



Top of the
Bald

Fall 2023

**Brought to you by the
WLPOA Board of Directors
and the WLPOA Staff**



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Wolf Laurel Property Owners Association (WLPOA)

Board of Directors:

Bob Hicks - President

Carl Larrabee - Vice President

Theodore Meyer - Secretary

Robert Lahr - Treasurer

Natalie Morris

Rick Zinter

Doug Orman

Steve Wilcox

Lynn Cagney

Scott McCaleb

Cary Monroe

John Bracket - Immediate Past President



Website: www.wolflaurelpoa.com

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

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

WLPOA & Village Club Staff

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

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 Donna Dickey
 Paul Dickey
 Walt Liebert
 Dan Kaufman
 Theo Meyer

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 Larry Veatch,
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 <https://www.mygreencondo.net/wlrms/index>

President's Message

Dear neighbors and friends -

When you read this, I hope you are either cozied up in front of a Wolf Laurel fireplace, basking in the glory of late fall in the mountains; or sitting in a warmer clime, thinking about your next chance to visit Wolf Laurel. Either way, I suspect you will be in a "Wolf Laurel state of mind"! It is SO easy to do.

And, speaking of Wolf Laurel, you may not be aware that the Wolf Laurel Property Owners Association just celebrated its 40th anniversary. Yup, back on October 15, 1983, in Wil and Sylvia Coudriet's house on El Miner, a group of 15 adventurous souls birthed the POA! And, look at us now: a healthy 40 year old; with its youth and adolescence past, but years of 'prime time' still ahead. So many accomplishments of which to be proud; so many projects and tasks ahead. I'm honored to now begin my term as President of this venerable (but still vibrant) organization.

Your WLPOA is blessed with a talented and dedicated staff, and a thoughtful, problem-solving Board. We are all working to enhance all aspects of life in Wolf Laurel; to address issues conscientiously and frugally; to listen to all points of view. Exciting plans are being discussed and implemented, and we hope the results will be welcomed by all of you.

On a personal basis, as POA President, I intend to focus my efforts on enhancing the value that the POA brings to every resident and lot owner within the community. I like thinking optimistically: we're all in this together! The more we can communicate, coordinate and commemorate, the better our collective quality of life will be.

And, you can help: stay engaged, or find a way to GET engaged in this wonderful community, and do so even when you are not actually 'on the mountain'. Help with your ideas ('good ideas' often directly result from 'bad ideas'); complain if something doesn't work the way you think it should - we will try to fix it.

As this 2023 season comes to an end, your WLPOA is already hard at work planning next season, and expecting it to be better than ever. I'm excited to be of service to the community; email me - bobhicks@cheerful.com.

Regards to all, Bob Hicks



Editor's Notes

Cover photo from Nextdoor post by Holly Bessell

Another sunset posted by
Mandy Wilson



***Hyperlinks in the TOB are
active, e.g.,***

<https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com>

***Advertising featured in the TOB
does not imply endorsement.***



JOIN THE POA ANNEX PLANNING COMMITTEE AND SHAPE OUR FUTURE!



Dear Wolf Laurel Community,

The POA Annex, previously known as the “Old Motel,” completed its closing earlier this month. Now, our focus shifts to planning the future use of this valuable building.

To ensure the POA Annex becomes a vibrant and valuable addition to our community, we are forming a dedicated Planning Committee. We are seeking enthusiastic volunteers to bring creative ideas and insights to shape this space into something truly special.

If you are interested in joining and helping to shape the future of our POA Annex, please contact Steve Wilcox.

(202)699-2790 or stevewilcox397@gmail.com

We appreciate your continued dedication and involvement in making Wolf Laurel a wonderful place to live. Together, we can create a space that reflects our community’s values and aspirations.

Thank you for your consideration.



WLPOA - Article IX By-Law Committees

Executive:

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

Finance:

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

Audit (Compilation):

Chair: Bob Lahr (Treasurer)

Village Club (Amenities):

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

Membership:

Chair: Liz Benson (WLPOA Director)
 Lynn Cagney

Facilities:

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

Facilities Subcommittee - Village

Beautification:

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

By-Laws and Legal:

Chair: Bob Hicks (President)
 Theo Meyer
 Fred Tygart

Long Range Planning:

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

Election: (Verify ballots)

Chair: Liz Benson (WLPOA Director)
 Earlene Shofi



AD HOC COMMITTEES

Human Resources:

Chair: Earlene Shofi
 Bill Aimone
 Bob Hicks
 John Brackett

Library:

Director: Yvonne Carignan
 Bob Hicks

Nominating:

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

Playground Planning and Funding:

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

Rental:

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

Top of the Bald:

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

Webmaster/IT:

Chair: Larry Veatch

WLPOA Package Annex:

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

Wolf Laurel Country Club Collaboration:

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

Village Club Summer Events



Kids Camp



Independence Day



Wolfmeister

More WL Village Club Events

(More pix from the Facebook page at the end of the TOB)



Village Club Notes

Watch for announcements about the winter events and activities

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

Follow us on Facebook:

