

Winter 2025

*Top of the  
Bald*



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

## **Board of Directors:**

**Bob Hicks - President**

**Steve Wilcox - Vice President**

**Lynn Cagney - Secretary**

**Rick Zinter - Treasurer**

**Theodore Meyer**

**Natalie Morris**

**Doug Orman**

**Scott McCaleb**

**Cary Monroe**

**Donna Garrison**

**Ashley Steadly**

**John Brackett - Immediate Past President**



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

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

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

## WLPOA & Village Club Staff

### WLPOA Director:

Liz Benson

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

828-689-9229



### Programs and Events Coordinator:

Caye Conley

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

828-689-4089

### Other VC Staff:

Donna Dickey

Theo Meyer

### WLPOA:

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Mars Hill, NC 28754

828-689-9229

### Top of the Bald Editor

/Publisher:

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

### Editorial Committee

Betsy Browne

Ron Metcalf

Lynn Cagney

Bob Hicks

Yvonne Carignan

### Webmaster:

Rick Zinter

**Have a great spring!**

The WLPOA office frequently receives questions about WLRMS;

Any WLRMS questions should be addressed to WLRMS at

828-680-9162, or <https://wolflaurelrms.com/>



# WLPOA Committees

## 2024 WLPOA - Article IX: By-Law Committees (Updated 02/25/25)

### Executive Committee:

Chair: Bob Hicks, *President*  
Steve Wilcox, *Vice President*  
Lynn Cagney, *Secretary*  
Rick Zinter, *Treasurer*  
Ex Officio: John Brackett

### Finance:

Chair: Rick Zinter (*Treasurer*)  
Bob Hicks (*President*)  
Earlene Shofi  
David Smith  
Fred Tygart

### Audit (Compilation):

Chair: Vacant

### Village Club (Amenities) Committee:

Chair: Earlene Shofi (*interim*)  
Seasonal Village Club Manager:  
Caye Conley  
Becky Shennan  
Dan Morris  
Greg Smith  
Joanne Wit  
Kevin Flanagan  
Lori Wyman-Macaulay  
Nancy Schmidt  
Marnie Sullivan  
Sandy Skypek  
Steve Wilcox

### Village Club Sub Committees:

#### **Kids' Camp**

Chair: Sandy Skypek  
Co-Chair: Arlene Watrobski

### Membership:

Chair: Liz Benson (*WLPOA Director*)  
Lynn Cagney (*Secretary*)

### Facilities:

Chair: Theo Meyer  
Bill Aimone  
Fred Tygart  
Gregg Smith  
Becky Shennan (Pickleball)

### Facilities Sub Committee:

#### **Village Beautification**

Chair: Open  
Laura & Tom Conard  
Theo Meyer  
Doug Orman  
Earlene Shofi  
Scott Weaver  
Steve Wilcox  
Arlene Watrobski

### By-Laws and Legal:

Chair: Bob Hicks (*President*)  
Theo Meyer  
Fred Tygart

### Long Range Planning:

Chair: Doug Orman  
Liz Benson (Membership)  
Bob Hicks (By-Laws & Legal)  
Carl Larrabee  
Steve Wilcox

### Election Committee: (Verify ballots)

Chair: Liz Benson (*WLPOA Director*)  
Earlene Shofi

## AD HOC COMMITTEES

### **Human Resources:**

Chair: Earlene Shofi  
 Bill Aimone  
 John Brackett  
 Bob Hicks (*President*)  
 Carol Jones

### **Library:**

Director: Yvonne Carignan  
 Bob Hicks (*President*)

### **Nominating Committee:**

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

### **Playground Planning and Funding:**

Chair: Earlene Shofi  
 Doug Orman  
 Theo Meyer  
 Lynn Cagney (*Secretary*)

### **Rental Committee:**

Chair: Doug Orman  
 Elliott Caldwell  
 Scott McCaleb  
 Theo Meyer  
 Lynn Cagney (*Secretary*)  
 Ashley Steadly  
 Natalie Morris

### **Top of the Bald:**

Editor: Larry Veatch  
 Editorial Board:  
 Yvonne Carignan  
 Betsy Browne  
 Ron Metcalf  
 Lynn Cagney (*Secretary*)  
 Bob Hicks (*President*)

### **Webmaster:**

Chair: Rick Zinter

### **Website Review/Update:**

Chair: Lynn Cagney (*Secretary*)  
 Bob Hicks (*President*)  
 Natalie Morris  
 Rick Zinter (*Treasurer*)

