



# Top of the Bald

Wolf Laurel Property Owners Association

September - October 2012

## President's Corner

By Frank Perritt

The Annual meeting on July 28th marked the half way point through the second season of WLPOA's Amenities Program with Monday and Friday Nighters at record attendance; enthusiastic hiking, fitness, and water aerobics classes well supported; lectures, art and cooking classes at capacity; local artists' exhibits displayed in the Community Center; and Pickleball being played as the new sports enthusiast's rage. The library in the Community Center continues to add books of interest for all ages, and the free Wi-Fi is regularly in use.

At the Annual Meeting Jim Linkenauger, explained the financial structure designed to accomplish the purchase of the Amenities from Bald Mountain Development Corporation in 2010, how the funds raised enabled a reduced debt, and how dues are allocated to retire the debt, operate the Community Center, the Amenities and the activities of WLPOA.

President and Treasurer, John Beneke, reviewed the financial reports for the first six months of 2012, reporting that the year-end operating funds are anticipated to be equal to, if not better than, those in 2011. Mark Miller, Vice President, presented a clear message that as a result of careful management of programs and reduction in overhead expenses, the cash flow for this year was better than budgeted.

Special appreciation plaques were presented to Jim Linkenauger, the architect of the "Let's Make It Happen"

program culminating in the purchase of the Amenities from Bald Mountain; Jim Landry, Past President for two terms, webmaster of WLPOA's web site and alert messages and the WLPOA's "Jack of All Trades"; and John Beneke, principal in the "Let's Make it Happen" program, two and one-half terms as Treasurer, and three terms as President.

The 4th of July celebration and fireworks in the Village had a record attendance of almost 600 persons who were entertained by a lively band "The Crew", swimming, inflatables including a rock climbing wall, and popcorn and cotton candy for the kids and kids at heart. The long lines and the food service are being reevaluated for 2013. The spectacular fireworks were enjoyed by all.

July 15 was a shocker with the County closing the swimming pool for violations under their current regulations; these concerned height of the fence, childproof locks on the entry gates, more signage within the pool, an inoperable shower, and no 911 telephone. The pool was constructed in 1995 for Bald Mountain Development Corp and had met the existing regulations. Your Board believed that the pool was governed by the previous regulations; however, the original operating permit from 1995 could not be located. The NC Department of Water Quality also required that the pool discharge be directed into the sewer system instead of into the stream.



Your Board took a positive approach that correcting the deficiencies was an opportunity to make the pool safer for members and guests as well as substantially improving the pool's appearance. Within five days, a contract was awarded for the replacement of the wooden fence with a five foot black chain link fence which incorporated childproof gate locks. The work to remove the fence, install the new water discharge piping, paint new signage, and rebuild the steps from the Pavilion to the pool was directed by Dick Moeller, Facilities Chairman, with some





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328 McKinney Gap Rd- On golf course & paved road, great home for part or full-time living, 4 Bdr's, 2.5 Baths, 1597sqft, stone fplc, master on main, unfinished basement that offers 606sqft additional elbow room, furnished. MLS#517534 \$189,000



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2665ELMinerDrive-Adorablechalet in the woods, easily maintained 2 Bdr's, 2 Baths w/ loft area, stone fplc, gas heat, updated kitchen and baths, furnished, unfinished 716sqft basement, close to 6th tee. MLS#519601 \$224,000



569 Pisgah Pass Rd-Extreme long range views , from cvrd deck, 3 Bdr's, 3.5 Baths, many updates, huge windows, stone fplc, gas heat, high elevation, mostly furnished. MLS#469393 \$249,000 Possible seller finance



85 Bee Tree Lane-Stunning custom built home, Big Blad views from 2 cvrd deck, 3 master suites, vaulted ceilings, wood and tile floors throughout, 2624sqft, garage, landscaped .76 Acre, SELLER IS MOTIVATED!!! MLS#469037 \$449,500



11 Scenic Wolf Ridge-Extreme long range views, log home built in 2004, walk to ski slopes & enclosed pool, 2 stone fplc, 3 master suites, 2 cvrd decks, gas heat, central A/C, paved access, loft area w/balcony & views, wood and tile floors. MLS#506271 PRICED TO SALE!! \$199,000



2977 EL Miner Drive-Amazing log home on golf course w/views, Seller says "Bring All Offers", family-sized at 4522sqft, 4 levels of mountain living, wood floors, stone fplcs, 6 Bdr's, 6 Baths, garage w/ mother-in law apartment. MUST SEE!! MLS#513519 \$699,000



489 Cherry Knob Road-Be Ready to be in AWE!! Impressive throughout, 4 Bdr's, 4.5 Baths, 3457sqft, 2 stone fplcs, gas heat, central A/C, extreme 180 degree mtn views & high elevation, mostly furnished, tons of windows, paved access, open floor plan, garage, 1.21 landscaped acre. QUALITY CONSTRUCTION!!! MLS#441885 \$795,000





hard working volunteers -- Gary Wit, Bill Aimone and Tom Wallace; these heroes were awarded the "Order of the Golden Trowel" at the reopening dedication on August 24. Jim Landry, Gene Woolf, Cindy Tucker, our Director of Amenities, and her staff, Jeanne Wilson, Sammy Barrett and Josh Ray, worked tirelessly to complete the renovations. Thank you all for a great job.

Your WLPOA maintains over 9 acres in Wolf Laurel Village including the Trout Pond, waterwheel and amphitheater, the covered bridge, Community Center (formerly "The Barn"), swimming pool, Pavilion, three tennis courts, Pickle Pall court, basketball area, children's playground, and a sewer plant. The "Cabin" inside the front gate for delivery of UPS, FedEx and USPS packages is available for use by all residents of the Wolf Laurel

Community as a courtesy of the WLPOA. The Angelica Ridge picnic area, Nature Trail, and the Rose Garden off Wolf Laurel Road are also maintained by WLPOA.

Since the purchase of the Amenities program and facilities in 2010, Bald Mountain Development Corporation no longer has any responsibility for, nor provides any financial support, for the maintenance of any of the grounds or facilities. BMDC does not support any events, programs nor the 4th of July Celebration. All of these are supported only by the dues and fees that are paid by you, the members of WLPOA and the Amenities program.

In response to my request to join WLPOA, a homeowner asked me "What's in it for me." I was stunned by the naiveté of the question. My response was, and is, that without

a strong, viable, and sustaining membership, the facilities cannot be maintained and will deteriorate, the activities and services will decline. Potential lot and home owners would not see a vibrant, active, attractive community, so they would have no incentive to become part of the Wolf Laurel Community. As a result home values would inevitably decline for all of us.

So take pride in the Wolf Laurel Community, contribute to its ongoing health and growth, participate in the many sports, activities and events offered by the WLPOA. Become an active participating member of the Wolf Laurel Community. Encourage your friends and neighbors to join the WLPOA today. There is no reason to delay since dues paid after September 1st carry over to 2013.

## Our Village Pool

By Cindy Tucker

On July 16, 2012, for the first time in the 8 years that I have worked in the Amenities Program, our Village swimming pool was inspected by the Madison County Health Department and the NC State Department of Environment and Natural Resources. When I began working here in The Village in 2005, I was informed by my employer at the time, Willis Williams, that our pool had been signed off on by the Madison County Building inspector when it was built, and that it was not subject to State/County regulations because it was grandfathered into the 'old regs' in place at that time of construction. Needless to say, it was surprising when the inspectors arrived and said they had no idea the pool was here and operational.

