Service are reminding the public to exercise caution when engaging in recreational burning.

Peak months for the fall fire season run from October through early December and fires left unattended can get out of hand quickly, becoming wildfires that may threaten lives and property. Escaped fires due to careless backyard burning continue to be the leading cause of wildfires in North Carolina.

“Fall weather and the beautiful changing foliage in North Carolina draws people outdoors to take in activities such as camping, hiking or working in their yards to dispose of leaves and other yard debris,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “When choosing to build a campfire, grill out in your yard or eliminate leaves by burning, it is important that you remain vigilant and safe with any outdoor fire to protect our forests. You are our best defense against wildfires.”

For fiscal year 2021-2022 there were 6,887 wildfires that burned 26,958 acres in North Carolina. Only 1% of those wildfires were directly linked to a natural ignition source such as lightning. The other 99% of wildfires during that span were directly related to human activity. Some of the state’s most intense wildfires during the fall of 2021 were caused by escaped campfires.

In November 2021, the Sauratown Mountain Fire in Stokes County burned more than 40 acres but required 16 days to control and fully contain due to the steep and difficult terrain. Shortly after on Nov. 27, 2021, the Grindstone Fire, the largest wildfire during North Carolina’s 2021 fall wildfire season, ignited at Pilot Mountain State Park in Surry County and eventually burned 1,050 acres. Both incidents were caused by escaped campfires.

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For those who choose to burn, the N.C. Forest Service offers the following tips:

- Make sure you have a valid permit. You can obtain a burn permit at any N.C. Forest Service office or authorized permitting agent, or online at [https://www.ncforestservice.gov/burn\\_permits/burn\\_permits\\_main.htm](https://www.ncforestservice.gov/burn_permits/burn_permits_main.htm)
- Don't burn on dry, windy days.
- Keep your fire small, not tall.
- Be sure you are fully prepared before burning. To control the fire, you will need a hose, bucket, steel rake and a shovel for tossing dirt on the fire. Keep a phone nearby, too.
- Never use kerosene, gasoline, diesel fuel or other flammable liquids to speed up burning.
- Douse burning charcoal briquettes or campfires thoroughly with water. Drown all embers, not just the red ones. When soaked, stir the coals and soak them again. Make sure everything is wet and that embers are cold to the touch. If you do not have water, mix enough dirt or sand with the embers to extinguish the fire, being careful not to bury the fire. Never dump hot ashes or coals into a wooded area.
- Never leave your fire. Stay with it until it is completely out.

The USDA Forest Service offers the following guidelines for safely extinguishing campfires and helping to prevent wildfires:

- Allow the wood to burn completely to ash, if possible.
- Pour lots of water on the fire, drown ALL embers, not just the red ones.
- Pour until the hissing sound stops.
- Stir campfire ashes and embers with a shovel.
- Scrape the sticks and logs to remove any embers.
- Stir and make sure everything is wet and that embers are cold to the touch.
- If you do not have water, use dirt. Pour dirt or sand on the fire, mixing enough dirt or sand with the embers to extinguish the fire.
- Continue adding or stirring until all remaining material is cool.
- Do NOT bury the fire as the fire will continue to smolder and could catch roots on fire that will eventually get to the surface and start a wildfire.

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- Always exercise caution with any outdoor burning. Even when burn bans are not in effect, weather conditions may not be favorable for outdoor fires,” Troxler said. “Outdoor burning is discouraged during periods of low humidity or high winds.”

Studies have shown that taking these and other measures can reduce the possibility of wildfires. To learn more about fire safety and preventing wildfires and loss of property, visit [www.ncforestservice.gov](http://www.ncforestservice.gov) and [www.smokeybear.com](http://www.smokeybear.com) . For more information and tips to help create a defensible space around your home and protect your property from wildfire, visit [www.resistwildfirenc.org](http://www.resistwildfirenc.org) .

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Wolf Laurel RMS Mission Statement: The Wolf Laurel Road Maintenance and Security Homeowner's Association is responsible for safeguarding and improving the roads, security, safety, infrastructure, neighborhood architectural standards, natural resources and quality of life of its property owners. WLRMS Officers, Board and Committee Members, and Staff, accept this responsibility, and pledge to continue to discharge their duties for the Wolf Laurel community with a robust and renewed commitment to integrity, fiscal responsibility and transparency.

Wolf Laurel Road Maintenance & Security Homeowners Association Inc.  
63 Village Lane, Mars Hill, NC 28754 (828) 680-9162  
[WolfLaurelRoadsandSecurity.com](http://WolfLaurelRoadsandSecurity.com)



## CR Insights

### SAFETY UPDATE

## Build a Safer Fire

**THERE'S NOTHING COZIER** than gathering around a fire pit in the fall. But in the U.S., nearly 9 out of 10 wildfires are started by people being careless. That's why it's important to review a few safety basics before building your next backyard blaze.

#### STEP 1

Check the weather: Don't start a fire on a day with strong winds. Also check that local fire rules haven't changed this autumn. Some areas at risk for wildfires may be restricting backyard fire pits.

#### STEP 2

Place the fire pit at least 15 feet from your house and foliage (go farther if you can), and have a hose and fire extinguisher nearby. Dampen the ground around the pit so that stray embers won't start a fire.

#### STEP 3

To build the fire, opt for hardwoods like oak and birch, and stay away from pine and spruce, which are harder to light and get smokier when they burn.

#### STEP 4

Create a nest of tinder and kindling in the center of the fire pit, then stand the firewood upright around the inner perimeter of the pit over the tinder. Stack any extra wood for the fire upwind and at least 10 feet away from the fire.



Wolf Laurel is a beautiful community with so much forested land surrounding us. With all that natural beauty comes a myriad of wildlife. The Northern Brown Water snake populates our Village Pond (a non-venomous species), deer and turkey are of course numerous throughout the community along with many bird species, coyote, rabbit, raccoon, and of course, black bear.