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

Spring & Summer Seasonal Weekly Activities and Programs

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

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



Wolf Laurel POA Library Report - Fall 2023

Yvonne Carignan - **Winter Reads**

End of Season Thanks

What a pleasure to think of all whom I should thank on behalf of the library at the end of the summer season. Kippy Capers spent most of a day reorganizing the puzzle collection. Carol Jones donated 2 dehumidifiers and saved the fiction collection from the mold damage that plagued us in 2022. Steve Wilcox and Jim Klumpp spent a whole day using their own tools to repair and erect two new shelving units, one in the basement library and one in the children's room. Staff deal with incoming books and donations daily and support the librarian in whatever she needs in the library. Board members support the library in too many ways to mention. Please do thank staff and Board members, when you have a chance, for making this community library possible! And thank all of you donors for your generous contributions of wonderful books, new and classic, adult and children's, fiction and non-fiction. This year, you donated a total of 1299 books, DVDs, audio books, puzzles, and games. You build this important feature of our community. Thank you and keep the donations coming!

Collection Size

Counting the collection every couple of years is an interesting exercise that reveals how our library is growing. For instance, our **children's collection** has grown dramatically. In 2018, the library held approximately 600 books for kids, from pre-readers to young adults. By now, in 2023, we have 1018 children's books. That is almost a 70% increase in the number of books available for people's kids and grandchildren since 2018. Meanwhile, our **movie collection on DVDs** has grown. Now we have 509 DVDs for grownups, teens, and children; in 2018 we had only 183. I have been surprised how often people borrow DVDs to take home, given how available other movie options are. But our DVD collection is used!

In 2020 we had 79 **puzzles**; now the library has 159. The puzzles run the gamut from very challenging (up to 2000 pieces) to easy puzzles for young children. We have puzzles with 100, 500, and 1000 pieces as well as several other sizes. I know some of the generous people who keep us supplied with puzzles: Laura Fisher, Kippy Capers, and the Graces. Forgive me if I missed some puzzle donors; many donations are anonymous. We thank you all!

(continued)



Wolf Laurel POA Library Report - Fall 2023

(continued)

In the adult **fiction collection**, we have 4974 titles – over half of our entire collection, which include all fiction genres such as science fiction, mystery, romance, and westerns, and formats such as large print and audio books on CD. The latter two categories have only a few titles in them but are heavily used. We have plenty of people who listen to books or need large print to see the words on the pages. If you have copies of books on CD or large print books, please know that you have some neighbors who would appreciate seeing your donations of these titles in the library. And thank you for your recent donations of audio and large print books!

Currently, **all collections** total 8661 in the Wolf Laurel POA Library. In 2018, the collection-size was 6589. That's a 31% increase in collection size in 5 years!

Annual Statistics for 2023

This year, use of the library, based on counts of books returned, was up by 26%. People borrowed and returned 765 books this year compared to 599 last year. Items identified with other collections – DVDs, puzzles, and games -- were also borrowed more frequently this year. Your use, an expression of your appreciation for the library, encourages the librarian, who came to work during 87 days since October last year, often putting in extra time during the “off season” to shift and reorganize collections and clean shelves. That work time is up from 74 workdays during the previous year.



Shifting and Cleaning over Winter

Speaking of time to shift and clean, this season's shift of the fiction collection has begun. We always receive more of some authors than others so that shelves fill up unevenly. Shifting evens up the shelves and provides an opportunity for cleaning the shelves. As time permits, books in the history corner, children's room, and basement non-fiction, will also get organized and the shelves cleaned.

The Library Will be Open this Winter!

During winter hours in the Community Center, please come in and check the New Arrivals shelf and look for all your favorite authors. The librarian will be at work shelving new donations and the items you return.

To repeat, thank all of you for your use, your donations, and your appreciation for the Wolf Laurel Community Library, a service of the Wolf Laurel Property Owners Association.

Yvonne Carignan

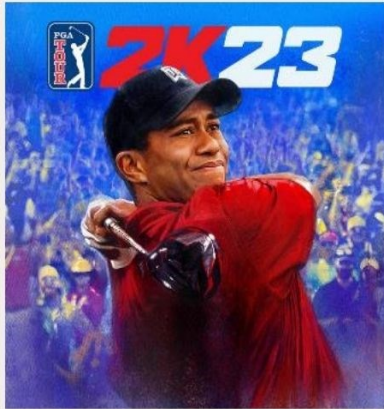
WOLF LAUREL COUNTRY CLUB



Have a wonderful and safe winter season! We look forward to seeing you at our next event in May 2024 for our Memorial Day Celebration!

WOLF LAUREL CC GOLF COURSE NOW AVAILABLE ON ALL GAMING PLATFORMS

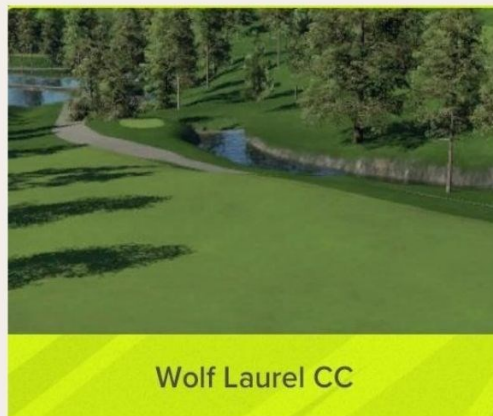
By Greg Swentor



The course at Wolf Laurel Country Club is now available to be played on the console game **2K23 PGA Tour!** It is available for all gaming platforms – Microsoft Xbox, Sony PlayStation, and Steam.