### **WLPOA Package Annex Committee:**

Chair: Steve Wilcox (*Vice President*)  
 Steve Boyle  
 Roz & Bob (*President*) Hicks  
 Jim Howes  
 Carl Larrabee  
 Walt Leibert  
 Susie & Peter Leroy  
 Theo Meyer  
 Carol Musco  
 George Selman  
 Mike Shalley  
 Earlene Shofi  
 Jim Simmons  
 Fred Tygart  
 Richard West

### **Wolf Laurel Country Club Collaboration Committee:**

Chair: John Brackett  
 Theodore Meyer  
 Steve Wilcox  
 Bob Hicks (*President*)



# President's Message

Dear Neighbors and Friends -

I bid you a warm/cold/sunny/muddy/snowy/rainy welcome to 2025! Depending on what day (and from which geography) you are reading this, one (or several) of these choices could apply. Our lovely community has not fully returned to its pre-hurricane condition, but progress continues. There is much shared gratitude for the steady dedicated efforts of many people and local entities. Slowly but surely, the look and feel of Wolf Laurel is returning.

Although POA's winter season activities are limited, those that remain are being enthusiastically enjoyed, and our staff is anticipating the influx of many more members as spring gets closer. Speaking of staff, there will be some changes this year, both in personnel and in duties. We are always trying to provide the best experience for our members and their guests, and we count on our staff to deliver. If we ever fall short, please bring your concerns to the appropriate staff (or Board) member.

Since late 2024, one important development in Wolf Laurel has been the opening of Hatley Pointe. This has created quite the 'splash' on social media, and many residents have been among its first patrons. As with any change in a community, there will always be growing pains. If you've been positively impacted, let us know how we can nurture that advantage. And, if you've experienced difficulties, we will do what we can to address them on your behalf. Ultimately, the stability and success of all entities 'inside the gate' should be encouraged and supported, and we welcome direct respectful dialogue among and between all parties of interest. The POA will always try to 'partner' with those who strive to bring benefits to every resident and organization within Wolf Laurel.

Your POA is also working to reorganize several aspects of the upcoming season. We are developing a new ID system so that all our Village Club and POA members (plus the guests of property owners who rent), will be able to more efficiently utilize our amenities. We are shifting the focus of our July 4th week-end event in several ways. Since Hatley Pointe is planning a fireworks display, and because the POA's ability to have fireworks is partly based on our use of Hatley Pointe's parking facilities, we will not be having fireworks over the July 4th weekend. The POA's July 4th event will 'shift gears' in style and substance, hopefully coordinating with other activities that week-end, and with a family-friendly 'vibe'. Stay tuned for more news as we finalize our plans.

We hope to see you in Wolf Laurel soon! Many new and exciting POA activities and events will be part of our 2025 season, and we encourage your participation.

Regards to all,

Bob Hicks  
[bobhicks@cheerful.com](mailto:bobhicks@cheerful.com)

P.S.: On behalf of the POA (and the entire WL community), I offer congratulations to the Jered Silver family, on the occasion of the 1/19/25 birth of Jacob Atlas Silver. "Mazel Tov!"



## Summary of WLPOA (Wolf Laurel Property Owners Association) Memberships

The WLPOA is a non-profit organization which provides members with social and educational opportunities within Wolf Laurel (WL). It is open to all property owners in Wolf Laurel, independent of your HOA (Homeowners Association) affiliation, if applicable. HOAs within Wolf Laurel are Road Maintenance and Security (RMS), Blue Mountain, The Ridges, The Preserve, Deer Run, and Mountainside.

**WLPOA Membership** – annual dues as identified on the WLPOA website. Benefits include unlimited use of the package cabin (with PIN code access), Community Center and library (during their business hours), access to online membership directory, regular email updates, Facebook page, Nature Trail, representation of the member's interest in community matters and many more benefits as described on the WLPOA website.

**Village Club (VC) Membership** – WLPOA Membership dues + annual dues + a 1-time initiation fee as identified on the WLPOA website. Benefits include Kids Camp, pool, tennis, pickleball, fitness classes, water aerobics, tai chi, stocked trout pond, potluck and appetizer dinners, scheduled hikes, pavilion's (main and Angelico Ridge), various classes and many more as described on the WLPOA website.

**Village Club (VC) Rental Membership** – WLPOA Membership + VC Membership dues + VC Rental Membership fee as identified on the WLPOA website. This includes pool, tennis, pickleball and basketball courts (per posted hours), stocked trout pond (limit of 4 per household per day) and playgrounds for all renters of your property.