According to the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, the black bear is the only bear species found in North Carolina or anywhere in the eastern US. The successful comeback of the American black bear in North Carolina represents one of wildlife management's greatest achievements. Black bears were once restricted to remote areas and reached very low population levels in the mid-1900s. Today, black bears are found in approximately 60% of the total land area of North Carolina.

The black bear is an omnivore with a diet of both plants and animals. It varies in color: in North Carolina, the black bear is usually black with a brown muzzle and sometimes a white patch on its chest, commonly referred to as a chest blaze. Black bears rely mostly on their sense of smell and hearing due to poor eyesight, but are adept at climbing, running, swimming and digging. They have been clocked at speeds of 35 miles per hour over short distances.

Bears prefer large expanses of uninhabited woodland or swampland with dense cover which provide good bear habitat. Recent research has shown bears to be much more adaptable to habitat changes than previously thought and some bears have adapted to living near developed areas.

That brings us back to bears in our community. It's always a thrill to see wildlife so close and to experience such a wonderful connection to nature. One big consideration is how to live with black bears and other wildlife without our interactions becoming problematic for us and for the bears. While bears normally avoid humans, they can be attracted to homes and backyards by the food they can find. The following guidelines provided by Appalachian Black Bear give us 'food for thought'. A bear can be considered a nuisance when it becomes used to finding human food and garbage in areas where people live or recreate. Carelessly stored food, garbage, even barbecue grills and bird feeders can all attract bears and keep them coming back. The outcome is often a dead bear and even orphaned cubs. This can be remedied by eliminating the source of the attraction. Bears are known to be particularly intelligent and will easily remember where an easy source of food can be found. This applies to adult bears AND bear cubs.

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As much as you may enjoy putting corn out for deer, enjoying watching the birds feed at your feeders, please consider doing all you can to help prevent bears from becoming ‘food conditioned’. As a community, we can still enjoy the wildlife without feeding – ultimately the bears. It’s important to eliminate as many of the potential food sources as we can. Consider:

- Putting bird feeders away at night (or better yet just enjoy an outing of bird watching naturally!)
- Not feeding or baiting wildlife with corn, etc.
- Locking up or storing grills, trash cans, etc., in your home/garage
- Not leaving pet food outside
- Picking fruit from fruit trees, etc., as regularly as possible – even disposing of rotting fruit left on the ground

We can continue to enjoy natural wildlife interaction and protect our wildlife by doing all we can to prevent wildlife from becoming a nuisance. Remember, a fed bear can become a dead bear. One bit of good news is that the acorn mast this year is good and bears may be less likely to seek other food sources, but remember that the acorn mast varies each year. So, keep vigilant about removing possible bear food sources in your yard – for the bears’ sake and for your safety as well as your families’ and neighbors’ safety.

If you would like to get more information about bear safety, please visit the Appalachian Bear Rescue website: <http://appalachianbearrescue.org/>. We also have some info from ABR available in the WLPOA Community Center.

*“Remember, bears are far more likely to enhance your wilderness experience than spoil it. Knowing how to interpret their behavior and act responsibly is part of the thrill of sharing forests and mountains with these amazing creatures.” ABR*



## Please Don't Feed the Wildlife!

24

On Wednesday, October 12, 2022, Justin McVey, the District Biologist for District 9 of North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (Office: 828-273-7980, Cell: 828-273-7980 ([justin.mcvey@ncwildlife.org](mailto:justin.mcvey@ncwildlife.org))) presented information and answered questions at the WLRMS work session. Of particular interest was Wolf Laurel's deer population. Adept at answering the question "Do we have a deer problem?" Mr. McVey acknowledged that most communities have residents equally divided between those who view deer as a problem to be solved, and those who delight in seeing deer on their property. He spoke about two measuring sticks of the deer population, the biological carrying capacity, that is, what the habitat can support before stressing the animal population, and the social carrying capacity, that is, what homeowners can tolerate in a community. Mr. McVey reported that there are no signs that Wolf Laurel's deer population has exceeded its biological carrying capacity.

Whether viewed as delightful or a nuisance, Mr. McVey discouraged the feeding of deer. "Unfortunately, you are not just feeding deer" when putting out a feeding station, a salt block, or ground feeding with apples or corn. Bear, turkey, raccoons, opossums, and other wildlife are attracted to food left out for deer. According to McVey, there is no need to supplement the diet of a wild animal; doing so will attract wildlife not only to your property, but to your neighbors' property who may view them as a nuisance. In the wild, a deer can roam in a habitat of up to 50 miles. Feeding stations are not natural and encourage deer to congregate in a limited area.

Congregating deer pose risks to the deer population. "Corn is not part of the natural diet" of deer and can harm them if new to their system. Mr. McVey noted two cases this year of deer testing positive for rabies linked to a feeding station shared with raccoons. Also, Chronic Wasting Disease which is spread at feeding stations is a serious concern. CWD, similar to mad cow disease, poses a risk to hunters who harvest deer for food and can permanently decimate a deer population.

Are there any effective means of protecting your landscape from deer browsing? Yes... but few. Planting deer resistant ornamental plants is your best bet. Wolf Laurel gardeners continue to test and share their experiences of what plants work best. Deer repellant washes off in rain. Strong smelling soap, bags of dog or human hair, fishing line barriers, motion sensitive deterrents and other methods have mixed results. No method will overcome the expectation of an animal trained to depend on humans. Residents have commented that if you throw a rock toward a deer in Wolf Laurel, it will likely run toward it to see what kind of apple you have just tossed.

More than anything, we need to stop attracting deer to our and our neighbors' properties by feeding them and instead allow them be natural, wild animals on the move through their habitat.