The course name is “**Wolf Laurel CC**”. You will find it to be quite accurate with all four tee locations (Pro through Ladies) and multiple pin placements. As you play, you will note that not all scenic features were able to be reproduced but the course itself is very accurate ... good luck on those approaches and greens folk ;-)



The course will require 300 plays to become officially handicapped by PK Sports which will allow it to show up in rotation for the 2K23 PGA Tour sanctioned tournaments. Players all over the world would be randomly introduced to our amazing course. So, let’s get out there and play it online with the family!!

WOLF LAUREL COUNTRY CLUB

Submitted by Kate Freihofer and Susan Benardo

It's been a wonderful chilly fall season after a fantastic and fast summer season. We were able to kick off our fall season by celebrating the great success of our Fall Harvest Festival at Wolf Laurel Country Club, organized by Ann Fee. Thank you all for your support as we had a great turnout along with many very artistic vendors! We can't wait to do it again next year!



Wolf Laurel Country Club members enjoy some of the most spectacular views and challenging mountain golf in the eastern U.S.



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

Wolf Laurel Historical Society


Happy Diamond Anniversary, Wolf Laurel!

Was there skiing on the slope before Wolf Laurel was here? How did skiers get to the top in those days? Before Wolf Laurel was here did the farmers along Puncheon Fork get around on skis during winter? What ore did the miner extract who gave El Miner Drive its name? And where did the Spanish influence in that road name come from? Is that old cabin just inside the Wolf Laurel gate historic? Why so? How old is it anyway? Why do we have so darn many HOAs at Wolf Laurel? Which one of them is responsible for keeping snow off Ridgeway? Did Bobby Jones really design the Wolf Laurel golf course? Why is Big Bald bald? Where is the McKinney Gap that gave McKinney Gap Road its name? Were those beautiful fall trees at the community center always there? How about that pond that so beautifully reflects the autumn colors? And is that big water wheel just a dramatic decoration? Does it have a history?

Questions! Questions! Whether you have just found Wolf Laurel – newly “wolf bit”, as we say – or you have been here for years, there are questions that can’t help but pop into your mind when you absorb the relaxation that is Wolf Laurel and contemplate all that is around you. And how do you sort out mountain rumors (perhaps latent even in the questions above) from the real people and events that have shaped Wolf Laurel?

It was sixty years ago next February when C. P. (Bud) Edwards III, whose family had already written its place into the history of the area, began to purchase acreage in the rugged wilderness underneath the magnificent mountain called Big Bald. Before he finished in June of that year, he had assembled 7000 acres in an economically and geographically remote high corner of Southern Appalachia where three counties came together. He wanted a place to share wilderness with his friends, but soon they talked him into sharing it with others. We came later as the heirs of his dream. On a recent fall afternoon, as many celebrated the 60th anniversary of a familiar couple whose youthful picture sat on the table where cards and well-wishers were gathered, one couldn’t help but wonder “What were their dreams when that picture was taken? Has life fulfilled those dreams?” So, we might wonder of our other sixtieth celebrant: What were Bud Edward’s dreams for Wolf Laurel? Would he think of them as fulfilled?

(continued)




**Now Is The Time
To Visit The Wolf Laurel Boundary**

Now—before the brilliant fall coloring is gone and cold weather sets in —is the time to visit the Wolf Laurel Boundary at Big Bald Mountain.

Many people from the Tri City area have seen the property and have been impressed by the potential of this rugged resort area. And they have been impressed by the intrinsic value of the 1/2 and 2 1/2 acre tracts at predevelopment prices from \$2400.

Representatives will be at the site with jeeps to take you on a tour of the development. If it isn't convenient to drive up this week end, write or telephone for more information.

How To Get There—
Four miles south of Tennessee-North Carolina line turn left off U.S. Highway 23 on State Route 1503; then left at Ebbs Chapel School on State Route 1502 (Puncheon Fork Road); at white church; right on State Route 1501 to the Wolf Laurel Boundary. All turns are marked "To Big Bald Mountain."



**WOLF LAUREL
BOUNDARY**

**EDWARDS
ENTERPRISES**
P.O. Box 9, Kingsport
Telephone 245-3101

Wolf Laurel Historical Society

Thirty years ago, the Wolf Laurel Historical Society was founded by residents of the community who asked so many of those questions above and many others. Of course, they not only loved to learn about the community for which they had such affection, they wanted to know about the people and culture beyond the gate in this special corner of the world. Generations that came before had nurtured this land and left it for them to continue to enjoy in their way. And it went along with their knowing that connecting to the past enriched the appreciation for what we have and how it came to be. It allowed us to honor those who came before us and made and preserved the things that we love about Wolf Laurel and the Southern mountains.

The screenshot shows the top portion of the website. On the left is a photograph of the Oscar Willis Barn, c.1890. On the right is a photograph of the Dave Buck House, c.1930. The text 'Wolf Laurel Historical Society' and 'Madison and Yancey Counties, North Carolina' is centered. Below the images is a navigation menu with links for 'About us', 'Membership information', 'Events Calendar', 'Publications', 'Wolf Laurel History Blog', 'Wolf Laurel Stories', 'Organizational Resources', and 'Contact us'.

