



# *Top of the Bald*

**Wolf Laurel Property Owners' Association**

**Newsletter**

**Spring 2019 Edition**

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



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## Property Owners' Association

### **Wolf Laurel POA Board of Directors:**

John Brackett, President  
Fred Tygart, Vice President  
David Smith, Treasurer  
Lynn Cagney, Secretary  
Gail Watkins Ford  
Bobby Hicks  
Carl Larrabee  
Lori Wyman-Macauley  
Terry Ranostaj  
Larry Veatch  
Joanne Wit  
Jim Landry, Emeritus  
Earlene Shofi, Immediate Past President

### **WLPOA:**

91 Village Lane  
Mars Hill, NC 28754  
828-689-9229  
Website: [www.wolflaurelpoa.com](http://www.wolflaurelpoa.com)  
Email: [ronnie@wolflaurelpoa.com](mailto:ronnie@wolflaurelpoa.com)

TOB Editor and Publisher – Larry Veatch  
352-359-0071, [larryv8@gmail.com](mailto:larryv8@gmail.com)



### **WLPOA Staff:**

Ronnie Rice, Office Manager  
Cindy Tucker, Village Club Director

### **WLPOA Community Center & Village Club Hours of Operation – 7 days a week:**

	<u>Community Center</u>	<u>Pool – *Open date prior to Memorial Day</u>
May:	8:30am - 6:30pm	10am – 6pm*
June:	8:30am - 7:30pm	10am – 7pm
July:	8:30am – 8:30pm	10am – 8pm
August:	8:30am – 8:30pm	10am – 8pm
September:	8:30am – 7:30pm	10am – 7pm
October:	8:30am – 6:30pm	closed



## **President's Notes:**

It is refreshing to see warmer weather and the early blooms of spring. The 2019 season is quickly approaching and I hope everyone reading this message will be able to spend significant time on the mountain this summer. The spring season makes me think of the quote from John Muir, "Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are

dirt." We are truly blessed with many opportunities to experience the outdoors in our community. I encourage everyone to consider joining the Village Club to experience all the added benefits that come with your membership. Now is a great time to join!

There are many activities already planned for the summer, so please be on the lookout for the community emails that list each event and describes the benefits of participating. A few upcoming events include the Welcome Spring Party on May 3rd, the Village Club Wolf Club Kids Camp in July, and of course our July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration and fireworks. Again, please reference the community emails, the Top of the Bald, and the POA website for more information on seasonal activities.

I will end with another quote; this one is from Robin Williams, "Spring is nature's way of saying, Let's Party!" Please contact any POA board member to let us know what we can do to make the community better and provide the service you expect.

*John Brackett*

## Greetings from Wolf Laurel Country Club,

We hope everyone had a great winter and are gearing up for another great year on the Mountain. We would like to update everyone on some items concerning the Wolf Laurel Country Club (WLCC). First, I would like to say this marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club. This is a tremendous milestone, and for many of you that have been here since the inception and before, we would like to congratulate you and thank those founding members who started WLCC back in 1999. We are planning a celebration for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary during the weekend of August 23rd-25th. We would love to invite past members to be part of the celebration; so if you are a past member I would like to encourage you to join us as we honor our wonderful WLCC.

Next, we would like to update you on a new policy that was adopted for 2019, which states: Wolf Laurel property owners who are not WLCC members will not be entitled to any WLCC usage other than those events open to the public, or instances that are pre-approved by management or a board representative. Please contact the WLCC at 828-680-9771 or [wolflaurelcountryclub@ccvn.com](mailto:wolflaurelcountryclub@ccvn.com) with any questions regarding this new policy about which functions may or may not apply.

Finally, we would like to cover new membership initiatives and policies. During the winter the WLCC, along with the Village Club (VC) coordinated an offer which will enhance the experience of the property owners within Wolf Laurel. Any member of WLCC that resides within the gate, who is not a VC member, can join the VC for \$1,000 joining fee, a \$900 discount. VC members who are not a WLCC member are being offered a 50% discount on the WLCC initiation fee, so a golfing membership would be \$4,000 and a social membership \$2,000.



Another incentive we are offering this year will be to those resigned members on our redemption list. We will be waiving the rejoining fee for a limited time for those previous members that still have equity in the VC. Please help spread the word to anyone you may know that might like to take advantage of these great incentives. Once again, please feel free to contact us if you have any inquiries about Wolf Laurel Country Club or the Village Club.

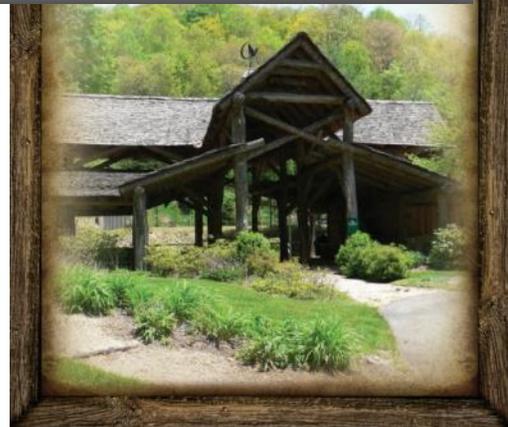
*Bobby Anglin*

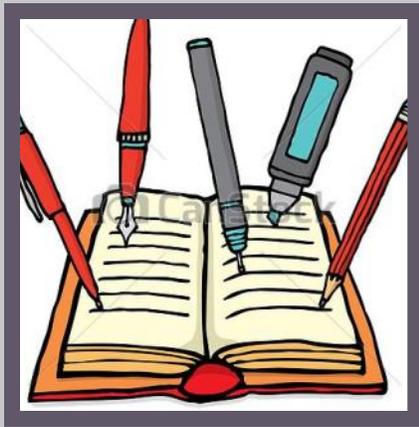
## All the Amenities and Save ***MONEY!***

Your Village Club Board has coordinated with the Wolf Laurel Country Club Board to offer discounts for Wolf Laurel homeowners or landowners that join both clubs. If you join the Village Club as an equity member and join the Wolf Laurel Country Club within 30 days, you receive \$900 off your \$1,900 Village Club initiation fee, and you receive 50% off your country club initiation fee, which can be a savings of \$4,000. Joining both clubs can save you up to \$4,900 - that is a lot of money! [Please contact the Village Club or the Wolf Laurel Country Club for additional details.](#)



The Club Lounge





### Editor's Notes:

1. The Special Operations Warrior Foundation article and report which appeared in the Winter issue of the TOB did not give proper credited to Joe Capers; Thanks Joe.

2. As a reminder, this is our first TOB to be published in-house in many years. I will apologize up front for any amateurishness, my only compensation is providing a service to my community, which I do with pleasure and appreciation.

I am learning as I go about editing and publishing. I welcome any feedback or suggestions that may improve the quality of our publications.

3. Thanks to all those who have made contributions thus far toward making The TOB enjoyable and informative. Thanks again to Rich Ashley for helping me get started as Editor. Thanks to the WLPOA Board for allowing me this opportunity. And finally, thanks to those who chose to continue to contribute funds toward advertising in the TOB, which will help to subsidize printing, etc.

4. I asked Rich about the history of the publishing of the TOB. It was published for a while by Dancing Moon printing owned by Laura Ponder, who published it for Gwynne Beneke, and Laura did so for Rich for two years before Athens Publishing was utilized. Professional publishing appears to go back through the early 90's. When I am back in WL I plan to review some of the TOB archives, which are maintained in the Village Club (VC) Community Center, to ascertain some additional TOB, VC, and POA history.

5. For those who are interested, I am using Microsoft Publisher to create TOB. It comes as part of the Microsoft 365 Suite which also includes Word, Excel, Power Point, Outlook, etc.

6. Our personal news is that Patricia and I are still in Florida, in hopes of selling our home near Gainesville; during which time we enjoy visits with our two sons. I do my Qigong Tai Chi and Yoga, ride my bike, and play pickleball a couple of times a week. Recently I have been doing TOB work, and Patricia does landscape painting.

*Larry Veatch*



**New POA Members:**

Frederick Jr. & Michelle Morgan

William & Mary Gregg

Thomas Hollingworth

Jacob Weisberg

James & Christine Underwood

***POA Membership has grown to 673 from 641 during the past year!***

Deceased: Wiecher Hendrik van Houten MD, PhD - 8/27/1931- 3/8/2019

Dr. van Houten died at home on March 8, 2019 after a fall in October of 2018 from which he never fully recovered. Dr. van Houten was born and raised in The Netherlands, the son of Johannes and Geesje van Houten. His career at the [University of Michigan](#) was distinguished by his clinical work, his research and his teaching.



***Interested in Pickleball? See page 31, and If you would like to learn to play, call Larry at 352-359-0071 or just come to a scheduled time of play***



## **KIDS CAMP OPPORTUNITIES ON THE MOUNTAIN 2019!**

### **Village Club Wolf Cub Kids Camp**

July 8 – 12, 2019

9am-3pm

Ages 5-10; \$250 per camper

Contact Cindy Tucker: [cindy@villageclub.com](mailto:cindy@villageclub.com) and register now!

### **Big Bald Mountain Vacation Bird School**

July 8 – 12, 2019

8:30am – 4pm

Rising 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Graders; \$250 per camper

Contact Southern Appalachian Raptor Research (SARR): [bigbaldbanding.org/vbs](http://bigbaldbanding.org/vbs)

### **Stables at Bucktown Horse Camp**

In The Preserve at Wolf Laurel

June 24-28, 2019

For more information, contact Heather McIntosh at 828-284-1961



## **Village Club Programs and Events, MAY - OCTOBER 2019:**

The majority of these Programs and Events are planned for Village Club Members only. We have a great variety of successful continuing programs and also some new offerings for this season. Some details may change so keep an eye out for regular e-mail updates. For Mountain Residents who are not Village Club members, there are several events that will be open to everyone on the Mountain: Welcome Spring Party! on **Friday, May 3rd**. Also, Welcome Back to the Mountain! on Friday, June 7th, The Village Independence Day Celebration on July 4th, and our Woof-minster event on Sunday, July 8th – all under “Special Events”.



### **REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMS:**

**Fitness Class with Mary Lou Woodiwiss** – Monday & Thursday 9am beginning June 3rd. Takes place on black top or in the Village Pavilion – instructor’s choice depending on weather. Bring your exercise mat, water bottle, weights & stretch bands. Get ready for a great workout!