Full information about the WLPOA can be found at

<https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com/>

## Community Center Winter Hours:

**Tuesday - 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**Wednesday - 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**Thursday - 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

## Village Club Winter Activities:

**Be Crafty and Yoga: Wednesdays**

**Group Fitness: Mondays and Thursdays**

**Tai Chi: Tuesdays and Thursdays**

**Some scheduling issues are occurring;  
Call (828) 689-4089 for more information.**

## Village update:

Welcome Caye Conley to our WLPOA Village staff. Caye will be greeting folks at the front desk in the Barn Community Center and arranging many activities for a successful season as our new Programs and Events Coordinator. Liz Benson and Caye will be working closely to ensure that our members have the very best experiences during the new season. If you have suggestions for adding or improving activities, please contact Caye.



# Independence Day Celebration

The Village Independence Day celebration on Saturday, July 5th will be just a little different this year, but just as enjoyable for family and kids. We are planning an afternoon event that will be great fun for the entire family, tots to grandparents and friends. Included will be Bouncy Houses, face painting, tattoos, treats, food and the newly formed band "Sound Investment", (formerly Super 60"s), will be livening up the Pavilion. Time planned is from 2:30 to 6PM, subject to change as we finalize plans. We will not have our usual fireworks display due to parking issues.

"**Kids Camp**", will follow our Independence Day celebration and is starting on Monday July 7<sup>th</sup>. Sandy Skypec is leading a team of volunteers with plans to make this the best Camp ever.

**\*\*\*Save the Date\*\*\***

## **KIDS CAMP 2025**

- \* Wolf Laurel Kids Camp is scheduled for July 7 – 11, 9 am – 3 pm, at the POA Pavilion, and features arts and crafts, swimming, games, physical activities, and nature education.
- \* Camp is open for children ages 5 – 10.
- \* Staffing includes Wolf Laurel residents, as well as junior and senior counselors (young adults) who attended Kids Camp in the past.
- \* The cost is \$250 per child.
- \* There are 30 spaces available.
- \* "Regrettably, due to high demand and limited staffing, each Village Club family can only register a maximum of five campers. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause."
- \* Children must be related to POA members.
- \* To register, contact Caye Conley, [caye@wolflaurelpoa.com](mailto:caye@wolflaurelpoa.com).

# Wolf Laurel POA Library Report

## February 2025

Yvonne Carignan

**NEW ARRIVALS!** Despite winter weather, readers' returns and donations of books, DVDs, puzzles, games, children's books and toys continue to arrive at the library. Readers are borrowing and returning several dozen items each month, and donating a similar number of items that are new to our library. Our library usage is excellent considering that the weather has kept many of us at home. Combinations of snow, ice, and indescribably deep mud have made driving dangerous if not impossible. Still, I have been steadily at work at the library with the annual shifting of adult fiction and cleaning of the shelves. Work with other parts of the collection will proceed as time remains before the heavy use of library collections resumes in the spring.

Note the "New Arrivals" shelf showing that we have indeed refreshed the collection over the winter. We look forward to your continuing donations – to keep the collection fresh and interesting! -- and hope you find many books to take home and enjoy reading as spring returns.



(continued)

## Wolf Laurel POA Library Report

(continued)

Right now, space on the fiction shelves make it look like a lot of our readers have borrowed fiction books. My theory is that many of you stocked up on books to read while over-wintering south of Wolf Laurel. It is such a compliment to our library, that you would rather borrow the POA Wolf Laurel Library books than to use the local libraries and book stores where you land during the winter. Enjoy them! But bring the books back with you to return them to the library in the spring!

**Free Bookmarks!** The next time you are in the fiction room, help yourself to free bookmarks. You will find them on the bottom shelf of the section of shelving closest to the librarian's desk. (See some samples on the right.)



**The Children's Room** has received several charming additions this month: very young children's board books and early readers arrived along with attractive children's games. **New books, toys and games will be a hit in the Children's Library this spring.**



## Wolf Laurel Historical Society

Greetings, everyone,

I can literally say that I am coming to you from the top of The Bald! After our abrupt shut down due to the storm, I can testify that it has been a cold and snowy winter up here. I hope that you all have stayed well and safe wherever you are.

This past year was a record breaker for The Wolf Laurel Historical Society. We added 48 new members and with an average attendance of 88 people at the programs in 2024, we feel that it was one of the most well received years of WLHS activities. Due to limited seating available at the newly refurbished lodge at Hatley Pointe, our September 4th event, *The History of Skiing in Wolf Laurel* filled the lodge to capacity. Those who were able to attend were treated to a lively panel discussion featuring everything from the early development of the ski resort to future plans and aspirations for Hatley Pointe.