Wolf Laurel History Blog

The Three Lives of the Willis Cabin

James F. Klumpp
Presented to the Wolf Laurel Historical Society
June 23, 2021

What makes a structure historic? The answer is not just its age. Only people can make a history. But structures are more permanent than people. They outlast activities, even lives. And so they become reservoirs holding our memories of those people, their activities, their lives, the culture of their times. They keep history alive for us. They help us remember. Even when we were not there ourselves, we can celebrate what made those people and their times special, contributing to our lives today. That is history. And that process is what makes a structure historic.

It may well be that the cabin that sits beside Wolf Laurel Road at our gate is the oldest structure on the 6000 acres of Wolf Laurel. More on that later. But its key location where our access road enters the beauty of our community has made it a place of transitions. Over the many years that a cabin has sat at that spot, about 140 years of our history has played out. Today I want to tell that history as seen through the eyes of that cabin. I call it "The Three Lives of the Willis Cabin."

Oscar and Mary Jane Willis

A cabin on the site was constructed in the early 1880s by Oscar Willis. Oscar's place in our story is to remind us of the energetic character of those who developed this valley in the days before Wolf Laurel. Oscar Willis was born, probably in 1848, in Rutherford County, North Carolina, the son of a millwright of the same name. His father had been itinerant, taking his family west as far as Missouri as he plied his trade. Oscar was close to his brother William, who was eight years his senior, and the two became sellers of patent medicine. Local historian Delia Tipton Britman claimed they began selling the concoction in California, but by 1880 they were doing so in Kokomo, Indiana.

Two years earlier, as Oscar turned 30, he must have decided that his future was as a farmer. We are not certain why he decided that his farm should be in Madison County or Upper Laurel. In November 1878, the Willis brothers purchased 199 acres of land stretching from Haw Ridge down to and including the laurel thicket on this side of Wolf Laurel Branch from a wealthy landowner named Pinkney Anderson. Oscar probably did not move to the area from Indiana at that time, but continued to invest in his North Carolina farm with the earnings from the brothers' medicine business. In November

Whether you are new to Wolf Laurel or one of those who have enjoyed it through the years, who have seen it change but its character remain, you will appreciate these beautiful acres more deeply with a knowledge of its past.

Today the Wolf Laurel Historical Society remains to meet this need in the Wolf Laurel community. We do so in many ways. Maybe you want to start with our website: WLHistory.org. There you will find information on our many activities. But there is more as well. The **Wolf Laurel History Blog** contains short, researched, articles answering some of the questions above and others that people have asked over the years: the history of the Society, of the cabin by the gate, of life along Puncheon Fork at the turn of the 20th century, of Wolf Laurel's industrial past. **Wolf Laurel Stories**, a focus of the past year for the Society, contains memories of people and moments at Wolf Laurel composed by your friends and neighbors to pass along to future generations. **Membership Information** is on another page to assist you in joining the Society in support of its work.

(continued)

The screenshot shows the main content area of the website. It features the same header images and navigation menu as the previous screenshot. The main heading is 'Wolf Laurel Stories' with the sub-heading 'A special thanks to all our contributors'. The featured article is 'On Top of the World with Papaw' by Angela Regmeier, July 2023. The text of the article begins with 'My first memory of the Bald Mountain was summer 1969. I was 5 years old and out "leafein" with my grandparents. This was a special time for me because I was a big girl and I could spend the weekends with Granny and Papaw while my brother was a baby and had to stay home. Leafin usually meant we packed up the truck bed camper and left the farm in Leicester to go visiting Papaw and Granny's family and friends on Puncheon Fork. This trip we were headed to camp on top of "The Bald". We packed up the 2 door tan Chevrolet truck with our supplies. Inside the silver metal camper truck bed cover laid a truck bed size mattress covered in warm colorful quilts and a small white metal lid pot for night time pee emergencies to the left of the camper door at the foot of the mattress bed. We were off! At this time there was no development around or near The Bald just untouched natural land. The Chevrolet navigated up the steep unmarked hillside to the blue hued skyline at the top. The sky felt so close that you might be able to reach up and touch the ceiling between the heavens and earth. You could certainly run through a low-lying passing cloud. When it seemed as if we were on the very top of the world, Papaw stopped the truck, got out for a long look and deep breath. We had reached our destination. After unloading camp chairs and setting up our cooking fire Papaw and I were off to scout for brush. We were looking for the perfect branch and twigs to fashion me a bow with little twig arrows. Usually Papaw made me a bean shooter but today I was going to be an Indian princess. The day was cool and a breeze blew across the top of the untamed grass mixed with a sprinkle of wild flowers and an occasional laurel in bloom. Nothing but endless sky and feral fields rolling high above the mountain peaks that wrapped around this wide open space. Nature's ice cream scoop nestled in a scalloped waffle cone of mountains. Granny gave me an extra sweater for my arms and Papaw's binoculars dangled around my neck to my knees for our explorations. We were on top of the world! As I grew older I began to understand more the personal importance the Bald held with Papaw; almost as if the Bald was a living identity. Papaw and I loved to go on walks. Often he would walk with me up to the pasture above his 1920's white farm cottage house above Puncheon Fork. Then he would stand and look toward the north. "There!" he would say and point. "Between those two mountains, just to the left of that tallest pine tree in the distance, there is the Bald. Do you see it?" Even before I was old enough to see it the answer was yes. Then as I got older I would show him the Bald. It became a private conversation and game we shared together. I felt in those moments his soul was centered as long as he could find the Bald and I had the privilege of witnessing, sharing that quiet sacred moment as he looked off into the distance connecting his present home to his childhood home.