**Tai Chi with Fred Buck** – Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:15am beginning Thursday, May 16th. Takes place in Village Activity Center or outside locations in the beautiful sunshine. Bring your water bottle and an exercise mat. This wonderful class is starting its 13<sup>th</sup> season! A BIG thank you to Fred for all the years of bringing this therapeutic, peaceful class to The Village!

**Yoga with John Shoemaker** – Mondays at 10:30am. Each class will include restorative and yin yoga (long static poses) and active yoga (dynamic poses followed by short static poses). Standing, balancing, kneeling, sitting and lying down poses will be practiced. Practitioners should bring their own mats and bolsters. Blocks and blankets are available. The start date will be Monday, May 20th. Note - we will be selling a small number of new yoga mats & bolsters at cost for the class if you don’t have these recommended props. We also have several available for general use if you want to try out this wonderful class before you purchase anything. This class will take place in the Village Activity Center. John is a 200 hour certified yoga teacher and soon to become a 500 hour certified yoga teacher through Yoga Alliance. He completed his training at Asheville Yoga Center.

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## **REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMS (continued):**

**Health & Longevity with Larry Veatch** – Meetings will be offered on the 3rd Thursdays at 3pm, May - September, to provide the opportunity to discuss things that impact our health, and to discuss strategies to enhance our health and longevity. Bring your concerns, issues, and information to share. For an hour or two we can discuss MMMMM - Meals (nutrition), Mindfulness & Meditation, (self) Massage, and Movement (and exercise). You would think humans would be able to instinctively know the best choices for healthy living, but it appears we need to work on improving our choices a bit. Come meet with us to learn and share. This will take place in the Village Activity Center.

**Water Fitness** – Beginning Monday, June 4th. We have two great leaders again this year – Leigh Ann Roseberry and Denise Norton. Leigh Ann will hold classes beginning [June 4th with the following schedule: 1pm Monday & Thursday](#). Denise will hold classes in August and September with the following schedule: Monday at 11:00am & Thursday at 1pm. All workout equipment provided. Bring your sunscreen and get ready to have a great time and a very beneficial workout!



**Pickleball** – Start date May 15. Wednesday and Friday 10:00-11:00 for experienced players only, 11:00 for all others. Also, Sunday 2:00-3:00 for experienced players, 3:00-4:00 for all others. Note: Sunday times may change to accommodate events in The Village or at Ebbs Chapel.

**Cooking Classes with Michaelene Sanders** – This popular class is back! Space will be limited to 10 in our wonderful Wolf Laurel hosts homes. Cooking class/lunch/home tour anyone? You can get all three in one this summer. Three classes will be offered for Village Club members. We may even have a September Surprise! More details to follow. Contact [cindy@wolflaurelpoa.com](mailto:cindy@wolflaurelpoa.com) to sign up!

- **June 17<sup>th</sup>** – 11am-2pm. We will be going to the Farmers Hand in Mars Hill and enjoy Sebastiaan teaching us all about pasta for a cooking class and lunch. \$70 per person. Limited to the first six people to sign up!
- **July 17<sup>th</sup>** - 11am-2pm. Brenda Daniels will open her lovely home to us the theme will be pesto every way! Various herbs offer super power in pesto come and learn how to incorporate them into your everyday meals.
- **August 8<sup>th</sup>** - 11am-2pm. Come to JoAnn VanHyning's and admire her incredible garden and see how to enjoy shrimp every way.... Well, except for dessert!

**Book Club – Book Club** – led by Karen Gerry. The first meeting will be Thursday, June 6 at 2:15 in the Village Pavilion. Several meetings will be held throughout the season to review each of the four books selected. Thanks to Karen, the Book Club has enjoyed some extraordinary books over the last several years and this season will again offer thought-provoking, important topics.

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## **REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMS (continued):**

**Liquid Acrylic Art Class with Karen Gerry!** New this season, so don't miss out! Karen will provide all needed materials for this abstract art and the class will cost only \$25 per person. Karen's liquid acrylic work will be displayed on our Community Center Art Wall in June – so check it out! Four persons per class and one more class may be scheduled if the first two classes fill up! The first is scheduled for July 17th at 2pm and the second will be on July 24th at 2pm. These classes will take place in the Community Center. Karen will donate all proceeds to Hospice of Madison County!

**Friday Night Socials** – every Friday at 6pm in the Village Pavilion (unless otherwise announced) starting Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Free! BYOB & appetizer to share. If it's chilly, we'll have a cozy fire in the Pavilion. In extreme weather, we'll use the WLPOA Community Center. We'll have music every first Friday June thru September with some of our favorite mountain musicians! Bingo with Fred Tygart will take place on the last Friday of each month unless otherwise announced! The Village Club provides plates, etc., mixers, ice and all the basics. Come enjoy this great social gathering!

**Monday Night Potlucks** – every Monday at 6pm, beginning May 21st, in the Village Pavilion. Bring all picnic supplies and a dish or two to share. BYOB. We'll have a fire when it's chilly!



**Dining Out With Friends** – This great social and delicious opportunity is in need of a new leader. If you like to eat out, and take friends with you, this may be the perfect opportunity for you! So dates, times and restaurants are going to be announced soon. We usually like to have members sign up in advance so the group can carpool. If you're signed up but want to meet at the restaurant of choice, that's great too. More to info come!

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## **SPECIAL PROGRAMS:**

**Community Art Wall 2019** – Stop by the WLPOA Community Center to see the art each month and to support our local mountain artists! Bring your checkbook or cash with you (all paid directly to the artists).

**May:** Carole Kinsey's paintings!

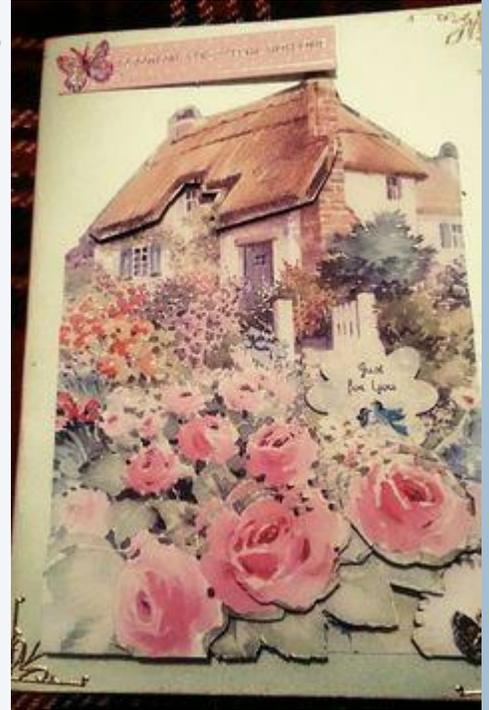
**June:** Karen Gerry's liquid acrylic paintings! All proceeds will be donated to Hospice of Madison County!!

**July:** Tedi McManus's pottery and paintings!

**August:** Chuck Kinsey's photography

**September & October:** OPEN – anyone interested?

**And through the season, there will be two Art Wall special additions!** Until they run out! Handmade stacking or nesting boxes handcrafted by Larry "Snuffy" Smith! Larry has donated these to the Village Club for a donation of \$10-\$20 each, and the funds will go to support our Independence Day Celebration! These are wonderful boxes that would look great on a shelf or stacked and can be used for storage, organizing or serving trays! **Also,** Chuck Kinsey will have his beautiful note cards and 2020 calendars for sale here throughout the season (while supplies last). The 2020 Calendars feature the beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Come out and take a look!



**CPR/AED Class with Jim Deloatch** – The knowledge gained could help you save someone's life – so do not miss the opportunity! Look for a date to be announced soon!

**Archery Demonstration with John Rollen** – Two demos will be offered: Friday, July 26th at 2pm and Friday, August 2nd at 2pm. Meet at the Village Pavilion to walk up into The Village green space and learn about Archery from John! John is an Archery Instructor certified by USA Archery and has worked with the Boy Scouts and other organizations. Based on the level of interest, we may set up archery classes! Adult and kids 8-17 (with an adult accompanying their kids).



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**Wandering Wolves! Not all who wander are lost! These great destinations and events are waiting for you.** Sign up for all these events by contacting [cindy@wolflaurelpoa.com](mailto:cindy@wolflaurelpoa.com):

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**June – (date/time TBD)- Brights Zoo in Tennessee!** Check out this great conservation-oriented Zoo close by in Limestone, Tennessee (close to Johnson City). Brights Zoo is dedicated to increasing interest and appreciation toward animals and their natural environments through entertaining, informative experiences that also emphasize the importance of conserving nature. Lori Macaulay will lead this trip. The group can also go to a great Mexican restaurant on the way home – La Meza in Unicoi! Meet in the Village Upper parking lot to carpool.



**July (date will be announced soon!) - Falconry Experience with Jeff Curtis!** Jeff Curtis, owner of Curtis Wright Outfitters in Weaverville, has been a licensed Falconer for years. This is an up close and personal hands-on experience with birds of prey. Guests will accompany a licensed falconer and learn about the ancient sport of falconry. Those who wish to, will have the opportunity to handle the raptor and experience and exhilaration of having this magnificent bird perch on their gloved fist. It will be a truly unforgettable experience as the hawk flies from tree to tree culminating with her flying back to your fist. You will learn the history and the art of falconry, about various birds of prey used, and all you need to know to fully participate. \$125 per person for 1.5 hour for the full experience; \$50 if you just would like to observe. This excursion is limited to six people so don't wait to sign up!

**August 3rd – Bare Dark Sky Observatory!** Calling all star gazers!! This is an incredible opportunity to visit the Bare Dark Sky Observatory. This is located close by in the Burnsville/Spruce Pine area and they operate the largest telescope for research and public use in the Southeast. This is a popular destination for people from all over the region and beyond! Up to 15 people can be accommodated and the price is \$20 per person depending on how many sign-ups we have. August 3 is projected to be a good time to observe Jupiter and its' moons, Saturn and its' rings, a glimpse of Neptune, cool moon craters and many other wonders of the night sky! You'll learn more about constellations, galaxies and so much more. This is a two-hour viewing and a rain date can be set if weather doesn't cooperate. Steve Wilcox will lead this wonderful excursion. Location to carpool will be announced. So, sign up by **July 15th** so we can confirm the reservation and low price! This should be a wonderful night!

**Sept**– Carolina Mountains Literary Festival in Burnsville – September 5th-7th. Many great authors! Will have lunch at a local restaurant. Look for more info to come!

(CONTINUED)

## **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**Welcome Back to the Mountain!** Friday, June 7th, 6pm. All welcome! BYOB and an appetizer to share. We will have some great music, so don't miss this fun Friday Social in the Village Pavilion. If you are a new resident, this would be a good opportunity to meet some wonderful people and have a chance to check out The Village.