Feeling that it was important to be as much in compliance with State Regulations as possible, I put into place detailed daily documentation and treatment of pool water quality, put up signage as required by the regulations, established daily staff oversight and maintenance, and regularly tapped the expertise and assistance from our pool supply company to ensure maximum

user safety. I also became a certified pool operator. The inspectors said we had no permit to operate and did not acknowledge that we were "grandfathered into the old regs." They were somewhat confused about who owned the pool. But, they were impressed at how many of the State Regulatory requirements we did meet (water quality, documentation, etc.). The reason for their inspection was a complaint filed by an anonymous person regarding our water discharge system. They did not make any specific recommendations at that time as to how to improve that system. They did close the pool due to two current regulatory requirements: lack of an emergency phone at the site and lack of a modern, safer fence/gate. They also recommended several other small improvements (markers on steps, etc.).

We immediately sought out bids for the fencing and gate; within the first week we had a contract in place with a reputable fencing company. It took another two weeks for the materials to be delivered and construction to take place. Throughout the process, Village Amenities Staff members kept the

water quality at peak condition until all required remedies were put into place.

A week or two after the inspection and pool closure, I was contacted by the County office and was informed that the discharge system must also be changed. After speaking with a local representative of the State Department of Water Quality, we assessed our options.

Throughout this whole process, I was so very lucky to have our WLPOA Board appointed Facilities Maintenance





Committee to go to. This Committee is headed by Dick Moeller and also includes Jim Landry, Tom Wallace, Gary Wit, Gene Woolf and Bill Aimone. These folks saved the WLPOA a great deal of money by taking on many portions of the project. They took down and saved the old fencing (which will be used in the children's fort/play area), so the fencing contractor could start putting the new fence up as soon as the materials were available. Then, once the Department of Water Quality required a discharge system redesign, more work was needed. They determined that our best option was to discharge into our sewage treatment

plant and contacted the operator who approved the plan. Then the heavy lifting began. The rock walkway to the pool had to be redesigned to accommodate the discharge system and the group took this project on in an aggressive timeframe.

I am also very lucky to have a great support Staff team this year in the Village. Sammy and Josh covered the pool (required by the State) helped bury pipes, move tons of rock and other jobs during their regular shifts. When the fencing was complete, they uncovered the pool; then Jeanne literally "jumped in" (unheated water) to make sure color contrasting bands were affixed to the steps and that the depth markers in the pool were placed at the proper place with exact spacing to meet regulatory requirements.

On August 21, we scheduled a re-inspection, were granted our permit, and opened the pool for the remainder of the season. We had a ribbon cutting at the Friday Nighter on August 24th where the Facilities Maintenance crew was given much appreciation for their efforts.

I'd like to thank Frank Perritt for his

presence, advice and support every day throughout the process. Also, I'd like to thank John Beneke for making sure the emergency phone and 911 service was quickly in place, and, Larry Smith for constructing the rustic box for the phone to protect it from wet weather. Gary Wit spent hours designing and installing the rockwork around the pool.

The pool will be closed for the season around October 1st. At that point, our Facilities Maintenance team will come together to rebuild our mechanical shed to meet State requirements. Again, we are so blessed to have such an amazing group of community volunteers with the knowledge to get the job done. A remarkable asset! We will apply for an annual permit for operation for the pool each year from this point on.

After all this, we certainly are proud that the WLPOA was able to accomplish so much so quickly. We now have a safer pool environment and should be proud that we could all work together to make it happen!

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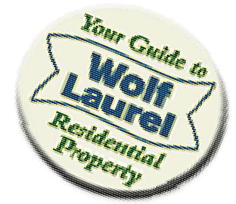
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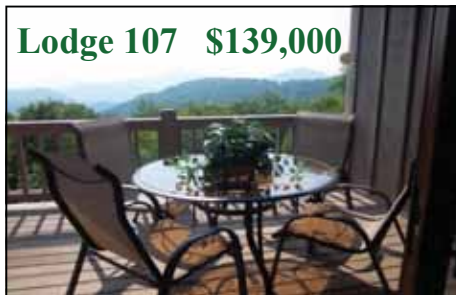
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# Horse Camp at Wolf Laurel Stables

By Connie Gutknecht



horse is not just getting on her back and saying "giddy-up". In fact, that approach can be very frustrating for the horse and rider. Campers learned to communicate with their mounts and adjust their hands, legs and position to make the experience pleasurable for both horse and rider.

Horses take a LOT of hard work to keep them healthy, strong, and sound. Campers were assigned their own horses for the week to be a part of daily maintenance and care, including mucking stalls and stable areas, feeding, worming, grooming, tacking, and catching and releasing (not at all like fish!)

Wolf Laurel Stables is situated in one of the most diverse ecosystems in the United States. The different animals, vegetation, and elevations afford a plethora of discoveries! A nature walk on horseback, guided by Mark Tucker, gave the campers an opportunity to experience and learn about native critters, plants, trees, and creeks. Other adventures provided during Wolf Laurel Horse Camp included the following: finding "gold nuggets" in the creek, making S'MORES at a campfire,



training ring practice for tacking, mounting, dismounting, walking and trotting, trail rides, painting horse shoes, observing a farrier, putting handprints on their horses, braiding manes and tails, demonstrations of English and Western riding and barrel racing, a Friday cookout, and a "Shoot-Out at the Wolf Laurel Corral" with squirt guns!

The week was planned around learning, playing, eating, exploring, making new friends and having tons of FUN with horses. Many thanks to Stephanie Suarez (our photographer), Crystal McMurray, Leane, other volunteers, and the Wolf Laurel Stables staff for making the week such a success!

Happy Trails to You, 'Til We Meet Again

Horse Camp at Wolf Laurel Stables provided campers with opportunities to learn about, ride, and most of all have FUN with horses! Fourteen campers from the ages of 5.5 to 15 years old attended the annual event from June 25-29 at Wolf Laurel Stables.

Horses are unique animals with their own "language." Recognizing and understanding what they tell us, and what we "tell" them was infused throughout the week's curriculum. Campers learned how to approach their horses in the training ring and place halters on them, using their eyes and movements and also "reading" the horses' actions and responses. The beauty, strength, and stamina of horses fascinate most humans. Horses' physical attributes, health and routines were emphasized. Riding a



## Pickleball is a Win Win in the Village

By George Shennan

Pickleball is now being played in Wolf Laurel; there are 10 or 12 playing regularly now, and many more who are interested and questioning when and how they can get on the courts. We are in need of more courts and equipment and are looking into this for next year. We now have 2 of our tennis courts temporarily marked with blue tape for pickleball. We also have balls and paddles available to be checked out at the community center. Someone said on the court the other day "Pickleball is so much fun I forgot I was getting exercise!" There are probably several more who would say, "DITTO!" to that statement.

Pickleball is a racquet sport, which combines elements of badminton, tennis, and ping pong. The sport is played on a court with the same dimensions as a doubles badminton court. The net is similar to a tennis net, but is two inches lower. The game is played with a hard paddle and a polymer wiffle ball. Although pickleball appears to be very similar to

tennis there are key differences that make pickleball more accessible to a wider range of players, particularly children and seniors. Chief among these differences is the speed of the pickleball ball, which typically moves at one-



third of the average speed of a tennis ball. Equally important, however, is the size of the court, which is just under one-third of the total area of a tennis court. This smaller area combined with the slower moving ball makes pickleball much easier to play than tennis. It is easy for beginners to learn,

but can develop into a quick, fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players.

It is reported that Pickles, the family cocker spaniel of one of the co-inventors of pickleball said, "I used to chase stray balls and then hide in the bushes, so they named the game after me. I am very proud."

If you are interested in playing (or learning how to play) pickleball, contact George Shennan at [gshennan@earthlink.net](mailto:gshennan@earthlink.net) or Cindy Tucker at the Amenities office, or just show up at the Community Center; we usually play around 3pm on Sunday afternoon. Call George at 689-2257 and join us. If you just want to learn more about pickleball. I recommend that you go to the Pickleball Association web site ( <http://usapa.org> ). Click on (Watch a pickleball video). Also click on (Pickleball Rules Summary). I think this will give you a better idea of what Pickleball is all about. We're considering organizing teams and tournaments next year, get started now!