Wolf Laurel Historical Society


But don't ignore the **Publications** page on the website. There you will find the things that can help you get through a winter's night, or sate a moment of Wolf Laurel curiosity, or recall for you what Wolf Laurel is about to you. Our books – *Upper Laurel and Her People* and *A Treasure in the Appalachian Sky: A History of Wolf Laurel in Madison and Yancey Counties, North Carolina* – tell the story of two centuries in this corner of the world. You will find answers to the questions above and all the others that have occurred to you over the years. Or, if you are decorating your special mountain home and want to include its history in your memories, numbered prints of the original oil painting – “The Barn, c1890” – by noted artist Gayle Tate may be ordered there. Or answer that question about Bud Edwards’ dream of Wolf Laurel with a reproduction of his original vision map: *The Ultimate Plan*. And as the holidays come near, wouldn't these make great holiday gifts for your family or your friends at Wolf Laurel? You may order them from the website and all proceeds benefit the work of the Society.

And when 2024 rolls around, come celebrate Wolf Laurel's sixtieth anniversary with us. Our program planning is now underway. Not only will we have a special way to celebrate the event, we will also celebrate the history of the mountain music that is so much a part of the culture of Southern Appalachia and particularly Madison County, and provide a focus on skiing at Wolf Laurel, our contribution as the community enjoys the new Wolf Laurel ski resort being revitalized by its new owners, Deborah and David Hatley.

The Society is grateful for the support of everyone at Wolf Laurel. 2023 saw our largest audiences for our monthly summer programs in our history and the year ended with a celebration of that success with all our members at our annual picnic. We invite all to join us as we continue to celebrate Wolf Laurel and its history in 2024.


Sharing our past to enrich our present.

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



**Wolf Laurel
Historical Society**

Madison and Yancey Counties, North Carolina



Menu

About us

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[Wolf Laurel Stories](#)

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[Contact us](#)

The Wolf Laurel Historical Society was founded in 1994 by residents of the Wolf Laurel Community interested in history as a reading and study area. Members meet once a year to conduct the Society's business and three times a year for public programs featuring the history of the Wolf Laurel Community, the Upper Laurel and Bucktown Communities, Madison and Yancey Counties, the Southern Appalachian mountain region of Tennessee and North Carolina, and other subjects of general interest.

We welcome you to our public events and urge you to join the society as we enjoy together the rich history of our beautiful mountains.

2024 Program Schedule

The program schedule for summer 2024 is now the focus of the Board's planning. See our **Events Calendar** on the menu to the left for updates. All our programs are free to the public. 2024 Memberships are now available and we urge you to join the Society to help support the expenses of our programs and other efforts. See **Membership Information** on the menu to the left.

If you are new to Wolf Laurel or just need some reading for the long winter nights, the Historical Society offers these histories of our community.

Ebbs Chapel Fire and Rescue

A Way to Say, "Thank you."

We live in a beautiful part of the mountains where coming to the aid of a neighbor in need is a long standing tradition. In simpler days that habit to help would find its expression in simple ways. Today it can be more complex but no less an act of generosity.

So it is in Wolf Laurel and the high mountains under Big Bald. When we or our neighbors suffer a moment of medical crisis, or a unfamiliar glow and a plume of smoke injects terror into a beautiful starlit mountain night, we are the ones in need and neighbors are there for us: the trained volunteers of the Ebbs Chapel Fire Department and the Ebbs Chapel Emergency Medical Team come to our aid. In addition to our moment of need, we may be conscious of their effort when we drive by the station along Puncheon Fork Road and see the cars gathered on a summer evening for training in the advanced skills that they have mastered to perform their lifesaving and property-saving work. Or when our trip toward the interstate passes an open station door with a lone volunteer diligently cleaning and restocking a piece of equipment back from a recent rescue or fire.



These moments are merely the tip of the iceberg of training and responding to calls in the night and in the light of day when those skills and their dedication and knowledge are vitally needed by one of us or someone we know. They give their weekends and evenings to learning the latest techniques, or mastering the newest equipment acquired to make their lifesaving efforts more effective in the time of our need, or just maintaining their equipment and practicing the skills that make a difference for us. We are so fortunate that they are there, have trained, and respond when the need arises.

How to say thank you? It is a small way, but the holidays are a perfect time to join with our friends and neighbors in expressing our appreciation. In that effort another volunteer organization, the Ebbs Chapel Community Center, will host an evening of appreciation in December, celebrating the giving of the fire fighters and EMTs with a thank you for them. The volunteers that serve our community will be celebrated in a dinner and ceremony that offer the appreciation of all who benefit from their dedicated service. (continued)

Ebbs Chapel Fire and Rescue - A Way to Say, "Thank you."