The Board of Directors voted on the following new officers for the year 2025. President:

Steve Wilcox, Vice president: Warren Johnson, Secretary: Terry Deal and Treasurer: Jim Klumpp. Taylor Barnhill fills out the Board. We are all looking forward to some exciting and informative programming for this coming year, and I can't wait to see friends and family back on the mountain. We hope that all our members will join us! If you would like to become a member in 2025 or find out how to get more involved with programs and activities, please visit: [www.WLHistory.org](http://www.WLHistory.org) Our schedule will be finalized and posted on the website after our BOD meeting in April 2025.

Meanwhile, we have much to look forward to, many past and present stories to share and some good 'ole fun to be had.

Terry Deal

## June 2000 Top of the Bald

### Partying - Mountain Style

If you like mountain culture, you won't do much better than the **5th Annual Bluff Mountain Music Festival**. It runs all day on June 10 at the Hot Springs Spa Grounds. The festival is FREE to the public and features some of the region's best Traditional and Bluegrass Music followed by an evening Square Dance until dark. Bring the family and the lawn chairs to enjoy a day full of music under the shade trees!

There are gate prizes and food and fun for the whole family- all in a beautiful outdoor setting by the French Broad River. Bid in the silent auction on your favorite Fine Arts and Crafts donated by area artists and craftspersons and win all kinds of items and services with your raffle tickets!

Plan to stay the weekend in Hot Springs. Relax in a hot tub of natural mineral water, take a raft trip down the French Broad, enjoy the restaurants and stay at your pick of fine local cabins, inns or campgrounds.

TOP OF THE BALD

### WLPOA Entertainment Committee



Derby Day was attended by about 30 persons. Everyone had a good time and the big winner was Joline Frederick. She was the sole winner of the quinella. Everyone is looking forward to the Belmont on June 10th.

Friday Nighters started on May 12th with 46 persons attending. We need Hosts and Hostesses to sign up to bring hors d'oeuvres. Don't forget your dollar "admission" Friday night. This money pays for plates, cups, mixes, rent on the TV, "Our Band", Oktoberfest and Last Hurrah and cleaning of the Center.

We'd like to thank the following hosts for May:

May 12 Joline Frederick and Mary Anne McDermott  
May 19 Barbara Engle, Titi Ferguson, and Eve Nichols  
May 26 Marlene Parks, Debbie Pariseau, and Cathy Searle

We hope to start the Monday Night cookouts on June 12 (weather permitting). The cost is \$1 per family. Bring your place setting, a dish to share, and whatever you have to grill. Speaking of grills, Bald Mountain is purchasing a gas grill for the pavilion. This will enable folks to eat later than 6 PM if you so choose. Thanks, Lee. If you want to reserve the pavilion for a private function, call me so we can clear the dates on the calendar.

The WLPOA annual meeting and dinner will be held on Saturday July 29th. Seating is limited due to space at the Country Club. Reservations are a must. Please call me at 689-3601. More info on this event in the July issue.

"Hoedown", one of our most popular functions, will be on Saturday August 12th. Reservations are a must for this, also. We have already reserved the band, cloggers, clown, and caterer. Call me for more information and reservations. Till next time, *Let the Good Times Roll!*

Reserve seating  
now for WLPOA  
Annual Dinner on  
July 29th

## Yvonne Carignan

When the Wolf Pack and “Walk in the Woods” programs pause for the winter, a number of us still meet for a weekly walk of two to three miles. And there are other groups who walk regularly over winter, but this report relates to a group that met on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. through December, switching to 1 p.m. after cold January makes it easier to meet during the warmth of afternoons.

### **This fall, the off-season was unusual in the following ways:**

- Helene chased many people away early, at the end of September and the beginning of October.
- Downed trees made many roads unusable for a while.
- Parking areas at trail heads were damaged or full of debris.
- Trail assessment is time consuming, and we still do not know the condition of all the trails.

### **By January, we had other problems:**

- Consistently coldest temperatures on record.
- Over a foot of snow and ice that kept roads unsafe and trails unmanageable.
- Viruses or other health issues that knocked some of us out for weeks.

### **Yet we did accomplish:**

- 10 walks with only one duplication (Symphony Trail)
- A variety of walks, from those in Wolf Laurel’s woods, to some road and golf course loops, Beaver Lake Park, and Rocky Fork Park.
- Groups averaging 6 people.
- Total of 50 people walking.
- Trail maintenance on the Sugar Fork Loop Trail, thanks to Tim Carrigan and his chain saw, as well to the helpers who picked up branches behind Tim’s cutting (see photo).