## ON THE ROAD AGAIN: updates from Roads & Security

There continue to be concerns related to the cutting down and topping of mature trees without permission from R&S Architectural Review Board. It appears that some residents are simply ignoring the policies that they agreed upon at the purchase and closing of their properties here on Wolf Laurel. These policies attempt to preserve the natural landscape and beauty of our mountain; the indiscriminate disregard of those policies harms the property value of all owners, as well as endangering the ecological integrity of our mountain community. It has been proven in court that property owners are subject to the 2002

Covenants, wherein preservation of existing trees and their care is clearly defined. Fines may be levied, and more serious infractions may be pursued with litigation against the perpetrators.

The cooperation of residents is also needed regarding two additional serious safety issues: excessive speed on both paved and unpaved roads and burning of trash and tree trimmings without proper precautions. Several incidents of both dangerous practices have been reported to RMS by concerned (and, quite frankly, angry) residents. Safe speed limits are clearly posted; the ban on burning is governed not only

by our covenants, but also by common sense and laws beyond our community. **BOTTOM LINE: DON'T SPEED, STAY ON YOUR SIDE OF THE ROAD, AND DON'T BURN!**

Progress in several RMS areas are encouraging signs of increasing health and cooperation: collections are considerably ahead of those in 2011; payment of funds determined through court judgments are now current; the transfer of property titles from BMDC to RMS is complete in Madison County and Yancey County; the exemption from taxes from both counties has been secured; and plans for the use or



dispersal of those lots recently deeded to RMS are under consideration.

The repair and restoration of the road and bridge beneath the rustic cover on Village Lane is being negotiated. No firm plan has been determined

as of this date. The issue requires the consideration of RMS (who owns the bridge and road), the WLPOA (who owns the rustic cover), and the engineering firm (whose design using the three culverts failed in preventing washouts in multiple flooding). All

entities are cooperating; a positive outcome and a new, safe, and attractive solution can be anticipated. Repairs on road washouts that occurred because of recent heavy rains have been completed.

## Wolf Laurel Wandering Ladies (WLWL) News

By Debbie Wallace

This summer the WLPOA Amenities has sponsored a new program just for women.....that's right, no men allowed on these ventures designed for the interest of women. The idea was for the ladies of Wolf Laurel to get together, meet new people, see places we have wanted to see and enjoy lunch together along with a bit of shopping.

To kick off the season our first trip was to the Asheville Visitors Center for The Grey Line Trolley Tour of Asheville on the Red Trolley on Wednesday June 6th. With twelve women joining in this day of exploration and a wonderful tour guide by the name of Dean we headed off to nine destinations. We were taken through the Thomas Wolfe District, Grove Park Inn area, Haywood Street, Wall Street and Battery Park, Pack Place and Pack Square, Grove Arcade, River Arts District and Biltmore Village where we took a break from the tour and had lunch at Chelseas Café and Tea Room. We took some time and wandered the Biltmore Village Shops and then returned to the final stops on the Trolley Tour to the Grand Bohemian Hotel and back to the Visitors Center. Everyone seemed to have a great time and learned many new things about Asheville. This is a great tour to take guests on for information about Asheville and its rich history. We all learned that one of the most interesting things about Asheville is that it is "WEIRD" ....you will have to take the tour to understand that statement. After a rain delay, our second outing was to the NC Arboretum on

Wednesday, July 25th attended by ten ladies. We had a privately guided tour through the main gardens including the Bonsai Exhibit, followed by lunch at the Savory Thyme Café. We then wandered on our own through the Baker Exhibit Center, Education Center, Connection Gallery and the very interesting Wicked Plant Exhibit where we all learned about the surprising plants that have poisonous effects. We enjoyed seeing what plants grow

We have two more outings planned for this season. The upcoming event on September 21st will be to Jonesborough, TN where the National Story Telling event takes place in October of each year. We will be having lunch at a local restaurant, visiting a couple of museums in historic buildings and of course shopping in the local stores. We will have one of our own, Pat McLean as our personal guide having grown up in the town of Jonesborough to give us some tidbits of historical information.



well in our mountainous climate and exploring the manicured gardens. The quilt garden was one of the interesting aspects of the tour. We also learned that there are several walking trails that encircle the gardens for a leisurely walk or hike. Of note, the cost to enter the gardens is by car not person and the first Tuesday of each month is free. This would be another great place to take guests to if they have an interest in gardens and Bonsai's. There is a large Bonsai exhibit and fair coming up in early October.

In October we plan to visit Black Mountain on Saturday the 13th. This quaint little town that is host to so many events through the Billy Graham Training Center and The Cove is sure to be full of wonderful surprises for us all as well as seeing the changing of season to fall. Please plan to join us for these excursions with the women of your community. Information will be posted on the WLPOA calendar and signup is required as we carpool to each event. Costs are kept to a minimum so that all can feel free to join in. Hope to see you all soon at the next Wolf Laurel Wandering Ladies event.

***Mission Statement: For the ladies of Wolf Laurel and their guests to meet, greet and enjoy a time of fellowship together while exploring sites and communities in the surrounding area of Wolf Laurel.***



## Meet Your Neighbor!

John and Anne Ames have owned their cabin on Unakite Lane since 2003. They both look forward to the day when their time in Wolf Laurel won't be limited to occasional weekends and holidays. Currently both still own businesses and work full time in Atlanta. Anne owns and operates Gretchen's Children's Shop – an iconic specialty children's store which has been a favorite of Atlanta mothers and grandmothers since 1952. John is a founding partner and principal of Ames Scullin O'Haire, one of Atlanta's top advertising agencies.

Together they have four children. Jay is the oldest. He and his wife and four children live in Concord, NC where he is a commercial builder and his wife, Gina works for a real estate firm. Brian is an actor living in Malibu, CA. Just recently he appeared in the TV series Drop Dead Diva. Will is a senior at Purdue University and is scheduled to graduate this December with his degree in mechanical engineering. Joan, the youngest, is a sophomore at the University of Georgia majoring in international business.

Anne and John are both Georgia natives. John grew up in Americus, GA and after graduating from the University of Georgia lived in a variety of places while working with General Electric and Ogilvy & Mather before returning to Atlanta. If you happen to need the ejection seat in your fighter jet serviced, John learned how to do that while serving in the Marine

Corps. Anne is one of those very rare and hard to find natives of Atlanta. She was born and raised there, graduated from Emory University, and has lived her entire life within about 5 miles from where she was born. A very rare thing for sure these days.

Dwight and Janie Jenkins are responsible for the Ames' being at Wolf Laurel. They were John's neighbor in the Atlanta area and introduced him to Wolf Laurel when he was looking for mountain property years ago. "It was love at first sight for me when I came up to visit Dwight and Janie. The quiet beauty of the mountains and the warm, friendly people made it feel like home.