(continued)

Would you like to contribute to this effort? Your donations will go toward paying for the evening's fare. All the labor for the event will be provided by other volunteers organized by the Ebbs Chapel Community Center. No amount is too little; together those contributions add up to a fulfilling and fun filled evening of appreciation and fellowship for all those who answer the call in a time of need.



To contribute, mail your check to Marsha Boyd (see graphic below), Treasurer for the Upper Laurel Community Organization which manages the Ebbs Chapel Community Center. For more information on donating, visit the donation page at the Community Center website <https://EbbsChapelCommunityCenter.org/forms/Donation.pdf>. To contribute to this special event, please forward your contributions by November 25th. Please write "EC Fire and Rescue" at the bottom of the form or on the check so that Marsha knows your intent to say thank you to the volunteers. They will receive notice of your support for this holiday "Thank You!" (unless you request anonymity).



Marsha Boyd, Treasurer
Upper Laurel Community Organization, Inc.
1601 Smith Creek Rd
Mars Hill, NC 28754.

**Ebbs
Chapel
Community
Center**

Madison County, North Carolina

And while you are thinking of the volunteers who contribute to the quality of life in our beautiful mountains, take a moment to learn more by visiting the Ebbs Chapel Fire Department facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ECFDstation6/> and the

website of the Ebbs Chapel Community Center at <https://EbbsChapelCommunityCenter.org/>. A link to the Center's Facebook page will be found there also.

And have a safe and enjoyable holiday with friends and family at your Wolf Laurel home.

Madison County, NC

Ignite your wanderlust, unleash your spirit!

Looking for an unforgettable getaway in the stunning Appalachian Mountains? Look no further than Madison County, NC! Only 20 minutes north of Asheville, explore the unspoiled beauty of this hidden gem and embark on thrilling outdoor adventures amidst peaceful rivers, breathtaking hiking trails and panoramic mountain vistas. Immerse yourself in the rich cultural heritage of the region, from lively music festivals to charming small towns bursting with local charm. Indulge in farm-to-table delights and experience the warm southern hospitality for which Madison County is renowned. Discover the perfect blend of natural wonders, cultural experiences, and relaxation, all in one remarkable destination. Plan your visit to Madison County, North Carolina today and let us be your guide to an unforgettable journey. <https://visitmadisoncounty.com/>





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

At SE Trust's annual celebration event, Bees, Trees, and Skinned Knees, we celebrated our special partnerships with Carolina Climbers Coalition (<https://www.carolinaclimbers.org>) and Georgia Cycling Association (<https://www.georgiacycling.org>).



SE Trust is a small organization doing big and unique things. We rely on outside organizations and individuals to help us provide near and long-term public benefit as we fulfill our mission of Conservation, Recreation, and Community.

Some highlights of our mutual successful relationships with Carolina Climbers Coalition (CCC) and Georgia Cycling Association (GCA):

- CCC and GCA have been directly responsible for raising over \$100,000 for SE Trust's nature park building projects.
- SE Trust prioritizes perspective nature park building projects based on CCC's and GCA's priorities and mission goals.
- CCC and GCA have each coordinated multiple volunteer workdays at SE Trust nature parks.
- SE Trust participates in CCC and GCA's volunteer and educational programming.
- CCC and GCA provide technical expertise for SE Trust's nature park projects.
- SE Trust sponsors an annual Trail Volunteer of the Year award to each of CCC and GCA individual volunteers of the year with a bias towards volunteers that create and maintain trails.



Blast from the Past - 1997

Entertainment Committee

Please mark these dates on your calendar:
Monday, September 22—OktoberFest at the club
Saturday, October 4—Last Hurrah at the club
Sunday, October 26—Halloween Party at the barn

Tickets are now being sold for **OktoberFest** and the **Last Hurrah**. Contact **Sheila** at _____ or **Gwen** at _____. Reservations are a **MUST**, as spaces are limited. Costumes are optional for the Halloween party.

We still need Friday night hostesses. On Friday, August 1, we broke all records with 120 people in attendance.

We would like to thank the following people for their wonderful hors d'oeuvres in August:

August 1—**Judy Brown, Joan Collard, Shirley Davison, Dee McNally and Judy Petterson**

August 15—**Jean Harrison, Sharon Wimer and LaRae Weaver**

August 22—**Mildred Wallace, Dot Whittemore and Mary Lou Woodiwiss**

August 29—**Joline Frederick, Gwen Lotterle, Marguerite Schlitt and Sheila Slater**

Please sign up to be hostess for a Friday night in September or October. The last Friday Nighters will be **October 17**.

Till next time, *Let the good times roll!* ♦

All Residents Invited to the "First Annual" Open House and Harvest Bazaar at Blue Mountain Country Club

On **Saturday, September 20**, Blue Mountain Golf and Country Club will sponsor the **Harvest Bazaar and Open House** from **10am until 5pm** at the club. Dealers from the area will sell their art, crafts, collectibles, food, and antiques. Cloggers will perform at 3pm, and our "in-resident clown" **Lois Lynn Bellemare** will be on hand to paint faces and just clown around. **Richard Banks** will provide guitar music. Come to browse, to shop, or just to have fun.

Following the bazaar, there will be a **social hour** at **5pm** with a **barbeque to follow**. Entertainment will be provided by a blue grass band. A very reasonable price will be charged for the barbeque.