Clearing the Sugar Fork Trail in November with Mary Lou Woodiwiss, Tim Carrigan, Russ Woodiwiss and Susan Ritchhart

**Chain Saw Heroes!** Shout out to those who not only cleared trails, but got trapped neighbors out when trees blocked the way after the storm – Tim Carrigan, Rick Zinter, Doug Orman, Tom Bush, and Joe Capers.

(continued)



## Winter Walks during a Challenging Winter

(continued)

**Walks continue:** It is wonderful to have these walks for exercise and socializing opportunities during winter months, and we plan to continue weekly winter walks through the end of April, given reasonable weather. Anyone who enjoys walking 2 to 3 miles among friends and neighbors is welcome to join us. In May, other groups will begin walks and hikes both in and out from Wolf Laurel.

To be included on the email list of people who receive notices of the walks, please send me ([ycarigna@gmu.edu](mailto:ycarigna@gmu.edu)) your address to add to the contact list. Hope to see you on the trail!



**Braving a cold, foggy morning on the Granny Lewis loop with Susan Palukitis, Ann Marie Brown, Mary Lou Woodiwiss, Janis Larrabee, and Eunice Shoemaker**

## Wolf Laurel Golf and Country Club

### A Sudden Shift: Hurricane Helene Arrives and a Sudden End to the 2024 Season at Wolf Laurel Golf and Country Club

It was an early and abrupt end to our otherwise perfect end of the 2024 season. The last week of September brought the fast-moving hurricane Helene which rapidly turned from mild fall temperatures to an unrelenting force of nature as she suddenly barreled through the region. The timing was particularly unfortunate, as Wolf Laurel had been gearing up for a busy October, with many members looking forward to playing their last rounds of the year before the winter season officially took over. Unfortunately, our club had to close before the end of the season, due to the interruption in our utilities.

Helene has changed our lives forever but thankfully our residents and staff are resilient. We had minimal damage to our club house and golf course, considering the surrounding areas. A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all who had assisted with our community with those less fortunate either by funding or by personally helping get food, water and other items to those in need or assisted at the club, which became a hub of communication and serving food to the first responders. We are sincerely grateful.

### Winter Splendor and Beauty at Wolf Laurel Country Club

As winter settled over the Appalachian Mountains in early December, the serene beauty of Wolf Laurel Golf and Country Club seemed to promise a peaceful conclusion to the 2024 season. Located in the heart of North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains, the country club enjoyed a wonderful stretch of beautiful weather. Winter brought with it a strong cold front that quickly transformed the vibrant green golf courses of Wolf Laurel into a snowy wonderland. By New Year's Eve, the once-bustling fairways and greens were covered in a thin, powdery blanket of snow.



## Wolf Laurel Golf and Country Club

### A Sudden Shift: Hurricane Helene Arrives and a Sudden End to the 2024 Season at Wolf Laurel Golf and Country Club (continued)

The snowstorm left behind a stunning, snow-dusted landscape that perfectly captured the winter splendor of Wolf Laurel Golf and Country Club. The towering pines that lined the course, now blanketed in white, stood in



striking contrast against the deep blue skies. The course, often admired for its lush, green fairways during warmer months, looked entirely different, almost ethereal—with the snow transforming every hill and valley into a pristine, winter postcard. The tranquil, snow-covered hills surrounding the club seemed to exude a sense of calm. The crisp air, now

infused with the scent of pine and fresh snow, was invigorating, making it impossible not to appreciate the natural beauty of the area. Even as the season ended abruptly, it was a reminder that Wolf Laurel's charm isn't just confined to its fairways but extends to the magnificent mountain setting that envelops it.

### First on the agenda and open to all residents of Wolf Laurel is the 2025 Memorial Day Celebration at Wolf Laurel Country Club: Honoring Service and Community

On Memorial Day May 26, 2025, Wolf Laurel Golf and Country Club will host an unforgettable celebration—a day filled with inspiring expert speakers who share their perspectives on the significance of Memorial Day and the enduring impact of military service. Notable speakers have included veterans who had served in various branches of the military. Stirring music, delicious food (no Memorial Day celebration would be complete without a delicious spread) and most importantly, a wonderful tribute to the brave men and women who have served in the United States military. As members and guests came together to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom. The Memorial Day ceremony will feature a powerful rendition of “Taps,” played by a trumpet, and prayer to honor those who have passed. It is a time that resonates deeply with all who attend, reminding everyone that Memorial Day is a time to remember and honor those who served. This is a chance for Wolf Laurel Communities to come together and it's truly a special day which provides a sense of community and shared patriotism. We look forward to seeing you there!