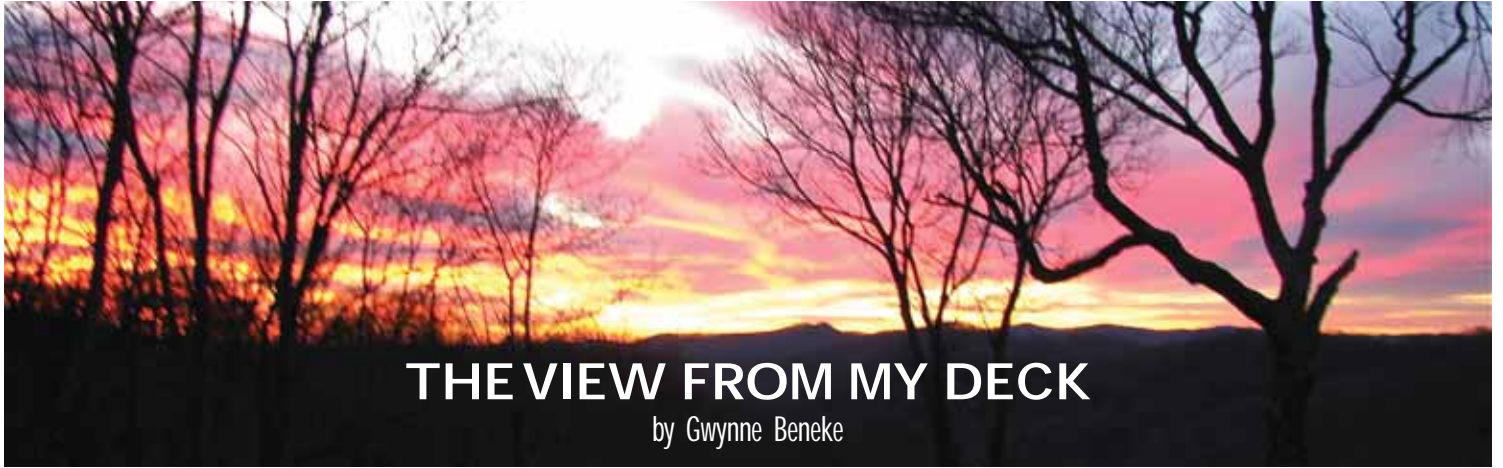


And it was Dwight's dad who helped me find our house, too"

In her spare time Anne loves to garden, cook and enjoys playing her guitar. John's hobbies include Porsches, the Georgia Bulldogs, wine, sailing and an occasional round of golf. They both love spending time with family and friends at their condo in Destin, FL too.

John and Anne are lifetime Amenities members and recently joined Wolf Laurel Country Club. "We have met so many wonderful people at Wolf Laurel and we very much look forward to the opportunity to spend more time here, to participate in the social activities of the Club, and develop many friendships."

Anne is making a list of other hobbies to indulge in when they retire and have more time. They hope to split their time between Wolf Laurel and Destin with stopovers in Atlanta to see family and friends going back and forth. "We have things set up for what we think will be the perfect retirement for us. It will be wonderful when we can spend much more time here – not just dream about it. We always begin planning our next visit to our mountain cabin during the drive back to Atlanta after each trip up" says Anne wistfully.



## THE VIEW FROM MY DECK

by Gwynne Beneke

Signs of fall are brilliantly evident in the Village, although it's still September. Three maple trees are showing their stuff, with varying colors of gold and scarlet. The nights are almost chilly, and the occasional scent of burning firewood from resident homes wafts across the mountain. As the season winds down, there is more time for reflection. I've been thinking about all that our WLPOA has accomplished in the last two and a half years. I decided to reread an article that I had written in the April/May 2010 Top of the Bald issue, "Building Community: Strengthening the ties that bind us to Wolf Laurel." I would like to revisit the three characteristics of community,

as defined in Scott Peck's THE DIFFERENT DRUM and applied to our Wolf Laurel community, and comment on how I think we are doing.

The first characteristic is COMMUNICATION. Dr. Peck commented that a community is "a group of individuals who have learned to communicate honestly . . . whose relationships go deeper than their masks of composure, and who developed some significant commitment to 'rejoice together, mourn together, delight in each other, and make others' conditions their own.'" We are doing well in that regard. There is a natural tendency to drop any

mask when one is muddy from head to toe. I witnessed five volunteers actually having fun, as they dug up old fence posts that were stubbornly resisting giving up their rock bound roots. I fully expected someone to throw a buddy in the pool, but trying to keep the pool water pristine evidently caused these really dirty men to forego that temptation! Focusing on the daunting task of getting the swimming pool to be in accord with new regulations in the shortest possible period of time motivated these members of our community. But there was laughter heard amidst the sound of pickaxes striking rock. And a bit of horseplay, too. Working together for a common

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goal brings us closer together as a community.

That's not to say that we have entirely given up the grapevine of rumor; but greater transparency in all phases of WLPOA board actions, to which the board has committed itself, helps to bring us closer to a worthy goal of discarding rumor for verified fact. The Top of the Bald, by adopting a mission statement and publication policy, has committed itself to that responsibility. Members can consult the WLPOA website and its alert section for reliable information, also. We may always struggle to achieve consensus, and that is a good thing; it demands clarity of thought, a willingness to listen, and a commitment to compromise for the best outcome for the most people; it is a process that demands our growth in tolerance and understanding of our fellow humans. It is the foundation of our American way of life.

The second tenet of Peck's recipe for achieving community is COMMON

PURPOSE. The success of the "Let's Make It Happen" campaign and the continuing growth of involvement, attendance, membership, and volunteerism in the WLPOA and The Amenities Program attest to the success that we are enjoying. We ARE coming together as a true community. New programs introduced this year have enjoyed both considerable increased interest and enthusiastic participation. Numbers of members are learning and playing pickleball; "Girls Day Out" has provided the opportunity to learn more about the larger community of WNC and new friendships have been an added benefit. One rarely goes into the Community Center without finding several logged onto Wi-Fi or sitting around visiting, drinking a cup of coffee. The art exhibits and "openings" have been well-attended social gatherings. The library's returns box attests to the virility of its use. And Gene Woolf is planning more festive winter activities, repeating Christmas and New Year's parties. We continue to come together to have fun and

build relationships, finding renewal and recreation in Wolf Laurel, fulfilling our COMMON PURPOSE.

Finally, Dr. Peck writes of COMMITMENT – "The willingness to coexist; the members of a group in some way must commit themselves to one another . . . Community, like marriage, requires that we hang in there when the going gets a little rough; in community . . . human differences are celebrated as gifts." (Dr. Peck does not mince words when he speaks of the fruits of community.) We will still spend our time, our ingenuity, our material assets, and our love for a sense of place, now that the land, "Barn," pool, trout pond, tennis courts, children's playground, and pavilion have been ours for two years. We deserve big pats on the back. We deserve to raise a toast to the hard work of those who have made the commitment. Many of us really have put our money where our mouth is! The result is visible testimony to our love of this special place, our Wolf Laurel.

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Skylights throughout the home makes this log home feel bright and open. Handcrafted wooden staircase leads you up to the second level. The second level offers tons of cubby space in the hallway area. Space for an office area and sleeping area. Sleeping loft overlooks the great room. The second bedroom is large and spacious with stained glass to add charm to this room. The third bedroom has direct access to the 2nd bath on the upper level. Oil furnace will keep you cozy in the winter months. The home is surrounded by covered decks to enjoy the cool summers. Off the dining area is a patio with





built-in stone fireplace to enjoy an evening dessert of smores. Rolling property makes this a great home for part or full-time living. Detached workshop and carport are just off the kitchen. Rail fence and steps down the property to the golf course and lily gardens. This home will convey most of the beautiful mountain home furnishings. Just bring your clothes and toothbrush and you will be ready to go. You can view the virtual tour for this home on our website at [www.wolfmountainrealty.com](http://www.wolfmountainrealty.com).

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**The WLPOA sincerely thanks the following companies and individuals for their monetary contributions in support of the 2012 July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks display.**

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## Wolf Laurel Property Owners Association Annual Meeting Saturday July 28, 2012

Board Members Present: Bruce Gutknecht, Chuck Freeman, John Beneke, presiding, Joanne Wit, recording, Nancy Schmidt, Randy Hill, John Shofi, Cathy Johnson, Frank Perritt, Mark Miller

John Beneke, President welcomed members to the Annual Meeting  
Pastor Jim Henry opened the meeting with the invocation.

Chuck Freeman led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

Closing of the Ballot box was announced and it was established that a quorum was present.