**WLPOA Independence Day Celebration in The Village Club at Wolf Laurel - Thursday, July 4th, 7pm until ? (depending on weather).** All welcome! We'll have fun for everyone - a fire truck from Ebb's Chapel Volunteer Fire Department for kids to explore, concessions food for kids of all ages, inflatables for the kids, entertainment provided by The Super 60's and the



best fireworks show around! Tickets: \$15 for anyone over 6 years of age and \$10 for 6 and under. This ticket price covers all the fun – concessions, music, fireworks and more. Sponsorships are also available in order to reserve a parking space in The Village. We also have a number of handicapped parking spots available upon request. Ticket sales will begin Monday, June 3rd – weekdays only!

**Woofminster - Sunday, July 7th, 5pm:** Bring your pooch (or pooches) on a leash to compete in lots of fun doggie events! We will have awards and doggie treats. This is our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Woofminster! We have had lots of pooches and proud owners attend and all had a great time. A wonderful event! Don't miss it!



**Wolf Cubs Village Kids Camp! - July 8th-July 12th, 9am – 3pm:** Lots of good old-fashioned kid fun right here in the Village. Science! Arts & Crafts! Sports! Swimming! Stream stomping! Wildlife education! And so much more. Contact [cindy@wolflaurelpoa.com](mailto:cindy@wolflaurelpoa.com) for more information and a registration form. Do NOT wait to get your child or grandchild registered. This camp fills up every year. It's an awesome week (and, yes, we howl!). Registration and payment required by June 1st.

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## Independence Day Festivities on the Mountain Thursday, July 4, 2019

Independence Day is always celebrated here at Wolf Laurel, and we will have a lot to offer again this year!

The Wolf Laurel Country Club will start off the day and all are welcome! The Country Club will have organized and chaperoned Kids Activities - water balloons, putting contest, and more. The Bailey Mountain Cloggers from Mars Hill University will perform. This group earned their 20<sup>th</sup> National Championship Title in 2019! A big cookout will be offered. There will be a cart parade if there are at least 10 participants. Contact the Pro Shop if interested at 680-9773. Also, enjoy a Pet Parade – all pets welcome, costumes or not and there will be prizes for all. All this for \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. An additional offering includes a corn hole contest (\$2 per person and a cash prize to the winner). More details to come!

The WLPOA will celebrate Independence Day in The Village at Wolf Laurel on July 4th beginning at 7pm after the Country Club activities are concluded. All welcome! We'll have fun for everyone - a fire truck from Ebb's Chapel Volunteer Fire Department for kids to explore, concessions food for kids of all ages, inflatables for the kids, entertainment provided by The Super 60's and the best fireworks show around! Tickets: \$15 for anyone over 6 years of age and \$10 for 6 and under. This ticket price covers all our activities – concessions, music, inflatables and all the fun! Sponsorships are also available in order to reserve a parking space in The Village. We also have a number of handicapped parking spots available upon request. Ticket sales will begin Monday, June 3 – weekdays only!



Fourth of July Fireworks photos are courtesy of Rebecca Duncan and Rebekah (Becky) Shennan

## Wildlife Education Programs!

During our Wolf Cubs Kids Camp we want to provide the kids with as much wildlife education as we can and want to invite all to come out for these two programs! They will take place at the end of the camp day so will be a great addition to the Camp and a good opportunity for anyone who is interested in these important topics.

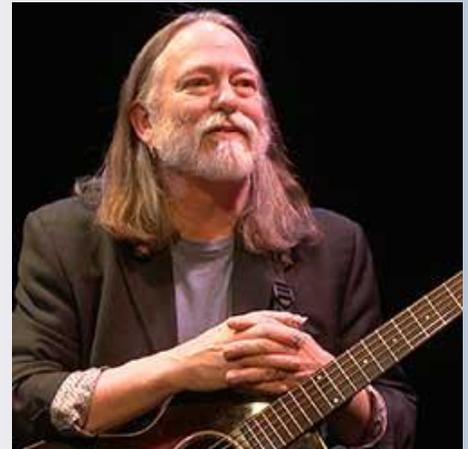
**1. Tuesday, July 9th at 2pm – Ashley Hobbs, Assistant Black Bear Biologist** with NC Wildlife Resources Commission will provide an informative program called “BearWise”. You all know that bear interactions here at Wolf Laurel are common and Ashley will provide you with the info needed to keep you and your neighbors safe and also protect the bears. So join us in the Village Pavilion!



**2. Friday, July 12th at 1pm – Nina Fischesser with The Blue Ridge Wildlife Institute** (affiliated with Lees-McRae College) will provide an amazing program that includes all kinds of critters that are common in this region – from raptors to various mammals to reptiles (SNAKES! Yes, the kids LOVE to handle the snakes after the program!) Nina will tell their stories and how they were rescued and rehabilitated. She hoots like an owl, captivates the kids and really educates the audience about the wildlife, habitat, safety and more. Join us for this special program!

### Scott Ainslee in Concert!

Sunday, August 4, 4pm. If you missed Scott’s concert in The Village last year, you REALLY missed a very special event! Scott is a traditional acoustic blues singer, guitarist, historian and songwriter with personal roots in the Civil Rights era and a longstanding affection for cross-cultural exchange. A musician all his life, Ainslie took up guitar after hearing Virginia bluesman John Jackson play a couple of songs in the middle of one of Mike Seeger’s concerts in Alexandria, VA in 1967. A Phi Beta Kappa and honors graduate of Washington & Lee University, Ainslie also studied with elder musicians on both sides of the color line in the old-time southern Appalachian fiddle and banjo traditions, as well as with black gospel and blues musicians. Ainslie maintains an active recording, performing, and teaching schedule that carries him around the country, to Canada, and to Europe. He has received numerous awards and grants for his work documenting and presenting traditional music, including grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Folklife Section of the North Carolina Arts Council. Paul Heumiller & Bobby Hicks are sponsors for this event. BYOB and a comfy event chair. Tickets only \$20 per person (tix will go on sale 7/5 – weekdays only)!



## WOLF LAUREL— A SPECIAL PLACE TO LIVE

The past 15 years have flown by quickly and my wonderment for this special community has never faltered. We have a special summer climate, we are surrounded by forests and wildlife, we have spectacular views of distant mountains. For all of that, what makes our community special are the residents and their desire to create a special place. You give your time, your talents, and yes your financial contributions when needed.

When I attend a WLPOA Board meeting I am amazed that the dozen individuals sitting at the conference give so generously of their time. Then you realize each of these individuals have committee assignments requiring yet more hours of planning and work. Consider the summer activity list prepared for our entertainment each year, and realize all of this happens because of the contributions of time made by these individuals.



Wolf Laurel is a part of the larger Upper Laurel Community. Our support of time and monetary assets has helped that community to thrive. Annually we collect money to support the first responders, who in turn contribute their time to provide for our safety. Last year the community raised \$10,000 for this effort a new record. We support the Ebbs Chapel Auditorium renovation which now has a completed auditorium with central air and heat, and the facility in turn provides entertainment programs to support tourism. Today that facility is ready to launch the next construction phase with \$60,000 in savings.

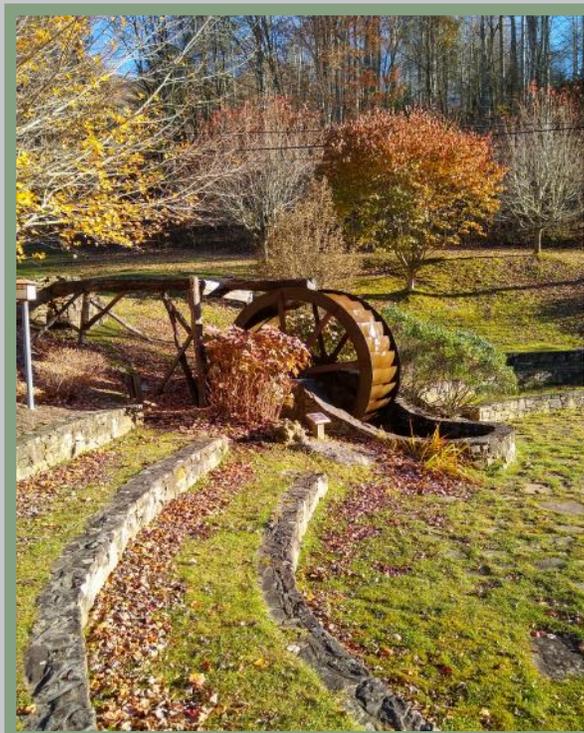
Consider the support for the Madison County Hospice Program generated each year primarily through the support of the Wolf Laurel Country Club. Each year our support usually in excess of \$60,000 is made possible because of the time, effort and contributions of many members. As a result, our community benefits from the services of an excellent program.

(continued on next page)

I am very cognizant of the many hours contributed by our Road Maintenance and Security Board. These folks not only meet twice every month, but each of the nine members receives committee assignments as a working board. Wrangling with complex financial issues of a \$1.5 million-dollar budget, supervising a staff of 20 employees, and attempting to rehabilitate a failed infrastructure on limited resources frays nerves, creates conflict and is challenging. Yet I am continually reminded each of these individuals could be playing golf, or enjoying family time, or participating in their favorite hobby.

Perhaps no church in our community receives more support than the Bright Hope Laurel United Methodist Church at the corner of Puncheon Fork and Laurel Valley. A small church ready to close its doors in the early 70's made the effort to reach out to the Wolf Laurel Community as a place of worship. Our community has in turn supported the Community Apple Butter Festival and the many charitable missions of that church. The Wolf Laurel residents have been generous in their support of the Foundation created at that church to support the many missions of the Church. Last year they awarded 8 area students \$2,000 each for scholarships to college.

More recently the community was approached with a need to resurface our main roadway. We could have held an election and if it had passed collected an assessment and eventually a year from now resurfaced a road. The alternative was to reach out to our community and determine if the need could be met this season. Once again many have responded. Some very generously with gifts of \$5,000 or \$2,500 or many with \$1,000 double the amount suggested. We thank you. Many who are in subdivisions within our community but who would not have been assessed still contributed very generously. We thank you. Not all residents have discretionary income. Some made their contributions in installments and we especially thank you because we recognize the sacrifice and inconvenience. As of mid April the Board had received 75% of the request from some 300 donors. We voted to proceed with the engineering and hope to expedite the project.