Respectfully submitted by Susan Benardo, Secretary/Marketing

Just to put a pin in the calendar, we are going to have two very important events at the Wolf Laurel Country Club.

The first is the annual **Memorial Day** Service at 11:00 AM on Monday, May 26, 2025.

The second is the **250th Anniversary of the US Army** Lunch which happens to coincide with Flag Day on June 14th, 2025 at 12:00 PM.

## **Details:**

### **Annual Memorial Day Ceremony - A Day of Remembrance and Honor**

Everyone on and off the mountain is invited to this year's Memorial Day Ceremony, a time to recognize and honor the brave men and women who have sacrificed their lives for our country. The Ceremony will be held at Wolf Laurel Country Club at 11:00 AM on Monday, May 26, 2025. Our speaker is Colonel Retired Roland J. Tiso who has recently written a book titled "In Strange Company", an American soldier with multinational forces in the Middle East and Iraq. Please join us in this solemn occasion to pay tribute to our fallen heroes. Your presence will make this day truly special as we come together to remember and honor their legacy.

### **Celebrating 250 Years of the US Army - Honoring Our Legacy**

On June 14, 2025, we are delighted to celebrate a monumental milestone: the 250th birthday of the United States Army. Join us in commemorating 250 years of bravery, dedication, and service to our nation. As part of the ceremony, we will be cutting the Army Birthday Cake. This tradition is carried out by the youngest and oldest soldiers present. We invite all community members, veterans, and active-duty personnel to join us in this grand celebration. Let us honor our past, celebrate our present, and look forward to a future of continued excellence and service. Details of the event will follow.

June 14 is also Flag Day, a time when we honor the symbol of our nation's ideals and unity. As we gather to celebrate the Army's historic milestone, let us also reflect on the significance of our flag, which has stood as a beacon of hope and freedom for generations. The day will be filled with patriotic fervor, and we encourage everyone to proudly display the American flag and participate in the festivities that represent our enduring commitment to liberty and justice for all.

Joe Capers



**Open to  
ALL!**

**Golf Tournament Saturday, July 12  
Dinner & Auction Friday, July 18**

**CLICK HERE To secure your spots as a Sponsor.  
Individual Reservations Open at a Later Date.**

**For More Information**

**Sponsorships: Cindy Kaiser at [cindyleekaiser@gmail.com](mailto:cindyleekaiser@gmail.com)**

**Golf Tournament: Steve McLeary at  
[stevenmcleary@gmail.com](mailto:stevenmcleary@gmail.com)**



## Wolf Laurel's Firewise USA® Initiative

The community of Wolf Laurel is located in an area defined as a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) where homes and communities meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland vegetation, resulting in an increased risk for exposure to wildfire. After thousands of trees were recently downed during Hurricane Helene, many property owners expressed an elevated concern for the threat of wildfire. To assist our community in reducing our risk, the WLRMS Natural Resources Committee in collaboration with the NC Forest Service (NCFS) completed the initial process to attain recognition as a Firewise USA® Community.

Based on recommendations from a community risk assessment conducted by the NCFS for Wolf Laurel, we created a 3-year action plan outlining initial steps to improve our wildfire preparedness. Achieving the Firewise USA® recognition signifies that our community will take a step beyond being concerned about the risks of wildfire, and work together to take action.

Wolf Laurel's Firewise USA® initiative begins with educating the community. Based on decades of research and wildfire data, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) designed the Firewise USA® program to provide homeowners with proven practices to establish a "defensible space" which will withstand embers and prevent flames or surface fire from igniting the home and its immediate surroundings. In doing so, homeowners not only reduce risk on their own property, but their neighbors' and the community as well.

The Wolf Laurel Firewise Committee invites all owners in all HOAs to participate at whatever level you're able. We'll be holding meetings, presentations and events, as well as sending eblasts. There are two important goals for owners to take action, even if you cannot take any other steps: 1) identify your property at the street with reflective numbers on a metal sign for first responders, and 2) have a free home wildfire risk assessment by a trained professional to receive a tailored list of simple steps you can take to "harden" your home against wildfire.