All residents are invited to all events. ♦

Announcement: This is the last issue of *Top of the Bald* for the season. The next issue will be published in April, 1998.

Buy your tickets for OktoberFest and Last Hurrah early, as spaces are limited.

Blast from the Past - 1997

W L P O A
PRESENTS
SECOND ANNUAL

OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATION

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 22 1997
COCKTAILS AT 5:30 PM BYOB
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RESERVATIONS

SHEILA

OR GWEN

Hiking and Walking in the Wolf Laurel Area

▲	Name	◆ Miles ◆	type ◆
1.	Walnut Mnt Nature Trl	2.20	In-Out
2.	Big Bald & Back	1.24	In-Out
3.	Double Springs	2.05	Loop
4.	Big Bald Loop	1.55	Loop
5.	6th Symphony	3.25	Loop
6.	Hog Greers Cave	2.20	In-Out
7.	Double Symphony	4.22	Loop
8.	Nature Trl to AT	2.46	In-Out
9.	Bald Mnt Shelter	2.40	In-Out
10.	Weaver Knob Loop	2.50	Loop
11.	Little Bald Mnt	3.68	In-Out
12.	Waterfall Picnic Area	0.20	In-Out
13.	Waterfall Loop	1.36	Loop
14.	Bald Mnt Creek	1.30	Loop
15.	McKinney Gap (Boulder Area)	1.60	In-Out
16.	Nature Trl via JC Loop	1.80	Loop
17.	Sugar Fork	1.75	Loop
18.	Panther Knob Loop	2.31	Loop
19.	Nature Trail to Big Bald	8.00	In-Out
20.	Spivey Gap	13.78	In-Out
21.	Nature Trl to Street Gap	5.90	In-Out
22.	Tommy Rock - Phase One	2.00	In-Out

Wolf Laurel - Hiking

Your private gateway to the Appalachian Trail

To the left and at the link below is a list of hikes on a variety of trails and foot paths to accommodate everyone from the casual walker to the hiking enthusiast.

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

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

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

Nextdoor posts

Victor Henley - Bear



* Karen & Manny Peron, Big Ivy

Bear cubs enjoying pokeberries in our yard



Nextdoor posts

Mandy
Wilson -
Sunset



Beautiful morning in
Wolf Laurel, the
Village Pond after a
wedding.



Nextdoor

Whitney Natiello

SO excited to have Esther Sabatino teach Yoga at Ebbs Community Center on Mondays at 6pm now! What a gift!

YOGA CLASS

The Healer In The Woods
~Esther Sabatino~

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6PM

\$10

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Yancey County Humane Society

This Yancey County Humane Society "Tails on Trails" hike occurs every Sunday morning, but please check the schedule on Better Impact and then sign up for the hike on Better Impact. The hike is about 4 miles long at the Bald Mountain Creek Nature Preserve or a similar location. We arrive at the Humane Society parking lot by 10:00 and leave promptly by 10:30AM. We should return by 12:00. Your dog will be brought out to you in the parking lot already harnessed. Hikers must sign up to be a volunteer on the Yancey County Humane Society website. Hikers must meet all of the requirements for Tails on Trails listed on the YCHS website and must sign up for the hikes ahead of time. You will be hiking an excited shelter dog. Hike leaders will do their best to match each hiker to an appropriate dog. Most dogs do pull to some degree; Some are very strong pullers. Your first hike may be w/o a dog so you can observe the process and help out as an 'extra pair of hands'. Hikers can always choose to hike w/o a dog until they get comfortable with the process. EVERYBODY 16 years old or older who loves dogs is welcome!!! Hikers ages 16 to 18 are welcome to come with their parents, but only hikers 18 or older will be given their own dog to hike.

We have hundreds of great photos on our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/httpwww.yanceyhumanesociety.org/posts/1018967562612249/>

Rich Nallenweg (Hike Leader)

"We always need more volunteer hikers so we can get more of the shelter dogs out for a hike."



"Art, Love, Life Together"

Bill and Liz Weldner - Exhibition on Display through November 18, 2023

The Madison County Arts Council is proud to announce a retrospective exhibit showcasing the work of Bill and Liz Weldner. These two prolific artists left a legacy of ongoing creativity and a shared passion for creation across many artistic disciplines.

In addition to creating art, Bill spent much of his career sharing his creativity and knowledge, inspiring many others to engage with art in new ways. Early on, his art career took the form of teaching in classroom settings at many levels from young children to college age students. Later, in his final 20+ years in Spring Creek, Bill started and ran a group critique for local residents interested in art. Maxine Dalton, a group participant, says of Bill's group that one of its main gifts "... had to do with being in a judgement free environment--what mattered was what I could learn from his observations and the observations of the rest of the group. The difference in being judged and being helped is all the difference in the world." Some noted that this was Bill's special gift to the participants -- often noting that he truly made personal differences in their study of art and in their lives.

As creative artists, Bill and Liz Weldner seemed to both see the world differently than most people with a rich interior life that was reflected in both of their unique art. With this, they encouraged others to look closely and examine this creativity, too. Their different approaches to their work seemed to both compliment and challenge each other as artists and humans. They were creatures of the sea and of the mountains, bringing their enthusiasm and talent with them to both places.