Yes Wolf Laurel is a special place. Our chief attribute is our many residents who ask "How can I contribute to my community to keep it special?"

*Larry Smith, WLRMS President*

## ***Wolf Laurel Village Playground Project***

If you have visited the Wolf Laurel Village children's playground recently, you probably noticed that it, while still rustically charming is looking a bit frayed. The VC staff and hired contractors have done as much as possible in shoring up equipment and keeping the playground safe, child friendly and fun. We are in the first stages of planning a new playground in the Village, hopefully in a more level and larger space. One possibility would be to use the green space, beyond the basketball court. There will be an attempt to reuse the existing equipment if it can be safely refurbished for reuse and possibly moved. Donors who contributed to building the original playground will be named as contributors for the new playground along with those who contribute for new construction. Some of the goals we hope to achieve are expanding the play space and adding a range of equipment making the playground more friendly to a larger age group, especially very young children. There are many families living in WL year-round and lots of Grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friend's children visiting who would certainly appreciate a safe place for children to play.

Those on our VC Playground Committee are, Lori Wyman Macaulay, Lynn Cagney, Janis Larrabee, Terry Ranostaj and Earlene Shofi. Our Committee is in the beginning stages of planning and we certainly welcome your input. Cindy Tucker, VC Director, has engaged a highly recommended Asheville Playgrounds designer and builder. They are preparing a sample site plan that should be available soon, (they'll probably give us a ballpark figure that will send us into sticker shock!). We would like to expand the Playground Committee to include more interested folks. If you have experience in playground construction, are familiar with play equipment, wish to help organize fund raisers or just want to help in planning for the playground, we would certainly welcome you in joining the Committee.

*Earlene Shofi*

### **Our current playground when it was new!**



Contact Cindy Tucker at

[Cindy@wolflaurelpoa.com](mailto:Cindy@wolflaurelpoa.com)

or Earlene Shofi at

[earlenes@frontier.com](mailto:earlenes@frontier.com).

**Perhaps we can have something like this?**



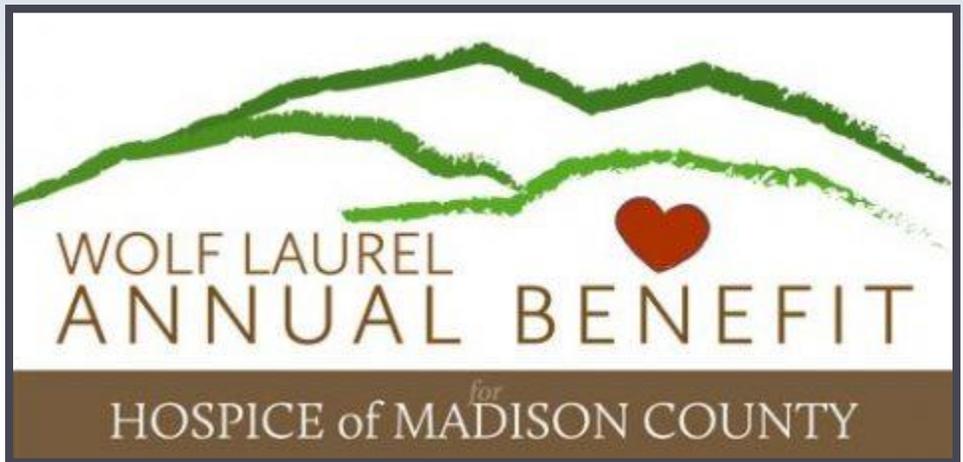
## Be A HOSPICE Benefit Volunteer

The Wolf Laurel Hospice Benefit began in 1987 with a \$13,780 donation to Mission Hospital and has continued annually since then. Almost \$1.2 Million has been donated by this benefit since it began. The Hospice Benefit Committee for 2018 will present a check for \$70,000 to Hospice of Madison County at the end of May 2019. Be assured that all the money we give Hospice will be used specifically for patient care.

The 2019 Hospice Benefit should follow a format similar to recent years, but to continue to put on an event of this nature it takes volunteers, and the more volunteers we have, the broader the workload can be distributed. We all, volunteers and participants alike, take pride in and feel a sense of accomplishment for the support we provide to Hospice of Madison County, which would not be able to continue the level of services they provide without the Wolf Laurel's help.

Here is a list of the different areas where volunteers can help (for info, ask the people in parentheses):

- Co-Chairman and Mentee of current Chair, Don Mathis, 828-689-5846
- Co-Treasurer and Mentee of current Treasurer, Rich Ashley, 828-689-8811
- Patron Committee (Karen Gerry, 239-565-5126)
- Plant Sale in May (Barby McQueen, [bmcqueen05@frontier.com](mailto:bmcqueen05@frontier.com) )
- Golf Tournament in July (works closely with the Wolf Laurel Country Club Pro Shop) (Earlene Shofi, 828-680-9041)
- Golf Hole Sponsors in July (works closely with the Golf Tournament Chair and Pro Shop) (Willie Romero, 828-319-2494)
- Bake Sale in July (Sheri Mathis, 828-689-5846)
- Dinner in July (Michele Hunt, 813-245-0678)
- Auction (Silent and Live) in July, including an auction computer data entry operator (Michele Hunt 813-245-0678, Karen Gerry 239-565-5126)
- Patron Dinner after most of the benefit events have concluded (Don Mathis, Crystal McMurray, 321-779-8241)
- Hearts for Hospice Fundraiser around Labor Day (Cheryl Luckner, 828-206-9265)



Mostly likely, all of us know someone whose family has benefited from the services of Hospice. We want to enable Madison County to continue this worthwhile endeavor and we need your help to do so. Remember, many hands make light work. If you wish to volunteer, [contact Don Mathis, 828-689-5846.](tel:828-689-5846)

*Rich Ashley*



Wolf Laurel Community

## Hospice Spring Plant Sale Benefit

*Saturday May 25th: 9 to Noon  
@ Wolf Laurel Country Club*

FERNS, HANGING BASKETS,  
VEGGIES, HERBS, PERENNIALS,  
ANNUALS, PATIO POTS & MORE

*Pre Order Boston Ferns by May 15th*

*\$15 Each*

*Email Kippy Capers to Pre-order at*

***[kippy.rn@gmail.com](mailto:kippy.rn@gmail.com)*** or call 828-689-5741

## *Schedule the Wolf Laurel Historical Society on your Summer Calendar*

Twenty-nineteen marks the 25th anniversary of the Wolf Laurel Historical Society. The Society has scheduled wonderful programs for the coming season. Please add the programs to your summer calendar. While you are at it, bookmark the Society's new home page: [WLHistory.org](http://WLHistory.org).

In August of 1993, Carol Slaughter, Alan Snider, Marion McGuire, and Mimi Churchill invited the many residents with an interest in Wolf Laurel specifically and in history generally to a tea at the Blue Mountain Country Club with the announced intent to form the "Wolf Laurel Historical Society." The interest reflected in that meeting resulted in formation of the organization that convened for its first annual meeting on July 16, 1994. Carol Slaughter served as the Society's first President. One hundred ten residents of Wolf Laurel are honored today as charter members. Over the years the society has provided interesting programs on the history of Wolf Laurel, the Upper Laurel and Bucktown communities, Madison and Yancey Counties, the mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina, and on general topics of historical interest. The Society sponsored two important publishing projects: Delia Tipton Britain's book *Upper Laurel and Her People*, and a color reproduction of an oil painting commissioned from Asheville artist Gayle Tate of the Willis Barn, c1890. Both are available for sale today in the Community Center.

(CONTINUED)

Please plan to join our members and guests this summer for the following programs:

June 19, 4 PM Terry Roberts: German POWs in Hot Springs

Terry Roberts was born and raised near Weaverville in neighboring Buncombe County. His direct descendents have lived in the mountains of Western North Carolina since the days of the Revolutionary War. His family farmed in the Big Pine area of Madison County and were prominent in the town of Hot Springs. Terry now lives in Asheville where he is the Director of the National Paideia Center. He is author of three novels, *A Short Time to Stay Here* which won the Willie Morris Award for Southern fiction, *That Bright Land* which won the Thomas Wolfe Memorial Literary Award as well as the James Still Award for Writing about the Appalachian South, and *The Holy Ghost Speakeasy and Revival* published in 2018. His first two novels also won the annual Sir Walter Raleigh Award for Fiction, given to the author of the best novel written by a North Carolinian.

Terry's topic will be GERMAN POW'S DURING WORLD WAR I. The summer of 1917 should have been a summer like any other at the Mountain Park Inn in Hot Springs. As in year's past, the Inn's staff should have been hosting the wealthy gentry from the East Coast. Hans Ruser, German Commodore of the world's largest and most luxurious cruise liner, *Vaderland*, should have been sailing his elite passengers to the far corners of the world. But war will change everything. In April 1917 the United States entered WWI and the Mountain Park Hotel was pressed into service as an internment camp for over 2,000 German nationals, including Ruser and his guests. Come hear of that unusual summer of 1917 in Hot Springs.

(CONTINUED)

July 17, 4 PM Carol Bond: Celebrating the Silver Anniversary of the WLHS, and the 20th Anniversary of Wolf Laurel Country Club

Long time Wolf Laurel homeowner Carol Bond came to the mountain in the 1970s. Her father, Herrol Bellomy, became President of Bald Mountain Development Corporation in the late 1980s. In 1994, Carol and her friends on the mountain saw the interest in history among Wolf Laurel residents, and specifically the history of the community and its surroundings, and brought that interest to fruition in the Wolf Laurel Historical Society. She served as the official “Incorporator” when the Society submitted its application for incorporation in November 1994. Then in the late 1990s, when the Blue Mountain Country Club filed for bankruptcy, Carol again organized Wolf Laurel residents to purchase that defunct club out of bankruptcy and establish the privately owned club that we enjoy today. She then served as the first President of the Wolf Laurel Country Club.

WLHS president Warren Johnson will interview Carol about life at Wolf Laurel in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, and about those formative years when the Society was getting its start at Wolf Laurel. They will also discuss those tense years at the end of the 1990s when the golfing community of Wolf Laurel faced its greatest crisis.

August 21, 4 PM Ed Waller: The Wilderness Retreat: Wolf Laurel in the Days of the Friends of Bud

Wolf Laurel homeowner Ed Waller came to the development after a long career in the financial industry in Kingsport TN. During his time in Kingsport, Ed enjoyed the friendship of the Edwards family including Bud Edwards, whose purchase of 6000 acres from the Buck, English, and McDaris families in 1964, set the stage for our community. Edwards vision of a mountain getaway initially focused on providing a wilderness in which he and his outdoors-loving friends could enjoy fishing, hunting, horseback riding, and lazy afternoons in the mountains. Ed Waller had met Bud Edwards in 1958. The two sportsmen shared a love of fishing, particularly trout fishing in mountain streams. Waller became one of the Friends of Bud, who spent wonderful times at Edwards’ mountain retreat in those early days before it became the community it is today.