### Committee Reports

#### Financial Report:

John Beneke, acting Treasurer, reviewed the financial sheets circulated to owners. Explanation of Accounts Receivable given - Monies owed that have not been paid. This amount is being lowered gradually and is at present lower based on monies received in July. Reviewed Year to Date report which reflects monies taken in and monies spent year to date. Income Statement by Class reviewed. This reflects spending under the three entities of Amenities, Community Center, and POA Operations.

He reported that there are 7 new members and 4 trial memberships which were positive for the budget.

Challenges or unanticipated expenses that that been faced: Renovation to the barn, Landscaping in the Village, Sewage treatment system, Pool – new pool cover, new fencing to meet inspection requirements for pool.

The Board met in a planning session to establish goals and set priorities – 1) Increase membership, 2) Explore additional sources of revenue such as advertising by owners and realtors for property sales on website, festivals etc. and 3) Control and decrease cost without decreasing services.

Jim Linkenauger: Jim led a short discussion regarding the financial plan that was used to purchase the Village and amenities from BMDC in 2010. In the aggregate, approximately \$967,000 was made available through a combination of the sale of equity memberships, participant/user initiation fees, naming rights on certain venues in



the Village, cash on hand, and expected borrowings of \$230,000 to finance the Community Center (used by all WLPOA members) portion of the purchase price. The actual price to purchase the Village and amenities, including closing and promotional costs, was approximately \$725,000. On this basis, there was about \$242,000 of excess cash on hand at the end of the fund raising period. Most of this excess came from the relatively large number (70) of amenities members who elected the Lifetime Membership option, whereby they each made a one-time payment of \$5,000 on the front end, with no annual dues payment required thereafter. In regards to the \$230,000 portion of the funds raised from borrowings on the Community Center, we committed to pay this amount off in (8) equal installments of approximately \$37,500 each, including interest, beginning June 30, 2011. The source of the funds to repay this loan comes from the \$75 in dues that each of the approximately 480 or so WLPOA members pays into the Capital Development Fund each year. Considering that the Association had this much extra cash available, which again was largely attributable to the prepaid dues that the Lifetime Members had paid, the Board made a decision at that time that: 1) In order to reduce interest expense paid to outside parties, we would borrow only \$136,000 from outside parties and this amount would be repaid over the first (5) years of the (8) years referred to above and 2) The monies received during the last (3) years of the (8) years referred to above, totaling some \$112,500 with interest, would go to replenish the coffers of the WLPOA amenities operations. In addition, shortly after the closing, it was necessary for the WLPOA to again use some of this excess cash to spend an additional \$30,000 or so on repairs and improvements to the Community Center. Again, this money will also be returned to the WLPOA amenities operations through future dues payments to the Capital Development Fund by all WLPOA members. Jim then made reference to a separate cash flow projection handout, which indicated that the WLPOA should end the 2012 year with approximately \$83,000 cash on hand. He then noted that with the

monies expected to be received in the future from the dues payments made to the Capital Development Fund, our pro forma cash position is still in excess of \$200,000. Finally, Jim emphasized the importance of bringing in new members to the amenities program in order for us to minimize the use of our cash reserves to subsidize the annual operations of the amenities program. Mark Miller spoke to 4 points related to budget and financial picture of the WLPOA.

1. Cash on hand – at the end of June cash on hand is \$151,000 with additional income still to be reported.
2. Balance Sheet - \$396,000 liability Internal liability
  - \$153,750 Lifetime membership long term
  - \$ 26,250 Lifetime membership current or short term
  - \$ 94,000 which was a loan within the organization
 This translates to a debt of \$112,000 which is anticipated to be paid within 3 and ½ years, which will leave no external debt at that time.
3. Projection for the year
  - As of 6/30 - \$151,000 cash
  - Additional revenue - \$ 26,000
  - Expense projection - \$ 93,450
  - Cash on hand 12/31 - \$ 83,490
4. Next year – Revenue - \$144,000 (projected POA and Amenities dues)
  - Rent \$ 26,000
  - Expenses 200,000
 Anticipate additional revenue and further cuts as necessary to cover \$30,000.

Amenities: Cathy Johnson thanked Cindy Tucker, program manager, for her work with the Amenities Program. She also thanked the committee members for their work – Barbie McQueen, David Schmidt, and George Shennan. She reported that the exercise programs have been well attended and successful, men's and women's tennis met regularly, 4th of July was attended by 600 persons who enjoyed the barbeque, music, concessions for the kids and the awesome fireworks, Kids Kamp was very successful with 27 campers this year. The final day included a wildlife presentation by Carlton Burke with Carolina Mt. Naturalists who presented a program "Appalachian Wild." He brought

several 'friends' for the campers to learn about. All members were invited to attend. Monday and Friday Nighters has continued to be a favorite to meet and greet friends. We have had requests from outside the mountain to use the Village for weddings. One person requesting for October, did not blink when told the cost would be \$1000. The committee is reevaluating its charges to members and outside requests. Milton Ready will do a book signing at the Village with all proceeds going to WLPOA. Some new budget neutral programs have been offered and are being planned. Either there is no cost to the POA or the participants pay a minimal fee. Some offerings include, Gourmet cooking class, CPR, Ladies Day out, Zumba and a Joe Penland concert on Saturday September 15. Pickle Ball has been introduced and enthusiasm is growing. Friday and Saturday mornings fresh produce is available in the Pavilion brought in by Kristie Cody.

The Amenities program offers something to all. We want to encourage you, if not yet Amenities members, to consider our new Trial membership program – where you can 'try it on for size'!

Membership: At present our membership numbers are: 442 WLPOA members with 240 of them being Amenities members. Members were encouraged to speak to their neighbors about the value and benefits to the community and individual owners of WLPOA.

By-Laws: John Shofi presented the By-law changes that had been circulated to the membership. He presented that 90% of proxies/votes received in the POA office were in support of the proposed changes. John Shofi moved that all the proposed bylaw changes be accepted as circulated. The motion was seconded by Chuck Freeman. The vote on the floor was unanimous for acceptance. The propose by-laws were accepted as circulated.

Legal: Frank Perritt reported that the Insurance Policy was reviewed for adequate coverage and that after many months of clarification, the policy

provides adequate coverage. He also reported that work is still being done on the Equity Redemption Agreement. Some of the Equity memberships have been recorded, but due to inadequate instructions at the beginning, Equity members are being asked to resign according to what the courts will approve so that the balance of the agreements can be recorded. R&S brought suit against an owner for not paying fees. A 'Consent Judgment' was made stating that the Covenant and Restrictions were valid and enforceable. Our interest in this is that the ruling supports that all owners must be members of the WLPOA. All Board members now have a handbook specific for members of the board.

Top of the Bald: Gwynne Beneke, editor, spoke to the changes in the TOB and its approved Missions Statement. She shared what readers could expect to see in future issues: 2 regularly occurring articles – On the Road Again (R&S) and Meet your neighbor; 2 additional new features – View From My Deck, and For What its Worth; increased number of photos. Input from owners is welcome. The Board is looking to circulate the TOB electronically. Members are asked to communicate if they would like regular mail delivery or electronic delivery. This will be a cost saving endeavor. Copies of TOB will continue to be available at the Community Center.

Facilities: Randy Hill thanked his committee for their input: Jim Landry, Dick Moeller, and Garry Wit. Specifically he thanked them for work on the Ladies Restroom in the Community Center, the bridges to the playground and the tennis courts, and the stone work in the village and at the water wheel and amphitheater. He also encouraged owners to let the committee know areas they may be able to provide services in maintaining the facilities.

John Beneke recognized all the work done in the office by Hassiekay Honeycutt and Cindy Tucker. Thank you to both of them.

Old Business: none

New Business: Election of Board members. There were 5 candidates for the five positions that are open. John Beneke moved and it was seconded to approve the 5 candidates by acclamation. The motion was passed unanimously. The new Board members are: Mark Miller, Dick Moeller Madeline Morin, Earlene Shofi, and Gene Woolf. Thank you to the Board members leaving the Board at this time: Randy Hill, Larry Smith, John Shofi, and Cathy Johnson.