WLRMS Subcommittee on Natural Resources (formerly the Wilderness Committee)



### Deer Advice from a Pro

By Donna Cottingham

Justin McVey, a biologist with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, spoke to the WL Homeowners Association Board in October about the area deer population, homeowner concerns, helpful advice and recommendations. He works with many residential groups in and around Asheville who ask for his assistance with deer management plans. Here are some of McVey's key points:

1. It is never okay to feed deer. When you feed deer you are also feeding mice, raccoons and other wildlife. A large percent of raccoons carry and transmit rabies, which can be passed on to deer. Although deer eat corn that is offered, it is not part of their natural diet and can create health issues. It also invites deer into your yard and into your neighbors yards, some of whom don't want deer grazing on their plants and in their gardens.

2. Home remedies such as Irish Spring soap or hair do not work at keeping deer away. To cope with a large deer population eating landscape plants, sprays such as Deer-Off and Liquid Fence are effective but not for long in our moist, rainy area. Plus they are expensive. His advice is to plant native plants that are known to be deer resistant.

3. As part of a management plan, McVey said he can issue a special hunting permit to an HOA that would allow hunters with bows or black powder guns to hunt in public spaces but would not affect homeowners' property. He also said residents are almost always split 50/50 for or against hunting to cull the herd.

Donna Cottingham,  
Virginia Master Naturalist



## 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/](https://darksky.org/)



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



# Wolf Laurel Country Club

## WLCC Events & Happenings For All

### Activity and Events from the Wolf Laurel Country Club

Off the Beaten Trail: We may not have the Taj Mahal, but Wolf Laurel Community must be one of the top twenty wonders of this world. After returning from Florida and seeing the recent devastation from Hurricane Ian, I was traveling along a rugged road with forest ridgelines and silent elevations to a trail that I have never seen before. As I walked, with a “Walk in the Woods”



hiking group, along the Panther Knob Loop trail in Wolf Laurel, I was immersed in the peaceful, beautiful, and natural wonder of this wonderful paradise. As we walked, talked, and got to know our fellow hikers, pets included, we also stopped and took in all autumn brilliance of our wonderful Wolf Laurel Mountain Community. The leaves are continuing to change color with many having recently dropped to the forest floor along with a few trees to soon become organic matter that will enrich the soil only to allow the cycle of nature to start again.

The “Walk in the Woods” hikers is a group that meets weekly. Anyone on the mountain may join and learn more about the treasures of our Wolf Laurel Community, as on this walk, where we came upon a turn of the century family cemetery in the middle of nowhere with old homemade head stones. Join us and you will have the opportunity to experience and enjoy our beautiful natural habitat, and of course the wonderful folks who participate on these walks. There are many other trails within our Wolf Laurel Community that you may not encounter and can learn about with this group. The “Wolf Pack” is another hiking group that you may enjoy if you would like a more strenuous hike and adventures outside of Wolf Laurel. Pictured is a group of the “Wolf Pack” hikers at Crab Tree Falls (this hike is well worth the effort). Susan Benardo







# Wolf Laurel Country Club

## Annual Harvest Festival and more

The recent Annual Harvest Festival was an inspiration as we prepare for the colder autumn days ahead. There was a great turnout and some twenty plus different vendors who sold woodwork and crafts and other local items to enjoy as well as other activities for everyone.

The Weekly Monday Night Food Trucks and Music has been a tremendous success this year. This is open to the WL community to come and appreciate the assortment of local area food, enjoy the club, bar, and the camaraderie of your fellow neighbors.

The club also host informational events such as Bear-Wise (everything you would want to know about co-habituating safely with bears). Future events, open to the community, will be prominently posted with dates and times.

The WLCC Memorial Day celebration (also open to the Wolf Laurel Community) will be here before we know it and will kick 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. Come join us for this wonderful tribute and barbecue!

Susan Benardo

Those interested in joining WLCC, can contact Paige Thomas at WLCC [paigewlcc@gmail.com](mailto:paigewlcc@gmail.com)







## *Wolf Laurel Country Club*

### More Festival Pix





## KEEPING YOU INFORMED

By Herrol Bellomy

We have closed on the sale to the Stokes-O'Steen-Williams Group with the new purchaser being Walnut Mountain Venture. The sale includes approximately 1,800 acres of undeveloped land and the restaurant, motel, and golf course. The ski operation was excluded, but we are still negotiating with them and others on its sale.

We are excited about the arrival of Walnut Mountain Venture at Wolf Laurel and feel all of us who have invested in property in Wolf Laurel will see remarkable changes to our best interest in the future. Walnut Mountain Venture is committed to a "renaissance" of Wolf Laurel that will maintain our mountain integrity but create a new image we all will be proud of.

There still remains our unsolved problem concerning road maintenance and security. Bald Mountain Development Corporation "BMDC" as a property owner is unhappy and many other property owners are dissatisfied. Can road maintenance and security be improved? Can road maintenance

*Continued Page 9*

## KEEPING YOU INFORMED

*Continued From Page 1*

nance and security be more cost effective? Are some roads being overly maintained to the expense of others? Is all assessment money being spent on road maintenance and security? Will road maintenance and security continue? These and many other questions are asked by us all.

We have received no constructive suggestions officially from the Wolf Laurel Property Owner's Association. We have received veiled threats of litigation and lawsuits in lieu of suggestions and recommendations. Various property owners say the Association as a group can only agree to disagree.

When you dismiss all of the dialogue by everyone, you end up with the simple question "how can we properly take care of the security and road maintenance and be fair to all parties"? With this question in mind, BMDC makes the following proposal.

BMDC will form two subsidiary corporations, Wolf Laurel Security, Inc. and Wolf Laurel Road Maintenance, Inc. (which it is already doing). These corporations will take over all obligations of security and road maintenance effective January 1, 1988. There will be an equal number of directors for the corporations appointed by BMDC and the Wolf Laurel Property Owner's Association. Only one

director from each group may be the same on both corporations.

All assessment and voluntary contribution monies for security and road maintenance shall be received by BMDC and delivered to each corporation. BMDC shall pay its pro-rata share for security and road maintenance. BMDC's pro-rata share shall be determined by the assessed value of the lands it owns (as of each year's assessment) as compared to the assessed value of all other property in the development (excluding lands purchased by Walnut Mountain Venture).