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WLHS board member Jim Klumpp will interview Ed about their adventures in those early years. The tales of the sporting life among friends in that mountain wilderness are fascinating both for their adventure and for how they connect us to the interesting people who enjoyed and helped shape Wolf Laurel in its early days.

September Annual Meeting and End of Year Picnic to Celebrate the Silver Anniversary.

Members of the Society will gather in September to conduct the Society's business and to formally celebrate our Silver Anniversary year. Bring the family for fun and fellowship in our beautiful, historic, mountain home.

Membership in the Society is \$20 per year for individuals and \$35 for families. Membership material is available on the website. Members support the programming of the Society, are entitled to participate in business meetings and planning sessions, and are admitted without additional cost to the end of the year picnic gala celebrating the Society's year.

The WLHS board for 2019 is: Warren Johnson, President; Kay Brotherton, Vice-President; and Jim Klumpp, Secretary-Treasurer.

Please plan to join us at all of these events. Bookmark our website, [WLHistory.org](http://WLHistory.org) and check there for venues for the events and further information on each of the activities. And, while you are there, please fill out our membership form and become a member of the Wolf Laurel Historical Society.

*Jim Klumpp*

## Madison County Arts Council Receives Blue Ridge National Heritage Grant

Folks,

We are delighted to announce that the Madison County Arts Council has been awarded a grant from the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area. Here is the short scoop:

The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area has awarded 19 grants totaling \$190,171 to support projects across the North Carolina mountains and foothills, focusing on craft, music, natural heritage, Cherokee culture, and agricultural traditions. These five facets of the region's heritage earned the 25 counties of Western North Carolina a Congressional designation as the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area in 2003.

\* **Madison County Arts Council:** \$16,000 to rehabilitate a building in downtown Marshall for concerts and for a Junior Appalachian Musicians program classroom.

Please find press release attached and the BRNHA banner. Please help us spread the good news!

Thank you,

Laura Boosinger

Laura Boosinger  
Executive Director  
Madison County Arts Council  
PO Box 32 Marshall, NC 28753  
(828)649-1301  
[www.madisoncountyarts.com](http://www.madisoncountyarts.com)

*Study Shows Western NC Nonprofit Arts & Culture Sector is a \$239 million industry*



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## Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Awards Grants

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"These grant awards will support community projects across Western North Carolina," said Angie Chandler, Executive Director of BRNHA. "By spotlighting our cultural traditions and natural wonders, we help sustain these assets, build community pride, draw more visitors, and grow the regional economy."

The 19 grants awards include:

**Appalachian Theatre of the High Country:** \$6,521 to support the creation of a historical mural frieze in the community room of a historic theatre in downtown Boone.

**Beech Mountain Tourism Development Authority:** \$3,650 to revitalize and promote Barn Quilt Trails in Avery and Watauga counties.

**Blowing Rock Art & History Museum:** \$9,400 for an exhibition and programming showcasing North Carolina textile and fiber artists.

**Center for Cultural Preservation:** \$13,470 to support a documentary film on the history of waterway stewardship in Western North Carolina.

**Church Mouse Ministries:** \$5,000 for a community garden in downtown Robbinsville that will serve as an outdoor classroom and resource for community development.

**Conserving Carolina:** \$16,000 for interpretive signage and a visitor brochure spotlighting the region's camp heritage at the new Bell Park in Henderson County.

**Cove Creek Preservation and Development, Inc.:** \$10,000 for a plan to enhance the Doc Watson Museum at the Historic Cove Creek School in Sugar Grove.

**Folkmoot:** \$8,000 for auditorium improvements to support year-round cultural programming at the Folkmoot Friendship Center.

**Forest Stewards Guild:** \$9,000 to build a coalition of organizations and landowners to improve forest health and management in the Sandy Mush community.

**(CONTINUED)**

**Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park: \$7,350 to rehabilitate a historic fishing cabin in the Cataloochee Valley.**

**Junior Appalachian Musicians, Inc.: \$10,000 to create videos and other resource materials that will give JAM students a deeper appreciation of the history and cultural context of the region's music traditions.**

**Madison County Arts Council: \$16,000 to rehabilitate a building in downtown Marshall for concerts and for a Junior Appalachian Musicians program classroom.**

**Nina Simone Project: \$5,000 for an interpretive kiosk at Nina Simone Plaza in downtown Tryon.**

**North Carolina Arboretum Society: \$16,000 for outdoor interpretive exhibits at the Arboretum's Willow Pond celebrating wetlands and the region's status as a world hotspot for salamander diversity.**

**North Carolina Folklife Institute: \$15,840 to create an online exhibit and radio broadcasts spotlighting notable musicians, storytellers, and craft makers in the Beech Mountain area.**

**Surry Arts Council: \$10,000 to create new music heritage exhibits next door to the Historic Earle Theatre in downtown Mount Airy.**

**Todd Community Preservation Organization: \$7,000 for music venue improvements at Cook Memorial Park in Ashe County.**

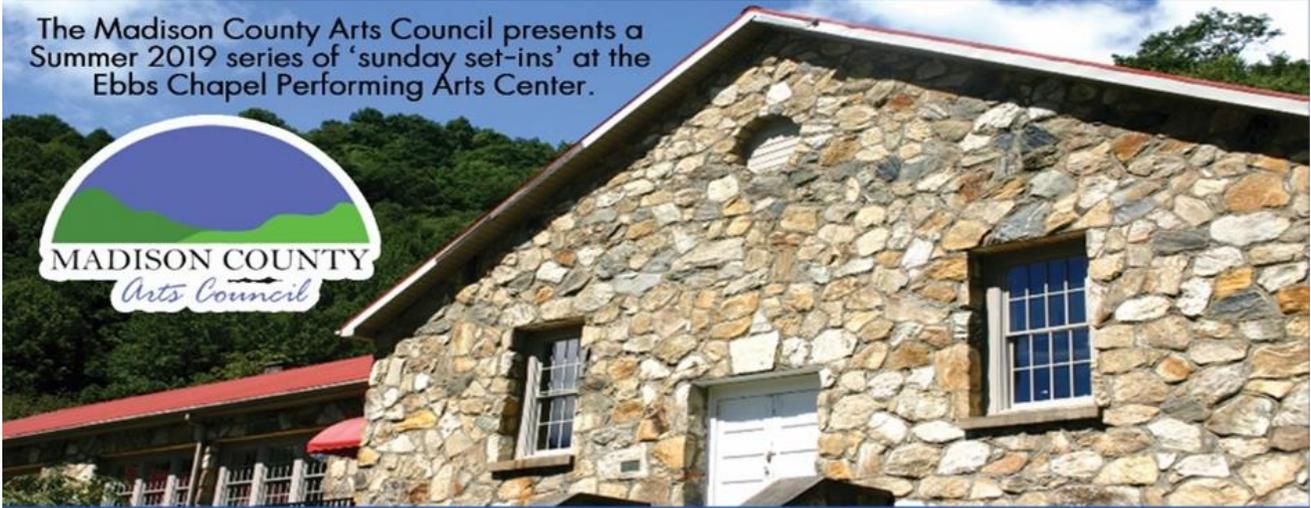
**Warren Wilson College: \$5,940 to engage the local community in the use and stewardship of the college's forest and trail system.**

**Will & Deni McIntyre Foundation: \$16,000 to support the production of Season Four of David Holt's State of Music series which showcases the region's bluegrass, old-time, and gospel traditions on public television.**

Since its inception in 2003, the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Partnership has awarded 173 grants totaling over \$2.3 million and leveraging another \$5.6 million in matching contributions from local governments and the private sector. These grants have funded projects in all 25 counties of Western North Carolina.

(Submitted by Laura Boosinger)

The Madison County Arts Council presents a Summer 2019 series of 'sunday set-ins' at the Ebbs Chapel Performing Arts Center.



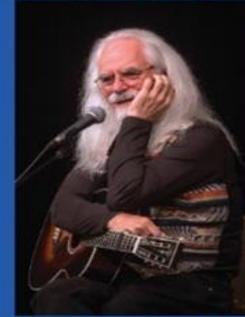
## JEFF LITTLE TRIO SUNDAY, JUNE 30 - 4:00pm \$20

"Jeff Little is a remarkable musician, steeped in tradition of his native Blue Ridge, yet also a virtuosic innovator." - National Public Radio  
"Tore the place apart with his wondrously quick and articulate piano style." -The Boston Globe

## MICHAEL RENO HARRELL

SUNDAY, JULY 28 - 4:00pm \$15

"Appalachian grit and wit." Award winning songwriter, storyteller and entertainer, and he's from the South...the Southern Appalachian Mountains to hone it a bit finer.



## THE KRUGER BROTHERS

SUNDAY, AUG. 25 - 4:00 pm \$30

"A refreshing honesty and engaging sound that will entertain and mesmerize listeners."

Ebbs Chapel Performing Arts Center

271 Laurel Valley Road , Mars Hill 28754

SPECIAL MEMBER PRICING AVAILABLE! \$60 FOR ALL THREE SHOWS

tickets at (828)649-1301 or [madisoncountyarts.com](http://madisoncountyarts.com)



North Carolina Arts Council  
Fifty years of leadership



# PICKLEBALL

About eight years ago we started playing Pickleball at Wolf Laurel on a tennis court marked off with painter's tape and a stick to lower the tennis net. Today we have 4 designated, official Pickleball courts which were painted to specifications by a professional court refinishing company. We have gone from a couple of inexperienced players to 20+ players of all levels. In a recent article published by Silver Sneakers, 5 reasons to play Pickleball were discussed:

1. Pickleball Benefit #1: You'll Lower Your Risk of Heart Disease. Playing one hour of Pickleball 3 days a week may improve your blood pressure, cholesterol, and cardiovascular endurance.

2. Pickleball Benefit #2: You'll Cut Your Risk of Depression. Exercise in general is a proven mood booster and Pickleball is a very sociable game. You will laugh a lot!

3. Pickleball Benefit #3: You'll Get Hooked on Exercise.

Hopefully you will enjoy the experience enough that you will come back for more.