Liz's work had different but equally strong artistic paths. She liked to sculpt and create with organic materials, found objects, fabric and beads. She built detailed shrines, magical forest creatures and whimsical fairy boxes. She also did much work with intricate glass Lampwork, jewelry making, and metal work. She created many original works of jewelry made from her glass and metal creations.

Bill was fascinated with design, looking at vistas of boats or trails, finding repetition and contrast of shapes, color, and texture throughout his work. His works took on more traditional modes of canvas and paint, photography, and mixed media works. This being said, both addressed reality, fantasy, life, death, aging, work, humor, love and joy. All of this with solid craftsmanship and fresh perspective.

(continued)



"Art, Love, Life Together"

Bill and Liz Weldner - Exhibition on Display through November 18, 2023

(continued)

The show will feature painting, sculpture, jewelry, glasswork, mixed media creations, statues, photography, and more. "We are excited to present a sample of this amazing body of work. It will be the first time locally that their work has been featured together in a comprehensive show. Bill and Liz were longtime Madison County (Spring Creek) residents and passed away within weeks of each other earlier this year. They were consistent supporters of the MCAC's mission.

Their loss will be felt by many, but their impact will live on through this work and through their many students and friends," says Erich Hubner, MCAC Program Director.

This exhibit will run from October 26th through November 18th. An opening reception will be held October 26th from 5-8pm. For more information call (828)649-1301 or visit www.madisoncountyarts.com.

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

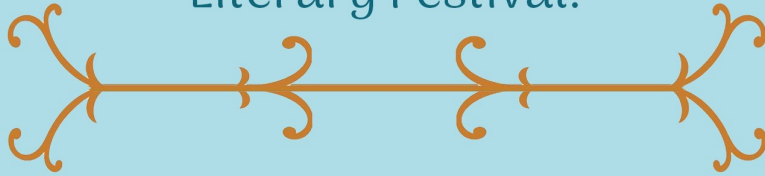
Hours – Mon - Fri
10am -5pm Sat
10am - 3pm



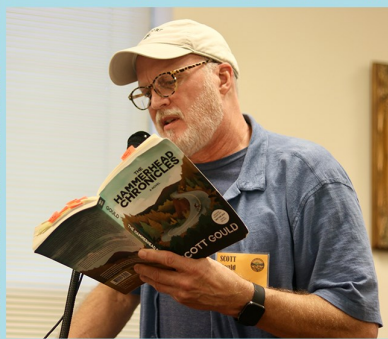


CAROLINA MOUNTAINS LITERARY FESTIVAL

Thank you to all who attended
the Carolina Mountains
Literary Festival!



We hope to see you next year!



Volunteers are and always have been an integral part of this festival. Even more so now with the huge lineup of authors and workshops. The festival needs more hands on deck. If you are interested in supporting the mission by volunteering your time at this year's festival, visit cmlitfest.org/to-volunteer/ to see available positions and to sign up.

CONTACT:
Kelly Denton
203-331-7938
cmlitfest.pr@gmail.com



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For more information visit <https://cmlitfest.org/>.

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

The 2024 NC Wildlife Calendar is now available. The calendar features outstanding wildlife art with profiles of each artist, fishing days, moon phase information and more! Get yours today at:

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2024 Wildlife Calendar



NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

WLPOA and Village Club Information

WLPOA Website

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

It provides information including the following:

- ◇ WLPOA Committees - https://367ab657-4382-4e2d-ae61-4bb3593fobo6.filesusr.com/ugd/1610a3_9562a2014de94219aa610e8302bbad8b.pdf
- ◇
- ◇ WLPOA / Village Club Office Contact Information - https://367ab657-4382-4e2d-ae61-4bb3593fobo6.filesusr.com/ugd/1610a3_b5d14eb01c2347cab1292c49052797ff.pdf
- ◇ WLPOA Committees - https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com/files/ugd/1610a3_6e50b5791a9e4cd59bc6c19ffb4516e6.pdf
- ◇ WLPOA and Village Club Benefits - https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com/files/ugd/1610a3_2d9d49d267ca4558bf15844890c186ba.pdf
- ◇ Package Cabin Procedures - https://367ab657-4382-4e2d-ae61-4bb3593fobo6.filesusr.com/ugd/1610a3_310b8001005d42599aebbd79dofc98c6.pdf
- ◇ Wolf Laurel on the Internet - https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com/files/ugd/1610a3_9b1b79531b5847d8833c88b069186e62.pdf



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

Wolf Laurel Road Maintenance and Security WL Map

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

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

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Wolf Laurel Community Map
Scale: Approximately 1" = .1 mile
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**Wolf Laurel Community Contact Information**  
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Front Gate: 828-699-2111  
Property Owner's Association: 828-699-8239  
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#### CONTACT INFORMATION

##### EMAIL

*office@mightytreeproperties.com*  
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## Advertising Information For 2024 TOBs

- 1) TOB editions next year are scheduled to be published on the first 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: \$75 / edition,  
\$250 for all 2024 editions**

**Full page: \$85 / edition,  
\$300 for all four editions**

**Ad designing starts at \$30**

- 4) Remit to:

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*Thank you for your service to the Wolf Laurel community.*