Questions from owners:

- Are there plans to increase the size of the pool and add an exercise facility? This is something we may consider in the future. We do not have physical space for an exercise facility at this time.

- Has the Board considered guided tours of Wolf Laurel for new owners or potential owners? Or offering a way for persons that are here part time to identify other owners for social activities? This is not something that is planned at this time, but can be looked at. Membership in the Amenities does offer social interaction for persons new to Wolf Laurel or other owners looking to be involved with other owners socially.

- Can you explain the Litigation on which the Board has taken a 'neutral position?' This litigation has not been initiated at this time. As part of the Purchase and Sale agreement for the Village and Amenities, the Ridges were not allowed to join unless the monies were paid to Bald Mountain Development Company. The Ridges have included this in a suit they plan to bring against Bald Mountain as they would like to become members. The Board is not a party to the suit, we remain neutral and will abide by the court decision.

- The Board is to be commended in their decision, as a representative body of Wolf Laurel Owners for their plan to correspond to French Broad regarding spraying of chemicals and its destruction of plants and wild flowers.

- Is there any discussion regarding the combination of WLPOA, Blue Mountain, and R&S?

There is no discussion at this time. At this time R&S owns the roads. They do not own the Covenants. It is hoped they will be turned over to R&S. At that time there may be more discussion. - All owners were encouraged to continue to be aware of the actions of French Broad and R&S with regard to the devastation of our wildlife. Brochures about native plants are available for owners, just pick them up.

Award Presentations

"Let's Make it Happen" Award presented to Jim Linkenauger in recognition of his exemplary leadership in the "Let's Make It Happen" campaign and financial planning skills in acquiring the Wolf Laurel Amenity facilities and programs.

Outstanding Service Award presented to Jim Landry in grateful appreciation for his dedicated and exemplary service as President 2007-2009, Webmaster 2006 - present, and Jack of All Trades.

Outstanding Service Award presented to John Beneke in recognition of his dedication and exemplary service as President 2009-2012, Treasurer 2007-2009 and to the "Let's Make it Happen" campaign to acquire the Wolf Laurel Amenity facilities and programs.

No further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Wit, Secretary





# Bringing Back the American Chestnut Tree

By Larry Smith



Until the beginning of the twentieth century, the American chestnut represented nearly twenty percent of the hardwoods in the eastern United States forests. It provided a valuable food source for wildlife, and roasted chestnuts were a part of the diet for human nutrition. In addition, it provided an excellent lumber source for manufacturing furniture. The wood was rot resistant and made durable timber for barns. The decorative yellow blooms added to the spring colors in our native woods.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, a fungal blight began killing the chestnut trees. The blight spread from the northeast through the southern Appalachian Mountains. Through the depression era the blight spread into our area and killed the remaining stands of chestnut. Now furniture made from chestnut is considered either pre

blight or is called wormy chestnut. The wormy chestnut was sawn from dead trees which stood for many years after dying from the blight. The Chestnuts we now purchase at Christmas come from a variety known as Chinese chestnut. While the fruit is similar, the tree pales in comparison. The American chestnut was usually 100 feet tall with a large straight trunk suitable for lumber.

A few rare American chestnut trees have managed to survive. We believe one may in fact exist in the area known as the Preserve. These trees are now being identified and cross bred with the blight resistant Chinese chestnut. These more blight resistant offspring are then in turn crossbred with another

surviving American chestnut, thus reducing the percentage of Chinese chestnut. The goal is to develop a tree identical to the American chestnut but blight resistant.

The hope is that eventually the American chestnut will flourish. On October 30th, Mars Hill College will present a program on the "Role of the American Chestnut in Appalachian Life". We might hope that this would inspire the residents of Wolf Laurel to help establish a new stand of chestnuts in our community.

NOTE: A well known scholar, Dr. Charlotte Ross, will be at Mars Hill College to present a lecture on the devastating effect that the loss of the American Chestnut tree had on Western North Carolina's culture and economy. The lecture is supported by a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council. The presentation, "The Role of the Chestnut in Appalachian Life" will be held in the Peterson Conference Center, Blackwell Hall on October 30th at 7 p.m.

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## Rally For the Cure : An Update

Thank you Wolf Laurel Community for your support of the 2012 Rally for the Cure! Our success would not have been possible without you! There were 79 women (36 golfers & 43 luncheon guests) who participated. Our Sponsors, Memory Tree, Knockout Rose sale, Raffle, 50/50, Golf Club Raffle, Drink Cart, Hole Hitters & Get Out of Jail/Wild West Party, along with our golfers and luncheon guests, raised an amazing \$6,470!

Each year 70% of the money raised goes to our Tri-Cities Affiliate (includes Madison & Yancey Counties), which provides grants to local health care organizations for free screening and treatment assistance, as well as breast

self-awareness education. The remaining proceeds raised goes to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Grants Program, supporting research, awards, and educational, and scientific programs around the world.



## Covenant Corner

By David Schmidt

What is a covenant?

According to Merriam-Webster, a covenant is "a written agreement or promise usually under seal between two or more parties especially for the performance of some action." When all of us began our journey of looking for a pristine first or second home, we happened to the beauty, which surrounds our Wolf Laurel community. Many of us probably looked at homes (lots) both inside and outside of the Resort. There are advantages and disadvantages to each type of ownership.

Most of us chose to live within the Resort community for various reasons. These include 24 hour security, well maintained roads, the beauty of the village, a pool, tennis courts, pavilion events etc.. In addition, we chose a sense of belonging to something bigger than ourselves. We became part of a close knit community where we could share our

love of the mountain with friends and family who had similar interests.

During all of the commotion when you purchased your property, a copy of the "Declaration of Protective Covenants" as well as a copy of the "Architectural Guidelines for Wolf Laurel Resort" was probably given to you.

The goal of this column is to periodically highlight one or more of the covenants so that we all can understand how we can further harmonize with our neighbors and friends. My first discussion will be about pollution. Sections I-K have to do with most likely your first thoughts about what constitutes a violation. These include garbage and refuse disposal, sewage disposal, as well as proper drainage flows that provides for appropriate drainage so as to not interfere with other lot owners or common areas.

The type of pollution that I would like to address is that of light pollution. This is a serious problem throughout this country, Wolf Laurel included. Our permanent residence

is 12 miles west of Columbia, SC on beautiful Lake Murray. A look from our backyard south shows an orange blur in the sky over Columbia. Turn around and look west and many constellations and thousand of stars are clearly visible.

Section F.2 of our Covenants addresses these issues. "Lighting- Outside lighting can detract from the rural atmosphere at Wolf Laurel. Spotlights, area lights similar to street lights, lights on trees, and all other lights other than MOTION SENSITIVE SECURITY LIGHTS which are automatically operated shall be turned off by 11:00PM. No new outdoor lights other than porch lights or motion sensitive lights shall be installed without approval of the Architectural Review Board".

So please, for the benefit of all property owners, turn off all unnecessary lighting. We are all stargazers.

Detour Dave



# RESTAURANT RAMBLINGS

By Gwynne Beneke

The mountain already feels emptier; it's a little sad to look out my kitchen windows at night and see only a few lights across the mountain. The trees are already showing some fall color and it's only mid-September. Hopefully October will bring brilliant color and a few residents back "home" to enjoy the crisp days and the night smell of wood smoke from neighbors' fireplaces. It's also a perfect time for a walking restaurant tour of a cooler downtown Asheville; the streets are still lively with fall tourists seeking the spectacular color of our area. The kitchens of the many outstanding restaurants are experimenting with fall veggies and succulent harvest time meats. We sampled some of these on a recent tour, visiting four restaurants and four additional culinary "emporia." Asheville Food Tours ([www.ashevillefoodtours.com](http://www.ashevillefoodtours.com)) conducts several tours each week, covering fourteen plus gourmet locations; in addition it also conducts tours of Biltmore Village. Considering what one learns and what one tastes, the fare (\$39 per person) is a great bargain.