4. Pickleball Benefit #4: You'll Socialize More—and Feel Less Lonely. Pickleball is a great social outlet and, hopefully, the desire to connect with friends new and old will keep you coming back.

5. Pickleball Benefit #5: You May Stay Independent Longer. Playing Pickleball regularly may improve your reflexes, balance, range of motion, and eye-hand coordination. It may also help your brain retain sharpness because you have to think about strategy, and you have to keep score.

Because of the increased popularity of Pickleball, we are looking into expanding the designated times for group play. Last year we played on Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:00 AM and on Sundays at 2:00 (except when there were concerts). There is some discussion of adding designated "Women Only" and "Men Only" times as well as times for "advanced/intermediate only" and other times for beginners with instruction from experienced players. Courts and equipment are always available to Village Club members. Just see one of the staff members for access. Remember: PICKLEBALL REALLY IS A BIG DILL!

*Becky Shennan*

(The article in part draws from Silver Sneakers <https://www.silversneakers.com/>)

## BEAR ALERT

Elaine Crabb (1st week of April), Wolf Laurel - BEAR ALERT AGAIN!! 4:30 am dogs going nuts again...just like in Dec.....hungry bear after birdseed on our top deck...shimmied up logs 2 1/2 stories...we watched him this morning for over 5 minutes. ...they are so nimble!!...he'd jump up on the railing looking down for way down. (Dan said he was 200-250 lbs) ..he tried twice going down...came back up to find best way down. He walked on the narrow railing like it was nothing! Finally, he went over at one of our logs that go down to the ground. ..shimmied down ..claw marks on log all the way down. Clearly, they are out of hibernation and hungry...we can't leave any seed out at night again like in Dec. incident. He stood outside our deck door 4 inches from us on the other side of the glass...quite unnerving. Just a warning for all to be careful!



Brian Roseberry, Wolf Laurel — Our parents had their bird feeders ripped from a tree and a metal stand the other night. Last night the bear came down to our cabin knocking over the garbage can. (With no garbage in it) This was in the Upper Haw & McKinney Gap area.



Rich Ashley's photo from December

## RESTAURANT RAMBLINGS — The Omni Grove Park Inn

Many of you have probably heard of the wonderful, historic hotel right in the heart of Asheville called The Omni Grove Park Inn. Did you know they also have wonderful eating establishments within the hotel? Let's explore some of those in this writing.

Next week is my birthday. As I write this, I am looking forward to my annual birthday dinner with my sister at the Sunset Terrace located outside on the back of the hotel just off The Great Hall.



### EDISON, CRAFT ALES + KITCHEN



The Sunset Terrace features hand cut steaks, premiere chops and fresh seafood, my favorite. Sitting outside and looking out at the incomparable view of the Blue Ridge Mountains is like no other dining view in this area. Did you know that the Sunset Terrace is also a 9-time recipient of the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence? So for you diners who like to pair a fine wine with your meal, this is a great place to eat. Don't forget to make

your reservation in advance. You want to make sure that you don't get shut out. We made our April reservation more than a month in advance. We wanted to make sure we got a good table with an unobstructed view of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the downtown Asheville skyline under one of their many outside heat lamps as it can get a bit chilly out there after the sun sets.

The Vue 1913 is located in the Sammons Wing at the lobby level and has expansive indoor and outdoor seating. This restaurant has a comfortable atmosphere with a stylish setting for a leisurely meal. The best of the local rustic seasonal ingredients is featured each season. They can be paired with a broad selection of wines from an abundant wine cellar that has been cultivated over the years. The large windows also allow you to gaze upon the panoramic views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Attire is nice casual, and reservations are recommended here as well. This is a wonderful setting for an everyday dinner or a special occasion. Vue 1913 has the distinction of being one of only two AAA Four Diamond Restaurants in Western North Carolina to have consistently received The Wine Spectator Best of Award of Excellence.

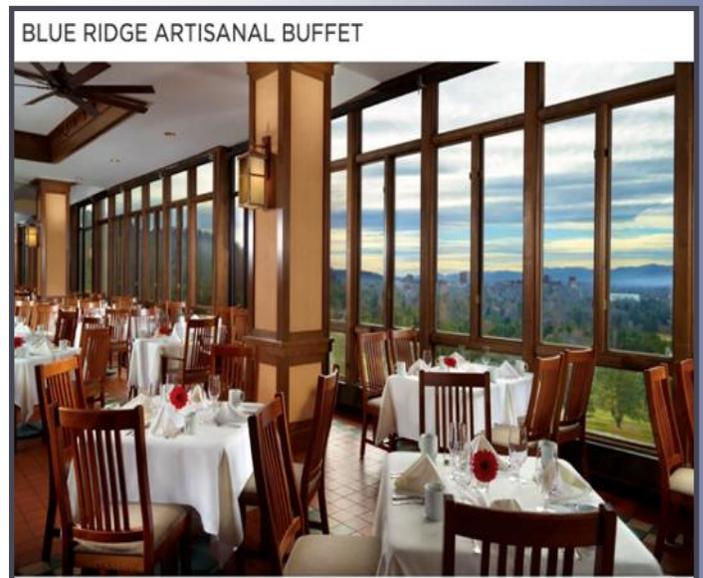
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The Blue Ridge is a farm-to-table artisanal buffet that overlooks the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains. (You see a pattern?) The Art of Breakfast is served each morning. They have two massive ballrooms filled with the most amazing breakfast foods one can imagine. This includes a yogurt bar, doughnut buffet, and they also have yummy gluten free choices. In this same room they also have a Friday night Seafood Buffet and a Saturday night Prime Rib Buffet. For those of you who like to enjoy a Sunday brunch, this is the place to go, as theirs is something not to be believed. Any morning of the week, this is the place to fill up on the best breakfast options you can imagine.

Edison, Craft Ales + Kitchen has an interesting story. It was named after Thomas Edison, due to his frequent visits, and his "Vagabonds (Edison, Harvey Firestone, and Henry Ford). Edison serves NC craft beers, small batch bourbons, handcrafted cocktails, and regionally inspired food in a contemporary, fun, and artistic setting. While dining here you may recognize some of the artwork, by several of the renowned local artists, displayed throughout this venue.

We bought our home in Wolf Laurel in 2012, but we had been coming up to the Asheville area for years before that. Due to the fact that we always came up during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, we were always looking for a nice place to dine for these holidays. We discovered that The Grove Park Inn had a fabulous buffet on Thanksgiving Day and on Christmas day. At first, they had this buffet in one of their smaller dining rooms but realized soon enough that this space was way too small for the vast amounts of people who wanted to partake in these holiday festivities. Several years ago, the large banquet halls were turned into holiday buffets on these two holidays for everyone to enjoy. Our daughter is 17 years old now, but when she was a lot younger, we celebrated Thanksgiving Day at this hotel. We made our reservation for noon but arrived earlier and stayed a lot later. The hotel had so many activities for the younger guests. They had a holiday Muppet movie playing in one room while another had an arts and crafts project making a turkey placemat for the dining table. The hotel would be all decorated for Christmas by the time Thanksgiving came around and the shining beauty of every individual Christmas tree was awe-inspiring. The holiday beauty started early and lasted past New Year's.

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## SUNSET TERRACE



The Grove Park Inn is also the sight of the National Gingerbread House competition. Every time we enjoyed our holiday buffet, we would always admire the amazing structures that were made out of gingerbread and other assorted goodies.

Another one of our favorite sights when we dine at the hotel is the wall of fame, as I call it. Photo after framed photo of the famous who have stayed at this hotel adorn several walls. It is actually quite amazing how many fa-

mous actors, entertainers, politicians, and big name business people have enjoyed the beauty of The Grove Park Inn.

If you have never enjoyed one of the many restaurants, or haven't done so in a while, make a reservation and plan to spend a few hours enjoying the beauty and serenity of this gorgeous structure.

*Lori Wyman Macaulay*



## VUE 1913



## *Your Wolf Laurel Library is Ready for the Season*

As hours expand in the Community Center this spring, you will find there the Wolf Laurel Library, ready for the new season. Nearly five hundred books have been donated and incorporated into newly organized shelving since last October. In an expanded fiction section, you will find additions to your favorite novelists. In the basement, nonfiction has also expanded into shelving that previously held puzzles, which in turn, have moved to the children's library in the room behind the fireplace.

Some examples of the winter's donations include Harper Lee's Go Set a Watchman and an audio (CD) version of the Bill Clinton/James Patterson title, The President is Missing, both currently on the "new arrivals" display in the middle of the fiction section. Also among new arrivals you will find best-selling Born a Crime by Trevor Noah. Nearly every section of the library has recent additions. The cookbooks are enhanced by the beautiful, big Mexico: the Cookbook. The "Local Interest" section features a copy of Last Castle, Denise Kiernan's history of Biltmore. The children's picture, "easy reader," and board books has lovely new se-



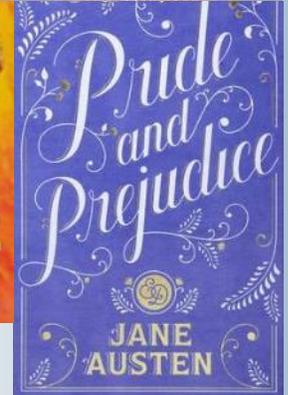
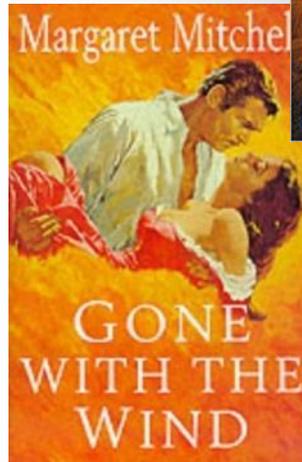
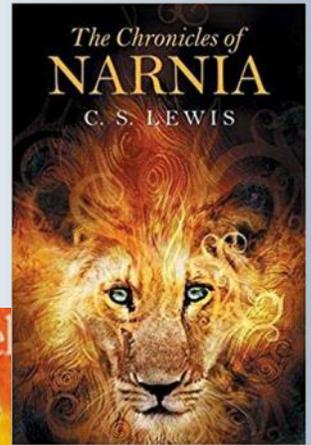
lections, including products of Dr. Seuss and Disney. The adventure section has additions such as Between a Rock and a Hard Place by hiker Aron Ralston. Young adult books received a copy of Serafina and the Black Cloak by Asheville's Robert Beatty. There are too many more to mention.