We envision Wolf Laurel Security, Inc. and Wolf Laurel Road Maintenance, Inc. developing budgets and assessing and/or requesting voluntary contributions based on these budgets. Both corporations should develop policies and guidelines for implementing these policies that are available for inspection and review by all property owners. There have been many suggestions and recommendations on road maintenance, including contracting it out to an independent contractor. All of these matters will be decided by Wolf Laurel Road Maintenance, Inc.

These are positive steps on the part of BMDC and with the proper support from all property and home owners, I believe we can develop a harmonious relationship that will be to our mutual benefit.

Any constructive comments or suggestions will be appreciated.

*Page 9*



## Wolf Laurel Historical Society

### *The Wolf Laurel Community Center Pavilion Dedicatory Plaque*

On August 4, 2004, the Wolf Laurel Property Owners Association placed a plaque on the then new pavilion in the village dedicating it to Sheila Slater. Over the years, that plaque had been lost. At its August 3, 2022, annual meeting, Wolf Laurel Property Owners Association board member Earlene Shofi joined the members of the Wolf Laurel Historical Society in replacing the dedicatory plaque.

Sheila Slater was truly the “Organizer of the Wolf Laurel Social Scene” as the plaque proclaimed. During her and her husband Lou’s time at Wolf Laurel in the 1970s through the turn of the century, they organized the first Monday- and Friday-nighters in the village. Sheila began the tradition of Wolf Laurel charities with proceeds from her Rubber Ducky Races, and Lou founded the Puncheon Fork Yacht Club. And when organized activities

ended at sundown, their home on McDaris Loop was the center of late-night life. The Wolf Laurel Property Owners Association dedicated the pavilion to Sheila shortly before her death in 2004, but the dedicatory plaque had been lost over the years. The Society replaced it to renew the recognition she so richly deserved.



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



## 2022 Year in Review

It was another very successful year for the Wolf Laurel Historical Society. Nearly one hundred members contributed financial support. Our attendance remained near fifty for all our programs. The sixty-six who attended "Wolf Laurel in the 1990s," with our guest Taylor Bush, was our largest audience in several years.

The first program of the year was "The Bald Mountain Tourist Society, 1889," presented by Jim Klumpp. The recollection of the turn of the twentieth century group was an extended presentation from research for *A Treasure in the Appalachian Sky: A History of Wolf Laurel in Madison and Yancey Counties, North Carolina*.

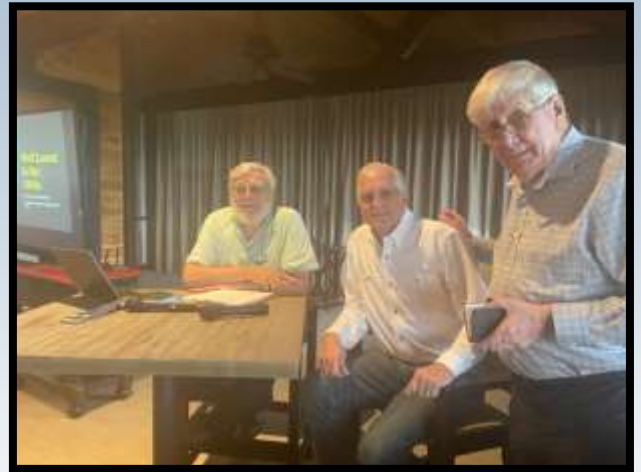
Formed in 1889 by citizens of Madison County, the Bald Mountain Tourist Society organized camping trips from the lower county and beyond to the summit of Big Bald. Their recreational and prank-filled trips continued into the years prior to the First World War. The presentation featured stories revolving around colorful characters including S. O. Deaver, the Madison County storekeeper who was instrumental in its founding, and Jean Pôrche, the colorful resident of the Puncheon Fork Valley (with hand organ and monkey) who served as its president. Participants in the events on Big Bald included Dave Buck, builder of the Buck House, and other colorful characters from Madison and Yancey Counties. It was a marvelous story of the light side of life on our mountain and its environs in the late 19th and early 20th century. And proof that tourism did not start with Wolf Laurel.

The Society invited our neighbors to the Ebbs Chapel Performing Arts Center for our second program of the year, "Mountain Moonshine," presented by Professor Daniel S. Pierce, Professor of History at the University of North Carolina Asheville, author of *White Lightnin': How Secret Stills and Fast Cars Made North Carolina the Moonshine Capital of the World*. Well into the 1960s, North Carolina featured some of the nation's most restrictive laws on alcohol production and sale, but also was one of the nation's leading producers of moonshine whiskey. The Southern Appalachians, including Madison and Yancey Counties were among the areas known for the trade. Pierce introduced some of the more colorful moonshiners who are a fabled part of our mountain's past and debunked some common myths about the moonshine trade.

At its July meeting, the WLHS Board of Directors voted to increase the board to five members for next year and at our August 3 annual meeting the membership chose the board for next year: Taylor Barnhill, Warren Johnson, Jim Klumpp, Brenda Whitt, and Steve Wilcox. The 2022 board welcomes



Taylor and Brenda to our 2023 board. At a subsequent meeting the 2023 board reelected Warren Johnson as president for 2023, Steve Wilcox as vice-president, and Jim Klumpp as secretary-treasurer. The discussion of possible programs for 2023 then began. We hope you will again join us in 2023 as Taylor Barnhill and Brenda Whitt help us in planning and bringing exciting programs to you. If you did not get to attend the annual meeting, next time you are at the pavilion at the Wolf Laurel Community Center, take a look at the restored dedicatory plaque to Sheila Slater installed by the Society near the kitchen area of the pavilion. (continued)



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In late August at the Wolf Laurel Country Club, we enjoyed "Wolf Laurel in the 1990s: An Interview of Taylor Bush." The event is open to all of our members, their friends, and anyone interested in the topic courtesy of the Wolf Laurel Country Club. Bush was general manager of Blue Mountain from 1991-1998. After the near collapse of the Bald Mountain Development Corporation was averted in the late 1980s, Wolf Laurel's parent corporation sold land to continue further development to a corporation named Walnut Mountain Ventures. Their arrival signaled the third great moment of transformation at Wolf Laurel. In many ways, the 1990s were the decade that gave us the Wolf Laurel we love today, and Taylor Bush was a driving force in that energetic decade.