The restaurants visited by the four tour couples were Chorizo's in the Grove Arcade, where the outstanding creations of Chef Hector Diaz (Salsas and Zombras) may be enjoyed for Breakfast and lunch (We sampled some pulled pork, fried beans and guacamole, washed down with a minty blackberry mojito!); Chai Pani, a tiny Indian street food deli at 22 Battery Park (We were delighted by the owner's descriptions

of his annual tours to visit extended family in India while munching on his "safe" tidbits, savory cumin and cilantro puffed rice, built from local foods); renowned Vincenzo's northern Italian restaurant on the charming cobbled street location at 10 Market (While we savored perfectly prepared lobster risotto and a glass of Soave, owner Dwight entertained us with tales of the building's history as a stable); and finally Vijay Shastri's new venture, Mr. Frog's Soul and Creole Food, on lower Market Street in The Block (We HAD to go back the next week for the best fried chicken EVER!). We're booking the Biltmore Village tour for October. If you have guests, this is one of the best ways to kill two birds with one stone: walk the fascinating streets of Asheville, get acquainted with some of the best places to eat and their owners, and sample outstanding food, too.

The four additional food emporia were The Chocolate Fetish, a not to be missed chocolate factory that we have featured in this column previously; Olive and Kicking,

located next to the Fine Arts Theater on Biltmore (This is a gourmet olive oil and balsamic vinegar tasting room with products from all over the world); Kilwin's, a well known ice cream and chocolate shop (Where we watched a chocolatier doing his thing on the marble slab); and finally The Spice and Tea Exchange. I am a chai tea drinker, and I am very picky about blends; the blend I purchased here had whole

cardamom seeds and was the best I have ever tasted. Puts Starbucks to shame.

There is one more new and local business that I'd like to recommend, The Pot Pie shop in Marshall, which opened four months ago. They make more than the traditional chicken version; we bought the frozen Greek Chicken, brought it home, followed the directions included, and WOW! Chicken they pluck themselves, vegetables from local farms. A 9" pie will serve four; shepherd's pie (both lamb and beef) is on the current menu, which changes according to ingredients available. There's even "upside down pizza," a kids' favorite! The owner is interested in weekly (or more frequent) deliveries to Wolf Laurel Community Center, if he has a minimum of ten orders. You can order from the current menu for pickup that day, go by the shop and take your pick from the variety in the glass case, or special order single or multiple pies. The owners are working almost 24/7, the response to their products has been so positive. Go to their website, [www.potpieshop.com](http://www.potpieshop.com) for current menu and more information. This is a busy grandmother's dream!

We hope your winter home is warm and cozy. We're already anticipating the next winter issue's RR article. I have some special surprises in store for the holidays!

## Treasurer's Report

By John Beneke

As our season draws to a close, I felt it important to report to the membership on the status of our finances. I can report that our position is sound. We are in a strong cash position and our expenses should be reduced in the last 3 months of the year, as our staff needs are less. On the income side, we are slightly ahead of our budget and we do anticipate additional income during September thru the end of the year.

While some expenses are higher than budgeted (most notably in swimming pool operations due to the inspection), in general, the expenses are close to \$30,000 less than budgeted. Your board is committed to monitoring expenses closely and reducing them whenever possible without impacting our services to you our membership. I look forward to updating you with each issue of the Top of the Bald. As always, if you have any questions, please contact me personally.

Many of you are aware that Hassiekay Honeycutt resigned her position as our office manager at the end of August. She had been a real asset to the WLPOA and helped see us through our transition from a social organization to a business with assets. We will miss her and wish her well. We have been fortunate to hire Kristi Cody to fill her position. She has settled in very well. Please be patient as she learns the ropes and becomes acquainted with the membership and our procedures.

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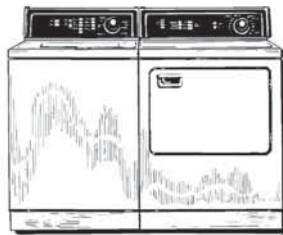
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Cindy Tucker, Amenities Director



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*Editor*

Gwynne Beneke  
[gbeneke@frontier.com](mailto:gbeneke@frontier.com)

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828 689-9353

[lponder@dancingmoonprintsolutions.com](mailto:lponder@dancingmoonprintsolutions.com)

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## FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH (in my opinion)

*This column is a "Letters to the Editor" feature where your thoughts and opinions may be expressed, related to issues of interest to our residents.*

*Content is carefully edited only when space demands it; writers are responsible for checking facts.*

### Tree-Topping

By Chuck Freeman

There has been a lot of interest and discussion regarding the topping of trees and the procedures to be followed and the forms to be filed. It seems to me that now is an appropriate time to talk about the underlying issues with which we are dealing.

First, and most important to me, is the fact that the community of Wolf Laurel is finding its way to a totally changed status: we are moving from a community planned, controlled and subsidized by a developer to a community that stands alone, in control of its own destiny. That transition has some significant implications. For instance, many things that the developer "sucked up" as a cost of development are no longer free, which means we are having to develop "pay-as-you-go" financing options which allow necessary operations to become self-sustaining. That can be painful, but there is no free lunch and we all know it.

Second, our understanding of the Covenants and By-laws of Wolf Laurel are changing, as well. No longer will they be an "imposition"

by Bald Mountain, but they will become more like the primary definition of the word covenant: an agreement, usually formal, between two or more persons to do or not do something specified; an agreement, usually formal, between two or more persons to do or not do something specified. In other words, they will be mutual and between ourselves. That transition also has significant implications. No longer are the covenants imposed to protect the developer's investment. They will now be an agreement among neighbors to protect both our individual and communal investments.

Working with these two changes, I see a fundamental shift in how we look at the issue of tree-topping. Whereas, before, the primary objective was to allow the developer to assert control over the process of change in the community, now I have the sense that we home and property owners have agreed to surrender a small part of our rights as landowners to permit community ownership of the general view of Wolf Laurel's slopes. We have agreed that we all bought into the concept of a heavily wooded community. If that is not the case for you, then the rest of us have a problem.

Working with the premise that we do agree, the Architectural Review Board (which is no longer an element of Bald Mountain, but is an arm of the Roads Maintenance and Security Home Owners Association) has been working towards a process for the review, approval, and financing of requests for tree-topping that will be easy on homeowners, require a minimum of administration and approval activity by the paid staff at Wolf Laurel, and yet is effective in maintaining the community's view.

While this is still a work in progress, there are several things that are clear. First, property owners have rights to what is done on their land, and we should infringe on those rights as little as possible – the ARB must be predisposed to approving requests, not denying and micromanaging. Second, Jason Brown, the Chief of our Roads Maintenance Team and the primary paid staffer working with the issue of tree-topping, has only so many hours in his day, and every minute spent on trees is a minute less for his other duties. Therefore, we must minimize the time needed for Jason to review and approve tree-topping (and tree removal) requests. Finally, there has to be some fee attached to requests to help defray costs.