We've compiled a library of educational materials, some available at the WLRMS office, and far more available online. You may access information about Wolf Laurel's Firewise USA® initiative, educational materials on a wide array of topics, links to videos and other resources at our temporary home of <https://tinyurl.com/WL-Wildfire-Library> and ultimately on the owner's portal of WLRMS. Please email us at [firewise@wolflaurelrms.com](mailto:firewise@wolflaurelrms.com) if you have any questions or you'd like to join the Wolf Laurel Firewise USA® initiative.

# Hatley Pointe - A Boutique Mountain Resort

Located in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains

The Blue Ridge Mountains offer a spectacular backdrop for our mountain resort in Mars Hills, North Carolina. We are conveniently located 30 miles outside of Asheville off highway I-26.

[hello@hatleypointe.com](mailto:hello@hatleypointe.com)

(828) 689 - 4111

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A



## HEARTFELT MESSAGE REGARDING THE WOLF PROVISIONS GENERAL STORE...

Happy 2025 to our neighbors. We initially created Wolf Provisions General Store to offer a convenient place for quick grocery items, eliminating the need to drive to Exit 11. Over time, we have grown into a community hub. Our menu has expanded to include hand-crafted coffee drinks and made-to-order hot breakfast and lunch items. Additionally, we provide hand-scooped ice cream served in cups or cones.

We appreciate your regular patronage and how our staff knows your usual orders. You can enjoy your beverages while reading a book or working on your laptop. Over the past year, I have needed to be closer to my parents due to their declining health. This has necessitated my presence for doctor visits and treatments.

As a result, we have decided to list our store for sale and are open to discussing it with interested parties who wish to continue what we have started at Wolf Provisions. We hope the new owner will maintain the community hub aspect and potentially grow the business further.

Our dedicated staff has been instrumental in running the day-to-day operations, handling challenges such as delivery delays, power outages, and weather-related issues. Their commitment and hard work have been invaluable.

We anticipate a potential change of ownership in late spring to early summer of 2025, but our timeline may change. Thank you for being part of our shop, and we look forward to seeing you soon. If you are interested in discussing the purchase of our store, please email me privately at [charliesnook321@gmail.com](mailto:charliesnook321@gmail.com).