At the beginning of the decade, the resort hotel on the site of today's Eagle's Nest disappeared, with the resort replaced by a vision of a second home community. What followed was the introduction of new housing options, many of which we live in today: Eagle's Nest, the Cottages, Overlook Village, the Lodge, and Chestnut Village. The Wolf Laurel golf experience became the Blue Mountain Country Club with the clubhouse where we will enjoy the event completed under Bush's supervision. Bush came as General Manager of Walnut Mountain Ventures' Blue Mountain project early in the 1990s and remained to

guide development of the mountain

through subsequent ownerships during that turbulent decade. His ideas and energetic execution built so much of what we see as we drive Wolf Laurel's roads today. Bush will join us to recall those energetic years on the mountain when so much of what we have today was shaped.

The annual Wolf Laurel Historical Society picnic, our final event of the year for our members took place the first week in September. The picnic was held at the pavilion in the Preserve at Wolf Laurel, courtesy the Preserve at Wolf Laurel and their homeowner's association. The entries were provided by WLHS member and BBQ-Meister Greg Smith, and members brought appetizers, salads, vegetables, or desserts to share with the group.

Our use of this pavilion placed us close to the Buck House at

Bald Mountain Creek for our special treat: Debbie Stebbins conducted tours of the historic outbuildings at the Buck House following our meal. Debbie and Sam have hosted us at so many picnics in the past and with their intent to sell the Buck House in the near future, we were excited and appreciative of their willingness to share a final tribute to that great place with us.





## Wolf Laurel Historical Society

### *A Thank you from the Wolf Laurel Historical Society Board*

The Board of the Wolf Laurel Historical Society offers appreciation to our members and to others who attended our activities in 2022. Our members supported many activities this year. Of course, first were our programs, a summary of which is elsewhere in this edition of TOB.

In addition, the Society reprinted Delia Tipton Brittain's *Upper Laurel and Her People* to once again make available that history of the families of the Puncheon Fork valley whom we know as neighbors and whose sons and daughters built Wolf Laurel and today provide so many of the services those of us living here enjoy. Learning their stories and those of their parents and grandparents enriches our connections to them and teaches us about the rich history of our lovely mountain home in the years before we arrived. The reception of the reprint has been exceptional with copies selling briskly.

We are particularly pleased to announce that our Board has expanded with the election of Taylor Barnhill and Brenda Whitt to join Warren Johnson, Jim Klumpp, and Steve Wilcox on the 2023 Board. Their participation has already been felt as we plan for 2023.

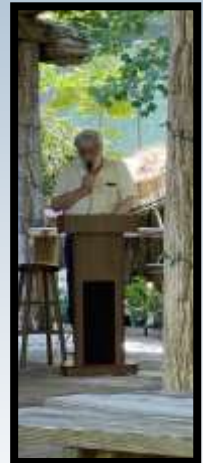
Tentative planning for 2023 programs is indeed already underway. Current plans are for three programs next summer. One program will feature the Caney Valley River Railway, the story of the narrow-gauge railroad operated in the decade after the turn of the 20th century that connected the Buck sawmill operation at the foot of the mountain to the wider world. A glimpse at the industrial world of Wolf Laurel will feature photos and stories from the railroading days. Another program will tell the story of the Appalachian Trail and how it came to our mountaintops. We hope to have a guest speaker from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy or the Carolina Mountain Club enlighten us on the work that went into establishing the early trail that we enjoy yet today. A final program will focus on the Willis Barn. The barn is now being documented by Wolf Laurel resident and WLHS Board Member Taylor Barnhill for the Appalachian Barn Alliance and we hope that work will be complete next year

and we can reveal the secrets hidden in our iconic building. Please watch as specific plans develop and join us for these programs next summer.

And in case you want to keep yourself immersed in our history this winter, we invite you to visit our website:

[WLHistory.org](http://WLHistory.org). There you will find the Wolf Laurel Blog with stories about the mountain and its history, and Wolf Laurel Stories where your neighbors recall memorable historical moments that made Wolf Laurel what it is today.

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## Wolf Laurel Historical Society

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While you are there visit our publications page, Upper Laurel and Her People can be ordered as well as *A Treasure in the Appalachian Sky: A History of Wolf Laurel in Madison and Yancey Counties, North Carolina*. If you are remodeling, consider a historical touch. Bud Edwards' vision map of Wolf Laurel, suitable for framing or just putting on your wall, is for sale by the Society as well as prints of "The Willis Barn, c1890," the memorable oil painting of our iconic barn that hangs in the Wolf Laurel Country Club today. These books and historical material are also available for purchase at the Wolf Laurel Community Center during their open hours this winter through the cooperation of the Wolf Laurel Property Owners Association.

And if you use the end of the year to make your tax-deductible contributions, print and fill out our membership form and send along with your check to support us with your 2023 membership. We will welcome you back to membership and express our appreciation of your assistance in fulfilling our mission.

We hope to see you all in 2023 for another exciting year "Sharing Our Past to Enrich Our Present."

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/>

## THANK YOU AND AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE AUTHORS OF *A Treasure in the Appalachian Sky: A History of Wolf Laurel in Madison and Yancey Counties, North Carolina.*

Jim Klumpp and Warren Johnson extend a note of appreciation to mountain residents and non-residents alike for your phenomenal support of our book chronicling the history of Wolf Laurel.