In the last Top of the Bald, I mentioned being interested in comparing the winning books from the PBS "Great American Read" contest with the contents of our collection. Of the top thirty favorite books in America, copies of twenty are in the Wolf Laurel Library. Those include young reader favorites: Harry Potter series, Charlotte's Web, Little Women, Anne of Green Gables, Adventures of Tom Sawyer, and Alice in Wonderland. Other favorites appear to me to be classics, often required reading in schools: To Kill a Mockingbird, Jane Eyre, Grapes of Wrath, Great Gatsby, 1984, Atlas Shrugged, Wuthering Heights, Great Expectations, and Pillars of the Earth. The rest may simply be good reads: the Outlander series, The Help, Lonesome Dove, and Prayer for Owen Meany. All the titles mentioned above are indeed in our library, in adult fiction, in young adult or children's fiction, or in the Fantasy/Science Fiction section.

(CONTINUED)

Ten of the top thirty “best” books are not in our library, including Pride and Prejudice, Gone with the Wind, Chronicles of Narnia, A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, Book Thief, And Then There Were None, Stand, Rebecca, Color Purple, and Catcher in the Rye. If you have copies of those missing books to share, they would be nice additions; to our library. Meanwhile, consider sampling any of these books which you have not read and which we do have in the library. I plan to post a list of all 100 “Great American Read” books inside the door of the fiction collection for anyone interested. Hope to see you in the library soon!

*Yvonne Carignan*



### Valentine's Day Social



Wolf Laurel residents had a chance to show how much they knew about their spouses by playing the Not-So-Newlywed Game at the February 15th Valentine's Day social at the barn. Hosted by Tim & Leslie Donovan, along with Steve Wilcox. Tim, dressed up as Bob Eubanks, and Leslie was

dressed as Carol Merrill, as "Bob" asked some fun and risqué questions, and "Carol" showcased the parting gifts such as Rice-A-Roni and Geritol. Every few moments, the show was interrupted by commercials for various deluxe household items that would be popular in the '70s. Four couples vied for the grand prize of the Not-So-Newlywed Game. The lucky winners were Walt and Melanie Liebert! It was a whoopie kind of night. Afterwards, everyone stayed around and enjoyed cocktails, conversation, and music by Tim Donovan! *Tim & Leslie Donovan*



***"Lament for a Beech"***

Poem by Gene Woolf

Mountain Express\* held a recent contest in which readers were asked to submit a poem expressing what the Western North Carolina environment, and its condition, meant to them. Many entries were received, including my own, and my poem won 2nd place. The three winning poems were published in the April 3rd issue on page 57; <https://mountainx.com/arts/xpress-poetry-contest-winners-announced/>.

*"Lament for a Beech"*

*Please don't cut me yet, not yet*

*I see you standing there staring at me, noisy chain saw in your hand you think I am dead you cut my sisters long ago, cut them, hauled split stacked burned them but they were dead, standing silent sentinel in your woods, felled by the bugs, felled by the pinholes all up their bark, felled by the foul air once so sweet, felled like the Chestnuts so long ago, yes it is the blight the Beech blight but we don't know those words we just know the pinholes where the bugs creep in and feast and the pain climbs up our trunks but please don't cut me yet my sap still sings, my high wood fine, my few years yet to live and shade to give*



*Come spring my great green canopy will shade your house again, come autumn the golden leaves will please your eye until they fall and say goodbye, as I will too but years away  
Put down your saw, go find some seed, new trees to birth yes ten to one.*

*No, not Beech, our days are done, but something new to grace the woods and thrive with sun, yes ten to one.*

*Then some fine morning will come my death, as yours will too, the woods will not remember you nor me, but on and on will live, eternally. Ten to one.*

*Then you may cut and haul and split and stack and burn and I won't mind nor even know. All Beech gone then, to join the Chestnuts in fond memory, and even you, so please don't cut me now, still your saw and quiet our woods.*

*Not yet.*

Gene Woolf



## Bend National Park

Back in February Susan and I met Becky and George Shennan as well as Bill and Tracie Aimone at Big Bend National Park. This photo was taken on our way to the Mexican village of Boquillas Del Carmen. *Lloyd Parker*



## Homemade Wolf Laurel Maple Syrup:

Winter months up on this mountain of Wolf Laurel are cold, windy, and snowy; not inviting to many outdoor activities. Skiing/tubing perhaps. However, I've discovered one that doesn't involve casts and crutches: tapping Sugar Maple trees and making Maple syrup!



I started 3 seasons ago after tutelage from a local gentleman, Tony Hunnicutt, who had acquired the techniques to produce real good tasting Maple syrup from our local Sugar Maples. He taught me the basics. But each year there is more to learn, successes to build on and failures to overcome.

The best sap flow occurs when nighttime temperatures fall below freezing followed by sunny warm daytime temperatures. In 2017 February was unseasonably warm, day and night. The most sap I got in one day was 3 gallons. 3 gallons!

Oh, guess how much sap is needed to make just 1 gallon of syrup: 40-60 gallons! After a week of tapping and collecting and boiling I called it a year, a bad year.

After the sap is collected the next step is boiling. A turkey propane cooker brings 35-degree sap to a rolling boil very nicely. Generally, about an hour of boiling to every gallon evaporated. I've got little patience to watch something boil so multitasking creeps into the effort. More than once (sad to admit) I've taken Sugar Maple sap past the syrup stage on to the carbon stage. Another lesson learned – timers on an iPhone make for an excellent reminder.

This syrup season was started on a small-scale experimental basis in December! The bulk was started back up the beginning of February and lasted for a month. All told just over 2 gallons of syrup resulted.

Large used syrup jars are favored, but most of the syrup is packaged in cleaned/sterilized 1.5 ounce Cracker Barrel bottles; intended for sharing with family and friends.

Sugar Maple trees are all around us in abundance; North Carolina Sugar Maples. If this winter activity may "tickle your fancy" I'd be happy to pass on Tony's tips and a few of my own.



*Carl Larrabee*

(Editor's interjection: I have had the pleasure of enjoying Carl's syrup—very nice!)

## Healthy / Healing Practice:

After my retirement a few years ago, I advanced my efforts to improve my health practices. Living in Wolf Laurel has provided some additional opportunities. I recently decided to share an important aspect of my health endeavors. WL Country Club has agreed to allow me to offer a new health related class - Qigong Tai Chi Easy 5 (TCE5).

We learn from our own culture and sometimes from cultures far away, and from people who lived a long time ago. Imagine if you were a warrior from long ago, who was trained in a martial art, doing battle with adversaries when the need arose. Your training would be energetic and forceful. However, to recover from battle and to enhance one's health from ordeals such as rigorous training or battle, you would engage in a different type of activity. Your recovery practices would be slow and gentle, designed to enhance balance, mindfulness, and healing. Tai Chi is one of those ancient martial arts designed for battle, and Qigong is the type of practice based on martial arts training, but designed for healing. Our adversaries are not warriors but do provide us with challenges and stress.



A few decades ago, there occurred a competition; someone decided to seek out a form of healing practice which would be simple enough which almost anyone could learn and practice. Various disciplines of Tai Chi gathered to showcase what they thought would be such a method of healing practice. The various practices were judged on effectiveness and adaptability for most people. The successor in the competition was a Qigong Tai Chi practice called Tai Chi Easy 5 (TCE5) created by Dr. Roger Jahnke, O.M.D. Dr. Jahnke was an internationally known doctor of Chinese Medicine and a longtime student and practitioner of Tai Chi. He designed a simple practice routine and to teach as many people as possible the practices that he found to promote healing and mindfulness. He authored the book, The Healer Within and created the Healer Within Foundation. Regarding the book, Deepak Chopra, M.D. wrote, "Practical and inspiring." Dr. Jahnke went on to train thousands and to write more books. He continues to train others, and more can be learned about TCE5 at <http://www.healerwithin.com>, and via [admin@healerwithinfoundation.org](mailto:admin@healerwithinfoundation.org).

(CONTINUED)

The Healer Within Foundation training involves techniques to enhance balance, mindfulness, healing, and a sense of peace. It involves breathing, gentle movement, mindfulness, and self-applied massage. The movements are simple and easy and often practiced in groups around the world. The



TCE5 routine can be done in a few minutes and even by those who need to be seated.

Having undergone the training in TCE5 a couple of years ago, I pledged, at the trainers' urging, to share the practices with others as a service to my community. I do the practices myself most days, and feel they are an important part of my endeavors to enhance health and longevity. Along with Yoga, exercise, and nutritional practices, I hope to maintain an active lifestyle.

A new opportunity to share the TCE5 practices with others will come this summer in Wolf Laurel. I have been included in the WL County Club's summer classes schedule, to be conducted at no cost to WLCC members. I am not a Tai Chi instructor, but I am a certified practice leader. I will be conducting TCE5 practice sessions each month, to introduce others to the practice routine and provide for an opportunity to share what I have learned. I will also endeavor to make myself available to others (family, activity, or social groups) in the WL and Mars Hill community for those interested in learning these healthy practices.

### *The Health Benefits of Tai Chi*

*Harvard Women's Health Watch, 2009*

*"Tai Chi and Qigong are often described as 'meditation in motion,' but it might well be called 'medication in motion.' There is growing evidence that this mind-body practice, which originated in China as a martial art, has value in treating or preventing many health problems."*

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/staying-healthy/the-health-benefits-of-tai-chi>

Larry Veatch, Certified, TCE5 Practice Leader ([larryv8@gmail.com](mailto:larryv8@gmail.com), 352-359-0071)