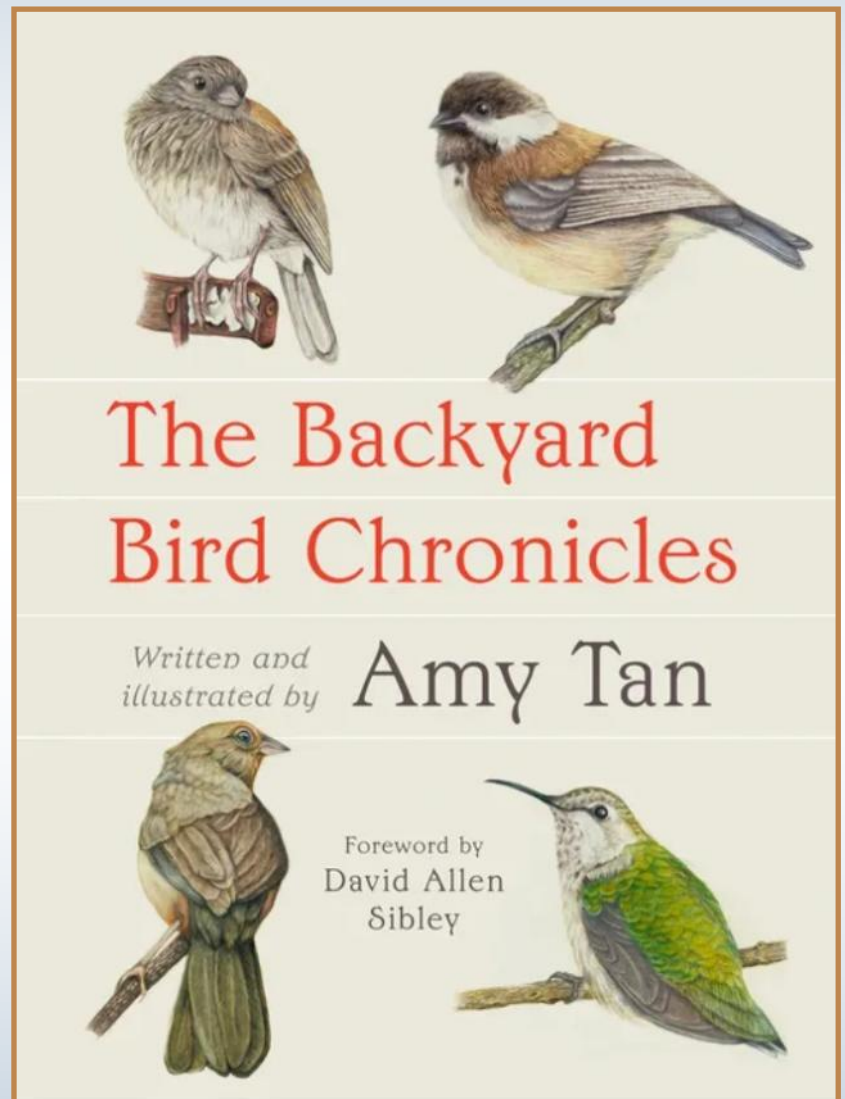
A Book Review by Donna Cottingham

Remember *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan? Well, it seems Tan has completely switched gears from novelist to birder. *The Backyard Bird Chronicles* is a journal of her observations as she learned to identify birds at her California home. But, the most surprising part of all is that she is also a very talented artist, and her journal includes beautifully detailed bird illustrations.

Although Tan makes many fascinating observations, she is quick to point out that she is yet an amateur, with more questions than answers. Then, there is the author's delightful sense of humor. As the ideal Wild Birds Unlimited customer, she calls herself the "Patron Saint of Mealworms." She justifies the exorbitant amount of money she spends on live mealworms by explaining that she never had the expense of raising children and paying college tuition.

As entertaining as her book is, you cannot overlook her knowledge and skills. In fact, leading ornithologist and author David Allen Sibley wrote the foreword in her book. And, she is well acquainted with biologist/zoologist/entomologist and author Bernd Heinrich and consults him on some of her questions.

If you enjoy feeding and watching the antics of birds in your yard, you will enjoy this book. *The Backyard Bird Chronicles* is one book that is as enjoyable to read as it is to look at the pictures.





## From WL Nextdoor

Kats T., Wolf Laurel

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# *Wolf Laurel Winterscapes - 1*



# *Wolf Laurel Winterscapes - 2*



# *Wolf Laurel Winterscapes - 3*



## WLPOA and Village Club Links

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

It provides information including the following:

- ◆ WLPOA Committees - [https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com/files/ugd/1610a3\\_cc0b41f6d9164b0ba4b263949d624121.pdf](https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com/files/ugd/1610a3_cc0b41f6d9164b0ba4b263949d624121.pdf).
  
- ◆ WLPOA / Village Club Office Contact Information - <https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com/files/ugd/1610a329a20333463f4178815950ef6ba0fdd4.pdf>.
  
- ◆ Where to go for Assistance - [https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com/files/ugd/1610a3\\_4d0a8883e8ca4f03a3c692bea8d72567.pdf](https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com/files/ugd/1610a3_4d0a8883e8ca4f03a3c692bea8d72567.pdf)
  
- ◆ Welcome to Wolf Laurel - [https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com/files/ugd/1610a3\\_9a2387acc7594523b92091ac8af219c8.pdf](https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com/files/ugd/1610a3_9a2387acc7594523b92091ac8af219c8.pdf)
  
- ◆ WLPOA and Village Club Benefits - [https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com/files/ugd/1610a3\\_2d9d49d267ca4558bf15844890c186ba.pdf](https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com/files/ugd/1610a3_2d9d49d267ca4558bf15844890c186ba.pdf)
  
- ◆ Wolf Laurel on the Internet - [https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com/files/ugd/1610a3\\_80fad65505e04e0eb04d42a39da166a4.pdf](https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com/files/ugd/1610a3_80fad65505e04e0eb04d42a39da166a4.pdf).





## Editor's Notes

Digital versions of the Top of the Bald are available at  
<https://www.wolflaurelpoa.com>.

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

Please see the next page for advertisements.

For advertising in Top of the Bald see page 44 or email  
[larryv8@gmail.com](mailto:larryv8@gmail.com)

Advertising featured in the Top of the Bald does not imply  
endorsement.

Top of the Bald feedback, comments, and suggestions are  
welcome - [larryv8@gmail.com](mailto:larryv8@gmail.com)

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Website - Rick Zinter is the new webmaster.

Top of the Bald - We welcome Yvonne Carignan to the  
Editorial Committee.

*The Top of the Bald is brought to you by the  
WLPOA Board of Directors and the WLPOA staff.*

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## Advertising Information For 2025

### Top of the Bald Newsletters

- 1) The rest of the TOB editions for 2025 are scheduled to be published on the first of May, July, & 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,**

**\$215 for three**

**Full page: \$85 / edition**

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4) Remit to:

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

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or 352-359-0071