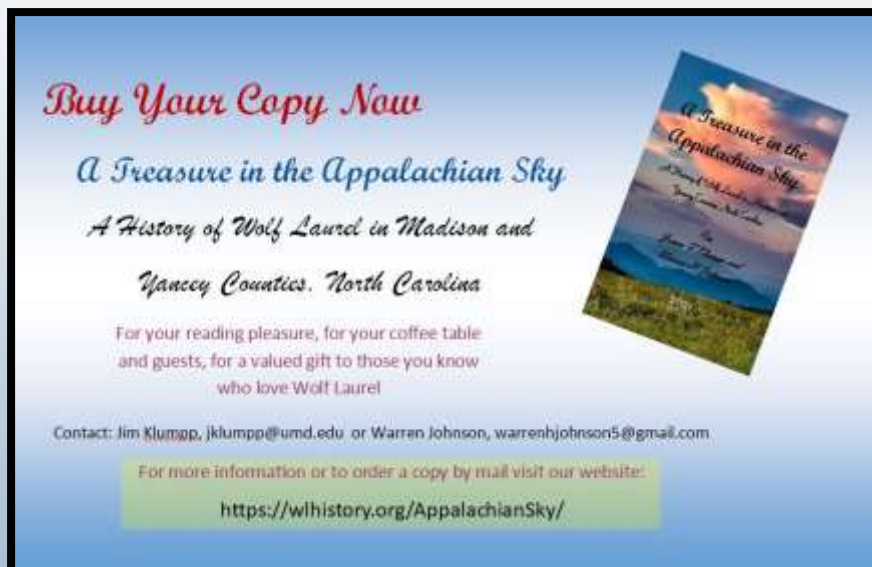
The first printing of 500 plus books sold out in less than a year. The reception has been interesting and heartwarming, but not entirely surprising. There is a palpable affection on the part of our residents for our wonderful mountain. It is clearly an exceptional place, one for which we can cherish the things left us by those who went before and take great pride in our continued contributions today. At a lunch and learn event in July, one resident in attendance asked if any one theme emerged from the nearly 60 people we talked to in the preparation of this work. The typical representation during those interviews came from a former secret service agent who grew up here in the 1960s. Now living in Atlanta after nearly 40 years with the agency, she vividly recalled the wonderful people and times she encountered here in the early years of Wolf Laurel's development. That theme of warmth and friendliness still prevails today. It is truly remarkable.

So, the authors wish to thank those who have supported this book and who have put their trust in the reciting of its history. Your faith is truly special and deeply felt.

And the good news is that we have now received a second printing. Once again copies are available in both paperback and hardcover for you or for your family and friends. With the holidays on the horizon, we hope you will think about others who might enjoy recalling or celebrating Wolf Laurel with the book. And if you missed reading about this wonderful place and its history during our first printing, there is no time like now. Email us or order yours by mail at <https://wlhistory.org/AppalachianSky/mail.html>.

Jim Klumpp ([jklumpp@umd.edu](mailto:jklumpp@umd.edu))

Warren Johnson ([warrenjohnson5@gmail.com](mailto:warrenjohnson5@gmail.com))



## Wildlife Conservation Society Funds Oak Restoration in Western North Carolina



TNC's Silver Run Preserve in Jackson and Transylvania counties is a microcosm of what's wrong with Southern Appalachian forests. The 1,483-acre preserve is covered with mature oak and hickory trees, but its midstory is dominated by maples and poplars; rhododendron and laurel are creeping up the slopes, setting the stage for an arboreal disaster.

The Wildlife Conservation Society has awarded TNC a grant through its Climate Adaptation Fund, which was established through funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. With support from these funds, TNC has begun its oak-promoting work on hundreds of acres of forest that include the Silver Run Preserve in addition to partner lands including the immensely popular Dupont State Recreational Forest and Headwater's State Forest. Over the course of the next few years, TNC will guide the restoration of thousands of acres of forestland through treatments that promote oak, hickory and southern yellow pine and include midstory reductions and controlled burns.

To learn more, visit [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org)

[The Nature Conservancy is a global conservation organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Guided by science, we create innovative, on-the-ground solutions to our world's toughest challenges so that nature and people can thrive together. We are tackling climate change, conserving lands, waters and oceans at an unprecedented scale, providing food and water sustainably and helping make cities more sustainable. Working in 76 countries and territories—37 by direct conservation impact and 39 through partners—we use a collaborative approach that engages local communities, governments, the private sector, and other partners. To learn more, visit [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org) or follow [@nature\\_press](https://twitter.com/nature_press) on Twitter.]





## The Golden Days of Fall with Keith Ray

Sitting here watching the Goldenrod wave back and forth in the wind is one of my favorite things to do. The golden days of the fall are my favorite time of year, mostly because the beauty of summer is here with those crisp nights and warm days. It's also when my birthday happens to pop up, which makes me reflective. I've been thinking a lot about all the lands I steward for the Southeastern Trust and all the projects we have in motion and what a powerful statement it is that we have such an amazing opportunity to do good in all the communities we serve. The last year has been a whirlwind for our organization with all the park building and partnerships - we never seem to slow down! But our organization is being built for the long term and there are seasons to what we do.

(continued)





Conservation. Recreation. Community.

10 years | 2012 - 2022

## The Golden Days of Fall with Keith Ray (continued)

We will soon be planting almost 180,000 longleaf pines. Can you imagine who will be sitting under those in 100 years? Or 1000 years? We have started a fundraising campaign for saving large stands of hemlocks in our mountain properties, many of which were standing when our country was just getting its start. Shouldn't we try to keep those around for our future generations? As fast paced as the last year has been, we are just getting started with our biggest plans!

I mention all of this as a reminder to our friends and community members and to myself- that conservation is not a fast process. It is slow. Sometimes painfully slow. We may never see the final fruit of our labors - big trees, flower covered meadows, a slimy hellbender- but the generations that come after us will surely benefit from all the good work that we do now. And I feel that it is worth the time to do right, the first time we have the opportunity. It truly is one of the greatest investments that we will ever make.