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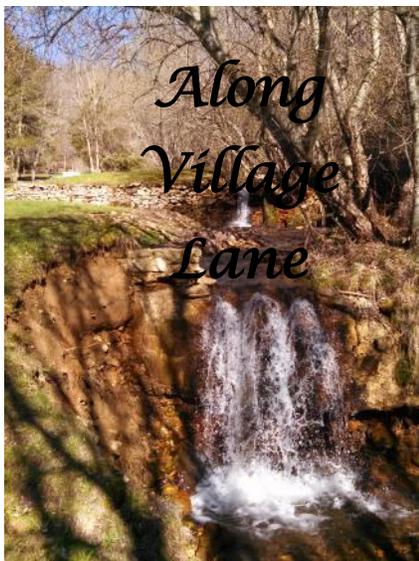
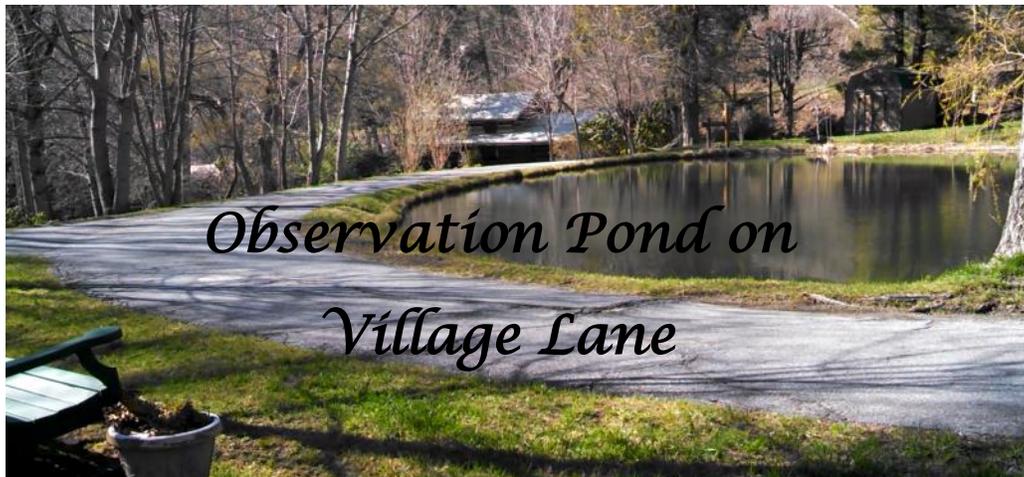
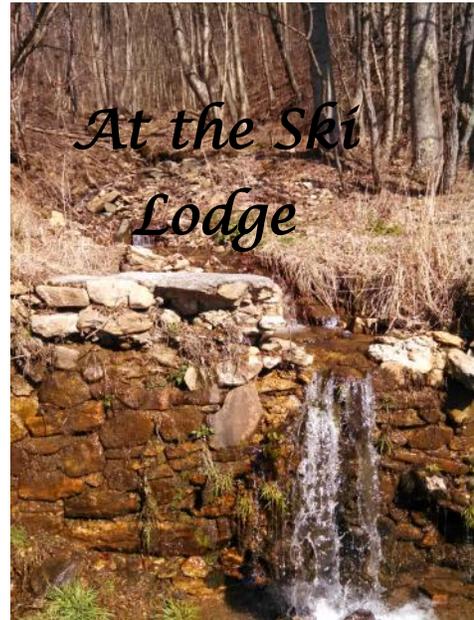
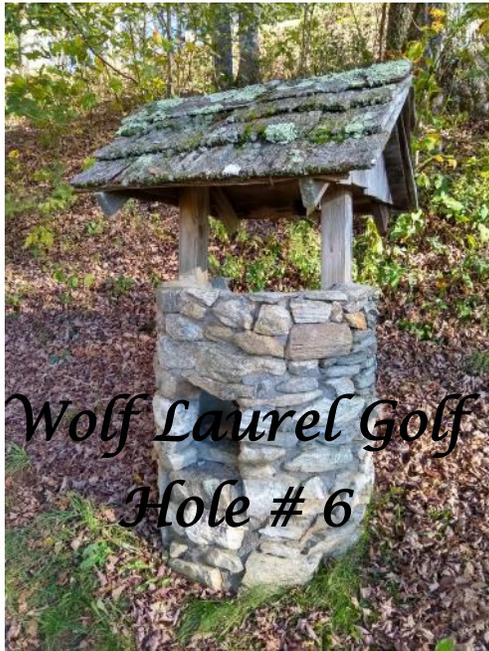
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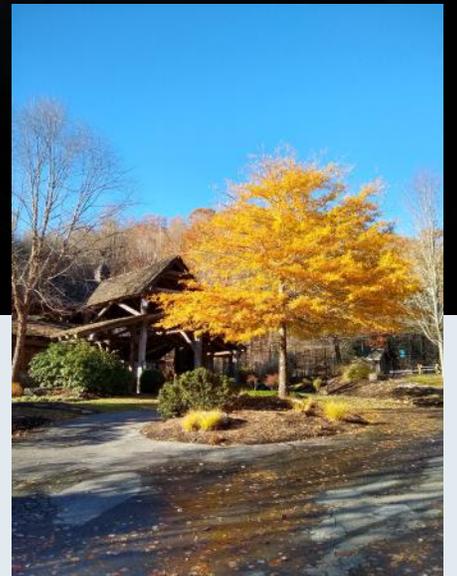
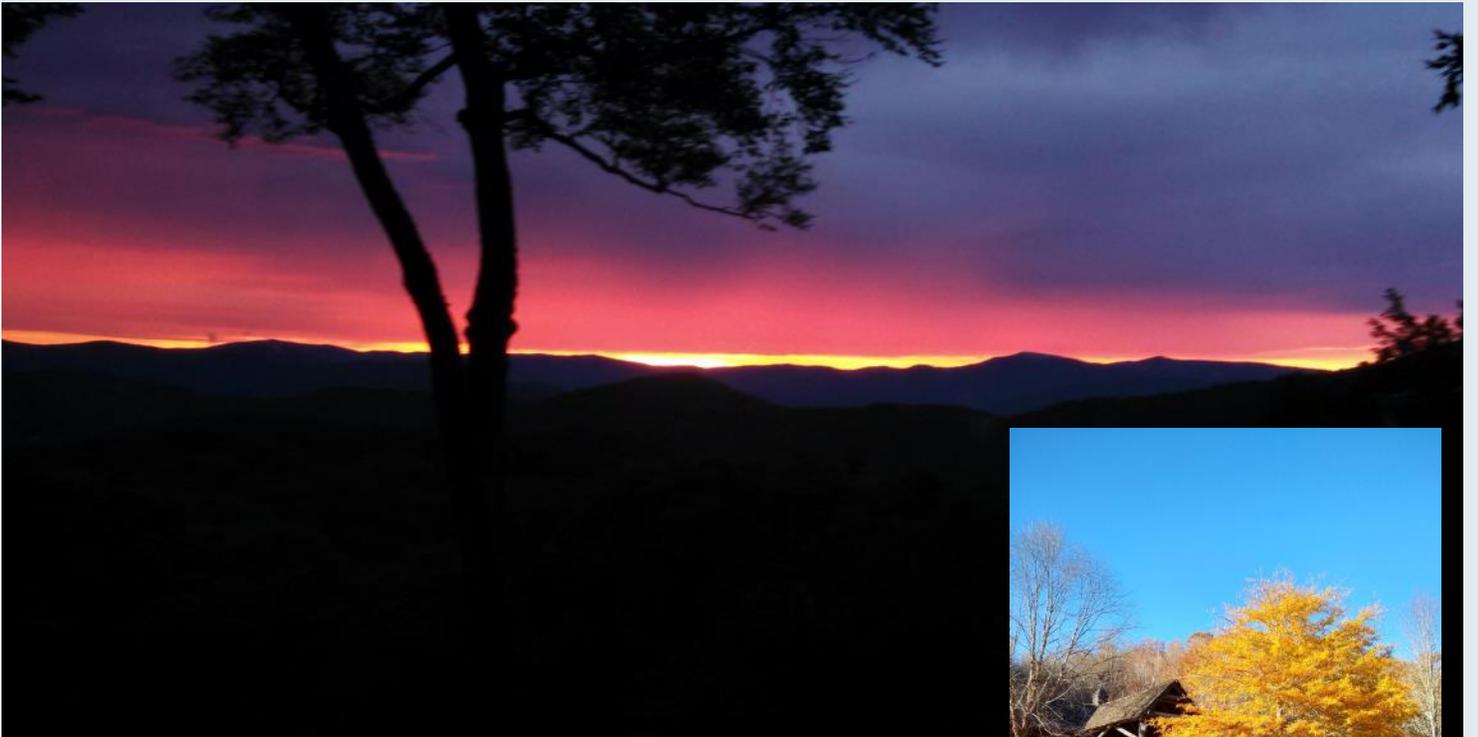
DON & JOE



From TOB Winter Edition — Where was I?



*The Beauty of  
Wolf Laurel*



*Pix by Larry Veatch*

*Views of Wolf Laurel*



Pic by Rich Ashley March 2019



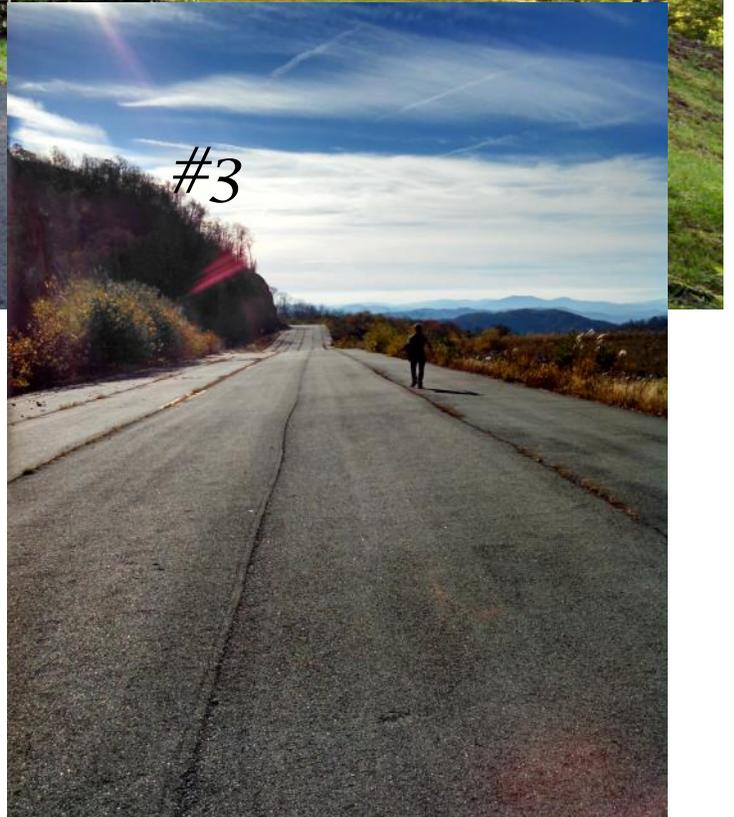
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*Where was I?*

*#1*



*#2*



*#3*

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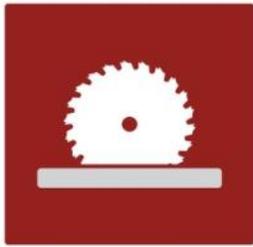
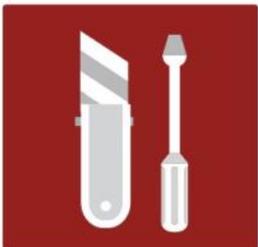
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