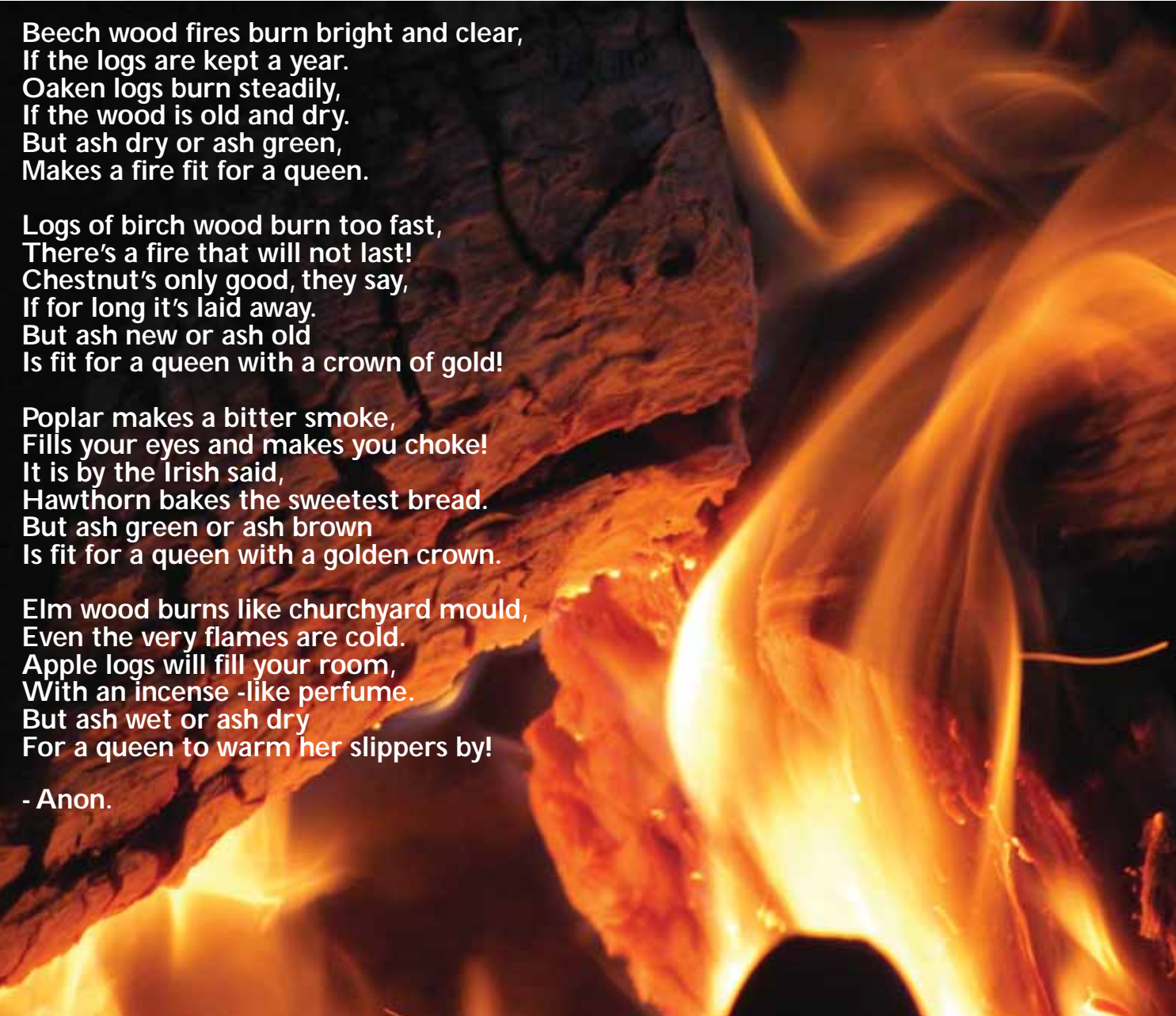


What that suggests to us is some sort of a request form that will serve as an easy to review checklist, combined with photographs that explain and document the desired cutting, and the marking of impacted trees on a lot with paint or tape for easy identification. These days, almost everyone has some sort of digital camera that can capture the panorama/view that a homeowner wants to achieve with the tree-topping, and a "topping line" could be drawn across the face of the photo(s). Few of us do the topping

ourselves, hiring experts to do the job. When consulting these experts to confirm quotes and scheduling jobs, it seems to me that this would be a good time to confirm the feasibility of individual cuts and to fill out the approval request forms with specifics. The idea would be to provide as much detail as necessary to reduce Jason's processing time and to ensure agreement among the owner, the cutter, and the staff as to what is to be done. It also assumes that the trees involved are on the homeowner's own property! Cutting

on someone else's property requires written and formal permissions.

So what is the bottom line? Change for the better. We are committed to making the new processes and forms as simple and easy as possible, and the fees as nominal as possible. But we also are concerned that complicated or incomplete requests may require appropriate fees. With your help, though, we can protect our mountain forest.



Beech wood fires burn bright and clear,  
If the logs are kept a year.  
Oaken logs burn steadily,  
If the wood is old and dry.  
But ash dry or ash green,  
Makes a fire fit for a queen.

Logs of birch wood burn too fast,  
There's a fire that will not last!  
Chestnut's only good, they say,  
If for long it's laid away.  
But ash new or ash old  
Is fit for a queen with a crown of gold!

Poplar makes a bitter smoke,  
Fills your eyes and makes you choke!  
It is by the Irish said,  
Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread.  
But ash green or ash brown  
Is fit for a queen with a golden crown.

Elm wood burns like churchyard mould,  
Even the very flames are cold.  
Apple logs will fill your room,  
With an incense -like perfume.  
But ash wet or ash dry  
For a queen to warm her slippers by!

- Anon.



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# Wolf Laurel Homes



316 Wolf Laurel Road  
Mars Hill, NC 28754

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Fax: 828-689-4477



**215 GOLDENLEAF**

2,646 Sq. Ft., 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 bath cabin on .75 of an acre. A great cabin to call home!

MLS#514735

*\$295,000*



**670 OVERLOOK**

2,424 Sq. Ft., 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 bath, .76 acre lot. Breathtaking views and quality through-out this post and beam house.

MLS#466210

*\$625,000*



**673 CHESTNUT LANE**

1,900 Sq. Ft., 4 bedrooms, 2 bath, 1.8 acre lot. Great Buy! Wonderful private setting with long range views.

MLS#522690

*\$199,500*



**868 ENGLISH RIDGE**

2,048 Sq. Ft., 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, 1.5 acre lot. Tremendous deal! Log house is mostly furnished with views of ski slope.

MLS#472075

*\$350,000*



**25 HAWBERRY LANE**

3,000 Sq. Ft., 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 1.4 acre lot. Views, cathedral ceilings and custom granite makes this a must see!

MLS#521541

*\$595,000*



**436 PUNCHEON LANE**

1,835 Sq. Ft., 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Must see this great house with recent updates and year round views of Big Bald!

MLS#517024

*\$219,900*



**992 GOLDENLEAF**

3,128 Sq. Ft., 3 bedrooms, 3 bath beautiful house with exquisite stonework. Lots of storage and priced to sell.

MLS#521535

*\$539,000*



**136 GROUSE THICKET**

1,880 Sq. Ft., 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Spacious open floor plan. Great Views. Limitless possibilities.

MLS# NEW

*\$350,000*



**48 GROUSE THICKET**

1,344 Sq. Ft., 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Master bedroom and laundry on main level. Full basement is ready to finish!

MLS#508690

*\$219,000*



**30 ACRES GROUSE THICKET**

Pristine mountain property. Joins Appalachian Trail, 5000' elevation, secure setting, mature trees, 360 degree views, total privacy. This is a Must see!

MLS# 519520

*\$1,650,000*



**326 EL MINER**

3,940 Sq. Ft., 4 brs, 5 bath on 1.75 acre golf course frontage. You can have your dream come true...better hurry!

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*\$549,000*



**624 FOX DEN**

2,322 Sq. Ft., 3 bedrooms, 2 baths on 1.7 acre. Come see this fabulous log home. 2 car garage and workshop.

MLS#510374

*\$310,000*



**409 UPPER HAW**

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MLS#444022

*\$685,000*



**263 LUCAS LANE**

3,344 Sq. Ft. 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 bath wonderful house with terrific views! Mostly furnished.

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*\$425,000*

*"Earning your trust one house at a time" - Jane Wallin, Owner/Broker*