I hope that my grandchildren get to see what we have done and know that they share in a process that we worked hard to keep them in mind and offer the chance to see what we could have otherwise lost. A deeper look into our natural world.

Bill Jones, Executive Director

[bill.jones@stpal.org](mailto:bill.jones@stpal.org)

[www.stpal.org](http://www.stpal.org)

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

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

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

# Hiking and Walking in the Wolf Laurel Area

40

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](mailto:brenda543@aol.com)

Yvonne - [ycarigna@gmu.edu](mailto:ycarigna@gmu.edu)



## Wolf Pack Hiking - Dick's Creek Falls

41





## Bailey Mountain Preserve Hike (Mars Hill):







Wolf Laurel Sunset, Pic by Julie Breeland





Nextdoor [Wolf Laurel](#)

Adam Moyer



Nextdoor [Wolf Laurel](#)

Stephanie Werner



By Donna Cottingham, Virginia Master Naturalist, [carolina\\_donna@yahoo.com](mailto:carolina_donna@yahoo.com)

Yellow is a prominent color in the fall Wolf Laurel landscape, and goldenrod (*Solidago* spp) is one of the most abundant yellow plants in autumn bloom. A member of the aster family, goldenrod is often blamed for fall allergies, but that is a false accusation. Its large, sticky pollen grains are dispersed by insects, not wind. There are many reasons to appreciate goldenrod.

Perennial goldenrod is not only beautiful in the landscape, it is also very beneficial to nature in many ways. According to author and entomologist Doug Tallamy, goldenrod leaves provide food to more than 100 species of caterpillars. An abundance of caterpillars is an all-you-can-eat buffet for birds feeding their young. The flowers are a pollen source for 35 species of bees, as well as a late season nectar source for migrating monarch butterflies. Its seeds provide winter food for finches, juncos and sparrows.

There are more than 50 species of goldenrod in meadows and roadsides in North Carolina, providing blooms from mid-July through October. It can survive drought, making it an excellent choice for native gardens and in areas of water conservation. It prefers full sun and dry soil. Some species are known to increase nitrogen levels in the soil. And, as an added bonus, goldenrod is deer resistant.

Goldenrod may sound almost too good to be true, but it is a very beneficial plant for nature, the environment and your garden. When many plants begin to fade at summer's end, its color adds beauty to the landscape well into fall. Visit your local nursery to find the best goldenrod plants for your garden.



Photo by Donna Cottingham

# Fall "Leaf Off" Season is Here, so is Fall Fire Season

46

## Jen Haas of Mountain Valleys Resource Conservation and Development Council

*Cooler air. Changing colors. Leaves falling. It's fall y'all!*

As we transition to fall, a drier time of year with more dead vegetation on the ground, fire activity picks up in our region into November. Remember: "Start reducing your risk at your front door and work your way into the forest." Don't overwhelm yourself by trying to tackle the big stuff first. Start by protecting your house (the most important thing) and work your way out.

The main thing to consider as your reducing your home's wildfire risk is vegetation management! That includes all the leaves that fall to the ground. Leaves can pile up in places you don't always check: your gutters, on roofs, behind skylights, in corners outside of the house, under bushes, and underneath decks, staircases, and pathways. Check these areas at least twice a year - in the spring and fall - and clear that wildfire threat!

You may be asking - now what? Where do I put the leaves after they are removed from immediately around my house? You have options:

- ◆ Shred and spread them. Either go over the pile with a mulching lawnmower or toss them into a shredder. The finely cut leaves will decompose much faster and rapidly become part of the soil you spread them on.
- ◆ Add them to your compost pile. To maintain a healthy ratio of carbon and nitrogen materials in the compost bin, your pile should have about two-thirds carbon (brown) materials and one-third nitrogen (green) materials.
- ◆ Use them as a protective mulch at least 30 feet from the house. Leaves make a wonderful protective cover for overwintering tender perennials or root crops stored in the ground.
- ◆ Make an art project. There are loads of ideas for crafting with leaves: make a colorful season wreath, a leaf collage, a leaf stamp, or frame or hang leaves as decoration. (Pinterest can help!)





## MADISON COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

Joe Newberry and  
April Verch  
Sat. Nov. 5, 7:30pm

“Singing on the River”  
Christian Harmony  
Shaped Note Singing  
Sat. Nov 19, 10-3

Holiday Sale  
Nov 25<sup>th</sup>  
(Black Friday) until  
Dec. 21  
M-F 10-5  
Sat 10-3

Laura Boosinger,  
Executive Director  
[www.madisoncountyarts.com](http://www.madisoncountyarts.com)  
PO Box 32  
Marshall, NC 28753  
(828) 649-1301  
[madcoed@gmail.com](mailto:madcoed@gmail.com)

**NEWBERRY & VERCH**  
*Holiday Cheer*  
Music of the Season, from the Ottawa Valley to the Ozarks  
**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5 - 7:30 PM SHOW**

Original songs join timeless hymns. Stories warm the heart and give a twinkle to the eye. Lively fiddle and banjo numbers combine with traditional dance steps to illustrate happy times when people made their own fun at the holidays and all year long.  
*Make your holiday concert list and check it twice...  
Joe Newberry & April Verch are coming to town!*

**THE ARTS CENTER - 90 SOUTH MAIN STREET - MARSHALL NC**  
**TICKETS \$20/\$25**  
**INFORMATION AT (828)649-1301**  
**OR MADISONCOUNTYARTS.COM**  
This project was supported by the N.C. Arts Council,  
a division of the Department of Cultural Resources  
**APRILVERCH.COM**

The Madison County Arts Council was awarded a grant from the **Blue Ridge National Heritage Area**, [www.wARTFM.org](http://www.wARTFM.org)

The nonprofit arts and culture industry generates \$2.12 billion in direct economic activity in North Carolina, supporting almost 72,000 full-time equivalent jobs and generating \$201.5 million in revenue for local governments and the State of North Carolina. For more information click <https://www.ncarts.org/afta>

**Holiday Cheer with Joe Newberry & April Verch**  
**Saturday November 5, 2022 7:30 pm**  
**Music of the Season from Canada to the Ozarks**

The Madison County Arts Council presents Joe Newberry and April Verch at the Arts Center in Marshall for a special holiday show. “We are happy to bring two of our favorite performers back to this intimate venue,” says Erich Hubner MCAC Program Director, “These two always surprise and delight our audience.” Make your holiday concert list, and check it twice... Newberry and Verch are coming to town!

Growing up, musicians Joe Newberry and April Verch absorbed traditions of home and hearth in his Missouri Ozarks and her Ottawa Valley of Canada. The holidays have always been a special time of year for both, with the lure of family and friends, festive decorations, gifts under the tree, and always.... music. So now, each year the duo sets out in a modern day sleigh (with four-wheel drive) to perform their eagerly anticipated holiday tour. Original songs join timeless hymns. Stories warm the heart and give a twinkle to the eye. Lively fiddle and banjo numbers combine with traditional dance steps to illustrate happy times when people made their own fun at the holidays, and all year long.

Joe Newberry grew up in a family full of singers and dancers. He took up the guitar and banjo as a teenager and learned fiddle tunes from great Missouri fiddlers. April Verch grew up listening to her dad’s country band play for dances in the Ottawa Valley. She started step dancing at age three and fiddling at age six. Both Newberry & Verch became masters of their traditions and tour the world with their respective bands and projects. Yet they never forget the roots of their music, that connection to the people in the audience, on the dance floor, to the community sparked by a good song.

For these veteran performers who come from distinct traditions and parts of the world, their collaboration is fueled by their kindred passion for bringing people together to celebrate traditional music. Blues and ballads stem into Canadian regional styles and originals. Their voices blend in harmony, their tasteful instrumentals prove that these masters have nothing left to prove, and then their feet kick up the dust in perfect rhythm... and together, they make you remember why this music existed in the first place.

Tickets to this show are \$20 in advance and \$25 in the day of the show. Plan ahead for holiday fun! For more information call (828)649-1301 or visit [www.madisoncountyarts.com](http://www.madisoncountyarts.com)

Laura Boosinger, Executive Director  
[www.madisoncountyarts.com](http://www.madisoncountyarts.com)  
PO Box 32, Marshall, NC 28753

(828) 649-1301  
[madcoed@gmail.com](mailto:madcoed@gmail.com)

# MADISON COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

***Christian Harmony Shaped-Note Singing***  
**Saturday, November 19th, 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM**  
**DOG (dinner on the grounds)**

**FREE**

**At The Madison County Arts Center**  
**90 S. Main Street, Marshall, NC 28753**  
**(828)649-1301**

[www.madisoncountyarts.com](http://www.madisoncountyarts.com)

Once again it's time for the annual Singing on the River in downtown Marshall, Saturday, November 19 from 10 am until 3 pm. The new reprint of the shaped-note songbook, *Christian Harmony*, will be used at this all day singing at Madison County Arts Center, 90 S. Main Street, downtown Marshall. "There will be loaner books available and folks bring dishes to share for 'dinner on the grounds'," arts council director Laura Boosinger says. "We expect to have singers from several states. You can come and listen but it's better when you join in. It's that kind of event."

The *Christian Harmony* is a collection of primarily religious songs with deep roots in the American soil and in the North Carolina mountains. It was compiled and first published by South Carolina singing school master William Walker in 1867 and revised by him shortly before his death in 1875. Its contents echo through time and reflect some of the earliest musical traditions of America

While there are those who see every song as a sermon, there are just as many singers who just love the folk music roots of the music and the way it makes history come alive. You can learn more about this style of singing at [www.ChristianHarmony1863.org](http://www.ChristianHarmony1863.org). This event is free and open to the public.

Laura Boosinger, Executive Director  
[www.madisoncountyarts.com](http://www.madisoncountyarts.com)  
 PO Box 32, Marshall, NC 28753  
 (828) 649-1301  
[madcoed@gmail.com](mailto:madcoed@gmail.com)





## *The Village Club*

### Wolf Laurel Village Club Facebook Page

The Village Club would like to invite all it's members to join the Wolf Laurel Village Club Facebook page. There, you will see the latest communications, events, and all the photos of the members enjoying themselves throughout the year. (Please note this page is not for personal advertising of any services or businesses. Administrators must approve any post to the page and request to join.)

To get started, open Facebook and in the Facebook search bar type *Wolf Laurel Village Club* and then request to join; or click on link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/342942392454360>

We look forward to having you on our Facebook Page!

The latest buzz on the Village Club page is about the October Fest. The site now has 315 members.



## **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](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](https://367ab657-4382-4e2d-ae61-4bb3593f0b06.filesusr.com/ugd/1610a3_b5d14eb01c2347cab1292c49052797ff.pdf)
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Feedback, comments, and suggestions are welcome - [larryv8@gmail.com](mailto:larryv8@gmail.com)



# Wolf Laurel Road Maintenance and Security WL Map

52

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

[https://www.wolfaurelpoa.com/files/ugd/1610a3\\_395478a5b51847e0afdd7f285a94eb36.pdf](https://www.wolfaurelpoa.com/files/ugd/1610a3_395478a5b51847e0afdd7f285a94eb36.pdf)

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## WOLF LAUREL COMMUNITY MAP

Scale: Approximately 1" = 1 mile  
8/12/2008

**LEGEND**

- MAIN ROADS
- PRIVATE ROADS
- GREEN ROADS
- TRAILS
- PARKING
- STREAMS

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# Where Was I? Answers

54

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72



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## Advertising Information For TOB

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**

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**Full page: \$80 / edition**

**\$280 for Ads in all four editions**

- 4) Remit to:

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Thank You for your service to the  
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